

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee (“Committee”) of ANC 6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm ET on April 23, 2024, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Erin Blumenthal, Joe Krisch, Monica Martinez

Commissioners Present: Mike Velasquez, Robb Dooling

Establishment Representatives Present: Mr. Chu (Jumbo Liquors), Bernard Gibson (Smokin’ Pig)

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Interim Chair Velasquez called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
 - Interim Chair Velasquez moved to amend the agenda to prioritize Jumbo Liquors which had a representative present. The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

- II. Community Comment
 - No community members in attendance to comment.

- III. New Business
 - Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license at Jumbo Liquors at 1122 H Street NE (ABRA-000420).
 - Mr. Chu from Jumbo Liquors expressed again, echoing his previous emails, that he is not open to re-negotiating a new settlement agreement with the ANC.
 - Commissioner Velasquez articulated the past practices of the ANC to protest a license unless a settlement agreement is reached and explained that the city’s ABC Board is the final arbiter of the application for renewal.
 - Committee member Blumenthal and Commissioner Dooling communicated that the Settlement Agreement is a reinforcement of existing DC laws and expectations of neighbors of a commitment to good business practices.
 - Ms. Blumenthal offered to work with Mr. Chu and offered to meet with him in person to discuss the settlement agreement.
 - Petitions/letters of opposition or support must be filed on or before 5/28/24.
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license application of Jumbo Liquors unless a Settlement Agreement is reached between the ANC and the license applicant prior to the protest deadline.
 - Interim Chair Velasquez moved to amend the motion that Committee member Blumenthal is appointed to represent the ANC along with the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC.
 - Committee member Krisch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Interim Chair Velasquez recommended that the ANC consider taking this item off of the consent.

- Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license with a tasting endorsement at New H Wine & Spirits at 914 H Street NE (ABRA-093550).
 - Interim Chair Velasquez communicated that he was not able to contact the owner and was not able to obtain contact information from ABCA.
 - New H Wine & Spirits has a settlement agreement in place with the ANC.
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with regard to the license renewal application of New H Wine & Spirits, and that the Chair of the ABC Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license with a tasting endorsement at Montana Liquors at 710 H Street NE (ABRA-097473).
 - Montana Liquors has a settlement agreement in place with the ANC.
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with regard to the license renewal application of Montana Liquors, and that the Chair of the ABC Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Committee member Krisch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license with a tasting endorsement at H Street Beverage Warehouse at 14 H Street NE (ABRA-117278).
 - Interim Chair Velasquez communicated that he has heard no concerns from the community about H Street Beverage Warehouse.
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with regard to the license renewal application of H Street Beverage Warehouse, and that the Chair of the ABC Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license with a tasting endorsement at H Street Spirits at 1368 H Street NE (ABRA-118781).
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC take no action with regard to the license renewal application of H Street Spirits, and that the Chair of the ABC Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of renewal of a Class A retail liquor store license at Noble Liquor and Tobacco at 1305 H Street NE (ABRA-122919).
 - There were no representatives present from Noble Liquor and Tobacco.
 - Committee member Blumenthal communicated that the signage of Noble Liquor and Tobacco indicates that the business is operating as a medical marijuana dispensary.

- Commissioner Dooling moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license renewal application of Noble and Liquor and Tobacco, and that the Chair of the ABC Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Committee member Blumenthal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Interim Chair Velasquez recommended to take this item off of the consent agenda for further discussion at the next ANC meeting.

- Discussion of application for a Class C tavern license at Smokin' Pig with Carry-out and Delivery, Live Entertainment and Cover Charge, and Game of Skill Endorsements at 1208 H Street NE (ABRA-127999).
 - Mr. Gibson was present to represent Smokin' Pig.
 - The previous license for Smokin' Pig was held by an ex-business partner and returned to ABCA.
 - Mr. Gibson communicated that the Game of Skill Endorsement was for a sportsbook betting machine.
 - Mr. Gibson communicated that there are no plans for live entertainment but is requesting the endorsement for occasional events.
 - Mr. Gibson stated that his stipulated license has the old license number listed, which needs to be corrected.
 - Committee member Blumenthal inquired if the business model/operations will be changing for Smokin' Pig, to which Mr. Gibson responded that they are not.
 - Committee member Blumenthal inquired about any previous license suspension/removal.
 - Mr. Gibson responded that their liquor license was previously suspended for two years in 2013/2014 due to stabbing incident.
 - Smokin' Pig will have security for any late-night events.
 - ANC 6A previously supported a stipulated license.
 - Committee member Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license application of Smokin' Pig unless a Settlement Agreement is reached and that Interim Chair Velasquez represent the ANC in the matter.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at **8:25 pm**.