COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Minutes from Public Safety Committee
Thursday, September 17, 2015

In attendance:
Avi Lesches – Committee Chairperson
Andre Noble – Lowkey Lounge
Wallace Descartes – The Buzz
Anderson Charles – AMBC, LLC
Jian T. Du – TAMS Indian Corp.
Nevon Watson – CB9
Denise Mann – CB9
Patrick Smith – The Buzz
Jacqueline Welch – CB9

Chairman Lesches was running late due to a work emergency, so Ms. Denise Mann opened the meeting at 7:45pm, and called the meeting to order. Ms. Mann asked everyone to please sign in, and take an agenda so that we can discuss the items on it.

The first application was for Café Allan’s bakery. The committee was informed that the owners from Café Allan have decided to withdraw their application.

The second application was for AMBC located at 539 Flatbush Ave. AMBC was requesting a new license so that they can serve wine and beer. Their hours of operation are 7am-7pm. Ms. Mann brought to the committee’s attention the high number of 911 calls to this location. The owner informed the group that he recently took over the lease and established his own vision and feel for the business. So he is unaware of what these 911 calls are for or from whom.

The third application was Keg lounge located 451 East New York Ave. Keg Lounge was requesting a renewal to their existing liquor application. The District Manager has informed the Chairman of this committee that the owner is clearly suffering from some form of dementia or Alzheimer’s. The fact that the current operators are using Mr. Keene’s name to acquire their SLA license, and not their own to renew their license is not right and possibly illegal. Therefore, is was recommend not to approve their license at this time, and instead require the current operators of Keg Lounge to file an application under their own name.

The fourth application to be reviewed was for Caribbean Spotlight located at 103 Empire Blvd. Caribbean Spotlight was requesting approval to renew their license. It was noted to the committee that there is a high number of 911 calls to premises, and that a gun was found on a patron visiting this business. The owners and manager explained that a lot of times the owners/manager call 911 when someone doesn’t pay their bill, or is refusing to leave the premises. An example was that during the checkpoint prior to entering the bar, a gun was found on someone, so the bar called 911 to report it which in turn came up as a 911 call to this location. The manager also explained how patrons call 911 from the business to report their phone stolen so that they would then be eligible to get a new one. So
in short, the business is stuck, because if they call 911 it comes up as a call to this location if they do not it could only cause more problems/issues down the line.

The fifth application to be reviewed was for TAMS Indian Corp located at 600 Flatbush Ave. TAMS was requesting a renewal to their wine and beer license. The owner Mr. Rah Man H. Tigue explained that there was a chemical spill, and that is reason for the 911 calls. The owner for TAMS stated that they have worked to clean up the spill, and ensure that it was done correctly. There was also the issue of delivering items to this location. Due to lack of identification caused some issues which they are working to address.

The sixth application to be reviewed was for Parkside Corner located at 713 Flatbush Ave. Parkside was requesting a renewal to their beer license. There was no one present from Parkside.

The last application to be reviewed was Lowkey Lounge located at 578 Albany Ave. Lowkey Lounge was requesting to renew their application for a wine and beer license. 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 steaming 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 Lowkey’s management stressed to 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 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, Jaqueline Welch, Denise Mann and Avi Lesches, voted unanimously to approve the applications for Lowkey Lounge, TAMS, and Caribbean Spotlight (aka-The Buzz.) However, Denise Mann was not in favor of approving the new application for a liquor licenses for AMBC. The vote was 3 in favor to approve AMBC’s application and one against it.

Mr. Lesches made a motion to close the meeting, and Ms. Mann seconded it.

With no new business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Avi Lesches
Committee Chairperson
November 24, 2015