



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
P. O. Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



February 20, 2013

Ms. Ruthanne Miller
Chairperson, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400S
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ms. Miller,

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A requests that ABRA and the ABC Board notify us whenever a licensee within 6A requests a change in their license class or seeks to add endorsements, a sidewalk cafe, or other license extensions.

We specifically ask to be notified when the licensee seeks:

to change the class of the license, e. g. from CR to CT, or CT to CN or CX;

to add an entertainment endorsement, a summer garden, or a sidewalk cafe;

to add to the numbers of patrons to be served;

to change the hours of sale, either for inside or outside venues; or

other changes which can reasonably be expected to affect the peace, order, quiet, parking, or property values of the immediately adjacent residences.

With few exceptions, the CR and CT licensees of ANC 6A are located only a narrow alley width from their rear neighbors. How narrow? With the exception of one block, the alleys on the north side are no more than 12' wide and many are 10' wide. Often the closest house is within 30' of the back wall of the liquor establishment and its rear outdoor garden, deck or serving patio. On the south side, alleys are usually 15 to 20 feet, and most residences have a shallow backyard. Noise, trash, and patron control are issues that arise from this proximity.

Our sidewalks are almost all narrow, with little spillover room for crowds of patrons who roll out at closing time or at the end of the entertainment. The parked cars on H Street will have streetcars running within two feet of their doors, and any customers in an inebriated condition who thoughtlessly edge out between cars will be at high risk. Obviously, cars and buses currently will run close to the side of parked cars as well. We are looking to minimize potential danger to drunken, inattentive patrons as they return to their vehicles and cross streets, or simply bunch up in large groups outside the doors of the liquor establishment, pushing inattentively out into the street.

Noise is a major concern of our ANC. As I have said, homes and bedrooms are very close to licensees. Later hours, sound insulation, late night food service to outdoor venues, and overcrowd-

ing are crucial concerns. Our residents have a reasonable expectation of the quiet use of their homes, and that their children fall to sleep and stay asleep in their bedrooms.

With the exception of one establishment, we have a long history of mutual respect and supportive interaction with our CR and CT licensees. We want to ensure that the H Street and Benning Road develop in a manner that's good for both the owners and their very nearby resident neighbors.

The motion to send this letter was adopted by the Commission at its regularly scheduled publicly announced¹ monthly meeting. The vote to adopt was 7-0-1 in favor, with five required for a quorum. Commissioner Alberti did not participate and, when the vote was called, abstained.

For the Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Holmes
Chair

cc: Fred Moosally, Director
Tommy Wells, Councilmember

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically by the anc6a-announce@yahoo.com listserv, on the ANC6A and NewHillEast listservs, through the ANC's website, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.