

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 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 EST on June 28, 2022, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Mona Hatoum, Kara Hughley, Joe Krisch, Ian Stanford (Chair), Erin Sullivan, Mike Velasquez

Commissioners Present: Keya Chatterjee (6A01), Robb Dooling (6A06)

Establishment Representatives Present: Sudon Williams (KitchenCray), Johnny Lu (Sticky Rice), Nusereldin Wagiealla (Old City Café), Linell Watson (Crab Boss)

Community Members Present: Kelsey Grimes

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Mr. Stanford called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
 - Ms. Hatoum moved to reorder the agenda so that the license application of Old City Café is addressed first. The motion carried with unanimous consent.
 - The minutes from the last meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.

- II. Community Comment
 - No members of the community spoke at this segment of the meeting.

- III. New Business
 - Discussion of application by Old City 1 LLC at 1307 H Street NE (ABRA #121029) for a new Class C Restaurant License.
 - Mr. Wagiealla was present on behalf of the applicant.
 - He described the establishment as a restaurant serving Mediterranean food.
 - Old City Café does not have any outdoor space.
 - With regard to security and trash: Mr. Wagiealla represented that they are adding security cameras, and they have a company that does trash collection weekly. The glass door to the establishment has already been broken twice, so it is very important for him to increase security. He also would like to communicate with other establishments in the community about joint plans to address late night security.
 - Ms. Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license renewal application unless a Settlement Agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Ms. Hughley, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

 - Discussion of application by Sticky Rice/Sing Sing Karaoke Palace at 1222 - 1224 H Street NE (ABRA #072783) for the renewal of a Class C Restaurant License.
 - Mr. Lu was present on behalf of Sticky Rice.

- Mr. Lu stated that the business is doing well, and has introduced some new initiatives recently, including a restaurant industry discount on Mondays and karaoke night on Thursdays.
 - Mr. Stanford mentioned that Sticky Rice's Settlement Agreement dates back over ten years. Mr. Lu is willing to look at and consider entering into a new Settlement Agreement that reflects the ANC's current standard language.
 - Ms. Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license renewal application unless an updated Settlement Agreement is reached prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Ms. Sullivan, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.
 - Mr. Krisch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.
- Discussion of application by KitchenCray H LLC at 1301 H Street NE (ABRA #113864) for the renewal of a Class C Restaurant License.
 - Mr. Williams was present on behalf of KitchenCray.
 - Mr. Williams described the establishment as a soul food restaurant that focuses on brunch. There are other locations at the Commanders Stadium and in Alexandria, Virginia. They are continuing to grow, looking at potentially opening in Texas and Florida.
 - Mr. Velasquez mentioned that there have been comments from residents near the establishment about employees making noise and/or smoking marijuana outside in public space around the restaurants. Mr. Williams is aware of these issues and has already taken employment actions in response by letting some employees go, including the general manager. He is committed to training and coaching his staff to ensure they represent KitchenCray well in the community - this is a priority for him. He welcomes communications by phone, text, or e-mail from the Committee or ANC 6A regarding any future issues so that he can address them promptly.
 - Mr. Williams noted that the establishment has 20+ security cameras, motion sensors, tempered glass, and security on the weekends. Their trash is enclosed, and they added an additional pickup during the week to ensure there was no overflow. They also have a pest control service that come out three times per week.
 - Ms. Hatoum noted that the ANC's standard Settlement Agreement has been updated since KitchenCray entered its Settlement Agreement. Mr. Williams expressed willingness to review and potentially enter an updated Settlement Agreement reflecting the current standard language.
 - Ms. Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license renewal application unless an updated Settlement Agreement is reached prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Mr. Velasquez, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.
 - Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.
- Discussion of application by Crab Boss, LLC at 1001 H Street NE (ABRA #116696) for the renewal of a Class C Restaurant License.
 - Mr. Watson was present on behalf of Crab Boss.

- Mr. Watson described the establishment as a Southern food restaurant. There are several locations, one of which is on H Street NE.
- There is rooftop outdoor space. Mr. Watson stated that he has plans to have events on the rooftop and on the second floor indoors.
- With regard to noise mitigation, Mr. Watson noted that recently he had received comments about the DJ and music from the rooftop being too loud. He had someone from ABRA come out to show him how to measure the noise to ensure it is not so loud as to disturb the neighbors. Ms. Hatoum asked whether Mr. Watson would be open to putting architectural or other barriers in place to help mitigate noise. Mr. Watson stated that he is open to such measures.
- The current Settlement Agreement was entered in 2017 by the previous establishment. Mr. Watson indicated that he is open to entering a new Settlement Agreement.
- Commissioner Chatterjee noted that she has gotten a fair number of complaints in the past about noise from this establishment and she has not been able to contact Mr. Watson. Mr. Watson stated that he would like to provide his phone number so that he can personally be reached to address any issues or complaints that arise while he is not on the premises.
- Community member Kelsey Grimes appeared at the meeting. She lives in the building across from Crab Boss and read statements from her neighbors regarding disturbance created by the noise from Crab Boss, particularly on Sundays. Mr. Watson expressed commitment to ensuring that the residents of the Avec building are not bothered by noise from the establishment.
- Ms. Hatoum moved that the ABL Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license renewal application unless an updated Settlement Agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.
 - Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.