

Minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting of the City of Chelsea Licensing Commission.

Location: Chelsea City Hall Council Chambers Room 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA and Facebook Live. Meeting opened at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Mark Rossi.

Commission members present: Chairperson Mark Rossi, Vice Chairperson Emily Cherniack, James Guido, Mike McAteer and Gladys Vega.

Also Present in Council Chamber Room: Licensing Administrator Naomi Libran, Captain Keith Houghton, Officer Nicole McLaughlin and Officer Joseph Santiago, Councillor Robinson, Councillor Avellaneda, and interpreter Terrence Moran.

Chairperson Rossi asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2021, Guido motioned to adopt, Cherniack seconded and vote unanimous.

Chairperson Rossi asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 27, 2021, Cherniack motioned to adopt, McAteer seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the Public Hearing to consider a Change of Hours of an All Kinds of Alcohol License (On Premise) application for La Esquina Mariachi, Inc. at 170 Washington Avenue, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Attorney Mark White and Elcide Perez, owner. Attorney White stated the transfer was granted in April of 2019 and because of the issues around the Washington Street area the licensing board at that time decided on probationary hours until 10 p.m. Mr. Perez has had no issues since then and would like his hours until 1 a.m. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion, no one spoke, therefore, public speaking portion was closed. Captain Houghton stated he has no issues. Commissioner Vega mentioned that she witnessed someone intoxicated going in and was told he was not allowed in to the establishment because he was intoxicated, she was very proud of the business. Vega motioned to approve and Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the public hearing to consider a Petroleum License application of R & N Petroleum Oil at 979 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. Present was owner Mr. Moumade, He stated that Licensing Administrator told him, he needed to be present. He stated the Fire department inspected and issued him the license. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion, no one spoke, therefore, public speaking portion was closed. Vega motioned to approve and Guido seconded and vote unanimous.

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Chair Rossi opened the Public Hearing to consider an Amusement & Entertainment License application for Western Front at 121 Webster Avenue, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was CEO Dennis Benzan and Asst. General Manager Bobby Boyd. Mr. Benzan starting by giving a background of how Western Front originated as a Reggae Club in Western Avenue in Cambridge for over 50 years. Western Front aside from being a cannabis retailer, also, provides an opportunity for local artists to display their work in their gallery and hopefully, display and play their music. Western Front was given a One Day Amusement License for that purpose and would like it to be for the whole year for these types of events. Hank Fay is a curator and he curates a lot of the artwork they display in Western Front. Chairperson asked the Police Captain Houghton if there were any issues. Houghton spoke about Western Front having no issues with the establishment. Mr. Benzan stated that he has a third party security company. Licensing Administrator Libran read into the record a communication from Mr. Connors, representing The Merritt Club and a communication from Councillor Naomi Zobot. Many Western Front employees spoke and voiced their opinions how wonderful is to work there. Ken Barron, owner of building of Western Front stated he didn't know about the hearing until three days ago when he received notice in the mail. His concerns where about his other tenants in the building and disruptions on other businesses. He does not support the activity. Skip Atkins lives on Webster Avenue and opposes the entertainment license. He states it will disrupt the neighborhood and spill over outside. Janice Fields lives on Webster Avenue and she against the flow of the traffic, parking situations and concerns about her neighborhood. Chairperson Rossi read into the record a letter from Pam Butler a resident of Webster Avenue. She votes no on the Amusement & Entertainment license. No one else spoke and Chairperson closed the public speaking portion. Chairperson asked if there was an issue with the landlord and is there a breach. Mr. Benzan responded by addressing every comment by stating Western Front is a special place to bring the community together. The customer experience is the artwork on the wall, customer service and to listen to the music. In respect to the landlord, he received notice and Western Front is not asking to change the use of the establishment. Mr. Boyd spoke the previous event they held using the Merritt Club parking lot. Mr. Benzan was asked the frequency of the events. He responded by saying he would like one live event or band once a month and at least once a week have a live DJ on a Friday. He stated that employees have mask restrictions. Have not heard of any complaints from neighbors or businesses. Chairperson Rossi motion to approve this license on a probationary period of 60 days. Guido seconded and vote unanimous.

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Chair Rossi opened the Public Hearing to consider an Amusement & Entertainment License application for Delicias Salvadoreñas at 235 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Luis Romero, owner. Mr. Romero stated he wants to have a 55" TV install for "YouTube" videos and Netflix for the public at his restaurant. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion, no one spoke, therefore, public speaking portion was closed. Captain Houghton stated he has no issues. Guido motioned to approve and Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the Continued Disciplinary Public Hearing to consider revoking, suspending or modifying the Amusement & Entertainment License of Moe Brothers, LLC. d/b/a Latinos Falcon Billiard & Bar at 158 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Nelson Molina, owner. Mr. Molina stated that he wants to be emailed or called when the City gets a complaint instead of bringing him in front of the Licensing Board for a hearing and fix the issues that arise. Since the last meeting, Captain Houghton stated there have been no issues reported. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion, Liz Jason, who initially wrote the complaint, she recognizes that she hears the noise music not as often and it is quieter than before. Federico Tayval and others support Mr. Molina and have no complaints about the music. Also, they presented a petition of their neighbors have signed in support of Mr. Molina and Latinos Falcon. The petition was read for the record. The public speaking was closed. Guido motioned to set aside the complaint and record it on their file and Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the Public Hearing to consider a Taxi License Transfer application from Ventura Taxi, Inc. to Cruz Taxi, LLC, at 19 Fourth Street, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Attorney Scott Rubin and Ernesto Cruz, owner of Cruz Taxi. Attorney Rubin stated Ventura Taxi has been a staple in the community for over 15 yrs. Mr. Cruz has been managing Ventura Taxi and wants to own his own taxi business. Captain Houghton stated the inspections of the taxicabs needed to be done. Seven taxicabs in operation and their office is at 19 4<sup>th</sup> Street and parked on 19 Vernon Street. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion, no one spoke, therefore, public speaking portion was closed. Guido motioned to approve and Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

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The Licensing Board motions and vote unanimous to approve Tobacco renewals, Hackney renewals and Taxi service renewals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Next meeting July 8, 2021

Emily Cheung

James R. Guido

Michael McAttee

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