

## **Minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting of the City of Chelsea Licensing Commission.**

Meeting opened at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Silvia Guzman

Commission members present: Michael McAteer (McAteer), Mark Rossi (Vice Chair), Jim Guido (Guido) and Silvia Guzman (Chair)

Also present: Captain Keith Houghton on behalf of Chelsea PD, Strephon Treadway on behalf of City of Chelsea Law Department and Licensing Administrator Jenny Builes.

Rossi moved to adopt the minutes of the November 28, 2017 meeting with the correction of the last name "Conley" to Cowley. McAteer second. Guido- yes. Chair Guzman abstained due to her absence.

### **Clerk's Update/New Business:**

Communication from Mass State Lottery as to Keno at JL Food Mart at 416 Crescent Avenue and communication from the City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher regarding Blue Frog Sports Bar was accepted and filed.

### **Public Hearing: Aguilar Corporation d/b/a Bar La Cueva-802 Broadway**

Chair opened the public hearing to consider a Change of Hours application to Aguilar Corporation d/b/a Bar La Cueva located at 802 Broadway. Attorney John L. Dodge appeared along with the owner Manuel Aguilar. Bar La Cueva are seeking to change the current operational hours to Monday-Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. They believe this change of hours will profit the establishment. Chair opened the public hearing portion. No one spoke, the public speaking portion was then closed. Captain Houghton spoke and had no issue with the change of hours. Guido motioned to approve the change of hours. Rossi second. Vote Unanimous.

### **Conference: Zavala Corp. d/b/a Bella Villa- 13-17 Fifth Street**

Chair opened the conference regarding Zavala Corp. d/b/a Bella Villa at 13-17 Fifth Street. Attorney John L. Dodge appeared along with the owner Ever Zavala. Attorney Dodge mentioned that Mr. Zavala has been the owner of the establishment for 12 years and the owner of the building Juan Gallego is re-developing the building. He also mentions that the establishment has been closed for a couple of weeks and he would like to request a six month extension (until June 30, 2018) to find a new location and keep the liquor license active. Captain Houghton spoke and says he does not have any issues with this location. Rossi motioned to approve the extension until June 30, 2018. Guido second. Vote Unanimous.

### **Public Hearing: Blue Frog Sports Bar-170 Washington Avenue**

Chair opened the public hearing to consider a Change of Hours application to Blue Frog Sports Bar located at 170 Washington Avenue. Vice Chair Mark Rossi recused himself from this public hearing because he was running for City Council and has had dialogs with the owners of Blue Frog Sports Bar. Fernando Loarez appeared as manager of the restaurant and also Dwayne Morales appeared as the owner of the establishment. Chair Guzman read the communication from the City Solicitor regarding Blue Frog Sports Bar to the public and record. They seek approval from the commission to change the hours of operation from 12 p.m.-11 p.m. to 12 p.m. - 1 a.m. Chair opened the public speaking portion. Kenneth Lozarro of 14 Bloomingdale Chelsea, MA spoke and recommended the commission to approve the change of hours because the owners and staff are good people. The hours currently is hurting the

establishment and also mentions that this establishment deserves a chance. Mr. Lozarro currently helps the establishment with security and other duties. Angelie Aguero of 15 Meridian Street, East Boston, MA spoke and recommends the commission to approve the extension of hours. She has been working at the establishment for one month and needs more hours to work. Sandra Carrillo of 26 Cherry Street Malden, MA spoke and also recommends the commission to extend the hours because she is a single mother of two children and she needs to work more hours. Fernando Loarez of 50 McClure Street Revere, MA spoke and is currently the manager of this establishment. He mentions that this establishment needed someone like him to manage and pay bills because they are behind. He has fifth teen years of knowledge working in hotels and restaurants. The extension of hours will help greatly financially. He mentions that customers come in late at 10 pm and he has to deliver the news that the restaurant is closing at 11pm. Therefore, customers see no purpose to stay at the restaurant. He is also concerned that customers will prefer to go to a different restaurant. Mr. Loarez also mentions that he used his savings to catch up on rent for this establishment. Chair Guzman questioned on why Mr. Loarez has used his personal savings to pay the establishments bills, if he is not part owner. Rerwin Herrera of 8 Mildred Ave Revere, MA spoke and mentions that he is a professional chef, he has a passion for food. He recommends the commission to extend the hours because customers come in late to eat and then go home. He also mentions that he uses his own money to purchase certain foods to please the customers. Anthony Arevalo of 263 Havre Street East Boston, MA spoke and says he is a frequent customer who visits every two weeks. He feels safe at Blue Frog and another local restaurant Los Agaves. He is in full support of the extension of hours and sees that the establishment is struggling. He also mentions that he believes that the establishment has been transparent with the police. No one else spoke. Therefore, the public speaking portion was then closed. Guido questioned Chef Herrera on how long he has been employed by Blue Frog. Mr. Herrera responded that he has been with the establishment for one month. Mr. Morales mentions that the previous cook moved back to Dominican Republic. Guido questioned Mr. Loarez if he has purchased the establishment. Mr. Loarez eventually wants to buy the establishment but wants to manage the restaurant first. Chair mentions that there is a misrepresentation of the establishment being purchased and there is more money being owed to the previous owner of the restaurant. Mr. Morales mentions that he knows nothing about this incident. Mr. Loarez explains to the commission that Mr. Acuna was being owed taxes from the City of Chelsea. Guido suggests to be opened until 12 a.m. Mr. Loarez mentions that he has known Mr. Morales for five years and he asked for help to manage this establishment. Once everything is settled he will become part owner of the establishment. Mr. Herrera also adds that he has been a Chef at a restaurant in the North End and has been a chef for fifth teen years. Guido recommends the gentleman to submit an application to change the manager. Chair questions the relationship between other people and mentions that the City Solicitor has spoken to Mr. Acuna. Once an establishment has no money they start getting desperate. Captain Houghton spoke and mentioned that he received an anonymous letter. Therefore, he conducted an inspection and found nothing illegal. He also mentions that the establishment has a good track record of buying their liquor. Guido motioned to continue the change of hours application until the next meeting as long as they renew the application and file for a change of manager application. McAteer second. Chair Guzman opposed.

#### **El Carriel 9-11 Williams Street:**

Jose Manotas appeared on behalf of Manotas Corp d/b/a El Carriel and mentions that the establishment had a fire incident and are fixing the issues. He wanted to notify the licensing commission that the

establishment will be closed and is seeking approval to be closed until the city's re-inspection. Guido motions to approve the request. McAteer seconds. Vote Unanimous.

**2018 Liquor License Renewals:**

Guido motioned to approve all liquor license renewals as long as they have complied with the City of Chelsea renewal requirements. McAteer second. Vote unanimous.

**2018 Amusement/Entertainment Renewals:**

Guido motioned to approve all amusement/entertainment renewals as long as they have complied with the City of Chelsea renewal requirements. McAteer second. Vote unanimous.

For New Year's Eve, all establishments having a Section 12 license may extend the hours to serve alcohol until 2:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

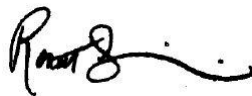


Jenny Builes  
Licensing Administrator

**Adoption Date: 1/23/2018**



Mark Rossi, Vice Chair



Roseanne Bongiovanni, Member



James Guido, Member



Michael McAteer, Director ISD