

The Police and Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Community Board Office to discuss concerns at two clubs, namely Club Shadows located at 9013 Fourth Avenue and Speak Easy located at 9427 Fifth Avenue and to review an application for an arcade license for Xtreme Billiards & Bar Inc. located at 823 65th Street.

Present at the meeting were:

Susan Pulaski, Chair, Committee Members Michael Casale, Judith Collins, Anna DeMetz, George Fontas, Mary Nolan and CB 10 Chair, Dean Rasinya.

Also in attendance representing the 68th Precinct were Captain Rodriguez and Sergeant Strype of Community Affairs; representing Club Shadows, Yefim Kogan and representing Speak Easy, Frank Ianniello and Nicole Manto.

The Board and the Precinct are receiving complaints by local residents concerning the activity at Club Shadows and Speak Easy Bars. It was noted that both bars are located in the same vicinity. The neighbors are calling to complain about late night noise and noisy patrons that congregate outside the bars. They are disrupting the quality-of-life of the area. In the case of Speak Easy Bar, there were two stabbings that took place during the last two weeks of October. We addressed the concerns of each of the bars separately and the owners were asked to comment on the complaints. Then they were reminded that the bars are responsible for any problems that arise in their establishments and that just moving a problem out on to the sidewalk does not remove the responsibility of the bar from the situation. In addition, we asked that the bars quite the music down. Then Captain Rodriguez reminded the owners to take special care in checking IDs of clientele to prevent under age drinking. Our committee stated that if we continue to be told of these types of complaints, that we would notify the SLA of the situation and recommend that the SLA take away their liquor licenses. Both establishments were very receptive to our concerns. Then Captain Rodriguez gave the owners copies of Best Practices for Nightlife Establishments, which is a booklet created by the New York Nightlife Association.

The committee members then discussed the application for arcade license at Xtremee Billiards. The members wanted to hear comments from the owners of this establishment, but the owners and/or their representations, who were invited, did not attend our meeting. We asked if there were any violations reported placed against this establishment and we found that none had been reported. The committee then discussed the application and voiced their concerns. Earlier this year, the same establishment came to us for a liquor license and amusement gaming café applications. This establishment has a number of components to its operation, namely a billiard parlor, internet café, bakery and full service bar. Each time we have been presented with an application, our objections remain the same: the ability of the vendor to control these separate businesses with one being the sale of liquor, in a location where teenagers are targeted to participate in the activities of the establishment. Each time the committee and full board has voted not to support the applications.

Therefore, in the matter of the Department of Consumer Affairs Application for an arcade license at Xtreme Billiards & Bar Inc., 823 65th Street, the committee voted to deny the applicant's request. Since the Board had to respond to Consumer Affairs prior to the full board vote at our general meeting on November 19th, the recommendation of the committee was given to Consumer Affairs via a letter dated November 15th, noting that our full board vote would be forwarded on to them after tonight's meeting.

So, in the application for an arcade license at Xtreme Billiards & Bar, Inc. at 823 65th Street, the committee recommends that the Board not support this application based on the following:

An arcade, designed to attract teenagers between 14-16 years of age, should not be located on the same premises that has a bar and a gaming/billiard component.

A final note, the committee decided to proceed with making plans for a fire and safety day at P.S. 170. I contacted the principal at the school and she is very much in favor of having this program at her school. Presently, I have given her the contact at the fire department public relations office, so the two parties may coordinate the date and details. They will notify us when the final plans have been reached.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Pulaski, Chair