

Public Safety and Licensing Committee Meeting Minutes

Carmen Rivera, Committee Chairperson

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

The Public Safety and Licensing Committee met on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members were present: Nicole Carter (Virtual), Maria Garcia (Virtual), Nicole N'diaye, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Paul Ramirez (virtual), Carmen Rivera (Virtual), Marie Servius.

The Public Safety and Licensing Committee discussed the following:

- **Discussion on the Liquor License Renewal Application for Caridad Sea Food Restaurant Corp. located at 410 East Tremont Avenue**

The Public Safety and Licensing Committee discussed the liquor license renewal application for Caridad Sea Food Restaurant. Since there aren't any NYC311 complaints or concerns associated with Caridad Sea Food Restaurant, the Public Safety and Licensing Committee determined a favorable recommendation. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee will issue a favorable recommendation to the New York State Liquor Authority without stipulations, contingent on a representative of Caridad Sea Food Restaurant Corp. attending the next Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting to address questions on its hours of operations.

- **Discussion on the Liquor License method of Operation Change Application for Ayo Group Corp. (Ajo and Oregano Restaurant), located at 621 Crescent Avenue**

The Public Safety and Licensing Committee discussed the method of operation change liquor license application for Ajo and Oregano Restaurant for the sale of liquor on the newly expanded premises of the restaurant and the sidewalk enclosure. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee asked their representatives to address the 112 NYC311 complaints associated with the establishments within the past two years and summonses issued by city agencies. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee inquired about the numerous complaints of foul odors coming from the establishment and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) civil summons issued to the business for violating the NYC Air and Noise code in January of 2024. After first claiming the complaint was unfounded, the representatives informed the Public Safety and Licensing Committee that the issue was addressed in March 2024, costing over \$50,000.00 for the proper ventilation equipment. The Board has not received any proof of this claim to date. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee advised the applicant to contact DEP and request a follow-up inspection to demonstrate the violation was properly addressed. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee also advised representatives to ensure that contractors are appropriately licensed and complete the restaurant renovations in compliance with building codes given the finds of improper construction by the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB). The Public Safety and Licensing Committee alerted representatives of the need to remove the outdoor dining enclosure per the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)'s "Dining Out NYC" guidelines. The representatives provided the Public Safety and Licensing Committee with the outdoor dining application number to verify that an application for a permanent sidewalk cafe was submitted. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will follow up with DOT regarding the status of their outdoor dining application. In addition, the Public Safety and Licensing Committee asked the representatives to clarify the hours of operation. Ajo and Oregano Restaurant opens at 12:30 P.M. daily. The restaurant closes at 9 P.M. Monday through Thursday, and 10 P.M. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The representatives disclosed that the New York State Liquor Authority allowed a modification of business

hours in order to operate until 1 A.M., but denied the request for extended hours to operate until 2 A.M. and use of a DJ. The representatives also responded to allegations that Ajo and Oregano Restaurant operates a “valet” service that illegally double parks cars by clarifying that the business contracts with a company who provides the valet service. The representatives claimed that the valet service does not double park cars and finds street parking. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee noted that the high volume of vehicles brought in from surrounding businesses cannot be accommodated by regular street parking and the contractor of the valet service may need further oversight to ensure that vehicles are not double parked illegally. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett explained that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee recommended a temporary denial of the method of operation change because of the failure to appear at the last Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting and address outstanding concerns about the business. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee will issue a favorable recommendation on the method of operation change liquor license application to the New York State Liquor Authority contingent upon the applicant signing attached stipulations.

- **Other Business**

- **2500 Arthur Avenue**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett provided an update on the response from the New York State Office of Cannabis Management regarding the Board's opinion, which contested the opening of a cannabis shop on 2500 Arthur Avenue because it is located across the street from a school. The New York State Office of Cannabis Management informed him that the cannabis shop does not violate state rules on proximity, as it is not on the same street.

- **2375 Arthur Avenue**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett contacted the New York State Office of Cannabis Management to inquire whether the flyers distributed by this cannabis shop complied with advertising regulations. The New York State Office of Cannabis Management launched an investigation and confirmed that the flyer lacked appropriate disclosures as required by state law. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett was informed that the outcome of the investigation is pending.

- **Cannabis Shop Tax Revenue**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will follow up with the New York State Office of Cannabis Management to request an update on a decision by the Cannabis Control Board on how the tax revenue from cannabis sales will be used.



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT
District Manager

Bronx Community Board 6 Liquor License Stipulations

I, _____, as a qualified representative of Ayo Group Corp (Trade Name Ajo & Oregano Restaurant), located at 621 Crescent Avenue, Bronx NY, agree to the following stipulations:

1. ☒ [X] The contracted valet service I use will not double park cars on the street
2. ☒ [X] I will legalize the outdoor dining enclosure through NYC DOT's procedures
3. ☒ [X] I will resolve and clear the current pending OATH/ECB violation regarding ventilation
4. ☒ [X] I will close any outward facing doors and windows at 10PM every night when amplified sound is playing, including but not limited to DJ's, live music, and amplified and non-amplified live performances. If I have a fixed façade, that door will remain closed.
5. ☒ [X] I will not apply for an alteration to the method of operation (including license class) without first coming before CB6
6. ☒ [X] I will conspicuously post this stipulation form besides my liquor license inside of my business
7. ☒ [X] I have provided the community board with an up-to-date direct phone number and email address which I currently use.

I hereby certify that the information provided above is truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Sworn to this _____ day of _____ Notary Public: _____