

Public Safety Committee Report

re: February 12, 2020 meeting - Fire Lounge Liquor License Re-application

Date of meeting- Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 6:30pm.
Board office.

Present:
72nd Precinct - representatives from Community Affairs

Residents (non-members) - 16th Street

Fire Lounge Owners:
Douglas Williams, Founder, co-owner
Danielle Williams, Founder, co-owner
Freddy Vasquez- new partner, co-owner (as of January 2020)

Board Members-
Cesar Zuniga, Board Chair,
Tony Giglio, Board Member, Public Safety Committee Co-chair
Cynthia Felix, Board member and member of Public Safety Committee
Cynthia Gonzales- District Assistant

Meeting streamed on Facebook

Purpose

To discuss the public safety related matters in connection with the voting on the reapplication of liquor license by the Fire Lounge, 593 3rd Ave, Brooklyn NY. (16th st)

In summary,
Police laid out occurrences that are serious (shooting, robbery, stabbings, abduction) and other numerous complaints involving disorderly conduct such as fighting, yelling profanity, out in front of the bar up to the middle of the block on 16th st.. Officer Gonzales did say that the owners have been very cooperative

About 6 residents from the neighborhood who live on that block. Some said they were always afraid of what was going to happen next because of the physical fighting, loud quarrels and yelling they've witnessed. Others annoyed by noise complaints.

The owners were present- father/daughter- a couple of long standing patrons offering their support. Trying to say its not a bad place. That they try to manage their patrons both inside out outside. But the owners do it mostly themselves. The owner at one point claimed that he received threatening phone calls from neighbors threatening to close him down and that they felt discriminated against.

In January 2020 they took on a new partner who was also present- someone who said he was from sunset park/bay ridge and a life long resident and that both he and his wife are heavily

involved in the community. With this new partner on board they fired their old security and have since hired a new security firm which is local (Castillo Security Co.) to combat what has been going on. They believe that it'll be different going forward.

Cesar stepped in and said that even though they were saying they were well intended that there is still the facts - the data as communicated by the 72nd Precinct - that there have been and continue to be numerous incidents and complaints- both serious in nature (and somewhat routine) and that the Committee and the Board must consider this. The Committee and the Board needs more information from the business owners. that evidence of any action taken or planned to be taken to date ideally with time for the neighbors to weigh in on the protocols, procedures, etc.

Cesar wrapped it up by saying that we need documented evidence of these changes as well as any action taken or planned to be taken to date. The Board need to receive a written plan from the owners to be sent to us outlining what other measures they are willing to take to work with the neighborhood and residents. The Owners agreed to this and said they were open to this approach and agreed to produce a document to be delivered by Monday, February 17th.

Cesar stated that a written plan would need to be received by Feb 18th in order to be considered for a vote to occur at the next Board meeting to either approve of or disapprove the reapplication of their liquor license.

Cesar also suggested to the neighbors present to come up with suggestions in writing to send to the board and the owners asap so that they could work together with the establishment. Those who were present were open to that.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:30pm.