

## Police and Public Safety Committee Report of March 16, 2009

This was a busy month for the Police and Public Safety Committee. It met three times in three different locations.

The first meeting was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the day of the big move to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at 10:00 AM at the community board office at 621 86<sup>th</sup> Street to discuss SLA procedures for some of our problematic establishments. Those in attendance were Peter Person, Assistant Director of Enforcement & Director of NYC Operations for the SLA; Toby Russo from the Governor's Office; Dean Rasinya, Chairperson, Josephine Beckmann, District Manager and Susan Pulaski, Chair of the Committee. We started by stating that our bar establishments present ongoing problems in the CB 10 area. We have had many meetings with the owners and some of the places are not taking any action in cleaning up their problems. We need to take further action, so we have convened this meeting to ask the SLA what action we can take next and if their agency could be of assistance to us. We did not concern the SLA representative with the complaints that are noise related coming from large disorderly groups of people outside the establishments. We only addressed the more critical ones, namely underage drinking, fighting and possible drug activity. After a discussion, including the mention of a number of possible remedies that might be imposed, Josephine said she will forward the complaints to the SLA for review and Mr. Person stated the SLA will look at them and formulate new solutions.

The second meeting was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the new community board office at 8119 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to address the on-premise liquor license for Cafe Remy, 7110 Third Avenue, and to have an update on the recent safety modifications of the Buckeye Pipeline that have been made to areas of the Pipeline within our Board. The Homeland Security Sub-Committee was also present and will give this part of the report. Those in attendance from the Committee and Board were Judith Collins, Chair of the Homeland Security Sub-Committee and Police & Public Safety committee member, Anna DeMetz, George Fontas, Habib Joudeh, Mary Nolan, Mary Ann Walsh, Susan Pulaski, Chair and Josephine Beckman, District Manager. Also in attendance were John Russell, Esq. counsel for Café Remy, Eddie Batiz, owner Café Remy, Brett Sullivan from Senator Marty Golden's office, Barbara Albanese from Councilman Gentile's office, Police Officers Joe Trischetta and Marco Venezia from the 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ilene Sacco from the 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council; and from Buckeye Pipeline, Jeff Arrien and Robert Cortopassi.

To provide you with some past information concerning the applicant, the owner from Café Remy, was invited along with 12 other establishments in the CB 10 area to our Board Office in August 2008 to discuss complaints against their establishments. We asked for an update on Café Remy from Josephine and the police officers. The officers said that Café Remy has had no violations with the SLA in the past 2 years and the only complaints that Josephine has logged against them were for noise arising from large, disorderly groups of people who have congregated outside their place. They have had promotional nights on Fridays and that they usually have to turn away 100 people each time. The owner is aware of this and works hard to keep crowds under control. Also note that there has been no problem with underage drinking at this place, that its clientele is 25

+ years old, the owner grew up in Bay Ridge and that the owner is always on the premises during hours of operation. The owner stated that he has followed the suggestions made to bar owners at August 2008 meeting and they have helped him make his establishment a law abiding one. Our committee voted unanimously to renew their on- premise liquor license.

Now, Judith Collins will give the updated Buckeye Pipeline report.

Then we addressed the problem that was presented by a Dyker Heights resident at our February meeting, namely the crowds of youths congregating at night around the Dunkin Donuts at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 76<sup>th</sup> Street. Our police officers said that this is a reoccurring problem and that a plan of action is in place. One officer has been assigned exclusively to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This police presence has been good. The officer stays in touch with the merchants on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which helps him to stay abreast of any potential problems that might arise. They said that this is not any more of a problem than just kids “hanging out,” which kids like to do. And, if they didn’t hang out at Dunkin Donuts, where would they go? Suggestions were made namely, like some of the problems might be alleviated if Dunkin Donuts changed their format of business after 10PM by just having a service window. Also, the creation of youth programs was discussed.

The third meeting was held on March 11th, 2009 in the auditorium of P.S. 69, 6302 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to discuss the concerns relating to the application of a wine and beer license for the new establishment, Crown KTV, Ltd., that will open in early April at 848 64<sup>th</sup> Street, directly across from the P.S. 69, a grammar school with 900 students. In attendance, from the Committee and the Board were: Judith Collins, Habib Joudeh, Mary Nolan, Mary Ann Walsh, Chair, Susan Pulaski, and District Manager, Josephine Beckmann. Also in attendance from the school were the principal, Jayne Capetanakis, PTA President, Valerie Vazquez, UFT rep, Usa Fung-Fernandes, and Rosemary Neglia; from the 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Joe Trischetta and Marco Venezia, Community Affairs Police Officers; representing the Governor, Roby Russo; and owners, Ni Bing Zheng and Alvin Zheng.

The SLA application lists Crown KTV as a restaurant; however a sign was erected last week at the site reading Crown “Music Club.” It will be open from 4PM to 4 AM. Since it will be located within 500’ from the school, the application can only be for a beer and wine license—no liquor. Note: “Bring your own Booze” is legally not an option. We started the meeting by asking the owners of Crown to explain the style of their establishment, its design and how it will be run. They provided computer pictures, so we had a virtual tour of the premises.

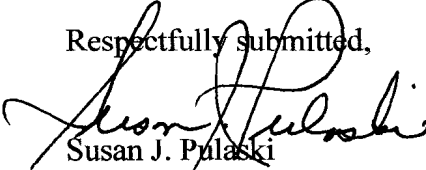
The building is located in a converted warehouse and it gives an appearance of an after hours club with its dramatic stripped paint job rather than that of a neighborhood restaurant. It is a building without windows. It consists of a hallway with 13 private rooms of which 5 are small with a maximum of 8 people; 5 medium size; 2 big; and 1 large VIP room that can hold @30 people; and one larger bar area. Wine, beer and a full food menu will be provided.

The owners explained that this type of establishment on 64th Street is characteristic of a Chinese restaurant that, at present, only exists in Manhattan. The 64th Street place will allow their clientele to be entertained close to home in their own neighborhood. The clientele will be business people who will drop by after work to relax with friends for a drink, watch TV or a video, sing Karaoke and/or have dinner. There will be no dancing. They will not need to reserve a private room ahead of time; they will be served by a wait staff; the rooms will have doors with small windows in them and, since they are private, there will be no security cameras present. The dress code will be business attire—suits. It was also mentioned that this will be a family restaurant and will welcome children's birthday parties.

There will be no entrance fee, however, there will be a \$20 <sup>per hour</sup> charge for a private room. There will be bouncers present and that the owners plan on providing a minibus to transport their clientele to and from the establishment. Whether the clientele will be checked for bringing in their own "booze," was not addressed.

All in attendance asked questions of the owners and then presented their comments. Our initial concerns were not eased with this presentation and all felt that this establishment is inappropriate for this location. We were reminded that the school day is a long day that it ends at 9:30 PM. The principal was upset with the hours of operation of the restaurant. We asked to amend the license to read, 12 Noon to 12 midnight and the answer was, "No." Do to fact that this meeting had time restraints, we did not formerly take a vote, but all in attendance did not wish to grant this establishment a beer and wine license.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan J. Pulaski