



Queens Eats
Take our culinary journey around the world - via Queens.

CHANGE CITY

72°

PARTLY SUNNY

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

NEWS

LOCAL LIFE

SHOP

Midtown & Theater District | Arts & Entertainment | Food & Drink | Real Estate

Midtown Residents Join Forces to Fight Nightclubs, Rooftop Bars



By Alan Neuhauser on April 11, 2013 11:25am
[@alneuhauser](#)

MIDTOWN — Advertising executives, graphic designers, and fellow citizens of Midtown have banded together to found a new block association, one geared toward combating what they say is a scourge of noisy nightclubs and rooftop bars spreading across the neighborhood.



The 29th Street Neighborhood Association, which covers a 0.65-mile rectangle bounded by Lexington and 11th Avenues, and 23rd and 34th streets, has started meeting the second Tuesday of each month to discuss how best to "bring attention to the problems that we have," said Mario G. Messina, president of **MgMGold Communications** and a founding member of the association.

"We have seen a proliferation of really many liquor licenses that are being used for lounges and clubs that are creating nuisances for all the residents," Messina told **DNainfo.com New York**. "The quality of life has gone out the window."

The number of liquor licenses in the three zip-codes covered by the association has only slightly increased in the past 10 years. Whereas there were 415 on-premises

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Google+
- Pinterest
- Reddit
- StumbleUpon
- Email
- More

Get Our Daily Midtown & Times Square Newsletter

[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

NEIGHBORHOOD SPONSORS

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

ExploraNYC

Explore the wonderful treasures of Northern Manhattan with Explora, a yearlong program consisting of restaurant weeks, fashion shows, holiday deals, culture-awareness activities and more!



Advertisement

NYCBUSINESS SOLUTIONS

We're here to help you with every stage of your business.

NYC Business Solutions, Washington Heights Center, presents the 1st Annual Small Business Summit on

Wednesday, June 19 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ▾

NEWS ▾

LOCAL LIFE ▾

SHOP ▾

The number of hotel lounges and rooftop bars, however, has noticeably risen — especially with the opening of hotels such as the **Gansevoort Park**, which boasts five liquor licenses and an open-air rooftop pool and bar that attracted a string of complaints from neighbors.

"These are hotels that are using the scheme of being a hotel to then have two or three liquor licenses and have, in their premises, parties and stuff," Messina said.

The problems most often arise long before dawn, as the late-night venues start to close and patrons spill onto the sidewalk.

"At night, when people arrive, they are orderly and lined up," Messina said. "But when they are leaving, all hell breaks loose. They are jumping in the middle of the street to try to hail a cab, they are creating chaos and traffic jams because you have two or three lines of parking limousines and taxis, and all of this is creating disturbances in the whole neighborhood."



The rooftop at the Gansevoort Park Hotel is hosting a series of summer parties every Sunday from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Facebook

- Twitter icon
- Facebook icon
- Google+ icon
- Pinterest icon
- Reddit icon
- StumbleUpon icon
- Email icon
- Plus icon

Gansevoort Park spokeswoman Erin Hopkins said there are "plans in the works" to address neighbors' complaints, "programming plans that may or may not come to fruition."

She declined to elaborate.

Messina's concerns, meanwhile, have apparently struck a chord: The association has attracted about 40 members, Messina and fellow founding member Leslie Hendrix said, and it has also won support from **State Senator Liz**

Krueger. She has urged the group to focus its efforts on bringing attention to the state's "500-foot rule," which provides "a check against runaway liquor license density" by allowing the agency to reject an application if there are other establishments with liquor licenses nearby.

"My office will monitor additional applications for liquor licenses in this neighborhood, and I am open to testifying in support of the needs of the community and local residents at any 500-Footer Rule hearings held by the SLA," Krueger wrote in a March 22 letter. "It is my hope that this [500-foot] provision built into the current

by contacting **Melissa Martinez** at:

(212) 749-0900 x143
mmartinez@nycbusiness-solutions.com

212-749-0900
560 W. 181 Street, 2nd floor

NEIGHBORHOOD SPONSORS

CHELSEA ▸

Waldy's Wood-Fired Pizza

Fusing the elements of earth, wood, and metal with our signature fire-tinged touch, Waldy's turns its oven into the



focal point of the cozy pizza joint. We provide artisanal wood-fired pizza made with fresh local ingredients and top-notch toppings.

20% off Order »

Advertisement

9/11
MEMORIAL

To learn more or contribute,
visit 911memorial.org



density" by allowing the agency to reject an application if there are other establishments with liquor licenses nearby.

"My office will monitor additional applications for liquor licenses in this neighborhood, and I am open to testifying in support of the needs of the community and local residents at any 500-Foot Rule hearings held by the SLA," Krueger wrote in a March 22 letter. "It is my hope that this [500-foot] provision built into the current Alcohol Beverage Control Law can be used as a safety valve for neighborhoods like the area surrounding East 29th Street."

Hendrix, who helped Messina launch the 29th Street Neighborhood Association, emphasized that the group does not want to completely eliminate bars, hotels and nightspots from the area.

"It's not a NIMBY organization," she said. "It's more, 'Let's develop it in a responsible way that makes it a well-rounded neighborhood, instead of just hotels and clubs.'"

The association meets at 425 Park Ave. S, on the building's mezzanine level.

Related Items

- Erin Hopkins
- Leslie Hendrix
- Liz Krueger
- Mario Messina
- 29th Street
- 420 Park Ave. S
- Gansevoort Park Hotel
- 29th Street Neighborhood Association
- Liquor Licenses
- Rooftop Bar



NEXT IN MIDTOWN & THEATER DISTRICT
Haymakers for Hope Brings Amateur Boxers to Ring to Fight Cancer



NEXT IN FOOD & DRINK
Chelsea Falafel Joint Wrapido Shut Down for Rats, Roaches and Flies

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Google+
- Pinterest
- Reddit
- StumbleUpon
- Email
- +

MGM GOLD Add a comment...

Post to Facebook Posting as Chris Nelson (Change) **Comment**

LS Bell · Top Commenter · Works at Progress
 Has it come to this? You moved to the city that never sleeps so that you can pay exorbitant amounts of money to complain about noise so that you can sleep? FOH!
 Reply · 5 · Like · Follow Post · April 11 at 12:10pm

Glenn Evans · Follow