



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

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Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Cannabis/Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Michael Hannibal, Cannabis/License Committee Chair

Committee Members Present: Solomon Davydov, James Gallagher, Michael Hannibal, Mary Maggio, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman
Committee Members Absent: Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, and Maria DeInnocentiis (excused).
Also in attendance: Frank Palillo, Attorney, Sami Yaacobov, Applicant, Marie Adam-Ovide, District, and Yolanda Gallagher, Resident

Cannabis/Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Purpose:

On the agenda is **Pita Hot, LLC d/b/a Avenue Catering Hall**. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant and representative to state their names for the record. Applicant Manny Yaacobov and Attorney Frank Palillo introduced themselves.

Committee Chairman Michael Hannibal – **The location is 75-43 Main Street in Flushing.** This is a full liquor license and temporary retail permit for a catering hall. Mr. Hannibal explained the process and proceeded with the questions that must be asked to new liquor license applicants.

For question number one, it has already been established as to what type of establishment this is going to be.

Answer: [Frank Palillo] – Yes.

To your knowledge, do you have a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O)?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] – There is a very old C.O. on file.

Has he provided an ETA for the new C.O.?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] There are a few violations that the property owner needs to address before getting an updated one for the whole building.

How many customers?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] – The occupancy will be 74 persons.

Chairman Hannibal – This is just under the maximum occupants and a public assembly permit would not be required.

What are the hours of operation?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] We are only open for booked catered events. It depends on what the event calls for. It will not be open past 1 a.m.

How would you see yourself handling underage drinking?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] Certain events lend themselves to a concern for us for underage drinking. Weddings, not, nor sweet sixteen, or Bar Mitzvahs. Others, yes, we will need a private security company – not yet determined. Retirement parties – I don't think we'll need [to be concerned with underage drinking].

How about training?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] There is a program called ATAP [Alcohol Training Awareness Program] online. You get a certificate. He would actually recommend that my client do it.

How will you maintain cleanliness and loitering in front of your establishment (i.e. smokers)?

Answer: [Sami Yaacobov] – We will have a nice ashtray outside. Our coworkers will always take care of the area outside. Not just for cigarettes but for garbage, they will clean whatever is left there.

Answer: [Frank Palillo] – We will do everything we can, but if he is not open at 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Committee Chair Hannibal – That is understandable.

Going back to the security question. Will you/Do you have cameras?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] Yes.

I noticed a Department of Buildings violation. Can you address that?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] I really can't. It is not our store. It is one that is on the block.

Committee Chair Hannibal opened the floor to the members for questions.

Alan Ong – Is the liquor going to be sold as a package deal?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] No, not always. There will be events where there is a cash bar.

Alan Ong - That is where the training and checking the IDs would come in. I checked the address; you are in front of a bus stop. I understand that you are not there all the time, but you are going to have to clean frequently when you are there.

Douglas Sherman - What experience do you have with this type of business?

Answer: [Sami Yaacobov]- I have been a photographer for weddings and catering events. I have been around this type of business.

Mary Maggio - I have looked at this address along with Alan. Is there any measure to prevent people from going around, being loud and disrupting neighbors?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] They will have security.

Mary Maggio - I mean people walking out and standing in from of nearby residential homes speaking loudly, while people are trying to sleep.

DM Adam-Ovide – Maybe, as the event is winding down, someone from your staff can announce that they be mindful of the neighbors and to keep their voices down as they leave.

Alan Ong - Where will the liquor be stored?

Answer: [Frank Palillo] It will be stored and locked on the premises.

Alan Ong - How are you going to control the number of people? Let's say, they were going to have 50 people and then 80 people came.

Answer: [Frank Palillo] How is that going to happen? You can't. Let's say a couple books it for a wedding they are not going to pay for more than 74 guests. They can't. We are not going to allow more.

Chairman Hannibal – Most catering places that I have gone to has parking lot. I can't see the bride and groom getting off the Q40. Where are they going to park?

Answer: [Sami Yaacobov] – WI am thinking about that also. We have a space forty feet away from the bus stop. If the bride and broom come with a car they can park; get out.

[Frank Palillo] What about guests?

Answer: [Sami Yaacobov] – There is a parking lot at the back of the building. There is a lot of street parking at night.

Chairman Hannibal asked for a motion to approve the new liquor license and temporary retail permit for Pita Hot, LLC doing business as Empire Catering Hall. So moved by Alan Ong and seconded by Mary Maggio.

Board Members who voted in favor: *Solomon Davydov, James Gallagher, Michael Hannibal, May Maggio, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.*

Board members who voted against: *none.*

Abstentions: *none.*

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hannibal encouraged the licensee to remain in contact with the 107th Precinct. They are the first line of sight. If you have any issues, reach out to us. We would prefer to hear it from you rather than read it in the Queens Chronicle. We are trying to maintain the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Mary Maggio announced that the next Community Council meeting will be on April 2, 2024, due to religious holidays. She also recommended that they reach out, if their cameras pick up something – the precinct will be there to help.

Frank Palillo recommended that the applicant contact the 107th and do a walk-through before they officially open for business.

Committee Chair Hannibal - When do you plan to open?

Answer: [Sami Yaacobov] – As soon as possible.

District Manager Adam-Ovide provided him with a postcard with the contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager

March 20, 2024