

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

-----X

November 10, 2010
Start: 09:50 am
Recess: 10:30 am

HELD AT: Committee Room
250 Broadway, 16th Floor

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mark S. Weprin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Daniel R. Garodnick
Robert Jackson
Diana Reyna
Larry B. Seabrook
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Vincent M. Ignizio

A P P E A R A N C E S

Mando Ghorchian
Owner
Café Buon Gusto

Edward Lafaye
Maracas Mexican Grill

Robert Callahan
Pig & Whistle

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning
3 everyone. My name is Mark Weprin. I am the Chair
4 of the Zoning and Franchises Committee. I am
5 delighted to be joined today on my far left by
6 Council Member Al Vann, Council Member Vincent
7 Ignizio, Council Member Jimmy Vacca, Chairman of
8 the Land Use Committee Leroy Comrie and the lovely
9 Diana Reyna to my right, two down from my right.
10 This is Christian Hylton, the Counsel for the
11 committee, not that he isn't lovely as well.

12 We have some cafes today. We have
13 four on the agenda, one of which is being
14 withdrawn. We're going to start with Land Use
15 244, since we have promised someone they would be
16 able to get out of here. That is for Café Buon
17 Gusto, Manhattan Community Board 3, 20105436. We
18 are bringing up Nando Ghopehian. Close enough, is
19 that what you said? Close enough, okay. Please
20 state your name better than I did and then
21 describe you application. I know we have a letter
22 here from you.

23 MANDO GHORCHIAN: I'm Mando
24 Ghorchian. I'm the owner of the restaurant that
25 hopefully will be open soon. We had a plan for 14

1
2 tables and 28 seats. We revised it and cut the
3 tables down to 7 and 14 seats.

4 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Great. I know
5 you had a letter here which says I will amend my
6 application to include 7 table and 14 chairs. The
7 tables will be 24 inches by 24 inches.

8 MANDO GHORCHIAN: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: And I also
10 agree to revise my plan so that they show the bike
11 rack and all other clearances.

12 MANDO GHORCHIAN: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: You agree with
14 that?

15 MANDO GHORCHIAN: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: This is in
17 Council Member Mendez's district, and from what I
18 understand, she is okay with it. I see a nod in
19 the audience. So I think we're okay with that.
20 Do any of the members of the panel have any
21 questions for this gentleman? Seeing none, thank
22 you very much.

23 MANDO GHORCHIAN: Thank you. Have
24 a nice day.

25 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Have a nice

1
2 day as well. Know I've lost my thought. The next
3 item, Land Use 240 is withdrawn from the calendar.
4 Chow Bar and Grill on 10th Street has withdrawn
5 their application. That moves us to Land Use 241,
6 Maracas Mexican Grill. I'm going to call up Edwin
7 Lafaye.

8 EDWARD LAFAYE: Close enough.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Everyone's
10 named close enough here today. Lafaye.

11 EDWARD LAFAYE: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: You say
13 Lafaye, I say Lafaye. Just state your name again
14 for the record and describe your application.

15 EDWARD LAFAYE: Edward Lafaye.
16 This is the second renewal of our sidewalk café.
17 On it we did make some agreement with Council
18 Member Quinn to help us get along a little bit
19 better with our neighbors and also to meet the
20 requirements of the New York City Fire Department
21 by having a clear access from a second emergency
22 exit that we have. Do you want me to read the
23 letter?

24 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I see it's an
25 awfully long letter. I have it here in front of

1
2 me, the November 10th letter. I don't have to
3 make him read it, do I? Carol says no. It's a
4 long letter. I see it here signed by you or at
5 least named by you. I know Council Member Quinn
6 now is onboard. Doing the nodding. I appreciate
7 that. Do any of the panelists have any questions?
8 I have a feeling none, so thank you very much.

9 EDWARD LAFAYE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Look how
11 smoothly we're rolling here. We're now going to
12 move on to Land Use 246, Manhattan Community Board
13 5, 20115138, the old Pig & Whistle. You don't
14 have to disclose if you've ever been to a
15 restaurant, do you? Good. I won't disclose such
16 things. Is this Michael Kelly? Robert Callahan.

17 ROBERT CALLAHAN: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Right. Mr.
19 Callahan, I got your last name right.

20 ROBERT CALLAHAN: Yes, you did.

21 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I want it for
22 the record; I did get his last name right.
23 Restate your name and describe the application.

24 ROBERT CALLAHAN: My name is Robert
25 Callahan. This is a new application for an

1 unenclosed café. We had previously submitted a
2 letter to you that I'd like to read into the
3 record.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Go ahead.

6 ROBERT CALLAHAN: This letter
7 should serve as our agreement with the Chair,
8 Council Member Mark Weprin and the encompassing
9 members of the Subcommittee on Zoning and
10 Franchises that we will commit to the following.
11 Number one, we will reduce the size of our two
12 tables from 24 inches by 24 inches to 24 inches by
13 20 inches, using only 3 foot 4 inches of the
14 sidewalk. This will leave nine feet clear for
15 pedestrian traffic.

16 Number two, we will close the café
17 at 10 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday and 11 p.m.
18 Thursday through Saturday. If there are any
19 questions please call my office. Thank you.
20 Sincerely, Michael Kelly.

21 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Great. I
22 understand Speaker Quinn's office is okay in
23 discussions with this in negotiating out this
24 agreement. Do any of my colleagues have questions
25 so they don't have to call Michael Kelly's office?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Thank you very much.

ROBERT CALLAHAN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We're good to go. Thank you.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: As I mentioned before, the Chow Bar and Grill application, I have a letter here stating that they have withdrawn their application.

Without any further questions or comments; Mr. Vann, you're okay? Then the meeting is now adjourned. Sorry, sorry, we've got to vote. You want to vote. We're going to couple all these items. Take it easy; it's not that dramatic. I withdraw my meeting adjourned.

Christian, no more coffee for you, or for me, for that matter. Land Use 240, as I mentioned, was withdrawn. We are now going to couple Land Use 241, 244 and 246. We are going to couple these items. The Chair is going to recommend an aye vote on all of these cafes. Now Mr. Hylton will call the roll.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Chair Weprin?

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

CHRISTIAN HYLTON: By a vote of six
in the affirmative, none in the negative and no
abstentions, LU 244, 241, and 246 are approved and
referred to the full Land Use Committee. LU 240,
motion to file pursuant to withdraw is approved
and referred to the full Land Use Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you very
much. We are going to leave the rolls open for
approximately ten minutes for a couple of members

1

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 10

2

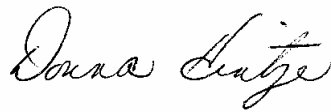
who had to step out. With that, now I will make a

3

motion to adjourn. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 November 30, 2010_____