

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee
ANC 6A
January 24, 2012

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee ("Committee") of ANC6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm EST on January 24, 2012 at the Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th Street, NE Washington, DC 20002.

Committee Members Present: Adam Healy, Katy Thomas, and Anne Marie Koshuta

Committee Members Absent: Michael Herman

Commissioners Present: None

Community Members Present: Caralie Farlee, Melissa Steffan, Ian Holt, Troy Hickman, George Grall, Richardo Vergara, Joe Englert, Blair Zeros, Alan Page, and Tony Puesan

I. Call to Order

Chairman Healy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm EST. The meeting having been duly convened was ready to proceed with business.

II. Community Comment

None

III. New Business

Impala Cantina Y Taqueria (Retail Class "C" Tavern)

The owners of a new license for Impala Cantina Y Taqueria located at 1358 H St. NE appeared before the committee to talk about their establishment. They plan to have a seating capacity of 150 inside, a rooftop summer garden for 49 patrons, and a ground floor summer garden for 49 patrons. They did not apply for an entertainment endorsement.

Committee members discussed the ANC's policy adopted in December about strongly favoring restaurant licenses over taverns and asked the owners if they'd be willing to switch to a CR license. The owners were concerned about meeting the food sales requirements and the fact that a significant amount of their seating (outdoor) couldn't be used year round. This would make it more difficult to meet the \$2,000 per seat per year food sales requirement. The owners indicated they'd be willing to include language in a CT voluntary agreement requiring a kitchen be open for food sales and other items the committee thought would be necessary to ensure they operate as a restaurant.

Mr. Healy indicated he was waiting to hear back from ABRA as to what the ABC Board generally permits in a CT voluntary agreement pertaining to kitchens and food sales. He said he would also ask ABRA how outdoor seats are counted toward the food sales requirements since those seats can't be used in cold weather months. He hoped to have better information in time for the next ANC meeting.

Mr. Healy moved/seconded by Ms. Thomas that the ANC protest the license for Impala Cantina unless there is a signed/approved VA prior to the protest date. Motion passed 2-0-1 (Ms. Koshuta abstained).

HR-57 (Retail Class “C” Tavern)

The owner of HR-57 appeared before the committee now that the ABRA placard has formally been posted. HR-57 will be relocating from the 800 block of H St NE to 1007 H St NE with a Retail Class “C” Tavern license for 150 patrons. Entertainment and operations will end by 12am Sundays through Tuesday, 1am on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 2:30 am on Fridays and Saturdays. The owner gave a detailed presentation at the December meeting, where the committee generally agreed that HR-57 is a unique case as it relates to ANC’s policy of strongly favoring CR licenses over CTs because the establishment has been operating on H Street with no complaints from neighbors and it is unique music venue.

Mr. Healy moved/seconded by Ms. Koshuta that the ANC protest the license for HR-57 unless there is a signed/approved VA prior to the protest date and to support a stipulated license. Motion passed 3-0.

DC Conscious Cafe (Retail Class “D” Restaurant)

Despite leaving three voice mail messages inviting the owner listed on the ABRA placard for DC Conscious Cafe at 1413 H St. NE to this meeting, Mr. Healy has not heard back from the applicant. Mr. Healy did indicate that he didn’t find anything in the ABRA placard to be problematic. The establishment will be a restaurant serving beer and wine. The establishment is applying for an entertainment endorsement but the entertainment will end by 10pm on Sundays, 9pm Mondays-Wednesdays, 10pm on Thursdays, and 11pm Fridays and Saturdays. No one appeared at the meeting to oppose the application.

Mr. Healy moved/seconded by Ms. Thomas that the ANC protest the license for DC Conscious Cafe unless there is a signed/approved VA prior to the protest date. Motion passed 3-0.

Red Palace

Mr. Healy invited the owners of Red Palace and Alan Page, a resident who lives behind the establishment, to discuss ongoing noise complains he’s received. Mr. Healy indicated he appreciated both parties for working together for several months on the noise issue and for coming to the meeting to figure out how we can solve the noise issue permanently. The owners discussed the work they’ve done to mitigate sound and pledged to continue working with Mr. Page and Mr. Healy to resolve the issue. Mr. Page appreciated the responsiveness of the owners to his concerns and thanked them for the work they’ve done so far. Mr. Healy encouraged both parties to continue working on the problem and would like to see the issues resolved permanently quickly.

IV. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 8:43 pm. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7pm at Sherwood Recreation Center.