

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Commerce Committee Meeting
ONLINE
March 17th, 2026

Call to Order: Commerce Committee Meeting was called to order by Hassan Bakiriddin at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

Dolores Murat-Etienne
Hassan Bakiriddin
Sonia Clarke
Cheryl Saunders
Marguerite Vigliante
Jorge Tait
Dorothy Gordon
Noreen George

Adele Bennett
Celia belyn
Trisha L.
Khadijat O
6462****96

Guest:
Kelley Pierre

Signature Limited:
Sean
Israel
Gilleka Maldonado
King

Chairperson's Report:

Chairman Bakiriddin provided an update on the committee's activities, noting a quiet month due to snowstorms. He highlighted two upcoming events: a commerce committee mixer on March 26 at Lilli's restaurant and a small business expo on March 31 at the Flatbush YMCA. Partnerships with local agencies and council members were emphasized, along with challenges related to leadership changes in the New York Small Business Services.

- Chairman noted limited activity due to recent snowstorms.
- Upcoming commerce committee mixer scheduled for March 26 at Lilly's restaurant.
- Small business expo planned for March 31 at Flatbush YMCA with multiple partners.
- Leadership changes at New York Small Business Services may affect participation.

Approval of meeting minutes

The committee discussed the approval status of minutes from December, January, and February. Due to lack of quorum, formal approval was deferred. Members noted that amendments to December and January minutes had not been incorporated, and attendance records were missing from some minutes. Suggestions were made to highlight amendments and include vote counts in future minutes for clarity.

- Minutes from December, January, and February were pending approval due to no quorum.
- Amendments to December and January minutes were not yet incorporated.

- Attendance and vote counts were missing from some minutes, prompting suggestions for improvement.
- Chairman proposed highlighting amendments in future electronic distributions.
- Motion to table minutes approval until amended versions are received was made by Jorge Tait and seconded by Khadijat O.

Business Owner Presentations and SLA Application(s)

- DSC Hospitality Management LLC/Kendra's Place – 1744 Nostrand Ave. | RENEWAL
 - **NO SHOW**
 - **COMMITTEE VOTE: N/A**
- Cignaturez Limited – 9508 Church Ave. | NEW & TEMP PERMIT
Rep: King, Sean, Israel, Gilleka Maldonado
 - **COMMITTEE VOTE: N/A**
 - **30-DAY WAIVER GRANTED**

Business owners from 'Cignaturez Limited' presented their application for a liquor, wine, beer, and cider license, including a temporary permit. They described plans for a fine dining Caribbean restaurant with a seating capacity of 74, operating initially five days a week from noon to midnight. The committee inquired about questionnaires, licenses, inspections, and compliance with health and fire regulations, noting some documentation was pending due to ongoing renovations.

- Cignaturez Limited is applying for a liquor license and temporary permit.
- The restaurant plans fine dining with Caribbean cuisine and 74 seats.
- Operating hours projected as noon to midnight, five days a week initially.
- Questionnaire from Community Board 17 was not received by the business owners.
- Health and fire inspections are pending as the kitchen is under construction.
- Business owners confirmed all necessary filings are in progress or completed.
- Business owners signed lease on March 5 and are currently renovating the space.
- Architect is working with Department of Buildings for amendments due to renovations.
- Business owners intend to notify the community before opening and complete all licenses and inspections prior to operation.

Incident Report Review

The committee reviewed the incident report for the business location over the past year, noting two incidents: a 311 call for loud music and a 911 call for a shooting and homicide. The business owners clarified they had just signed the lease and were not operating during those incidents, indicating the events were unrelated to their operation.

- Two incidents reported at the business address in the past year.

- Business owners confirmed they were not operating during those incidents.
- Committee acknowledged incidents were prior to current ownership and operation.
- Committee member Khadijat O confirmed the shooting occurred in February, prior to new ownership.

Discussion on Licensing Documentation and Voting Considerations

Committee members expressed concerns about the absence of finalized Department of Health and Fire Department inspections and certificates. Business owners explained that due to recent lease signing and ongoing renovations, inspections are pending. The chair recommended postponing the vote to allow the business to complete necessary certifications, ensuring a stronger application and committee support. The process for moving forward to the general board meeting was outlined.

- Committee emphasized the importance of having health and fire inspections completed before voting.
- Business owners stated inspections will occur once renovations are complete.
- Chair recommended delaying the vote to improve chances of approval.
- The two-step approval process includes committee vote followed by general board vote.
- Business owners acknowledged understanding of requirements and committed to compliance.
- Chair offered to provide a waiver letter to the SLA to extend the 30-day notice period, allowing more time for the business to complete requirements.
- Motion to table the vote on the liquor license application until April meeting was made by Marguerite Vigliante and seconded by Jorge Tait.
- Committee members stressed that submitting incomplete applications to SLA could result in denial and additional costs.
- Chair assured the waiver letter would be sent promptly and invited business owners to maintain communication and return with completed documentation.

Committee Compliance and Communication Protocols

Chairman Bakiriddin addressed the issue of businesses failing to appear before the committee as required. He emphasized the importance of adherence to the process and transparency with the community. The committee agreed to send letters to the SLA recommending denial of licenses for businesses that do not comply. Discussion included the possibility of posting non-compliance information on the committee's website to inform the public while respecting privacy.

- Chairman Bakiriddin stated letters are sent to SLA when businesses fail to appear before the committee.
- Committee agreed to recommend denial of licenses for non-compliant businesses.
- Discussion on posting non-compliance information on the website to increase transparency.

- Committee members agreed to balance transparency with privacy concerns by not disclosing personal information.
- Cheryl Saunders noted technical difficulties may prevent some businesses from attending meetings, but no notifications of such issues have been received.
- Chair emphasized that businesses should notify the committee if unable to attend due to technical issues.

Unfinished Business and Community Concerns

The committee discussed outstanding issues including a smoke shop on Nostrand Avenue that had not complied with committee requests. Chairman Bakiriddin reported efforts to contact relevant parties and inspectors. Members also discussed the closure of a local restaurant due to noise complaints and the change of a family shelter to a men's shelter without community notification. Upcoming subcommittee meetings and event planning were also addressed.

- Chairman Bakiriddin is following up on a smoke shop issue with inspectors and community members.
- The restaurant 'Tonell' closed due to multiple noise and quality of life complaints.
- Committee discussed the change of a family shelter to a men's shelter without prior community notification.
- Plans for upcoming subcommittee meetings were proposed for late March.
- Chairman encouraged committee members to attend the mixer and small business expo events.
- Discussion about adding local businesses like Little Caribbean to upcoming events for greater community engagement.
- Chairman plans to send event information via text message for timely communication.
- Committee members expressed interest in a business networking breakfast event pending scheduling.

Action Items

- Hassan Bakiriddin will draft and send a waiver letter to the SLA on behalf of the business owners, requesting additional time to complete necessary certifications before the committee votes on their liquor license application.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to coordinate with Ms. Sinclair to confirm the name and contact details of the person who raised the smoke shop issue, referencing the February minutes where the name Melissa Judd appears.
- Hassan Bakiriddin and committee members need to discuss and establish a clearer process for highlighting amendments in meeting minutes, possibly by highlighting or commenting on changes in the Word document before distribution.
- Sean and Gilleka Maldonado must ensure that all necessary filings and inspections (Department of Health, Fire Department, Certificate of Occupancy) are completed and documentation submitted to the community board office before the next vote or meeting.

- Hassan Bakiriddin to add committee members to the group text for real-time updates about events and share flyers and information via text messaging.
- Marguerite Vigliante needs to ensure that amendments to the December and January minutes are incorporated and resubmitted to the committee for review.
- Hassan Bakiriddin and Ms Sinclair to discuss and implement posting on the community board website a list of businesses that fail to appear before the committee as part of transparency efforts.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to follow up with Alicia regarding scheduling the business network breakfast event and communicate the confirmed date to committee members.
- Ms. Sinclair to provide Hassan Bakiriddin's contact information to Gilleka Maldonado, Sean, and other business owners for further communication.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to reach out to the deputy inspector and to obtain contact information for the individual who raised concerns about the smoke shop on Nostrand Avenue and follow up on the situation.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to communicate to the business owners that the committee recommends postponing the vote on their liquor license application until all required inspections and certifications are completed and submitted.
- Gilleka Maldonado and Sean (owners/managers of Cignaturez Limited) need to provide the completed community board questionnaire to the committee prior to the next meeting to facilitate review and reduce redundant questioning.
- Committee members should ensure that future meeting minutes include attendance records and a summary of votes (number of yes, no, abstentions) for transparency and completeness.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to send out invitations and coordinate details for the upcoming mixer on March 26 at Lilli's Restaurant and the small business expo, including sharing confirmed participant lists with committee members.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to follow up with the SLA regarding businesses that fail to appear before the committee and send a letter recommending that their liquor license applications not be approved until they comply with the process.
- Hassan Bakiriddin to propose and schedule the next subcommittee meeting, suggesting Sunday, March 22 or March 29, and communicate the final date to members via chat.

Adjournment:

Sonia Clarke: Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Adele Bennett: seconded the meeting for adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned.

AMENDEMENTS:

- Added Jorge Tait's last name to roll call
- Removed Sonia Clarke's name from appearing twice on roll call