



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Report of the ANC6B ABC Committee Meeting
November 5th, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

Attendees: Chander Jayaraman, Brian Ready, Steve Holtzman, Jerry Sroufe and Ellen Opper-Weiner

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. ABRA License Sport and Gaming Application:

- a. ABRA – 117027:** Handle 19 Inc, 319 Pennsylvania Ave SE; class B license – sports betting – **Applicant:** Shane August & Rudolph August Jr. Petition Deadline: TBA [6B01]

Applicant Present. The committee asked for an update on their outreach to the community. The three main issues were safety, parking/traffic and that the proposed establishment is incompatible with the surrounding community. The applicant has previously stated and reiterated at this meeting that they would implement all the recommendations required by DC Lottery which established the requirements for Establishments with sports betting including a security plan and other operational rules such as having a security guard.

One of the issues raised was the impact of parking on the surrounding community since this is already an area with limited street parking spaces, four schools and several childcare centers within a two block radius. Applicant stated that they had reached out to businesses in the area to identify and secure parking space nearby but, ultimately, they could not present a solution to the impact of patrons on parking in the neighborhood.

Applicant stated that they had engaged with discussion with many neighbors as well as St. Peter School which had provided a letter in opposition to the application and in particular the hours of operation. The concern was that there are many schools in the area and children regularly would walk past the establishment and that was a concern. The Applicant claimed that they had spoken with the principal and the Pastor of St. Peters Church which had resulted in these entities being amenable to a sports betting to be located at the proposed site. However, Principal Clay directly contradicted the claim by the Applicant and clarified that the conclusion of their conversation was, “we need to agree to disagree.”

Applicant also had not been able to find a reasonable solution to the concerns raised by commissioners that according to their own description of their audience was to draw customers from the entire District and Virginia. They were informed of the intent by DDOT to add a bike lane on Pennsylvania Avenue and restrict parking. Customers coming to place bets would only exacerbate the traffic congestion in that area, not to mention the potential for daily and frequent Ride Share drop-offs and pickups which could add to the congestion problem.

The applicant argued that they are a good fit for the community. They would be offering an extensive food and beverage menu (This menu was not available at the time of this meeting, but the applicant's food and beverage director was present at this meeting for questions). They went on to stress that their intent is to be a restaurant with sports betting as a secondary activity. However, a Commissioner read the application which showed that the Applicant had requested seating inside of only 60 people while the occupancy load was 199. The large difference between the two numbers may be an indication that the Applicant expects that many people (post-public health emergency) will be standing.

The Applicant also stated that despite objections from the community, the DC Council voted to legalize sports gaming in the District so they were within their right to place it on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. These arguments seem to have done little to change the minds of the community and Commissioners reported that, after speaking to their constituents, they did not find any residents who support this license. Once the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Commission to protest the application, the Applicant stated that they intended to open a sports betting operation in defiance of the community and the ANC stating, "Long live Handle 19. We're gonna open a sports betting place whether you like it or not."

Finally, Commissioner Jayaraman described the process at the full ANC Meeting as well as the process if the Commission votes to protest the license application. Currently there are two abutting neighbors and a third group of 5 or more who have timely filed a protest of the application.

Motion: Recommend that ANC 6B protest the Class "B" Restaurant license sports betting on of ABRA -117027: Handle 19, Inc. on the grounds that it would have an adverse impact on the peace, order and quiet of the community, including increased vehicular traffic. This is not to be put on the consent agenda. [**Commissioner Sroufe; Commissioner Holtzman 2nd**] - Pass 5-0