**Community Board 17**

**Commerce Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

 **Present: Guests:**

 June Persaud Julian Linton

 Frederick Watson Danisha Davis

 Brie DaCosta Bianca Tucker

 Marguerite Vigliante Patrick Agard

 Rodrick Daley

 Adele Bennett

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

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

**Roll Call**-June Persaud, Julian Linton, Bianca Tucker, Frederick Watson, Danisha Davis, Patrick Agard, Marguerite Vigliante, Dashawn Davis, Brie DaCosta, Adele Bennett

**Ms. Persaud** said they will approve the June 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Not having a quorum, they will table the approval of the minutes.

**Liquor Licenses**

**Club Julian-971 Rogers Avenue**

Club Julian is applying for a new application for a bar and tavern license. The business is located at 971 Rogers Avenue, in Brooklyn. The Police report has no incidents.

**Mr. Julian Linton** said he is trying to open a wine bar, and serve beer, but not on a large scale. He wants to include everyone but is trying to get a more exclusive clientele and will mostly be serving bottles, that can meet everybody’s pocket. He will also be serving small food items, because he really does not have a restaurant yet. His original plan was to have a restaurant, but because of the high cost of getting the gas, and the problem of getting the gas into the building, and all the architectural work that has to be done, he had to shift from that. He will serve wine, beer and small food items. He plans to be open from Wednesday to Sunday.

**Ms. Marguerite Vigliante** asked what is the capacity of the bar?

**Mr. Linton** said about 72 people.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked if this were a full liquor license or just wine and beer?

**Ms. Persaud** said it is for wine, beer and cider.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked if he will have hot food and how will he cook it?

**Mr. Linton** said it is not a restaurant, be he will serve small food items cooked on an electric stove.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked what are the hours of operation?

**Mr. Linton** said the hours of operation will be in the evening from 4pm to 12am during the week and from 4pm to 2am on the weekends.

**Ms. Brie DaCosta** asked will music be played in the wine bar and is there soundproofing installed so the neighbors will not be disturbed by the music?

**Mr. Linton** said his plan is to put in some small speakers to provide music, and sometimes, on certain occasions, he may have a DJ come in, but that is not going to be his normal operation, there is no soundproofing because there is no need for it because the music will not be loud.

**Ms. Persaud** asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Linton? Hearing none, she advised him that he will have to have food on the premises at all times when alcohol is being served.

**Ms. Vigilante** said he should invest in soundproofing, even if he is just speakers, so he will not disturb the neighbors, because there are going to be issues. It would be a good business practice and also good for the community and as a good neighbor.

**Ms. Persaud** said she does not know what is next to him, but it is always a good idea to have soundproofing.

**Mr. Linton** said next to him is a store and on the other side is a private house.

**Ms. Persaud** said since they do not have a quorum tonight, they cannot vote on any applications. She reminded Mr. Linton that he will have to attend the General Board meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7pm, and at this meeting, the full Board will vote on the applications. The General Board agenda will be sent to you.

**Zip Code Lounge (Partner, LLC)-2313 Tilden Avenue**

This is a lounge/event space and they are applying for a full liquor license. There were no incidents on the Police report.

**Ms. Bianca Tucker** said she is from Zip Code Lounge and the space has been open for 3 years. They currently use the space for events as in baby showers, birthday parties for kids from the ages of 1 to 10 years. They also have private and Church events and this is what they are using it for now. They are looking to enhance to do things on the weekends as well and that is why they are looking to get the liquor license.

**Ms. Persaud** asked if there were any questions for Zip Code Lounge?

**Ms. Vigliante** asked when they say enhance on the weekends, what does that mean exactly and what are they going to do in the space?

**Ms. Tucker** said she meant to expand. On the weekends, they want to sell liquor and have finger foods for the customers. The space is not open for rentals.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked will there be promoted events? Her concern is that it is a large space and eventually, these spaces turn into night clubs and she is always against that in a residential neighborhood and to be honest to say they are or are not going to have promoted events there.

**Ms. Tucker** said they are not going to have promoted events there. The space only holds about 74 people, sitting. The private events they will hold is just for people to come and have some drinks and finger foods or watch football games on weekends. They are definitely monitoring the amount of people that come into the space.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked if they are going to have live music or DJs?

**Ms. Tucker** said they will not have live DJs. They have a Bluetooth system that they currently use now.

**Ms. Vigliante** said she is concerned that the community is not complaining about noise or anything. It is always an important thing and it is on her mind, the surrounding neighborhood.

**Ms. Persaud** asked if there were any other questions for this applicant? Hearing none, she reminded them that they cannot vote because they do not have a quorum tonight, but they will have to attend the General Board meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7pm and the full Board will vote on their application.

**Café Zhane Frontline Bar & Restaurant-765 Utica Avenue**

This application is different, it is not for a liquor license, it is for a letter of recommendation. They do have a liquor license and the hours of operation is up until 12am. The owner is feeling a lot of financial setbacks due to the time the establishment is open. They were denied by the SLA a few times due to the fact there is a new owner and inexperienced a little bit, the principle lack of experience. They are asking for a letter of recommendation to extend the hours to 4am.

**Mr. Patrick Agard** said he is representing Frontline Center, Inc. doing business as Café Zhane Frontline Bar & Restaurant, located at 765 Utica Avenue between Linden Blvd. and Lenox Road. They have been in business for 3 years and they have a full liquor license that was granted by the SLA. Just when they approved the license, it was the time of COVID-19. The SLA felt that the owner did not have the necessary experience to stay open until 4am. Since that time, they have hired an experienced Manager and the application for that Manager was sent to the SLA and approved. She has 2 plus years of running the business and they will renew their license this year. They are in their 3rd year of business and now that things are opening back up because during COVID-19, everything had to close at 10pm. Now that things are opening back up and people are beginning to come back out. They also have a following, she is a hospital worker and many of her clientele will be coming from that field. As they know, the hospital workers have a 24 hour type of job, so they are looking to stay open until 4am, because in addition to the holidays coming around, they want to be able to entertain and have holiday parties there as well. He is coming before the Board and he was at the SLA full Board meeting and a similar case came up and what the SLA is looking for is for the Community Board give the okay that 4am or whatever time the Community Board deems at this point and they are looking for 4am, if they have no objections to that time. All of their paperwork is in order with the Dept. of Buildings. The owner of the building lives in that building and is on the premises. The building is fully protected with soundproofing. The former Commerce Committee Chair, Mr. Bakiriddin had visited the place with 2 other members, and they gave their approval for the place. He hopes they will understand the situation financially.

**Ms. Persaud** said the are no incidents to report at that location. She asked if there were any questions for this application?

**Ms. Vigilante** asked what time are they open now until?

**Mr. Agard** said their hours now are from 4pm to 12am.

**Ms. Vigliante** said the SLA does not usually deny something unless there is a reason. She does not understand that they don’t have enough experience to be open those hours.

**Ms. Persaud** said she does have the letter from the SLA. The letter states that the application was denied due to the applicant’s lack of experience. The Principle was very new in the business. They had no adverse issues at the establishment. Around the COVID-19 time, a lot of the establishments were given up until 2am by the SLA, and some 12am.

**Ms. Vigliante** asked if they wanted to give them up to 2am, but not 4am and would they have to vote on that at the General Board meeting?

**Ms. Persaud** said everything will come up at the General Board meeting tomorrow because they do not have a quorum tonight. That could be a suggestion for what they want to do.

**Ms. Da Costa** asked if the hours will be until 4am, does that mean there will be partying on the premises or will it be a quiet lounge? If it will be partying, will there be security and if it is till 4am, what type of activities will be going on?

**Mr. Agard** said they are not a party rental hall. They are a food restaurant with a full kitchen, tables, chairs, a bar and a lounge, so they will only be doing restaurant food, food service and drinking service and no dancing or anything like that.

**Ms. Persaud** said any application that has a liquor license is supposed to have security, it is a requirement.

**Ms. Adele Bennett** asked are they going to have security if they are going to stay open until 4am?

**Mr. Agard** said yes, if they stay open until 4am, they will have security. As it was stated, this is what is required by the SLA now.

**Ms. Persaud** asked if there were any other questions?

**Ms. Vigliante** asked if they can get a copy of the letter to have on file for the committee?

**Ms. Persaud** said she does not see why not.

She asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Agard? Hearing none, she reminded him that he will have to attend the General Board meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7pm and the members will vote on this application, because they do not have a quorum tonight.

**Mr. Rodrick Daley** said it is a pleasure for them to start this new year. He is disappointed since they are missing some many members. One of his goals this year is to try and make sure they try to get quorum. He is excited to see what the Commerce Committee is going to do this year. The opportunity for business will be on the forefront of his agenda this year as Community Board Chair. This year, the Commerce Committee will also be looking at Cannabis licenses and other licensures across Brooklyn to increase economics for the community and create a vibrant community. He will not say he is not in agreement with everything but is in agreement with the movement of their community as they move ahead this year.

He is hoping everyone will come out to the General Board meeting, which is every 3rd Wednesday of the month and not just come to the Commerce Committee meetings, because when they come to the General Board meetings, they will get to meet and talk to the elected officials and local safety officials, as well as the Commerce Committee. He is really excited this year and is looking forward to any questions they have. There is a calendar on the website listed on the bottom of the agenda and they can click on it and see what is happening in their own community. Please feel free to reach out to him.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Persaud** said she has been a Board member of CB 17 for 18 years and would like to welcome them back to the Commerce Committee meeting. As of September, the Commerce Committee will be responsible for processing Cannabis licenses as of September. They don’t have any applications as of yet and as soon as they get one, they will all do this together because this is something new for everyone.

She would like to plan 2 to 3 events for this year. A few suggestions are a Networking Breakfast, a Karaoke Competition with some of the local establishments and the Sumptuous Sampling and she is also open to any suggestions.

They will also have guest speakers throughout this year’s meetings. She is looking forward to a productive year.

**Mr. Daley** said he was thinking they could have a seminar or webinar on the Cannabis applications and how that would work for the people in the community.

**Ms. Persaud** said when they did the Zoom call, they said they do not have enough people to do that, but they can educate the Community Board members. That is why they did the Zoom meeting with all the Community Boards together, because they cannot go to individual Community Boards to give them information on it.

She asked if there any suggestions? Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Ms. Bennett** seconded the motion.