**Community Board 17**

**Commerce Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2022**

**Present: Guest:**

June Persaud Sean Myton

Brie DaCosta

Sonia Clarke

Marguerite Vigliante

Jorge Tait

Rodrick Daley

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The **Commerce Committee Virtual** meeting was held on **Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Ms. June Persaud** said called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

**Roll Call**-June Persaud, Jorge Tait, Marguerite Vigliante, Sonia Clarke

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Persaud** said Det. Skinner will not be on the call tonight because of the Precinct Holiday Party.

Tonight, they have 3 applications to process.

She would like to focus on the establishments that are not in compliance to see what can be done.

She also wants to continue discussion about the planning of events for next year, the Networking Breakfast and the Sumptuous Sampling.

She was trying to hold off on guest speakers due to the fact that they only have 5 people on the calls, and she did not want to invite guest speakers, because she wants to build the committee first. She tried to get 2 liaisons from the Mayor’s Office, but they could not make it tonight.

The minutes will be tabled due to lack of quorum.

**New Business-Liquor Licenses**

**Ms. Persaud** saidthe first application is Legacy Lounge. This applicant came before the committee last month and he was asked to resubmit his application because of the deficiencies on the 30-day notice. On the application, item 16, list the floor of the building that the establishment will be located on and he listed 2 floors. The correct answer should be ground floor, 1st floor or 1st floor, 2nd floor. Item # 17, list the room numbers the establishment is located within the building, if appropriate. He has 6 rooms listed, and she does not know the reason for that answer. Some applicants are actually located in rooms. This is a general form and some things may be applicable and some may not be. If it is not applicable, then put N/A. Item 19, will the owner or manager be physically present within the establishment during all hours of operation. That question was not answered, and it is a very important question. At the last meeting, the answer was yes and this month, it was left blank.

**Mr. Sean Myton** said that was a mistake on his part.

**Ms. Persaud** said she is not the one judging this, that is done by the SLA. With all of that being said, Legacy Lounge, located at 1308 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203. This is a new applicant and he is applying for a full liquor license. There was also an issue about the bar.

**Mr. Myton** said there are 2 bars and he will also apply for it.

**Ms. Persaud** said he should because there is no way he will get the license. There is a bar on the 1st and 2nd floors.

There were no incidents at this location because it was closed for the last 2 years.

There are 2 new liquor license establishments that puts him within 500 feet of 3 or more establishments and he will have to prove to the SLA what makes him different and what will he bring to the table, so they will give him the license. He should also tell the Landlord to remove the old sign, it looks tacky.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** said it is was mentioned it is supposed to be a lounge, will they be cooking there and will it be used as an event space?

**Mr. Myton** said they have a kitchen, but it is not going to be a full restaurant. They are going to serve finger foods like chicken wings and French fries. It will not be a dance hall.

**Ms. Persaud** asked if he will have private events in the upstairs space?

**Mr. Myton** said no, because that causes problems and people do not respect the process he has to go through.

**Ms. Marguerite Vigliante** asked if he has a backyard that he will be using?

**Mr. Myton** said no, because there are neighbors in the back of the building and he would be violating them.

**Ms. Persaud** said he has to attend the General Board meeting where the full Board will vote on his application and give a recommendation to the SLA.

For the Networking Breakfast, they scheduled to hold it in March or April, leaning towards April. At the January meeting, she would like to start on the flyer and she also wants to start reaching out the agencies, the Dept. of Health, Police Dept, Dept. of Buildings and the Small Business Administration. She is open to suggestions of other agencies they would like to be present.

The event will be held at Woody’s Bar, located at 1133-35 Clarkson Avenue, between East 98th street and Rockaway Parkway, and the Owner is letting them use his space. She will check into the discretionary funds available through the Board to be used for events. She is hoping to have about 50 people.

**Ms. Brie Da Costa** asked if this will be geared towards business owners currently functioning in the community or potential new business owners coming into the community and how are they going to do the outreach.

**Ms. Persaud** said this is geared for both and that is why they are having those agencies and others that they think would be an asset to getting the information out to the people. The flyers will be distributed to the agencies, the businesses and the public and social media also. It will be held during the day preventing some people from coming due to work.

**Ms. Da Costa** asked will someone be there to discuss the benefits of opening a new business in the community?

**Ms. Persaud** said the Small Business Administration will be able to speak on that. She will tell the agencies what topics to talk about. The SBA is very helpful in getting people started with new businesses. The Dept. of Health and Dept. of Buildings can also gear to new people to help them get started and they can also address issues that the existing business had.

**Ms. Sonia Clarke** asked what is the size of the location, how many people it can hold and will they have accommodations for people that cannot be there in person?

**Ms. Persaud** said the location is 2 store fronts together and it holds 100+ people. There will be enough room for social distancing. If they do virtual, they are talking about setting that up, and it is something to think about. She wants to send out the notice to see can and cannot come, but they are trying to make this an in-person breakfast.

**Mr. Rodrick Daley** said he has been trying to attend as many committee meetings as possible and thanked Ms. Persaud for leading the group. The commerce Committee is very important when looking at the businesses in the district in terms of jobs and upkeep within the community.

The Networking Breakfast will let the businesses shine and this is something the committee should focus on and ensure that this happens. They should attend the General Board meeting to see what is going on within the community.

**Ms. Persaud** asked Mr. Daley how do they proceed to get the funds for the event?

**Mr. Daley** said they have a very limited capital of $5,000.00 in discretionary funds, and some has been used. The request should have been made in September by the committees. He will speak with the District Manager about the allocation of the funds.

The elected officials can provide coffee and donuts and he will check with the Community Board to see what other in-kind donations they can get from the businesses in the community.

**Ms. Persaud** said she will probably need around $300.00 to feed around 50 people. She wants to hold the event on a 1st Tuesday in April. The Owner will also prepare food, since it is his place and they are getting it for free.

**Ms. Clarke** asked can the committees raise funds for the activities they will be doing or is it against the rules and regulations of the Community Board?

**Mr. Daley** said there is nothing wrong with raising the funds, they just have to find a place to put the funds. Right now, they are having issues with the Friends of CB 17, the 501-c-3, the not-for-profit certificate. They are working to get this up and running again. They only thing about raising money, is they have to keep track of the money. There have been committees in the past that had accounts to collect funds for their events.

**Ms. Persaud** said she would prefer to get in-kind donations for the food and other things they will need for the event.

For the Sumptuous Sampling, it will be held the last week in June at Jay Loft. For this event, they get the businesses to donate food. At the next meeting, they can start working on the flyer. The date of the event will be determined by the availability of the restaurant, since the Owner is letting them use the place for free. She will also find out when Restaurant Week will be held.

**Ms. Da Costa** asked for the Networking Breakfast, will there be commercial real estate agents there to give information on acquiring a space to start a new business.

**Ms. Persaud** said the SBA is the best agency to offer that information and talk about opening businesses. She is mainly concentrating on City agencies, but they can look at other agencies to invite.

At 1096 Rutland Road, the Owner stated that guys set up a tent in front of his establishment and sell weed. This is affecting his business. She asked Mr. Daley to address this with the Precinct and see what can be done.

**Mr. Daley** said he will follow up on this with the Precinct Commander.

**Ms. Persaud** said the next issue is Lotus Lounge. The Captain at the Precinct said this location has a license, and she knows they do not. The Captain said he miss spoke and was confused with them having a 1-day permit last Labor Day weekend. She wants to address this again, even if it means sending a letter to 1 Police Plaza.

Lotus Lounge has been operating for over 2 years without a license and there are a lot of issues going on there. There is no pending application and she does not understand. The SLA does give temporary licenses to all the applicants, but they are not planning on getting a license.

**Ms. Vigliante** said the body shop and Lotus Lounge are related and there is all kinds of illegal things going on there. At the last meeting, they were told that the SLA cannot do anything with unlicensed establishments. She was told by the SLA they would have to do a nuisance and abatement with the Police Dept. and this has not been done.

**Ms. Persaud** said this is why a letter needs to be sent to the 67th Pct., Brooklyn South, and that will be the only way to get results. She had spoken to the Inspector about 1 ½ years ago and was told he is going to try and get the Buildings Dept. to come in. She has been there and seen what the place looks like.

**Mr. Daley** asked what is it that he will be addressing?

**Ms. Vigliante** said they are disruptive and park all over the place, the music is very loud, and others in the neighborhood is also complaining about them. This location needs to be closed down for operating without a license.

**Ms. Persaud** said they need to go up the chain of command if they are not getting any results.

She asked if there were any comments, suggestion or unfinished business to discuss?

**Mr. Tait** said in the minutes where it says Bamboo Wok, it should be Bamboo Walk. The other location is D Garden.

Since there are no other issues to discuss, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting?

**Ms. Clarke** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms. Vigliante** seconded the motion.