

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, July 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 July 23, 2024, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Monica Martinez, Steve Beam, and Erik Lockett

Commissioners Present: Amber Gove and Mike Velasquez

Establishment Representatives Present: Darrin Ebron owner of Luxury Soil

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Interim Chair Velasquez called the meeting to order just after 7pm.
 - After approval of the agenda, he welcomed Erik Lockett as a new member of the Committee
 - He indicated AG restaurant signed the Settlement Agreement which negates the ANC protest and spurs a letter of support for a stipulated license

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

- III. New Business
 - Commissioner Velasquez welcomed Darrin Ebron of Luxury Soil and explained to him the processes followed by the Committee and the ANC
 - Discussion of a medical cannabis license at Luxury Soil at Luxury Soil at 775 H Street NE (ABCA-125601).
 - Velasquez introduced Darrin Ebron owner of Luxury Soil and described the practices and processes of the Committee and the ANC.
 - Mr. Ebron indicated he and his family are originally from this area and returned to DC after 30 years in California.
 - He and his wife opened Luxury Soil as a “wellness luxury space that could service multiple needs,” Open since Sept 17, 2002, they sell kimonos, pillows, candles, and other home furnishings. In addition, they gift marijuana under I-71. They do not want a line of customers. Rather they seek to promote personal shopping.
 - They live in the Union Market area, walk to work and are active in the community with Anwar and MPD, including attending town hall meetings related to crime along H Street and providing video footage to MPD when they were investigating other allegations in the surrounding area.
 - They also own another store on Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown that they opened in February 2024 and that also gifts marijuana.
 - Ebron indicated they have had zero issues with the community.
 - Interim Chair Velasquez asked if they had a valid Certificate of Occupancy and Basic Business License. Mr. Ebron responded yes and offered to send copies.
 - Commissioner Gove shared other settlement agreements in the chat, shared the ANC’s goal to support new business on H Street, and asked Mr. Ebron to agree to postpone the protest deadline. Citing revenue concerns, Mr. Ebron declined to agree to postpone.

- Ms. Martinez clarified whether MPD addressed the concerns about potential illegal activity on 8th and H Streets had been addressed. Mr. Ebron expressed support of and appreciation for MPD in improving the situation there.
- Mr. Velasquez then opened the meeting for community comment
 - Chet asked about loitering at the bus stop. Mr. Ebron shared that he observed increased police presence. Commissioner Velasquez described the support requested from DC for the population there.
 - Teagan posed a question to the Committee and asked about Committee and ANC support for a bar crawl with proceeds benefitting a charity. Commissioner Velasquez expressed support for activities that activate H Street and referred them to the Community Outreach Committee.
 - Mike Formant, a business/property owner on H Street shared that potential tenants have declined to lease because of the plethora of marijuana establishments along H and he urged the ANC to seek balance of business and asked about the redevelopment of 775 H Street. Mr. Ebron responded that their business model was different than those that had lines of customers. Mr. Velasquez indicated a desire for the city to allow moratorium zones for medical marijuana.
 - Mr. Velasquez asked about reports of a prior conviction for drug trafficking. Mr. Ebron shared that he did business 15 years ago with someone who portrayed themselves as deriving funds from legal sources. He said, “I paid the fine, dealt with it,” he now mentors others on how to avoid similar situations, and it’s a part of his journey.
 - Mr. Velasquez asked Mr. Ebron to consider limiting signage and Mr. Ebron agreed to considering all suggestions.
 - Mr. Ebron invited the Committee members and Commissioners to visit the property.
- Commissioner Gove moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license unless a settlement agreement was reached.
 - Mr. Beam seconded the motion and Gove accepted a friendly amendment to authorize Mr. Beam to negotiate the agreement. The amended motion passed unanimously 5-0

The meeting was adjourned around 7:55 pm.