

**Minutes**  
**Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee**  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**  
**October 17, 2017**

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 October 17, 2017 at Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

**Committee Members Present:** Christopher Seagle, Roger Caruth, Mark Samburg, Michael Herman, and Justin Rzepka.

**Committee Members Absent:** Jay Williams (Co-Chair)

**Commissioners Present:** Marie-Claire Brown

**Community Members Present:** Aaron Morrison and Reuben Baris

**Representing On the Rocks:** Cami Mazard, Lance Steglich, Ike Nwaneri, Joseph Crawford, Keith L.

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Christopher Seagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The meeting proceeded with a quorum present.

**II. Community Comment**

None.

**III. Old Business**

None.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Discussion of request for change of settlement agreement with On the Rocks (formerly Da Luft) 1242 H Street NE.**

- Cami Mazard, counsel for the current managers said that the managers are seeking the use of their third and fourth floors and that they hope they can change the perception of the venue under previous management.
- The marketing manager stated that he wants to focus these floors on community building, non-profits, suit and clothing sales, massages, and other events. He stated that he wants to create local events.
- They stated that there is a small stage and would have sofas and small tables set up on the third floor
- Mr. Seagle stated that there are long standing concerns with this address and that since the new managers are new, the ANC does not have a history with them.
- Mr. Seagle reiterated serious concerns about how the new managers had ABRA violations even before they had a liquor license. Mr. Seagle stated that that alone gave him great pause on whether to agree to changing the settlement agreement.
- Mr. Seagle also stated his belief that the venue needed to be open for a time under the new management so that the neighborhood can see how they operate their establishment before agreeing to any changes.
- Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown stated that she may be biased because of the prior managers and the issues they had and the ABRA issue the new managers had. She would urge a wait-and-see period before agreeing to a change in the settlement agreement.

- Mr. Seagle made a motion that the ABL Committee not agree to any changes of the settlement agreement. This was agreed to 5-0 with 1 abstention.
- Following this vote, the owners asked if the ANC would consider storage and food preparation on the third floor, which is prohibited under the current settlement agreement. Mr. Seagle stated that this would all depend on how complicated the process to change the settlement agreement will be. If we can simply agree to move words, the ANC may be receptive. If the process would reopen the settlement agreement for negotiation, the ANC would not be supportive of this.
- Committee Member Roger Caruth stated that the managers should come back at a future date and remake their case. The ANC needs a reference point with the new managers.

**B. 1101 Convenience Mart (1101 H Street NE)**

- No one raised issues regarding this renewal.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 5-0

**C. China House (1601 Benning Road NE)**

- No one raised issues regarding this renewal.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 5-0

**D. DC Supermarket (539 8th Street NE)**

- No one raised issues regarding this renewal.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 5-0

**E. J & K Market (234 15th Street NE)**

- Two neighbors of this establishment detailed their concerns with the market
- Mr. Reuben Baris indicated that they protested the last renewal and the group of neighbors entered into a settlement agreement with J&K. They now claim that J&K is not following their agreement as it relates to cameras, selling of nothing less than a six pack, and loitering, among other concerns.
- Mr. Baris stated that he would like the ANC to protest this market because it attracts crime and is not following the neighbors' settlement agreement.
- Mr. Seagle stated that this is the first time that the ABL committee has heard of these issues and that no one has brought any issues with J&K up at any ANC meeting.
- Mr. Seagle also stated that the settlement agreement with the neighbors is different than the one with the ANC. Further, the ANC would have no standing to protest the establishment based on any agreement the neighbors may have.
- Mr. Seagle stated that the settlement agreement with the ANC prohibits selling single beer in bottles smaller than 40 ounces., which is now in place ANC-wide.
- Mr. Seagle stated that if the ANC were to protest, the ANC would need substantiated ABRA violations, police call logs, and any other written documentation to make the case that the establishment is not abiding by the ANC's settlement agreement.
- Mr. Caruth stated that the Committee needs to see the track record and any logs that owners and police may have.
- Mr. Seagle stated that the best route to the neighbors dealing with J&K would be for the new Commissioner in their SMD to work with the market.
- Mr. Seagle stated that the ANC would certainly consider a protest at a further date

if it had concrete evidence of substantiated violations and urged the community to contact ABRA, MPD and the ABL committee anytime they witness violations of the ANC or the neighbors' settlement agreement.

- Committee Member Justin Rzepka stated that the owners are not present and thought it would be worth it to protest.
- Ms. Brown stated her agreement that a record would need to be built for the ANC to be successful in any protest.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 4-1 with 1 abstention.

**F. The Cupboard (1504 East Capitol Street NE)**

- No one raised issues regarding this renewal.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 5-0

**G. Economy Market (1804 D Street NE)**

- No one raised issues regarding this renewal.
- Mr. Seagle motioned that the ANC take no action. Approved 5-0

**V. Adjourn**

The Committee adjourned at 8:15 pm.