

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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December 14, 2010
Start: 10:00am
Recess: 10:21am

HELD AT: Committee Room - 14th Floor
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Daniel R. Garodnick
Jessica S. Lappin
Joel Rivera
Larry B. Seabrook
James Vacca
Albert Vann

A P P E A R A N C E S

Karen Benvenisti
Representative
Wogie's Bar & Grill

Steven Picker
Owner
Good Restaurant

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2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning
3 everyone, welcome to the Zoning and Franchises
4 Subcommittee, my name is Mark Weprin. We have a
5 number of cafes today, sidewalk cafes. This
6 morning we are joined by Jimmy Vacca, also known
7 as Kris Kringle, Joel Rivera, Al Vann, Dan
8 Garodnick and Chairman Leroy Comrie, and we have
9 three items on, number 275, Land Use 275, Baby
10 Buddha, has been withdrawn. So we're going to go
11 to Land Use #273, which is 20115218 Wogie's Bar
12 and Grill, and with us is Karen Benvenista. Would
13 you please come up, pick a microphone, introduce
14 yourself for the record, and explain your
15 application? Thank you.

16 MS. BENVENISTI: Hello? My name is
17 Karen Benvenisti and I'm here on behalf of Michael
18 Kelly Inc., who is representing Wogie's Inc. at 39
19 Greenwich Avenue, New York, New York 10014. Our
20 letter should serve as an agreement with the
21 Chair, Council Member Mark Weprin, and the
22 encompassing members of the Subcommittee on Zoning
23 and Franchises that we will commit to the
24 following: there will be no benches in our
25 sidewalk café at all. The benches have been taken

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2 down. We have removed the A-frame previously
3 located in front of the café, and we commit not to
4 do it again. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, and
6 it is my understanding that Speaker Quinn, whose
7 district this is in, is okay. I got a nod and a
8 finger, not that finger. Not the 'thumbs-up'
9 finger, but just an up-in-the-air finger. Yes, we
10 are good with the Speaker. Any members have any
11 questions for this application?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Are
13 you old enough to be drinking at this place?

14 MS. BENVENISTI: I look younger
15 than I am, but let's not get that on the camera.

16 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: It's too late.
17 Okay, we're good.

18 MS. BENVENISTI: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: No more
20 banter? Thank you very much, we appreciate you
21 coming down, and good luck. Okay, we're going to
22 move right on to Land Use #274, 20115210, it's a
23 restaurant called Good Restaurant. That wasn't an
24 editorial, that was the name of the restaurant, is
25 Good Restaurant.

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MALE VOICE: I get it.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I'm sure the applicant will agree with that assessment though. This is Steve Picker from Good Restaurant. Please restate your name for the record and discuss your application.

MR. PICKER: Sure, my name is Steven Picker, owner of Good Restaurant, representing Good Restaurant. This letter should serve as an agreement with the Chair, Council Member Mark Weprin, and the encompassing members of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, that we will commit to the following: to operate the unenclosed sidewalk café on Sundays between the hours of 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. The planters, four planters, shall be removed from the sidewalk.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay, thank you very much.

MR. PICKER: You're very welcome.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: And this also is in Speaker Quinn's office (sic) and they're okay. I see one more time thumbs up, and anyone have any questions? Mr. Comrie, any comments?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: No I

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don't have any.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: The guy is young. But not that ... well, okay. well, thank you very much. Again, good luck.

MR. PICKER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: To the Good Restaurant. And with that as well, to calendar number 275, Land Use 275, Baby Buddha, has been withdrawn. And with that in mind, we're going to close the hearing, and adjourn the meeting. No, we're not going to adjourn the meeting, we're going to leave the record open? Oh, you want to vote too? Okay, we're going to vote. I'm going to ask Christian Hylton to call the roll on these two items. Three items. But one's been withdrawn, so we're going to vote on two items. Okay. Okay, well, we're going to couple all these items then, we're going to vote on the letter pursuant to withdrawal on the third item, Baby Buddha, and vote on the first two items: Wogie's Bar & Grill, and Good Restaurant. Christian Hylton, please call the roll.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Chair Weprin.

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
on all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Aye on
all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on
all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: Council
Member Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HYLTON: By a
vote of seven in the affirmative, none in the

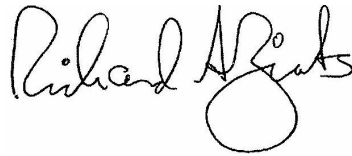
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2 negative, no abstentions, LU 273 and 274 are
3 approved, and LU 275, motion to file pursuant to
4 withdrawal, is approved and referred to the full
5 Land Use Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Great, all the
7 items are approved, I now will now adjourn the
8 meeting. So the meeting is now adjourned. Thank
9 you. (pause) Okay, we are now going to adjourn
10 the meeting formally and close the rolls. Thank
11 you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard A. Ziats, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Signature _____

Date December 15, 2010