

Minutes
Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Tuesday, September 28, 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 September 28, 2021, on a publicly posted Zoom event.

Committee Members Present: Mona Hatoum, Ian Stanford, Kara Hughley, Erin Sullivan
Committee Members Absent: Joe Krisch
Commissioners Present: Robb Dooling (6A06)
Establishment Representatives Present: Victor Chizinga (Lydia on H), Dante Datta (Daru)
Community Members Present: Mike Velasquez

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes
 - Ms. Hatoum called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and reminded attendees that the meeting was open to the public and being recorded. Ms. Hatoum noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes from the August 24, 2021 meeting of the Committee were approved without objection.

- II. New Business
 - Discussion of application by Daruwalla, LLC, t/a Daru at 1451 Maryland Ave. NE (ABRA #113870) for renewal of its Class C Tavern License.
 - Dante Datta was present on behalf of Daru. He provided a description of Daru, which is now open and operating.
 - Ms. Hughley asked why Daru is applying for a Tavern license rather than a Restaurant license. Mr. Datta responded that originally Daru was intended to be a cocktail bar, but based on community feedback and other considerations, the ultimate decision was to make the establishment more of a restaurant than a bar. At that point, Daru had already been issued its Tavern license.
 - Mr. Stanford asked whether there was an existing Settlement Agreement (SA). Mr. Datta responded that there is not, but that Daru is open to entering into a SA and wants to be good neighbor.
 - Chair Hatoum asked Mr. Datta what trash and noise mitigations Daru has adopted. Mr. Datta responded that trash and recycling are collected multiple times per week by Tenleytown Trash, and that Daru has also hired an individual to pick up trash on a regular basis around the premises. Daru also has hired pest control.
 - With regard to noise mitigations, Mr. Datta stated that Daru has a permit for their patio. They are in the process of getting a quotation to have an awning and some enclosures constructed around the patio to help with noise.
 - The protest deadline is October 18, 2021.
 - Mr. Stanford asked whether Mr. Datta has looked at the standard 6A Settlement Agreement. Mr. Datta responded that he has not but will look at it after the meeting.
 - Mr. Stanford moved and Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the application unless a Settlement Agreement is finalized prior to the protest deadline, and that Ms. Hatoum as ABL Committee

Chair, the Chair and Co-Chair of the ANC, and Commissioner Dooling represent the ANC in this matter. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

- Discussion of application by Lydia on H, LLC, t/a Lydia Restaurant & Lounge at 1427 H Street NE (ABRA #119312) for a Class C Restaurant License.
 - Victor Chizinga appeared on behalf of Lydia on H. He described it as an African-Caribbean restaurant with live entertainment. He noted that he is in the process of getting the paperwork together for a back patio, hopefully to be opened in the spring.
 - Mr. Chizinga stated that Lydia plans to have one to three security personnel at all times.
 - For noise mitigation, they plan to have an awning and some sort of barrier, yet to be designed, around the back. Inside, recorded music downstairs (a DJ) will be kept at a level that allows for conversation. Upstairs, where Lydia plans to have live music and other entertainment, the walls will be soundproofed.
 - Commissioner Dooling asked whether there will be outdoor entertainment. Mr. Chizinga responded that they plan eventually to have a summer garden with dining, but will not have live entertainment outdoors.
 - Mr. Stanford asked whether Mr. Chizinga has seen the ANC's standard SA agreement. Mr. Chizinga responded that he has not but will look at it after the meeting.
 - Chair Hatoum asked about trash mitigation. Mr. Chizinga responded that Lydia will use the city trash collection which he believes is three times per week, and that they have also hired a company to take out trash if it accumulates.
 - The protest deadline is November 22, 2021.
 - Mr. Stanford moved and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that the Committee recommend that the ANC protest the license application unless a Settlement Agreement is finalized prior to the protest deadline, and that Ms. Hatoum as ABL Committee Chair, the Chair and Co-Chair of the ANC, and Commissioner Dooling represent the ANC in this matter. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.