

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
April 2025, 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting—Held on 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 February 4, 2025, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Erin Blumenthal

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Wethington, Kolb, and Spires

Establishment Representatives Present:

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Commissioner Velasquez asked for and received unanimous consent to modify the agenda to include a discussion of ABCA practices regarding license renewals and to consider all renewal en-bloc except Upper Room an
- II. Community Comment
 - Ms. Solomon asked ANC to consider a new liquor for a client. Commissioner Velasque explained the ANC process and welcomed them to apply.
- III. New Business
 - Discussion of the following
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with entertainment endorsement at Lydia’s Restaurant and Lounge at 1427 H St NE (ABRA-119312)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with entertainment and summer garden endorsements at Maketto 1351 H St NE (ABRA-090445)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C multipurpose license with at Atlas Performing Arts Center 1333 H St NE (ABRA-085207)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with dancing entertainment and summer garden endorsements at Stable 1324 H St NE (ABRA-105439)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with sidewalk café endorsements at Taqueria al Lado H 809 12th St NE (ABRA-119979)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license at Milk and Honey Cafe 1116 H St NE (ABRA-119672)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with dancing entertainment sidewalk cafe and summer garden endorsements at Bens Chili Bowl/Bens Next Door/Ben’s Upstairs 1001 H St NE (ABRA-131844)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with sidewalk café endorsement at Pascual 732 Maryland Ave NE (ABRA-126404)
 - Discussion of the renewal of a Class D restaurant license with summer garden endorsements at Whole Foods Market 600 H St NE (ABRA-104498)
 - A resident on behalf of a “number of neighbors” asked the ANC to protest Lydia’s due to excess noise from indoor lie music as well as the use of patio with amplified music, without the proper endorsement.

- Commissioner Velasquez inquired about ABCA complaints and investigations. He agreed to contact ABCA for more information.
 - Lydia was moved from the en-bloc.
 - Commissioner Velasquez moved that the ANC take no official action but seek new settlement agreements using the new format.
 - Ms. Blumenthal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.
- Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with entertainment endorsement at Lydia's Restaurant and Lounge at 1427 H St NE (ABRA-119312)
 - Chair Wethington recommended the ABC engage Lydia's to address these concerns. Commissioner Velasquez concurred with the need for engagement.
 - Commissioner Velasquez moved that ANC protest the renewal with the intent to ensure they are in compliance with their license and settlement agreement.
 - Commissioner Kolb seconded, and the motion passed 4-1.
- Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with entertainment and sidewalk endorsements at Choongman 1125 H St NE (ABRA-108755)
 - Commissioner Velasquez noted the name change to Chikoba
 - Ms. Blumenthal noted the settlement agreement was last signed in 2013. And given their use of a patio, she suggested protesting.
 - Ms. Blumenthal moved that ANC protest the renewal unless a new settlement agreement is agreed
 - Commissioner Spires seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.
- Discussion of the renewal of a Class C restaurant license with cover charge endorsement at The Upper Room 1360 H St NE (ABRA-128599)
 - Commissioner Velasquez noted concerns raised that the establishment was operating as a Lounge rather than a restaurant.
 - Blumenthal noted the establishment was previously occupied by Cru, where a fatal incident occurred.
 - Commissioner Spires expressed support for the establishment and suggested engagement to facilitate success
 - Ms. Blumenthal moved that ANC protest the renewal unless a new settlement agreement is reached.
 - Ryan, the GM of the establishment, joined the call. Commissioner Velasquez outlined ANC6A's process and then noted operations may differ from their license.
 - Ryan noted the current owners are different from the previous owners and that they are known for their food as well as music and drinks.
 - Shay, the owner joined, and corrected Commissioner Velasquez noting lack of an entertainment endorsement.
 - Ms. Blumenthal moved that ANC protest the renewal unless a new settlement agreement is reached
 - Commissioner Spires seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.
- Discussion on a draft letter requesting the city council provide ABCA the authorities it needs to release contact information to Advisory

Neighborhood Commissioners to facilitate the Commission's engagement with applicants.

- Commissioner Velasquez noted that it is ABCA's practice to include contact information for applicants on initial applications but not on renewals, and that ABCA stated they did not have legal authority to do so.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:00 pm.