



NORTH END/WATERFRONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Zoning, Licensing and Construction Committee Report **April 14, 2011**

Licensing Board Hearings

101-107 Atlantic Ave., The Living Room, John Hauck has applied to the Licensing Board for the City of Boston to extend the closing hour in the existing All-Alcohol Beverages License from 1:00 AM to 2:00 AM on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only, and for Private Events. NEWRA voted to oppose this license change, and the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) voted to support it. ***The Licensing Board hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in City Hall, 8th Floor. The ZLC Committee will discuss at its upcoming meeting on April 26, 2011, a plan for bringing NEWRA's opposition into the hearing.***

112 Salem Street, La Famiglia Giorgio, by Albert Giorgio: In February, the Licensing Board voted to approve the application for a new C.V. All-Alcohol Beverages License to replace the restaurant's long-standing Malt and Wine with Cordials License. The Board's approval included a midnight closing hour, seven days. NEWRA voted to support the application with conditions at its meeting on February 10. The conditions, which the owner accepted before the vote, included 1) closing hour of 11:00 PM Sunday through Thursday and midnight Fridays and Saturdays; 2) no bar; 3) alcohol service only with food; and 4) restriction that the existing Malt and Wine with Cordials License be transferred or reissued outside the neighborhood. ***The Licensing Board included none of these conditions with its approval. April 4, 2011, NEWRA sent a letter to the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, which reviews the license, requesting that the conditions be officially included.***

178 Salem Street, Cafe Lil Italy, Carla Gomes has applied to the Licensing Board for the City of Boston for a 7-Day C.V. Malt and Wine License with closing hour of 11:00 PM seven days. NEWRA is scheduled to review this application at its ZLC Committee meeting on April 26 and may vote on the application at its May 12 regular monthly meeting. On April 11, NEWNC voted to oppose the application. ***The Licensing Board hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in City Hall, 8th Floor. NEWRA will request that the Licensing Board's decision be deferred until it is able to provide input after the May 12 meeting.***

Entertainment License Hearings

101-107 Atlantic Ave., The Living Room, John Hauck has applied to the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing to modify The Living Room's live entertainment license to allow a disc jockey for public clientele on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights until 1:00 AM. At its meeting on March 10, 2011, NEWRA voted to support this application. ***The hearing on this entertainment license application is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 11:15 AM, City Hall, 8th Floor.***

4, 6 and 8 (Little) Prince Street, Artu Restaurant, is seeking to expand its existing non-live entertainment licenses to allow taped music and TV in the entire 99-seat establishment and to extend the hours of non-live entertainment from the current 11:00 PM to 2:00 AM, consistent with its existing 2:00 AM All-Alcohol Beverages License, seven days. ***The hearing on this entertainment license application is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 11:30 AM, City Hall, 8th Floor.***

BTD Hazardous Cargo Truck Route Study

The Boston Transportation Department (BTD) recently reported that it expects to complete the draft report on its study of alternative hazardous cargo truck routes through and around Boston in April 2011. The study was originally scheduled to be completed in August 2010. Meanwhile, hazardous cargo trucks continue to use the Charlestown Bridge, North Washington Street, Cross Street and other surface roads along the Greenway. Once the study is complete, BTD plans to file it with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. BTD expects that it and MassDOT will hold then hold public meetings.

The ZLC Committee agreed to send a letter of concern to BTD if the study is not completed in April. The letter would request that BTD hold a community meeting to explain the status of the study and an updated schedule for completion, as well as offer opportunity for discussion on the current impacts of the trucks on North Washington and Cross streets.

Rutherford Street Corridor Renewal Project and Access to I-93

Over the past few years, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) has conducted transportation planning and public meetings involving major changes to Rutherford Avenue (Route 99) and the Sullivan Square Rotary in Charlestown. The recommended plan includes the removal of the Route 99 underpass and no replacement of the former overpass to Route 28, which was torn down several years ago due to structural deficiencies. The plans also call for reducing the number of lanes along Rutherford Avenue, replacing the Sullivan Square Rotary with cross intersections, adding bicycle lanes and improving pedestrian crossings. One goal of the plan seems to be the removal of traffic heading to Route 93 North to other access roadways (which are not defined in the BTD on-line information).

In December 2010, Congressman Michael Capuano raised concerns about the plan, especially the impact that removing the underpass would have on the ability of drivers from Everett to access the Tobin Bridge and Downtown Boston. At its meeting on March 29, 2011, the ZLC Committee discussed the proposed plans and agreed that information about the roadway changes should be presented to North End residents, who use Rutherford Avenue as a primary access to communities north of Boston and the Route 93 North access ramp at Assembly Square Mall. The ZLC Committee will ask BTD and elected officials to hold a public meeting meeting in the North End so that North End/Waterfront residents can understand the proposed roadway changes and be able to comment on potential impacts.

Hanover Street Traffic and Pedestrian Conditions

At its meeting on March 29, the ZLC Committee and other resident attendees discussed traffic and pedestrian conditions on Hanover Street. There was consensus that enforcement of existing laws and rules regarding double parking, valet parking and sidewalk clutter would go far to improve traffic, pedestrian access and public safety. There is some anticipation of renewed enforcement activities that may begin this spring. The Committee agreed to discuss the need for enforcement with elected officials, including Councilor Sal LaMattina.

Next ZLC Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, The Pilot House, 2 Atlantic Ave.

Tentative Agenda:

351 Hanover Street, Volle Nolle, Torri Crowell has applied to the Licensing Board for the City of Boston for a 7-Day C.V. Malt and Wine License with closing hour of 11:00 PM seven days.

178 Salem Street, Cafe Lil Italy, Carla Gomes has applied to the Licensing Board for the City of Boston for a 7-Day C.V. Malt and Wine License with closing hour of 11:00 PM seven days.

27 Sheafe Street, Peter McGinnis has filed an appeal for zoning relief to change the legal occupancy from four apartments and a store to five apartments. Five apartments have existed and been occupied for several years. The Board of Appeal hearing date is Tuesday, April 26, 2011. NEWRA may request a deferral of the hearing and decision to allow community review.

196 Endicott Street, Esmail Mahdavi has filed an appeal for zoning relief to convert the building from a 3-family dwelling to a 4-family dwelling by converting the basement to a residential unit. The Board of Appeal hearing, originally scheduled for February 22, 2011, was deferred to allow the applicant to make design plan corrections and approach the community. No new hearing date has been set.

Tia's at Long Wharf, Inc, 200 Atlantic Ave., Lori Lilly plans to apply to the City of Boston Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing for an entertainment license to allow A Capella singers.

101-107 Atlantic Ave., The Living Room, John Hauck has applied to the Licensing Board for the City of Boston to extend the closing hour in the existing All-Alcohol Beverages License from 1:00 AM to 2:00 AM on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only, and for Private Events. The Committee will discuss plans for bringing NEWRA's opposition into the Licensing Board hearing scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in City Hall, 8th floor.