



**Report of the ANC6B ABC Committee Meeting
October 8th, 2020**

Attendees: Kirsten Oldenburg, Brian Ready, Jerry Sroufe, Jenifer Samolyk, Steve Holtzman, Corey Holman and Kelly Waud. Resident Member Ellen Opper-Weiner

1. ABRA New License Application:

- a. ABRA - 117027:** Handle 19, Inc, t/a Handle 19, 319 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E. New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license with a Sports Wagering Operation endorsement **Applicant:** Shane August; Petition Deadline: 10/13/2020 [6B01]

Applicant Present.

Discussion:

The committee and neighbors had a multitude of concerns about how Sport Wagering Operation would affect the neighborhood. The major concerns were:

Parking and Traffic Concerns:

- Many community members were concerned about traffic and parking. A community member asked, "With a large draw of patrons from outside the neighborhood, where would they park?". The applicant said that they were looking into solutions to this challenge. One possibility is that they would provide valet parking and/or see if they could get the use of the parking sources across Pennsylvania Ave (National Capital Bank).
- A question that Commissioner Holtzman asked was "Pennsylvania Ave Per-Covid-19, had a large volume of traffic, with a new type of business that has never been in the neighborhood, how would this affect the traffic flow and/or congestion on Pennsylvania Ave?".
- One community commented that "With the new Pennsylvania Ave Street Scape moving forward which will be adding a bike lane to the street will increase the parking challenges for community members".
- Overall: More study is needed to answer the outstanding questions on how this establishment will handle the parking and traffic concerns.

Safety Concerns:

- Many community members were concerned about the type of patrons this establishment would attract to the neighborhood. Many believe this type of establishment would attract an undesirable element into our community. The applicant's responses to the community that after consultation with Commander Kain of the First District Police, they would be providing an armed off-duty police officer. The responses from a few neighbors were that in their opinion the need of an armed off-duty police officer highlights the safety concerns the community has.
- A few residents were concerned about the mix of Sport Wagering and the sell of alcohol during the hours when kids would be leaving school. One resident asked if the applicant would be willing not to sell alcohol until a later time such as 5:00 PM when kids would be off the streets. The applicant appreciated the request but expressed that not selling alcohol until a later time would not work for their business. The applicant is still open to other suggestions to alleviate the challenge illustrated by this community member.

Other Concerns:

- A few community members felt disrespected by the applicant due to a lack of notice of the coming establishment, information about the type of business and lack of understanding of the community they were moving into. The applicant rebutted this claim by adding they have held multiple community meeting to talk about their business and gather community concerns about their business. They have also made an effort to talk to any community members one on one.

Overall:

- Many of the community members believe that this location is not the right location for a Restaurant with a Sports Wagering Operation endorsement for many of the concerns talked about above.
- There is little public support for this type of business from the community. As of this date, only one community member has spoken in favor of the establishment. This is not to say there is not community support, we just have not heard from them at a public meeting.

Motion: The committee voted to recommend that ANC 6B request that the ABRA Board defer the Protest Hearing date until after November 12, 2020. This request is being made with the knowledge and support of the Applicant. This deferment would allow ANC 6B to continue to facilitate meetings between the Applicant and the residential neighbors to resolve any lingering issues or concerns and avoid going through a full protest hearing.

[Samolyk; Ready 2nd] Pass 7-0-1

2. Discussion of ABRA Expanded Hours for Inauguration 2021

Motion: The committee voted to recommend that ANC 6B send the draft letter with minor edits to the Mayor and City Council expressing the concerns of ANC6B regarding the District's protection of its citizens during the period immediately following the 2021 elections. The letter respectfully request that District leaders rescind the provision of extra days and hours associated with the 2021 Inauguration.

[Sroufe, Ready 2nd] Pass 6-1-1