

Minutes of the April 8, 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 Sargent Nofle, Councillor Leo Robinson and Councillor Roy Avellaneda and interpreter Paul Godoy.

Chairperson Rossi asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2021, Guido motioned to adopt, Chairperson Rossi seconded and vote unanimous.

Clerks Update/New Business:

Licensing Administrator Libran stated that there were two restaurants that were approved for outdoor seating which were Mi Salvador and Tambo 22, others are still being reviewed. Libran also stated that Bar seating was approved in collaboration with BOH. Based on that so far approved was The Chelsea Station, Tambo 22, El Potro, El Xielo, Casa Mariachi, La Esquina Mariachi and the Merritt Club. New Bridge Café and Floramos are waiting for approval. Libran also informed the commissioners about having sidewalk sales to stimulate the economy. Libran will have an application for the commissioners' approval at the next meeting. Libran read the complaint against Latinos Falcon for playing music too loud. Captain Houghton stated that the disco lights illuminate right through the police station, and they inspect all business. The police will look into the complaint and report to the commissioners at the next meeting. Chairperson Rossi motioned to move to a public hearing, McAteer seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the Public Hearing to consider a Transfer of License application of an All Kind of Alcoholic Beverages (Off Premise) License of Chelsea Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Heller's Liquor Mart to Unity Beverages, Inc. d/b/a Heller's Liquors at 429 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Attorney Matt Porter and new owner and proposed manager Ike Asoguh. Attorney Porter mentioned that Ike will be the onsite manager working about 60 or 70 hours. Mr. Asoguh has been in the retail business for over two decades. Recently he sold his gas station/convenience store and has taken his alcohol ETips training. Captain Houghton stated he didn't do the CORI check, but will do and doesn't anticipate any issues. Chair Rossi opened the public speaking portion. City

Councillor Roy Avellaneda spoke and wanted to make sure the board verified and interview the gentleman in front of the board as to the history. Avellaneda expressed what has happened with liquor stores in the downtown area, the environment and the problematic patrons. He also informed the individual that the police work closely with business owners. No one else spoke, therefore the public speaking portion was closed. Commissioner Vega voiced similar concerns and asked if he has thought how he will address the issues with underage drinking, people hanging out in the back and front of the business. Mr. Asoguh stated that he comes from a background in downtown Brockton for 16 years and has been in a similar retail business selling gas. His experience in management and almost ETips certified will help him handle a difficult business. Attorney Porter stated that Mr. Asoguh business did not sell alcohol, but sold tobacco products and had no issues with underage sales. They will install a license scanner that will be on the premises to deter fake ID. Chairperson Rossi gave his overview of the issues that the City of Chelsea has as far as overly intoxicated people, and also being a small city. Working with Mr. Asoguh will be one or two employees. Chair Rossi asked, "Why Chelsea?" Mr. Asoguh responded by saying he needed to get out present surroundings it was becoming boring and needed a challenge. Chair Rossi motioned to approve the Transfer of License subject to being ETips certified and having a security system in place, Vega seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the continued public hearing for an appeal of the denial of the Hackney Driver License to Ana Henriquez of C & M Taxi located at 25-31 Second Street. Ana Henriquez was present and stated that she was very concerned about her Hackney license so she could work. Captain Houghton stated that there was a recent incident, where her car was left unattended with doors wide open and engine running. The vehicle was towed. She proceeded to go to the tow yard without checking in at the office. Chairperson Rossi opened the public speaking portion. No one spoke, therefore the public speaking portion was closed. Commissioner Vega expressed her concerns about how she has observed Ms. Henriquez driving with her bible in one hand and is afraid she will get into an accident. Ms. Henriquez stated that she will be driving "gypsy cab" because she needs to pay bills and eat. Commissioner McAteer commented that, "being a Gypsy Cab Driver is illegal, and it is not legal to drive without a valid hackney license. Ms. Henriquez, stated that, she needed to eat and pay bills and was going to work no matter what. Commissioner Rossi told her that there was more than one way to make a living. Ms. Henriquez then alleged that Henry Monsalve of C& M Taxi employs at least 3 drivers that do not have hackney licenses but do indeed drive his cabs. Captain

Houghton did comment that he would be investigating those allegations and report back to the commission and the License Department. Chair Rossi asked for a motion to continue for 90 days' subject to her court cases being closed. Cherniack motion to approve the continuance and McAteer seconded and vote unanimous.

Chair Rossi opened the continued Public Hearing to consider a Change of Manager application of a Wine and Malt Beverages (On Premise) Consumption License of Nancy Serna d/b/a Rancho Las Pupusas at 36 Second Street, Chelsea, MA. Present for the petitioner was Gustavo Serna and interpreter Paul Godoy. Licensing Administrator Libran read into the record the communication received by Attorney Lawrence Christopher for a continuance due to the fact that the Estate of Nancy Serna has not be probated. Chair Rossi made a motion to continue to a date not yet determined. McAteer seconded and vote unanimous.

Licenses up for renewal are Old Gold, Pawn Shops, Petroleum and Garage/Repair Shops/Parking Lot licenses. Chair Rossi motioned to authorize the licensing dept. to approval the licenses up for renewal. McAteer seconded and vote unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting May 13, 2021

Approved on: May 13, 2021

Emily Cheneau

James R. Guido

Michael McAteer

Stephens Rega

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