

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 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 ET on June 27, 2023, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Erin Sullivan, Kara Hughley, Erin Blumenthal

Commissioners Present: Robb Dooling, Mike Velasquez

Establishment Representatives Present: Sean Morris (Kitchen Cray), Opal Scott (Kitchen Cray), Cameron Mixon (Providencia), Erik Bruner-Yang (Providencia)

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
 - The minutes from the April 25, 2023 meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.

- II. Community Comment
 - Chair Sullivan asked if any members of the community in attendance wanted to make any comments not related to one of the establishments on the agenda. There were no comments.

- III. New Business
 - Discussion of application by KitchenCray H LLC t/a Kitchen Cray at 1301 H Street NE (ABRA-113864) for Substantial Changes to its existing license.
 - Committee Chair Sullivan explained that Kitchen Cray is seeking an expansion in capacity and an entertainment endorsement. She indicated that the primary purpose of the substantial change is to allow Kitchen Cray to operate out of the downstairs space that they have invested in. She further indicated that Kitchen Cray previously withdrew a request for a stipulated license, which was discussed at a prior Committee meeting so, for efficiency, the goal for this meeting is to focus on new information.
 - Ms. Scott appeared on behalf of Kitchen Cray and indicated that since the last meeting Kitchen Cray representatives met with the community and responded to their concerns by participating in an RDU program which allows them to hire off-duty DC police officers, increasing security personnel and rolling out a response line. She indicated that Kitchen Cray has been operating on one-day stipulated licenses for the last month and there have been no complaints, and there have been no concerns raised on the response line. She stated that Kitchen Cray is doing its best to be good partners to the community.
 - Mr. Morris also appeared on behalf of Kitchen Cray and indicated that, procedurally speaking, the establishment is seeking to add an entertainment endorsement to its license, and the change in capacity is meant to reflect the change in the certificate of occupancy now that the basement has been approved. He stated that, in practice, the main floor and basement will rarely be operated at the same time.

- In response to questions from Committee members, Ms. Scott, with input from Commissioner Dooling and Commissioner Velasquez, explained that the community meeting Ms. Scott referred to was facilitated by the Commissioners due to concerns about the tenor of the conversations with the community and the idea was to have representatives from the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture to mediate with a limited number of representatives from the community.
- Committee member Blumenthal raised concerns around the business owners not being present, particularly in light of their public comments about the community, the one-day stipulated license process and whether the business serves hookah. In response, Ms. Scott indicated that she represents the business managers on several business matters, and that they followed the stipulated license process and they only allow electronic hookahs.
- Commissioner Dooling indicated that he spoke with Ms. Scott via email earlier in the day about the placement of the doors, and Ms. Scott added that the establishment is open to conversations about that and they have to engage the Fire Marshal prior to making any change to the door placement.
- Several members of the community raised comments, some expressing concerns including with respect to the positioning of the door, public safety and lack of communication and some expressing support for the business, including with respect to their willingness to work with the community so far, the importance of businesses to this community and the fact that some of the concerns that have been raised are larger systemic issues that are not specific to this establishment.
- Ms. Scott thanked the community for their comments, apologized for some of the information not being disseminated more broadly and expressed that the establishment looks forward to continuing to work with the community.
- Committee Chair Sullivan moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the substantial change application of Kitchen Cray, unless a settlement agreement is reached or approved between the ANC and the license applicant prior to the protest deadline, and that the Chair of the ABL Committee and Committee member Blumenthal, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC and Commissioner Dooling, represent the ANC in this matter.
 - Committee member Hughley seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-1, with Committee member Blumenthal voting against the motion.
- Discussion of application of Providencia, LLC t/a Providencia at 1321 Linden Court NE (ABRA-125122) for a Class C Tavern License.
 - Mr. Mixon, a lawyer for the applicant, appeared on behalf of Providencia. He indicated that Erik Bruner-Yang of Maketto is the proprietor and that it will be a new tavern on Linden Court serving Asian and Latin-inspired snacks. He indicated that they are requesting hours from 8:00 am-2:00 am, but in practice they will close earlier, and they are not seeking an entertainment endorsement.
 - Commissioner Dooling indicated that he is committed to working together on traffic and parking in the alley and is supportive of activation of the alley.
 - A few community members, including the building's landlord, spoke in support of bringing new businesses to the alley, and in favor of the

proprietor, Mr. Bruner-Yang, who has been a great operator on H Street for many years.

- Commissioner Velasquez moved that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license application of Providencia, unless a settlement agreement is reached between the ANC and the license applicant prior to the protest deadline, and that the Chair of the ABL Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC and Commissioner Dooling represent the ANC in this matter.
 - Committee Chair Sullivan seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.