

**Extract of the Minutes of Meeting between
Legislative Council Members and Kowloon City District Council Members
on 12 April 2001**

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Opening bars in residential areas

36. Mr CHAN King-wong said that over 10 bars had been opened in recent years in areas around Peace Avenue, Soares Avenue, Victory Avenue, Argyle Street and Waterloo Road at Kowloon City, causing extreme nuisances to the residents nearby. Noise nuisances from the customers of these bars seriously disturbed the people living there, particularly late at night. In this connection, Mr CHAN hoped that LegCo Members would keep an eye on this matter and consider reviewing the existing authority and licensing criteria of the Liquor Licensing Board.

37. Ms FUNG King-man pointed out that a bar in Whampoa Estate whose liquor licence had originally been terminated was granted a new licence under a new name. She therefore suggested that no separate licence should be issued within two years to bars operating at the same location in order to prevent bar proprietors from taking advantage of this loophole to continue with their businesses.

38. Mr NG Ching-man remarked that a bar on the first floor of a building on Waterloo Road had a staircase of less than 3 feet in width. As this would pose a substantial danger in case of fire, he considered that the Liquor Licensing Board should not issue a liquor licence to the bar. He also suggested that the membership of the Liquor Licensing Board be reviewed to enhance its legitimacy.

39. Mr WONG Siu-yee said that he had been a member of the Liquor Licensing Board between 1991 and 1994. In his experience, the legislation did not confer much power to the Liquor Licensing Board. In deciding whether a liquor licence should be issued, the Liquor Licensing Board would consider whether an applicant was suitable and whether the place being applied for could be used for business activities. If the applicant met the requirements, there would be no sufficient justifications for the Liquor Licensing Board to turn down his application. Mr WONG opined that if the general public considered the running of bars a moral issue more than a mere business activity, LegCo might consider amending the legislation to confer greater discretionary power on the Liquor Licensing Board to determine the issuance of licenses.

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