

Office of Nightlife Listening Tours 2018 – Statements of Michael Jones, Deputy C.E.O. of the New York State Liquor Authority

Queens October 16, 2018

01:26:43:11

MICHAEL JONES

Yes. Uh, Michael Jones, Deputy C.E.O. of the New York State Liquor Authority. And I want to comment about the Cabaret Law repeal. Uh, that was a city law and ordinance that, uh -- I'm a state agency. We have state laws and regulations, and it really didn't have an affect on us, uh, because we have our own way to regulate dancing. It's part of the application that the licensee applicant submits. I think it's 30 pages or so. And on page 14, it's called the Method of Operation. And on that page, we ask will there be dancing? Will there be DJs? Will -- you know, the type of music. And there are a number of boxes to be checked. So -- and, uh, it's also part of the notice to the community board. When you apply for a license, you give notice to the community board, and -- and I think that's, uh, something that is asked, and the community board should be aware that there may be dancing. Because of the Cabaret Law, most of the applicants didn't have dancing. It restricted a lot of people from the opportunity. But now that the Cabaret Law is repealed, you have the opportunity to dance, but you have to overcome these other obstacles at this table before you come to us. But you still have to, uh -- to give notice to us, and it's called the Method of Operation change. It's a form. I'm expecting about 80,000 of them. But, uh, that is how you do it. If -- as, uh, Bill Parcells once said about football teams, "You are what your record says you are," and I say that you are what your application says you are. So when you apply for your license and you check off or did not check off dancing, dancing is not permitted. So you have to do file a Method of Operation change, which is another form. And normally, we will, uh, approve a Method of Operation change. And, uh, that is the, uh, proper way when you're lic-- uh, put it to, uh, change or amend your liquor license.

Manhattan November 28, 2018

01:18:45:05

MICHAEL JONES

It appears that so many of you know what the 500 Foot Rule is, but for those that don't, if there's a licensed establishment, if there are three or more and you're the fourth full liquor license -- now, it only applies to full liquor licenses applying -- then a 500 Foot hearing is required. Generally, the SLA is a licensing agency. We're like DMV. We are directed to issue licenses, so if anyone wants a liquor license, we are supposed to issue a license. With the 500 Foot Rule, the burden then shifts. It is up to the applicant to show that this bar is in the public interest, and part of the statute is that the community board makes recommendations, and the SLA is to follow the community board recommendations. It is only recommendation, but when the community board sends resolutions and -- and if they have stipulations, we typically adopt those stipulations. So the best way to get involved in issuing licenses in these saturated areas, and there are other areas that are -- I mean, you could talk to the people up in Inwood and discuss the issues there and Gramercy, 3rd Avenue. I walk by daughter to school up 3rd Avenue, and everything between 23rd and 28th is a bar, so it's throughout the city. We have the 500 Foot hearing where people could show up. If you can't show up, we take written

testimony. That's acceptable, and any time there is opposition to a license, it is sent to the SLA full board, which is the chairman and the two commissioners, and then, again, there's an opportunity for people to discuss why it is in the public interest and also why there's no need for the 47th sports bar in this area, which I live down there, as well. I try to go down to -- My cousin lives down by Brooklyn Bridge, and I can't get down the FDR on a Saturday night. It's -- It's very busy. The idea is that everyone has to agree to stipulations, and then everyone has to comply. So that -- that really is the problem -- making sure that people are complying with the stipulations, because the community board works very hard to come up with these agreements. They think it's fair, you know? So you don't have to stay open till 4:00. You should close at 2:00. You don't have to -- You're a restaurant, you know? You need a kitchen. You shouldn't have deejays and promoters, and we all think with these stipulations it could work out, but that's why, as I said earlier, we try very hard to enforce the stipulations when there are violations.

02:12:46:22

COR HAZELAAR

It has been said that city agencies have no influence over the SLA, but here you are, sitting at the same table. So how can the Office of Nightlife help us hold the SLA and the establishments they license accountable?

02:13:04:20

AUDIENCE

[Applause]

02:13:05:14

ARIEL PALITZ

Thank you so much. Again, I-I would just repeat by saying how the Office of Nightlife will do that, um, is to be the liaison office that it's intending to be and to connect all of these city agencies to work together under an umbrella, with nightlife and its implications in mind, in a way that it has not been done before there was an Office of Nightlife.