



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

May 17, 2010

Charles Brodsky, Chair
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
1250 U Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Concentration of Late-Night Activity and Public Safety Concerns in the “Club Central” Area

Dear Chairman Brodsky:

At its regular meeting on May 12, 2010, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the issue of the high concentration of late-night activity in the area south of Dupont Circle to K Street NW, known colloquially as “Club Central.” Representatives of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) had approached the ANC in late 2009 regarding the amount of resources necessary to police this area during weekend late-night closing times, when a capacity of over 6,000 patrons within a small, several-block radius emerges from the bars and clubs. MPD also shared with us statistical data showing increases in late-night crimes such as assaults and assaults with a deadly weapon in this area. While we are proud to have Dupont Circle as an entertainment destination in the city, we are also concerned about maintaining public safety for patrons and residents alike.

Beginning in early 2010, ANC 2B launched a series of open, public discussions on the issues related to the concentration of late-night activity in this area, including street crime, pedestrian safety, taxi and valet parking congestion, and noise. Participants in these public meetings and discussions included ABRA Director Fred Moosally, MPD Police Service Area 208 Lieutenant Scott Dignan and staff, District Department of Transportation representatives, business representatives, affected residents, and other stakeholders. In April 2010, the Commission’s ABRA Policy Committee presented a recommendation to the Commission for action. The proposed action items included working with DDOT to set up valet parking, studying creative solutions such as soft closings for bars and clubs, and applying greater scrutiny to ABC applications in this “Club Central” area than the Commission had in the recent past. At our April 2010 public meeting, the Commission had a preliminary discussion on the recommended action items and committed to passing a final resolution in May 2010.

At our May public meeting, with eight of nine Commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following motion by a vote of (6-1). Commissioner Silverstein did not participate due to his position on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board:

Whereas, ANC 2B at its April 2010 meeting passed a resolution providing notice that the Commission would be considering a proposal to mitigate the effects of concentration of late-night activity in the area in and around 19th & M Streets NW on peace, order, and quiet; and

Whereas, ANC 2B’s ABRA Policy Committee has considered these issues carefully and provided a recommendation to the Commission;

Therefore be it resolved:

(1) Taxi Stands: That ANC 2B support the DC Nightlife Association's request for taxi stands; that ANC 2B assist in determining the most appropriate location for taxi stands; and that ANC 2B designate Commissioner Silverstein as ANC liaison to work with the DC Nightlife Association, DDOT, and any other relevant entities to accomplish these goals.

(2) Guidance: That a guideline be included in the Commission's Policy & Procedures Manual as follows:

"ANC 2B reviews all ABC applications on a case-by-case basis, and ANC 2B reserves to change its guidelines to reflect changes in circumstances in the future. However, the current presumption for applicants in the area defined below ("Area") should be that ANC 2B will protest any of the following, subject to the successful negotiation of a voluntary agreement or other accommodation (s) to mitigate peace, order, and quiet issues:

new CN, CT, CR, and DR licenses that allow patrons to enter after midnight;
new entertainment endorsements for any additional entertainment hours after midnight;
additional seating capacity or occupancy at any existing CT, CN, CR, or DR licenses that operate after midnight;

The "Area" is bordered by L Street on the South (1700 through 1900 blocks), 20th Street on the West (1100 through 1300 blocks), 17th Street on the East (1100 through 1300 blocks), and (listed from Northwest to Northeast) New Hampshire Avenue (1300 block), Dupont Circle, and Massachusetts Avenue (1700 and 1800 blocks).

(3) Soft Closings: That ANC 2B is not ready to commit to soft closings, but that the Commission would like to hear more from ABRA on when, where, and how ABRA recommends implementing a test case (or test cases) for soft closings in the Area described above.

(4) Enforcement against Over-Serving: That ANC 2B urge ABRA to strongly enforce the over-serving of alcohol to individuals at ABC-license establishments.

(5) Continuation of Reimbursable Detail: That ANC 2B urge the Council and MPD to continue to budget a sufficient amount of funding for reimbursable detail officers at ABC-licensed establishments.

(6) Parking Enforcement: That ANC 2B urge MPD and DPW to strongly enforce street and alley parking restrictions in the Area, as well as the new valet parking regulations.

(7) Special Police Presence: That ANC 2B urge MPD to detail a TAC unit to the Area for a designated period of time to address the peace, order, and quiet issues and obtain more data on the problems related to the concentration of late-night establishments.

(8) Continued Work: That ANC 2B continue to look at the effect of promoters and illegal vendors on peace, order, and quiet issues.

(9) Notice to Existing Establishments: That ANC 2B provide a copy of this resolution to all licensed establishments in the Area.

We feel it is important for the ABC Board and ABRA to understand our current disposition with respect to the “Club Central” area. We are also currently working to get the word out to property owners, establishments, and establishment representatives in the area. And, we are already working with other agencies regarding the enforcement items discussed in our resolution.

I am the Commission’s representative on this issue, and I can be reached at will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net or 202-527-9522. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William F. Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Will Stephens, Chair

cc:

Fred Moosally (fred.moosally@dc.gov), ABRA Director
Martha Jenkins (martha.jenkins@dc.gov), Ass’t Attorney General
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ABC Establishments