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COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE SYSTEM

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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March 28, 2018
Start: 2:03 p.m.
End: 2:21 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway-Committee Room, 14th
Floor

B E F O R E: Rafael Espinal
Chair of the Committee on
Consumer Affairs and Business
Licensing

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Margaret S. Chin
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz

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COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

A P P E A R A N C E S

Gregg Lewis
Community Board 5 Manhattan

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: [GAVEL] Good afternoon. My
3 name is Rafael Espinal, I'm the Chair of the
4 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing.
5 Today the committee will be holding a hearing on pre-
6 considered intro, a local law to amend the New York
7 City charter in relation to adding members to
8 Nightlife Advisory Board. In the past several months
9 we have come a long way in reforming our city's
10 approach to Nightlife. Last session we repealed that
11 that our Archaic Cabaret Law and passed a law
12 establishing the Nightlife office and the Nightlife
13 Advisory Board. I hope that with the establishment
14 of the office of Nightlife and a Nightlife Advisory
15 Board we can begin the task of updating many more of
16 our laws and regulations in order to restore and
17 enhance the city's nighttime economy and think
18 progressively about new ideas to plan our city, so
19 that Nightlife goers, artists, local residence, and
20 government can all communicate and live in harmony.
21 The bill we are hearing today represents a minor
22 amendment to the advisory board adding two additional
23 members. One to be appointed by the Mayor and one by
24 the council. I am proud of all of the work we've
25 done over the last several months and look forward to

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2 the changes at the office of Nightlife and Nightlife
3 Advisory Board will bring about. The committee looks
4 forward to hearing from the Mayor's office,
5 advocates, the industry, and other interested parties
6 on these topics. I would like to call upon, well
7 we're going to call upon the public to testify.

8 Before we do that, I want to recognize that we've
9 been joined by Karen Koslowitz from Queens and again
10 this is a bill that would simply expand the Advisory
11 Board. We want to make sure that all stakeholders or
12 represents the many diverse aspects of our city and
13 be able to have a voice. So, with that said, uhm I
14 want to call up the first panel. Gregg Lewis and
15 also recognize that we have been joined by Peter Ku
16 from Queens.

17 Good, okay. Good afternoon. My name is Greg
18 Lewis. I'm representing Community Board 5 here from
19 Manhattan. Thank you for allowing Manhattan
20 Community Board 5 to provide testimony on the issue
21 of adding members to the newly created Nightlife
22 Advisory Board. How ever many members are ultimately
23 appointed, we believe it is vital that the committee
24 includes language in its legislation that would
25 ensure community boards are represented on the

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2 Nightlife Advisory Board. As written, the law passed
3 by the Council and signed by Mayor de Blasio in
4 September 2017, does not guarantee a seat for a
5 Community Board representative on the Nightlife
6 Advisory Board. Community boards throughout the city
7 play a valued and necessary role to balance the
8 concerns of the Nightlife industry with those of
9 local residence and neighbors. In representing the
10 Central Business District in Manhattan, Community
11 Board 5 reviews dozens of liquor license applications
12 each month and helps resolve community concerns. We
13 work directly with the industry and neighbors, as
14 well as our partners at the State Liquor Authority
15 and the NYPD to maintain a public review process for
16 Nightlife applicants and operators, that gives all
17 stakeholders the opportunity to reach collaborative
18 agreements. Community Boards deep experience in
19 dealing with issues related to the Nightlife industry
20 would add an important perspective to the Nightlife
21 Advisory Board. As such, we hope the committee will
22 guarantee a seat for a Community Board representative
23 and ensure that our perspective is heard. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Thank you. Any questions?
25 Nope. Alright, thank you. We're going to keep the

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2 hearing open just to make sure that all members of
3 public have an opportunity to come in and say a few
4 words on the topic, but we will close the hearing at
5 2:30, thank you. We don't have anymore testimony
6 from the public, so with that said, we are going to
7 adjourn this meeting. [Gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 1, 2018