

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Minutes from
Public Safety Committee
Monday, October 26, 2015**

In attendance:

Avi Lesches – Committee Chairperson
Shelly Oliver – Lowkey Lounge
Andre Noble – Lowkey Lounge
Patricia Baker – CB9
Patrick Smith – The Buzz
Jay Sorid – CD9 resident

Wallace Descartes – The Buzz
Richard Raphael – D Avenue
Musa Moore – CB9
Nochum Gross – CB9
Stuart Balberg – CB9
Nevon Watson – CB9

Chairman Lesches opened the meeting at 7:31pm, and called the meeting to order. Mr. Musa Moore motioned to open the meeting, and Mr. Lesches seconded it.

Mr. Lesches asked everyone to please sign in, and take an agenda so that we can discuss the items on it. In addition, Mr. Lesches shared a map from SLA's website showing the type of businesses with liquor licenses, and the distance they are from one another. The point of this map is so that the committee could review each application, and see where it is located on the map. Mr. Lesches informed the committee that going forward any new application for a liquor license will be judged and reviewed based on the information provided to us on the SLA map.

The first application that was reviewed was for Lowkey Lounge which is located at 578 Albany Ave. Mr. Lesches brought to the committee's attention the high number of 911 calls to this location, and the remarks provided to the committee by the 71st Precinct which said that Lowkey is troublesome business. Members for the business said that majority of the 911 calls were stemming from Lowkey themselves, who called the cops for either rowdy patrons or for customers who refused to pay. In addition, the staff of Lowkey showed Mr. Lesches a conversation he had with the commander of the 71st Precinct. The point of showing the texts was to highlight the close relationship that Lowkey has with the 71st Precinct. Lowkey's management wanted to show the committee that they strive to ensure that the business is a safe place, and that should/or if things get out of control they can work with the 71 to address those issues. However, this approach also shows a higher number of 911 calls to the business. Mr. Lesches said that he will personally reach out to the commander of the 71st Precinct to double check and make sure they are good with all the applicants who are represented here tonight.

The next application the committee reviewed was from Caribbean Spotlight Inc. /The Buzz which is located 103 Empire Boulevard. Mr. Lesches brought to the committee's attention the high number of 911 calls to this location, and the remarks provided to us by the 71st Precinct which said that Caribbean Spotlight is troublesome business. The manager and owner of the business said that most of the 911 calls were stemming from petty larceny calls which patrons were making to file their phones as stolen. The manager said how a number of times he told patrons that he found their phones, but they were not interested in getting them since they filed a stolen claim in order to get a brand new phone. In addition, the owner said that a lot of the issues highlighted in the police report are for incidents that spill out from Ebbets Field. The owner noted how he has been in business in the same location for nearly 22 years. He has tough security measures to ensure the safety of his patrons. He did mention that there were a number of incidents that happened afterhours in front of the bar, so when police responded they listed the address of the location which ends up being the bar.

The committee reviewed the application from D Avenue located at 673 Flatbush Avenue. Mr. Lesches brought to the committee's attention the remarks provided to us by the 71st Precinct which mentioned a shooting that took place at this location. The owner of the business presented to the committee a detailed report outlining each incident, and the background to it as well. With regards to the shooting the owner said that this incident happened at 2am outside the bar, a fight broke out and a gun went off. This incident had nothing to do with the bar, since the bar was closed. The owner said that the reason why this incident was listed on him was because EMS and police responded to this location, and were given the bar's address. The owner also explained how he had a patron who refused to pay his bill, so he was forced to call 911. In doing so, it was reflected on our report as a 911 call to premises, but not listing the reason which went to confirm some of the claims made earlier by the other business owners as well.

The committee then reviewed a new liquor license application for AMBC LLC which is located at 539 Flatbush Ave. Mr. Lesches asked members of the committee to please review the SLA map so that we can all review and see how close this applicant is to say a school, house of worship or other businesses with liquor licenses. It was found that AMBC is a few blocks away from the nearest bar, but has a grocery store within a block that sells beer. Mr. Lesches asked the owners what are his hours of operation. The business owner responded that it was from 7am-7pm, and that he will only be serving wine, no hard alcohol. Mr. Lesches brought to the committee's attention about some incidents that the police had for this location. The owner replied that he just took over the business and the lease back in May, so he was not sure what these incidents were since he did not have any.

Next the committee heard from community resident Jay Sorid who asked the committee about making a request to put up cameras on Schenectady Avenue. Mr. Sorid mentioned how there are two buildings that have a lot of fights going on between the kids in those two buildings. He also asked that the committee make a request for additional police presence there. Mr. Sorid also mentioned how on Maple Street there is a park which is located behind a school, and along a block that has no activity during the evening. In turn this poses a safety threat to women and others who may venture there. Lastly, Mr. Sorid asked that the committee reach out to CAMBA to ensure that they will be providing adequate security to their residents, and the residents within the vicinity of their new development.

Absent from the meeting was Keg Lounge, TAMS Indian Cop-King of Tandoor and Parkside Corner Deli.

Mr. Lesches informed the non-committee members that they are now excused to leave so that the committee can enter executive session and discuss each of the applications.

Nevon Watson, Musa Moore, Nochum Gross, Avi Lesches, Stewart Balberg and Patricia Baker voted unanimously to approve all renewal applications, and approve the new liquor application for AMBC.

Mr. Gross made a motion to close the meeting, and Patricia seconded it.

With no new business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Avi Lesches

Committee Chairperson

November 23, 2015