

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 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 June 25, 2024, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Erin Blumenthal, and Monica Martines

Commissioners Present: Robb Dooling, and Mike Velasquez

Establishment Representatives Present: Jeffrey Jackson (representing Bloom), Sean Morris (representing AG restaurant), and Donna and Ralph Dadzie (owners of AG restaurant)

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Interim Chair Velasquez called the meeting to order just after 7pm.
 - Interim Chair Velasquez indicated the reason for the last-minute change to the agenda and received unanimous consent to proceed with the modified agenda.

- II. Community Comment
 - No community members requested to comment.

- III. New Business
 - Discussion of a substantial change to the Class C tavern license at Bloom at 1402 H Street NE (ABRA-125601).
 - The owner of the building housing Bloom has offered to give them more space indoors and outdoors. As a result, the owners are seeking to increase their occupancy.
 - The ANC and Bloom signed a settlement agreement in October.
 - Mr. Jackson indicated the owners intend to continue to honor that agreement, including the operating hours, closing at 11pm weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday.
 - Commissioner Dooling expressed support for finding a way to activate the public space.
 - Erin Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC support the request for substantial change.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

 - Discussion of a new application for a liquor license at AG Restaurant at 816 H St NE (ABRA-128831), including a request for a stipulated license.
 - Mr. Morris expressed appreciation for adding this item to the agenda at the last minute to allow the ANC to consider the application at its July meeting and not making the owners wait until the September meeting.
 - Mr. Morris shared that the owners recently purchased the building and intend to open a restaurant on the ground floor. They are seeking a Class C restaurant license to sell liquor.

- The Dadzie's have been operating a restaurant in Richmond specializing in upscale Caribbean and African cuisine. They indicated having received no violations in that operation.
 - They were hoping to open in July serving until 2 am for up to 166 occupants. They may have live entertainment for brunch.
 - Erin Blumenthal asked the Dadzie to discuss their security plan, which they did, and mentioned resources available, such as MPD reimbursable officer program and potential reimbursement for security cameras.
 - Commissioner Velasquez described the settlement agreement and general community concerns about sanitation/cleanliness, noise, and operating hours. They indicated a willingness to sign a settlement agreement.
 - Erin Blumenthal recommended that this issue not be on the consent agenda at the ANC meeting to ensure time for public discussion at the meeting.
 - Erin Blumenthal moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license until a settlement agreement is reached and Commissioner Dooling represent the ANC.
 - Monica Martinez seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 in favor and 1 (Velasquez) abstaining to ensure the item is not on the consent agenda.
- Mr. Steve Beam and Mr. Erik Lockett attended the meeting to be able to be nominated to serve on the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned around 7:45 pm.