

Minutes of the November 7, 2019 Meeting of the Chelsea Licensing Commission

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present were Chair Rossi, Commissioners McAteer, Bongiovanni, Vega and Guido. Captain Houghton was present for CPD.

Minutes of the October 3, 2019 meeting motioned to be accepted by Bongiovanni, seconded by Rossi and vote unanimous.

Minutes of the October 3, 2019 executive session meeting motioned to be accepted by Bongiovanni and seconded by McAteer, vote unanimous.

City Solicitor Fisher provided Clerk's updates the renewal process and that the renewals are scheduled to be voted upon at the next meeting. Also, that approximately 30 people attended the training for on premise licensees.

The Chair opened the continued Public Hearing on Las Pupusas De Chino Restaurant Inc, 92 Washington Street, Chelsea to consider an application to extend hours of Entertainment. The manager Lucia Lopez, Gustavo Serna and his step daughter all appeared. Step daughter appeared to translate. McAteer mentioned he heard there was an incident recently in the place. Step Daughter stated that there was an altercation with a waitress who no longer works there and the manager on site was deported. Captain Houghton CPD stated that the establishment complied with the rules and Mr. Serna who is basically the manager appeared within minutes. Chair opened the public speaking portion of the hearing and no one spoke so the Chair closed the public speaking portion. Bongiovanni asked if their video taping system was working and CPD said it was inspected and working. Ms. Lopez informed the Commission that she is present in the mornings for 7 hours 4 days a week. McAteer asked why they fired the manager on site and the step daughter said he was not competent and had immigration issues. Guido asked what is the entertainment and Clerk stated 2 TVs and a jukebox. Clerk mentioned the prior discipline and that they were requesting to have entertainment hours the same as the liquor license hours. Rossi moved to approve and Guido seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing – Winnisimmet Lounge LLC d/b/a the Lounge 73 Winnisimmet Street, to consider an application for a change in hours. Chairman Rossi disclosed that he held his campaign event at the Lounge and recused himself from this matter. Vice Chair Guido opened the hearing and Edson Coimbra and property owner Roback were present. Guido asked what exactly the change is. Edson said Mon/Tues the lounge is closed; Wed/Thur. 4:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Fri/Sat. 4:00 p.m to 1:00 a.m and Sun 1pm to 11:30 p.m. Guido asked when do you stop serving food and Edson explained approximately a half hour before closing time. Bongiovanni asked if they always serve food and Edson said yes. Vice Chair opened the public speaking portion of the hearing. Damali Vidot was in support of more establishments being opened later to keep money in Chelsea; Enio Lopez had questions about other locations; and, Leo Robinson was

in support. CPD stated that they have no issues. Bongiovanni moved to approve the change in hours and Vega seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Chair moved the next hearing out of order.

Chair opened the Public Hearing on the ABCC Remand of Chelsea Walk Decision as to the discipline issued and rollback of hours. Present was the manager Ms. Palmieri and Attorney Turco. The Clerk explained the current status that the ABCC remanded the matter back to the Commission based on its findings and upheld one violation and found no history of discipline. Attorney Turco mentioned that the ABCC recommends restoring the hours. CPD stated that there have been no issues or concerns as to the temporary hours. Turco reiterated no prior disciplined and that they served 3 weeks suspension. Palmeri mentioned that she allowed her wall to be painted as a mural. Guido stated that there is no reason to be open if you are not serving food so early. Palmeri said we have been open until 1 a.m for years. Chair opened the public speaking portion of the hearing. Enio Lopez said he is concerned about people smoking out front and the trash and they are open too early. Roy Avellaneda stated that they should not open prior to noon. Damali Vidot agreed with sentiments of Avellaneda. Marianne Winship was in favor of more restrictive hours because they do not serve food. Chair closed public hearing. Vega stated that 8:00 a.m is too early but she would extend hours to be fair like other establishments. Bongiovanni asked if she was still selling the property. Palmeri said the property is not for sale. Bongiovanni asked about the bartenders and seeking that they be more vigilant. Palmeri said of course but they may miss someone here and there. McAteer said but you cannot miss anyone. Turco mentioned 3 week suspension for the allegations was sufficient. Rossi stated that opening at 8 am is not appropriate and not within the interests of the community however equity calls for an extension of hours to 1 a.m. Guido moved to grant the hours of operations from 11 am to midnight Sun –Thurs and 11 am to 1 am Fri/Sat. McAteer seconded the motion. The vote unanimous.

Public Hearing - Green Herbals LLC 200 Beachum Street, Chelsea, to consider an application for a Marijuana Retailer. Bongiovanni recused herself because her company is going to receive or seek a donation from Green Herbals. Attorney Jay Satin, owner Tom Morey, Operations Manager Napolean Brito, Traffic Consultant Jeff Durk, Security Chief Mike Allen and Government Liaison Joe Giannino were present for the applicant. Attorney Satin outlined their city process and approvals. He then mentioned what the site would look like by demolishing the building and help to ease congestion in a blighted area. Capt. Houghton asked that the security and other meet with him since he is licensing enforcement. Chair opened up the matter for public speaking and Marian Winship spoke in favor and said it was a good location. Chair closed public speaking portion. Rossi asked about Traffic planning and Jeff Durk stated that the initial opening will be by appointment only and there will be detail officers involved and fences with curbing. As to security Chief Allen mentioned video surveillance available in real time to the CPD and alarm systems and electronic access doors. Vega questioned whether the matter is seed to sale? Chief Allen said yes and they have several agreements with suppliers. Giannino stressed that the product is prepackaged and nothing is grown on the premises. The packing is tamper proof and no odor. Vega asked what if they sell it on the street. Giannino said there is a

tracing system. Vega asked about the diversity in hiring and employees. Brito mentioned that they have the host agreement Chelsea residents and the staff will be diverse in gender, age and nationalities. Vega moved to approve the license and Rossi seconded the Motion. Vote unanimous.

Chair closed the meeting.

Paul Rossi

James R. Guido

Michael McAtteen

Andrés Vega

Ron J.