



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B
HANDLE 19 SPECIAL CALL MEETING
for
February 16, 2021**

Community Session on Handle 19

ANC6B sponsored a community meeting on Tuesday, February 16, to discuss the status of its protest of the Handle 19 sports betting facility alcohol application. Following the community discussion, the ANC went into executive session to discuss the issues raised during the discussion. The following eight Commissioners were visibly in attendance or listed as “participants”: Samolyk; Sroufe; Ready; Oldenburg; Holtzman; Holman; Ryder; Horn. A number of ANC resident members participated, including Chander Jayaraman; some of the residents also protesting the alcohol license were in attendance.

ANC6B chair, Brain Ready welcomed attendees and Attorney Kerry Verdi. He noted that there would be an opportunity for Commissioners and residents to raise questions and make comments following her brief overview and that the meeting was being recorded. Chair Ready also indicated that the Commissioners would meet in Executive Session following the discussion.

Chair Ready had prepared a timeline of events since the outset of the Handle 19 situation. Verdi focused on the most recent events: (1) being contracted by ANC6B to represent it in their protest; (2) ABRA granting of the request for an extension of the protest date (now April 8); (3) ABRA rejection of the ANC6B request for summary dismissal of the Handle 19 alcohol license; and (4) the Office of Lottery and Gaming Executive Director’s Order denying Handle 19’s Sports wagering license.

Questions raised by Commissioners and the community representatives centered on the probability that Handle 19 will either protest its gaming license denial or will restructure and submit a new application. There is no public information available about the reasons for the denial. Questions raised included: Is a liquor license required for a class B restaurant? Is a license the property of the owners or the address? Can the reasons offered by ABRA in rejecting the summary dismissal request be addressed?

After questions were exhausted the community meeting was adjourned, and the ANC convened in Executive Session.

Executive Session on Handle 19

The eight commissioners participating stayed on in the Executive Session with attorney Verdi. She responded at length about ongoing preparations for the hearing and raised some questions for the commissioners to consider.

Discussed items: preparation for the protest hearing; coordination with residents also protesting Handle 19's alcohol application; possible use of expert witness(es); FOIA application; and research underway and under consideration.

Questions from Commissioners surfaced additional concerns: confluence of street traffic at this intersection (and difficulty of assessing this potential problem in time of CV19); the anticipated number of short time stays in the facility to bet and the resulting impact on the neighborhood; distinctions/similarities between Handle 19 and Brig, which ANC6B has approved.

Verdi said that Handle 19's attorney had requested a statement from ANC6B regarding stipulations it might seek in a settlement agreement, and she encouraged Commissioners to consider responding to this request and, if they chose to do so, to identify the central points of a settlement agreement that the ANC would accept. No decisions were made at the meeting beyond recognizing the need to give due consideration to the request of the Handle19 attorney.

Gerald Sroufe, Secretary ANC6B