

ANC 2B Resolution Requesting a 5 Year Extension of the West Dupont Liquor License Moratorium Zone Until 2028

WHEREAS, the neighborhood centered on P Street between Dupont Circle and Lauzun's Crossing Bridge over Rock Creek, known as West Dupont, has long history as a mixed use area with residences, lodging, retail, and late night businesses, in very close proximity to each other,

WHEREAS, availability of amenities, including nighttime food service and entertainment options, attract many neighbors to live in West Dupont and the greater Dupont Circle area; and

WHEREAS, late night amenities can give rise to late night problems, including disruption of residents' sleep due to disregard for peace, order, and quiet, ANC 2B's experience is they result from a combination of business programming and management practices that are incompatible with the neighborhood plus inadequate enforcement oversight; and

WHEREAS, the West Dupont Liquor License Moratorium Zone was established in 1994 to restrict the number of alcohol-selling establishments within a 600 foot radius of the intersection of 22nd & P Street NW in response to concerns about nighttime disorder and that such establishments were forcing-out other types of neighborhood-serving businesses and over-concentration of such establishments in the West Dupont area would result in further degradation of quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board exempted the One Dupont Circle building from the moratorium zone; established "carve-outs" for the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue, then removed the restriction on the number of restaurant (CN/DN) licenses in 2013, followed by removing limits on Class A, B, X and T licenses (liquor stores, beer and wine stores, multipurpose establishments such as the Phillips Collection or Cosmos Club, and taverns) in 2016; and

WHEREAS, as of 2019 the Moratorium continues to prohibit Class N (Nightclub) licenses being applied for or transferred to the West Dupont Zone but does permit such an establishment potentially operating within the former streetcar station that lies underneath Dupont Circle itself, which currently is used as the Dupont Underground art space; and

WHEREAS, the West Dupont Liquor License Moratorium Zone today is functionally a prohibition on Nightclub licenses being located within the corridor of the 2000 and 2100 blocks of P St NW which is broadly supported by the community; and

WHEREAS, there have not been issues in West Dupont associated with or affected by the Moratorium brought to ANC 2B's attention since the last extension took effect in 2020

WHEREAS, the current West Dupont Liquor License Moratorium is set to expire on April 10, 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B respectfully requests the West Dupont Liquor License Moratorium Zone be continued for another 5 (five) years until 2028.