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**STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY AGAIN
DISAPPROVES LICENSE FOR 76 WOOSTER STREET**

For the third time in four years, the State Liquor Authority on Wednesday, January 21 denied an application for a liquor license at 76 Wooster Street, a site that has been the focus of community battles since the early 1990s.

This is the location that has been the subject of a long and torturous history of SLA and court proceedings. Since 1998, local residents have persevered through three 500 foot rule hearings, five full SLA board meetings and a law suit. And the community has prevailed in every one of these proceedings. The SLA denied liquor licenses at these premises in 1998 and 2001 and a wine and beer license in 2001.

Community residents have fought long and hard for five years against a license at this location. The most recent application proposed a four-story, 9000-square foot restaurant in the middle of a predominately residential block.. It would have been the largest restaurant in Soho.

Wooster Street is a narrow, cobblestoned, one-way residential street. Although there are at least 13 licensed premises within 500 feet, the block on Wooster Street between Spring and Broome is strictly a residential and day-time commercial street. There are currently no bars, clubs or restaurants on the block. "A new establishment at this mid-block location will be the beginning of the end to one of the few remaining quiet residential streets in Soho," said Barry Mallin, an attorney representing local civic associations and residents.

"It is unfair and outrageous that the owner of the building and the operator of this latest incarnation once again forced the community to do battle over issues that were previously

decided—not once but three times by the SLA and once by the court," Mallin said. "They are trying to wear the residents down, but this community doesn't give up."

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