

**Minutes**  
**Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee**  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**  
**Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 7:00 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting—Held on Zoom**

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee (“Committee”) of ANC 6A was held commencing at 7:00 pm EDT on April 27, 2021, on a publicly posted WebEx event.

Committee Members Present: Nick Alberti (Co-Chair), Mark Samburg (Co-Chair), Mona Hatoum  
Committee Members Absent: Kate Robinson  
Commissioners Present: Amber Gove, Mike Soderman, Brian Alcorn  
Establishment Representatives Present: Chander Jayaraman, Mo Soliman, Matt Minora

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

- Mr. Samburg called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, noted the presence of a quorum, and reminded attendees that the meeting was being recorded. Mr. Samburg moved that the agenda be reordered, Commissioner Gove seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

II. New Business

- Discussion of application by 18<sup>th</sup> & D Liquors, Inc., t/a Master Liquors at 1806 D Street NE (ABRA #074594) for renewal of its Class A Retail License.
  - Mr. Samburg discussed the history of community concerns with loitering and disruptive activity centered on the establishment.
  - Commissioner Alcorn indicated his concern with the establishment, and indicated that community members were present to share their concerns.
  - Mr. Alberti asked whether the licensee was in attendance, and Mr. Samburg indicated he was not.
  - Commissioner Soderman indicated his disappointment that the licensee was not in attendance, and noted that the establishment has posed the same problems for years.
  - Commissioner Gove asked whether the establishment owns the parking lot across D Street. After discussion, it was agreed that the establishment and the parking lot likely have the same owner.
  - Community member expressed concerns regarding the establishment: issues have been ongoing since at least 2012, individuals drink inside and outside the establishment while the owner is present, use drugs while the owner is present, enter the store with red Solo cups to drink in or immediately outside the store, get into physical altercations outside the store, and litter excessively (including broken glass). Community members also noted that the establishment sells singles.

- Mr. Alberti noted that the owner is aware of the community's concerns and noted that he would recommend protesting the renewal. Commissioners Soderman and Alcorn agreed, and Commissioner Alcorn noted that the area has other problems that could be improved by addressing this situation.
  - Mr. Alberti moved that the ABL recommend that the ANC protest the renewal on the grounds of negative effect on peace, order, quiet, and property values. Mr. Samburg seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.
  - Commissioner Gove asked that the ABL make particular effort to alert the establishment owner that the recommendation to protest would be considered at the May 2021 ANC 6A meeting.
- Discussion of application by Capitol Square Bar and Grill LLC, t/a C Capitol Square Bar & Grill at 1500 East Capitol Street NE (ABRA #118000) for a Class C Restaurant License.
    - Mr. Jayaraman presented information about the concept of the establishment.
    - Commissioner Gove asked for clarification of the proposed hours of operation and service. Mr. Jayaraman reviewed the proposed hours.
    - Commissioner Alcorn noted his support for the establishment, and his concern about the proposed hours, potential parking issues, and the size of the sidewalk café. Commissioner Alcorn asked why Box 405.1 was checked on the establishment's application, and Mr. Minora explained that the box meant that the application was made prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy.
    - Mr. Alberti asked where the kitchen would be located. Mr. Soliman indicated that the kitchen will be on the first floor close to the bus stop.
    - Mr. Alberti asked how the establishment would use the basement. Mr. Soliman indicated the basement would be used for prep and storage.
    - Mr. Alberti expressed concerns about trash collection in a residential alley. Mr. Soliman indicated that Tenley Trash would make pickups during appropriate hours.
    - Mr. Alberti expressed concerns about recycling dumping. Mr. Jayaraman agreed with his concerns.
    - Mr. Alberti indicated that he believed that the settlement agreement should not be finalized until DDOT finalized its review of the sidewalk café application, and indicated that sidewalk cafes in 6A generally close at 11:00 pm on weeknights. Mr. Jayaraman requested that the ABL and ANC work to finalize the settlement agreement before that point. Commissioner Soderman agreed with Mr. Alberti.
    - Commissioner Soderman asked what the plan is for sidewalk café furniture at night. Mr. Soliman indicated that it would be chained up.
    - Commissioner Alcorn and Mr. Samburg indicated their agreement that the settlement agreement should not be finalized until DDOT finalized its review.
    - Commissioner Gove asked what the expected drop in sidewalk capacity would be, and Mr. Soliman indicated a drop to approximately 40.
    - Commissioner Gove asked whether the sidewalk café would have a perimeter and whether there was a comparable sidewalk café elsewhere on the Hill. Mr.

Soliman indicated that there would be a 42-inch fence with one entrance. There was discussion about other Hill sidewalk cafes that might be similar in size.

- Mr. Samburg indicated concern that the establishment's estimate on sidewalk café capacity during COVID might be high relative to its estimate on normal sidewalk café capacity.
- Mr. Alberti underscored the importance of a complete DDOT assessment.
- A community member asked about the relation between the establishment and the Motir non-profit organization. Mr. Jayaraman and Mr. Soliman indicated that they did not know; Commissioner Alcorn noted that Motir is the applicant for the sidewalk café.
- A community member asked when updated drawings for the sidewalk café would be available; Mr. Jayaraman indicated they would be available by May 12, 2021.
- A community member asked whether Mr. Jayaraman had any monetary interest in the establishment; Mr. Jayaraman indicated he did not.
- A community member asked whether trash would remain on the block each night. Mr. Soliman indicated that it would, but that it would be in a sealed container behind the Motir building.
- Community members raised concerns about the loss of public space for the sidewalk café.
- A community member asked for clarification about entertainment endorsements. Mr. Alberti described entertainment endorsements.
- A community member asked whether the issues being discussed were limited to COVID. Mr. Alberti, Mr. Samburg, and Mr. Jayaraman clarified that they were not.
- A community member asked whether valet parking would use residential parking spots. Mr. Minora indicated it would not. Commissioner Alcorn, Mr. Alberti, and Mr. Minora discussed which spaces are treated as residential for this purpose.
- A community member asked how the establishment would avoid spilling food and oil while moving it to the trash. Mr. Soliman clarified that oil would not be moved, and trash would be emptied after each shift.
- In response to community questions, Mr. Samburg and Mr. Alberti clarified that the establishment was not proposing to be open until 3:00 am, and that establishments routinely seek permission to operate for hours longer than they intend to be open. Mr. Soliman mentioned that the establishment would like the ability to host special events.
- Commissioner Gove asked for additional information about deliveries, including a commitment that vehicles would not obstruct the bus stop or bike lane. Mr. Soliman indicated that he would commit to those conditions.
- Mr. Samburg read additional community comments.
- A community member indicated that the establishment sounded like a bar. Mr. Jayaraman indicated that the emphasis would be food.
- Multiple community members expressed concerns: hours of operation/service, the size and hours of the sidewalk café, parking, and trash.

- Mr. Jayaraman indicated that the establishment would shorten sidewalk café hours to 11:00 pm on weeknights and 12:00 am on weekends.
- Mr. Samburg and Commissioner Alcorn thanked the representatives of the establishment but indicated that additional concerns still remained.
- Mr. Alberti indicated that they would welcome feedback and guidance from the ANC.
- Commissioner Alcorn asked for an explanation of the settlement agreement and protest process. Mr. Samburg and Mr. Alberti explained that process and indicated their optimism that the ABL would reach a successful settlement agreement.
- Mr. Jayaraman asked about the process for support for a stipulated license. Mr. Alberti reviewed the process and noted that stipulated licenses are not available to establishments under protest.
- Commissioner Gove indicated her hope that the ABL would make a motion absent ANC feedback. Mr. Alberti moved that the ABL recommend that the ANC protest the application unless a signed settlement agreement had been filed, and that the ANC authorize the co-chairs of the ABL, the chair and vice-chair of the ANC, and the ANC commissioner for the establishment's SMD to represent the ANC in this matter. Mr. Samburg seconded. The motion carried 6-0.
- Discussion of applications for renewal of Class A Retail Licenses by Andy Lee Liquor, t/a New H Wine & Spirits at 914 H Street NE (ABRA #093440); Jumbo Liquors, Inc., t/a Jumbo Liquors at 1122 H Street NE (ABRA #000420); Sky Globe, Inc., t/a Grand Liquors at 409A 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE (ABRA #10850); and 7 River, LLC, t/a 7 River Mart at 250 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE (ABRA #074594).
  - Mr. Samburg moved that the ABL recommend that the ANC take no action on these applications. Commissioner Soderman seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.
  - Commissioner Soderman moved that the ABL recommend that the ANC send a letter of support for the application for renewal of 7 River Mart. Commissioner Alberti seconded. The motion passed 5-0-1, Mr. Samburg abstaining.

### III. Adjourn

- The Committee adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next meeting date: May 25, 2021, 7:00 pm.