

**Minutes**  
**Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee**  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**  
**January 16, 2018**

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee (“Committee”) of ANC 6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm on January 16, 2018 at Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

**Committee Members Present:** Jay Williams (Co-Chair), Christopher Seagle (Co-Chair), Roger Caruth, and Michael Herman.

**Committee Members Absent:** Mark Samburg and Justin Rzepka.

**Commissioners Present:** None

**Community Members Present:** Lauren Robinson (Truth), Demaison Thompson (Truth), John Brown (Dynamix Lounge), Julian Looney (Antunovich Associates - Architect for Truth).

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting proceeded with a quorum present.

**II. Community Comment**

None.

**III. Old Business**

None.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Discussion of request for new CT license by Truth Hookah/Cigar, LLC t/a Truth Hookah/Cigar (1220 H Street NE) (ABRA # 108602).**

- Mr. Williams introduced the partners behind Truth and asked them to describe their plans.
- Ms. Robinson introduced herself and stated that she lives and works in DC. The partners hope to open the establishment by April 1, 2018 and are excited to be a positive part of the community.
- The vision for the establishment is to have two levels - the first level will be a hookah lounge and the second level will be a cigar bar. The aim is for a relaxed atmosphere, a place where customers can “mellow out”.
- Ms. Thompson used to work as a manager at Nomad and is very familiar with the neighborhood.
- Ms. Robinson stated that their focus will be on “sophisticated” clients and to be a unique business for the area.
- Mr. Seagle asked how their entertainment endorsement/cover charge would work, given the vibe of a hookah/cigar bar. Ms. Thompson stated that that endorsement would be used for special events, likely more during the day. It would not be a common occurrence.
- Mr. Seagle inquired whether the partners had worked on how to comply with DC’s smoking regulations. Ms. Thompson stated that the most important regulatory requirement is proper HVAC and ventilation, which they are working on. They will get all required approvals/exemptions.

- Ms. Robinson stated she has researched other establishments that permit smoking, including Civil Lounge, and knows what it takes to get the proper licenses/exemptions.
- Mr. Williams asked if there were plans for outdoor space. Ms. Thompson said that is not a current focus; there may be the possibility of a rooftop deck, but not anytime soon.
- Mr. Seagle asked what abuts the back of the establishment. Mr. Brown responded that there is a parking pad, an alley, and then Wylie Street NE.
- Mr. Williams cautioned the owners to make sure they are sensitive to the needs of their neighbors, including proper trash management and noise mitigation.
- Mr. Seagle asked if the partners had ever owned another establishment; Ms. Thompson and Ms. Robinson said they had not.
- Mr. Williams asked if there were plans to serve food. Ms. Thompson said that that was not planned due to space constraints.
- Mr. Williams asked if there were any other owners besides Ms. Thompson and Ms. Robinson; they responded that there were not, and that they were the only people providing guidance on running the business.
- Mr. Williams asked if they had had a chance to review the standard ANC 6A settlement agreement. Ms. Robinson said she had, and that her only question was whether the language regarding graffiti removal would apply to work that they commissioned. Mr. Williams responded that the language is meant to apply to unauthorized graffiti, and that he would be happy to attempt to revise/clarify the language.
- Mr. Seagle explained that a major concern in the neighborhood is establishments emitting noise that can be heard inside a residence, and that a focus on the Committee is on ensuring proper noise mitigation.
- Ms. Robinson responded that they would be cautious about that, and when they have live DJs in for an event would make sure that they would be compliant. Ms. Robinson also noted that live DJs and loud music would not fit with their plans as a place for clients to “mellow out”.
- Mr. Williams asked if there was any concern about competition from Nomad or Touche, both of whom provide hookah. Ms. Thompson stated that they were not concerned and that they were confident they could build a client base and focus on the client relationships.

Mr. Seagle moved/seconded by Mr. Williams, to recommend that the ANC protest the license of Truth Cigar/Hookah unless a signed settlement agreement is submitted and approved by the ANC prior to the protest filing date. The motion passed 4-0.

## V. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 7:24 pm.