



District of Columbia  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
PO Box 75115  
Washington DC 20013



Chuck Burger, Chairman  
Alcohol Beverage Regulatory Administration  
941 North Capitol  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Burger,

ANC6A would like to supplement its petition and testimony regarding the requested 5 year moratorium on the sale of single containers of alcohol between 700-1406 H Street. Specifically, we would like to respond to three issues which were discussed at the hearing held on January 17, 2006.

In no particular order of priority, the issues relate to 1) statements made regarding a study of a moratorium in Seattle, 2) details surrounding ANC6A's process on this moratorium, and 3) thoughts regarding expansion of the moratorium.

With reference to the study of the Pioneer Square area of Seattle, the statements made during the hearing were very misleading. A quick read of the Executive Summary of the report explains that while the results of the moratorium were "unimpressive,"<sup>1</sup> the research put the blame squarely upon the "incremental implementation" of the program. The report indicates that the weaknesses of the approach included the limited area (Pioneer Square represents less than .12 square miles of Seattle's 83 square miles) and that all areas commenced as voluntary programs. In fact, only 30% of the affected licensees signed Good Neighbor Agreements in compliance with the Pioneer Square moratorium. At the time of the study, (from 2004-2005) mandatory restrictions had been put in place in only one of three Alcohol Impact Areas (AIA). The conclusion of the study was that the desired result of reducing "chronic public inebriation" in the downtown and northern AIA area would require mandatory restrictions in all three AIA's.

Further, the Seattle study cited the successes and methods of a moratorium in Takoma and recommended emulation of these methods. Specifically, the Takoma moratorium encompassed a larger area (6 square miles), was a mandatory program, which included a banned products list. A study detailing the success of Takoma's program was conducted by Washington State University and can be found online at [www.sesrc.wsu.edu/sesrcsite](http://www.sesrc.wsu.edu/sesrcsite). The Takoma study indicated a 36% reduction in emergency medical services in the AIA, while outside the six square mile AIA, across the city there was a 15% increase in such calls. As the report indicates, "These results are fairly dramatic<sup>2</sup>."

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<sup>1</sup> "Report on Voluntary Compliance Efforts in the Central Core and North Alcohol Impact Areas and a Request for Mandatory Restrictions", City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, May 16, 2006, p2

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p 15

As a result of the conclusions and recommendations in the study cited by Mr. Pascal, the city petitioned the Washington State Liquor Control Board to make all AIA restrictions mandatory and to ban certain products within those areas. The Liquor Control Board issued their recommendations on August 23, 2006. In this report they detailed, that despite limited adoption of the voluntary programs, there was still an 8% reduction in alcohol related calls in one area and a 35% decrease in another. The report concluded that the City demonstrated that these results could be improved with a mandatory ban of designated products. This ban of 29 brands of fortified wine and beer was approved August 30, 2006 and went into effect November 1, 2006.

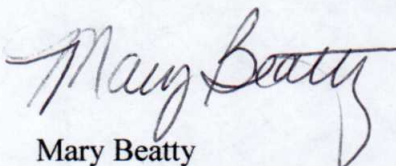
With reference to the approach of ANC6A to this moratorium effort, we would like to detail two aspects of our process. In 2004, the ANC attempted to negotiate Voluntary Agreements that contained a single sale restriction with each of the seven licensees in this petition. Since each was concerned about being placed in an uncompetitive position by signing the VA, and there were a couple of licensees who refused to sign, the ANC was unsuccessful in these attempts to get voluntary agreements. Nonetheless, several licensees along the corridor seemed receptive to the restriction on singles if it applied to all of their competitors.

In 2005, as the problems, and complaints from residents continued, the ABL Committee began looking at the possibility of a Board ordered moratorium on single sales. From conception to adoption by the ANC at least three public meetings were held to take comments. Residents have demonstrated support of this moratorium effort throughout the meetings leading up to the ANC vote, and in the following year and a half of preparation. Our ANC and our community are completely united in this effort.

Finally, on the third item, expansion of the moratorium, ANC6A would like to provide the following thoughts. We agree with the results of the Seattle study that a larger area provides greater chance for positive impacts. We feel that the inclusion of two other licensees that are within the boundaries of ANC6A would help soften the potential impact of moving single sales deeper into the neighborhood. These stores are NY Liquors at 1447 Maryland and DC Supermarket at 539 8<sup>th</sup> Street. We also feel that an expansion of restricted products to include small flasks of spirits can enhance positive impacts within the community.

In summary, the ANC6A community is united in this effort to improve quality of life along the H Street corridor and to augment city efforts to revitalize the corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beatty". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary Beatty  
Chair, ANC6A ABL Committee