

## Police and Public Safety Committee Report of May 18, 2009

The Police and Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 11, 2009 at the Community Board Office on Fifth Avenue at 7:00 PM. We met to discuss the new liquor license application for Longbow Pub at 7316 Third Avenue and for the presentation and discussion of Senate Bill S3701/Assembly Bill A4368, "The Volunteer Peace Officer Benefit Law."

Those in attendance were committee members, Michael Casale, Judith Collins, Anna DeMetz, Michael Festa, Nikolaos Leonardos, Mary Nolan, Mary Ann Walsh and Susan Pulaski, Chair. Also in attendance representing the 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct were Police Officers Joe Trischetta, Marco Venezia and Joseph DiPaulo the 68<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Coordinator; Barbara Albanese from Councilman Gentile's office; Susan Tirotta, from Assemblywoman Hyer-Spencer' office; Michael and Jennifer Colbert from Longbow Pub; and Glenn Kearney, President of the NYS Association of Auxiliary Police (NYSAAP) and a member of the Nassau County Auxiliary Police.

We started by addressing the liquor license for a new establishment, Longbow Pub, at 7316 Third Avenue, the former location of Candeo's Restaurant. Community Board 10 and the Police and Public Safety Committee thought it would be good policy to bring new establishments, as they launch their businesses, to our meeting to give them an understanding of what it means to be a good restaurant/bar owner and good neighbor in our community. We asked owners, Michael and Jennifer Colbert, to let us know of the type of establishment they are planning for this site. Longbow Pub is designed to be a family/neighborhood pub, styled after a British model. They plan on filling the gap left by Harry Grattin's closing. Their projected clientele will be men 25+ and women 23+. They will serve several types of beer, ales, porters and stouts, wines and serve a menu of chips with fish or chicken, pub burgers and traditional British fare. They have applied for a full liquor license, so liquor will also be served. The Colbert's gave us copies of their food and beverage menus, as well as a floor plan of Longbow's. The floor plan is similar to the one of Candeo's and the only changes that were made were cosmetic ones. The bar will control the music in the establishment; there will be no live entertainment. They have listed the maximum times of operation—Monday through Saturday from 11AM to 4AM and Sunday from 12 Noon to 2AM on their license, however, they will not be open the full amount of time that they have applied for.

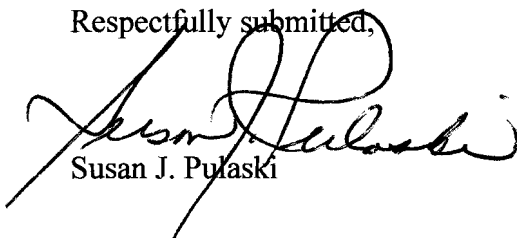
Mr. Colbert is originally from Wales and has lived in Bay Ridge for 20 years. He had attended our Police and Public Safety meeting in March, when we addressed the quality-of-life problems the community was having with Shenanigan's. So, he is very aware of what constitutes a well run bar/restaurant and what causes problems. Our committee asked the background of the Colbert's. Mr. Colbert has family members who have run pubs for many years and he, himself, has worked in pubs for years. Mrs. Colbert is the office manager for a bar in Manhattan located at 54<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Broadway. One of the Colbert's will always be on the premises during hours of operation.

Longbow Pub is planning on opening as soon as they get their liquor license; that should be within 5-7 months after the filing of the application, which was on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Our committee felt that the Colbert's have thought out their venture very well and feel they will be good neighbors.

Then Mr. Kearney was asked to make his presentation of the "Volunteer Peace Officer Benefit Law." The NYSAAP has been working on legislation for the last nine years to create a benefit law similar to the one both volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers of New York State have. The volunteer peace officer programs in NYS have been ignored too long. With the murder of two NYC Auxiliary police officers in 2007, there has been a renewed interest in the laws empowering and protecting auxiliary police and other volunteer law enforcement officers. This bill, Senate S3701 and Assembly A4368, which are both the same, is a copy of the Volunteer Ambulance Worker's benefit law. Presently, if a peace officer (a name created to identify the work that the volunteer does and not confusing it with the term "police" officer), does not receive benefits if hurt while performing their volunteer—unpaid--service, namely, while they are on duty and following direct orders. Volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers do receive benefits. This law would place the peace officers in the same benefit category as those of the fire and ambulance departments. This law will also switch control over to the law enforcement agency instead of the Civil Defense Director, thus removing it from Civil Defense Law and placing it under Executive Law. In addition, each county in New York State has a different set of rules. This law would not only give parity to these volunteers with the firefighters and ambulance workers, but would standardize qualifications and training all over the state. It would also help with the recruitment and retention of peace officers, rewarding and protecting the volunteer.

We asked Mr. Kearney what our Community Board could do to help with the passage of this bill. He suggested the following: Since the bill must be passed in each house, he has asked that we send a Memorandum of Support for these bills to both the Senate, addressing Senator Joseph Addabbo and to the Assembly, addressing Assembly Member Carl Heastie and to copy Mr. Kearney of both correspondences.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Pulaski