



The City of New York  
Borough of Queens



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

**Liquor License Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** **Hybrid Meeting**  
Community Board 8 Office  
197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423  
& Via **WebEx**

**Michael Hannibal, Liquor License Committee Chair**

**Board Members:** Maria DeInnocentiis, Marc A. Haken, Mary Maggio, Douglas Sherman, Seymour Schwartz, and Mohammed Tohin.

**Also, in attendance:** **Kevin Forrestal – Board Member**  
**Robert Callahan – Applicant Representative, Mama Kitchen**  
**Shai Asas – Owner – Mama Kitchen, NY.**  
**Sam Park – Applicant Representative, Alba Pizza & Restaurant**  
**Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8, District Manager**

Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called this meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. This was followed by self-introductions of all Board Members and staff.

**Purpose:**

This is a NEW application to the Community Board. This establishment is applying for a Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider license for a restaurant.

**I. Mama Kitchen NY, Corp. d/b/a Mama Kitchen NY**  
**67-25 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11367**

**Michael Hannibal** – Mr. Hannibal explained to Mr. Callahan and Mr. Asas that this is a new application. Part of the process is to answer the questions on the questionnaire.

**What type of establishment will this be?**

**Answer:** [Mr. Callahan] – It will be a full-service restaurant.

**Do you have a Certificate of Occupancy?**

**Answer:** [Mr. Callahan] – Yes [A copy has been submitted to the Community Board].

**What is the maximum occupancy for the premises?**

**Answer:** [Mr. Callahan] – 60.

**Because is 60, you don't require a public assembly permit, correct?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Callahan]* – That is correct.

**What will be the hours of operation?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Callahan]* – Monday through Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**So, the only time it will be open for breakfast will be on Friday mornings?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Callahan]* – Yes.

**How do you intend to prevent underage drinking?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Callahan]* – We will continuously train the staff and keep an eye on them. Anyone who appears to be under the age of 30 years old will have to show proper identification to get alcohol service.

**Was their any type of training that was given to your staff?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Definitely, yes.

**Certified training or just your experienced training?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Certified training, I will do the best and for the quality of everyone to make sure they all know the rules.

**What security measures will be taken?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – We have 16 cameras. We have a DVR in my office, and it records all the time.

**How do you intend to maintain cleanliness in front of your establishment (i.e., smokers, ashtray)? I see you answered that there are mounted ashtrays, is that outside of the building?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Callahan]* – Yes, if you see the picture I attached to the packet, this place was previously Sushi Tokyo. If you look under the second O under Tokyo, you'll see what almost looks like a silver thing on the wall, that is an ashtray. I guess when they came before with their Liquor License application you spoke about this, and they installed it. We will not remove it.

**How long do you plan on doing any cleaning outside? Is that like an early sweeping you plan on doing.**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Daily, twice a day - morning and night.

*Michael Hannibal asked the Committee members if they had any questions for the applicant.*

**Marc A. Haken – Are you the sole proprietor?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Yes, I am the only owner.

**Have you run an eating establishment before?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – No.

**This is your first time?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Yes.

**Mr. Callahan – Let me discuss a little further, I discussed this with Shai, because it is a liquor license and his first restaurant. We will hire a manager who has experience working in a restaurant that have had alcohol sales. We believe that, plus the training, we are going to get for the employees, should be a successful operation.**

**Douglas Sherman – I am curious, before entering into this business, what was your work before?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – I was doing Real Estate and my wife she is a chef. She was born and raised by her grandmother. Their tradition is Israeli/Moroccan food. We are willing to bring something unique to New York.

**So, the food is your focus, not so much the alcohol?**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – It's 90% the food. The alcohol is more of an Israeli cocktail to bring the old vibe together.

**Kevin Forrestal – Best of luck to you in your new adventure.**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Asas]* – Thank you so much. I hope we see everyone in my restaurant for dinner one day.

**Mohammed Tohin** – My question is about training. There is a training called TIPS training, I think that is the training required by the New York State. Is that the training you will give your employees?

**Answer:** [Mr. Asas] – Yes.

**Marc A. Haken** – Are you going to have a bar or is it going to be table service?

**Answer:** [Mr. Asas] – I think I am going to do like just cocktails. I want to focus on a small menu for cocktails and wine.

**Mr. Callahan** – Shai, basically what I think he is asking if you are going to have a sit-down bar.

**Answer:** [Mr. Asas] – No. It's going to come to the table.

**You'll notice on the diagram that we sent, the counter is marked as a bar, we are required to do that for the State Liquor Authority. Although is considered a stand-up bar where customers can come up and order drinks there are no seats at that bar, so we are not going to serve right from that counter.**

*LLC Chair asked for a motion.*

*Seymour Schwartz made a motion to approve the full Liquor License for Mama Kitchen, NY Corp. d/b/a Mama Kitchen NY located at 67-25 Main Street, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.*

**Discussion:** None.

**Votes in favor: 8**

**Votes against: 0**

**Board Members who voted in favor:** Maria DeInnocentiis, Kevin Forrestal, Michael Hannibal, Marc A. Haken, Mary Maggio, Douglas Sherman, Seymour Schwartz, and Mohammed Tohin.

**Board Members who voted against:** None.

*Mr. Hannibal advised Mr. Callahan to establish a working relationship with the local precinct. The contact information for the local Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) for their sector. Their contact information will be sent to the to have it in hand.*

*A letter of 'No Objection' will be sent to the State Liquor Authority in favor to the new application of this establishment.*

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**Purpose:**

This is a NEW application to the Community Board. This establishment is applying for a Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider license for a restaurant.

**II. Alba Pizza & Restaurant  
137-65 Queens Boulevard, Briarwood, NY**

**Michael Hannibal** – Mr. Hannibal explained to Mr. Park that this is a new application, and the process is answering the questions on the questionnaire.

**Answer:** [Mr. Park] – We just want to notify the Community Board. Mr. Yakomov, who was the owner, passed away due to COVID. His son, Mr. Sebastian will take over this place. He hasn't decided yet for a corporation, once he sets up the corporation, we will update the Community Board since the Liquor Authority is taking a long time, we just wanted to notify you.

**Michael Hannibal – Mr. Park, we will need more information before we have a real review of the application.**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Park]* – Sure, that will be fine. Nothing will change. It will be the same hours of operation from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Same shifts, same workers, everybody is going to be the same thing.

**Understood, it is still coming as a new application, so we have to do our due diligence to have it reviewed properly.**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Park]* – Okay, sure. We will do that.

**We look forward to having you come back in front of us with the information and the owner if he/she can join you at that time.**

**Answer:** *[Mr. Park]* – Yes, thank you.

*Mr. Hannibal thanked everyone for coming.*

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff  
February 15, 2022*