James G. Clynes Chairman

Latha Thompson District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

December 15th, 2016

Kerri J. O'Brien
Deputy Commissioner
State Liquor Authority
80 South Swan Street, Suite 900
Albany, New York 12210-8002

RE: EL NASR USA Group LLC, dba Lava NYC, 1134 First Avenue (62nd/63rd)-New application for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

At the December 14th, 2016 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board 8, the following recommendation was adopted by the Community Board with a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS this is a new application; and

WHEREAS at least 10 members of the public objected to this application; and

WHEREAS the members of the public voiced their concerns about the loud noise emanating from the establishment, as well as the large crowds that linger in front of the venue with no disbursement by the employees at the door; and

WHEREAS the members of the public voiced that there has been several incidents of violence outside of the establishment; and

WHEREAS members of the public, those present and via letters received by this committee, have indicated that the establishment regularly stays open and continues to serve alcohol after 4am and also permits alcohol to be consumed in front of the premises; and

WHEREAS the members of the public voiced feeling unsafe in their neighborhood due to the operation of this establishment, as well as citing that any complaints made at the establishment have been greeted with contempt and dismissal; and

WHEREAS this committee received at least 30 letters from residents objecting to the approval of this application and indicating that they did not wish to attend the committee meeting due to fear of retribution from the establishment; and

WHEREAS this committee reviewed the number of 311 complaints against the venue and found there to be in excess of 130 within the last year; and

WHEREAS this committee also reached out to the relevant NYPD precinct and received confirmation that there have been incidents of violence and complaints relating to the establishment; and

WHEREAS the applicant did not offer any reasonable solutions to the concerns voice, the applicant and the attorney for applicant ascribed the issues to the previous owner and stated only that they would do better; and

WHEREAS the applicant did not appear to make any effort to take the concerns seriously express any desire to be a good neighbor, such as offering a comprehensive plan which might include reduced hours, additional security, a formal person to contact in the event of further concerns; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the application is DISAPPROVED.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

James G. Clynes

Chair

Abraham Salcedo

Chair, Street Life Committee

Cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York

Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District

Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District

Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District

Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District

Honorable Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District