

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**for the**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**  
**on**  
**April 3, 2025, Virtual Meeting (via Zoom webinar)**

*Guest speaker at 6:30 p.m.*

- Rev. Judie Martin, InnerCity Collaborative CDC

**SUMMARY:** Rev. Judie Martin, head of the InnerCity Collaborative Community Development Corporation, spoke about her organization's work in violence interruption and community outreach in Ward 1. She explained that her group recently received a grant from the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, in addition to an existing Cure the Streets grant, giving them overlapping resources to address violence in the area, particularly in Columbia Heights and LeDroit Park. Her team uses a combined approach that includes outreach workers, case management, and therapeutic services. They aim to not only respond to incidents but to proactively prevent violence by identifying high-risk individuals—thirteen in total—believed to be driving much of the conflict. Rev. Martin emphasized the importance of credible messengers, people from the neighborhood who can build trust and intervene effectively. She noted their use of social media to track and anticipate violence, often working closely with law enforcement, including Commander Pulliam, to share information and coordinate responses. In addition to safety efforts, her organization is working to connect young people with jobs, education, and counseling, meeting them where they are and walking them through each step to ensure follow-through. She shared progress in enrolling key community influencers in programs aimed at helping them change direction, while acknowledging the ongoing challenges of breaking cycles of trauma, retaliation, and self-destruction. Rev. Martin stressed that lasting change requires offering real, viable alternatives to violence and helping individuals see value in themselves and their communities.

Commissioner Fay inquired about support from the DC Housing Authority for addressing issues around the Kelly Miller residences in LeDroit Park. Rev. Martin said support has been limited but she recently met with the Deputy Mayor to discuss potential improvements, including environmental fixes and increased visibility. She highlighted the role of cameras and video footage in helping her team hold individuals accountable and link them to services. Commissioner Harris asked if her organization works beyond Columbia Heights and LeDroit Park and specifically mentioned 14th and V Street as a concern. Rev. Martin confirmed her team operates in ten Ward 1 communities, including that location. Commissioner Kensek raised concerns about repeated shootings near Howard University, and Martin acknowledged the area and agreed to consider it in ongoing efforts. Commissioner Barrilleaux asked how the ANC could better support youth. Martin recommended expanded mentorship programs that reach at-risk youth before they enter the justice system, citing partnerships with DYRS and CFSA. A community member asked how the effectiveness of these efforts is measured. Martin said her team collects data for grants and performance tracking, but many informal mediations and ceasefires are not reflected in official metrics. She said consolidating programs under one agency would improve consistency in tracking and evaluating outcomes.

Call meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Commissioner	Present	Absent
1B01 Fay	X	
1B02 Barrilleaux	X	
1B03 Sycamore	X	
1B04 Lemon-Strauss		X
1B05 Kensek	X	
1B06 Trindade Deramo	X	
1B07 Holden	X	
1B08 Harris	X	
1B09 Hanrahan	X	

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTON:** Commissioner Harris moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded.

**DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions)**.

**III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTON:** Commissioner Trindade Deramo moved to approve the prior meeting minutes with leave for the Secretary to make clerical amendments. The motion was seconded. **DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions)**.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 Minutes per Committee)**

**SUMMARY FROM CHAIR:** Chairperson Trindade Deramo provided updates following the approval of the March meeting minutes. He noted the presence of MPD representatives to address recent public safety concerns and acknowledged prior coordination by Commissioners Fay and Barrilleaux with public safety officials. Chairperson Trindade Deramo also commended consultants Karen Lee and Raessa Singh for their contributions to commission transparency and outreach. He noted progress toward goals set in January, including the successful implementation of the Committee of the Whole for pre-meeting collaboration and the relaunch of the commission website and newsletter. The newsletter now includes previews of committee agendas to improve public awareness.

### A. Committee on Zoning, Preservation, and Development

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Kensek reported on the Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee's recent meeting. He stated that one action item, involving the project at 1922 9th Street, had been resolved through coordination with HPRB, the architect, the property owner, and community members. New renderings were submitted, and the necessary approvals were granted. The remaining action item requiring a vote concerned a conceptual design review to combine two rowhouses and construct a rear two-story addition with a cellar in Commissioner Barrilleaux's district. The committee recommended support for the project.

Chairperson Miguel Trindade Deramo asked about the committee's engagement with the Department of Buildings (DOB) in light of the 1111 D Street building collapse. Kensek responded that DOB has been limited in its communication but is scheduled to attend the next committee meeting to introduce their work and establish a relationship. He noted that the intent is to build ongoing dialogue and eventually bring DOB in for a more detailed presentation on the collapse and related issues.

### B. Committee on Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Regulations

The following licenses were reviewed in Committee and no action is requested of the Commission.

- i. ABRA-125665: Minya's Pizza - 1932 9<sup>th</sup> St NW, Class "C" Tavern, SMD 1B02
- ii. ABRA-088274: Izakaya Seki - 1117 V St NW, Class "C" Restaurant, SMD 1B04
- iii. ABRA-125656: Congressional Club Museum - 2001 New Hampshire Ave NW, Class "C" Club, SMD 1B07
- iv. ABRA-060476: Black Cat - 1811 14<sup>th</sup> St NW, Class "C" Multipurpose, SMD 1B08
- v. ABRA-112409: Rooster & Owl - 2436 14<sup>th</sup> St NW, Class "C" Restaurant, SMD 1B06
- vi. ABRA-077574: Lulu's Winegarden - 1940 11<sup>th</sup> St NW, Class "C" Restaurant, SMD 1B02

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Hanrahan provided the ABCR Committee report. The committee reviewed several license renewals for businesses including Menya Hosaki, Izakaya Seki, Congressional Club Museum, Black Cat, Rooster & Owl, and Lulu's Wine Garden. The committee did not recommend any protests, and no concerns were raised by other commissioners. The committee also voted to support a substantial change in the Lincoln Theatre's license, allowing extended hours of operation from 12 a.m. to 12 p.m., which provides scheduling flexibility for daytime events.

In new business, the committee is finalizing a settlement agreement with a new business at 1911 U Street NW. Two motions to protest were introduced: one concerning a substantial license change for Ace Lounge at 1817 7th Street NW, and another for a new license application at 1351 U Street NW. Commissioner Holden raised a procedural concern about how committee actions are handled at the full commission level, suggesting that all committee recommendations—support or protest—

should be formally voted on. Chairperson Trindade Deramo acknowledged the point and agreed to discuss it further at the next Committee of the Whole.

### **C. Committee on Community Engagement**

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Sycamore delivered the Community Engagement Committee report. He noted that the committee is still working through internal coordination issues and has not yet finalized upcoming events, though several are in the planning queue. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 15th at 6 p.m. Sycamore mentioned attending a recent U Street Task Force community safety meeting and plans to continue participating in that forum. He also announced the Vermont Avenue Spring Garden Party scheduled for April 26th and encouraged participation. One new applicant is under review to join the committee.

### **D. Committee on Economic Development**

- i. Update on Neighborhood Management Authority (NMA) public discussions
- ii. Update on proposed dog park at 625 T Street NW

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Fay reported on two items from the Economic Development Committee. The first was a public hearing on the Neighborhood Management Authority Bill from Councilmember Nadeau's office. The committee compiled questions from the community and will finalize a position on the bill before the next ANC meeting. ANC 1B is coordinating with ANC 1A and ANC 1E on this matter. The second item concerned the T Street Triangle parcel near Howard Theatre. A prior proposal to use the land as a dog park was denied by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), which cited the parcel's size of 1,928 square feet as below the 5,000 square feet required by regulation. DMPED is transferring control of the parcel to DPR, which will assume responsibility for programming and management.

Patrick Smith from DMPED stated that the site, which has been vacant, will receive a permanent fence installation beginning in early April. A previously proposed farmers market on the site is no longer moving forward. Commissioners requested clarity on future use, citing concerns about the site's ongoing inactivity and the area's public safety issues. Questions were raised about the timeline of the transfer and the lack of earlier action. The ANC agreed that future discussion would move to the Parks and Public Space Committee. Councilmember Nadeau's office and DMPED indicated willingness to continue coordination, but no specific activation plans were confirmed.

### **E. Committee on Public Safety**

- i. Update on the U Street Nightlife Meeting held at the Lincoln Theater on 3/20

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Barrilleaux provided updates from the ANC 1B Public Safety Committee. He noted concerns raised at the U Street nightlife task force meeting, where local businesses expressed struggles related to public safety issues, declining patronage, and threats of closure. Guest speaker Johnny Bailey from HIPS presented at the Public Safety Committee meeting, outlining the organization's harm reduction work and efforts to connect individuals to services, such as housing and drug treatment. HIPS is considering establishing a center in the neighborhood to better

serve residents. The committee also discussed updates from the U.S. Attorney's office, including increased efforts to prosecute gun crimes through District Court to secure higher conviction rates and penalties. A resolution concerning the U.S. Attorney's approach is expected at the next ANC meeting. The committee is also exploring Safe Passage strategies and out-of-school-time program funding. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Following the report, Commissioners discussed the tone and outcomes of the recent nightlife task force meeting. Commissioner Sycamore expressed dissatisfaction with the Deputy Mayor's perceived dismissiveness. Jean Homza, a community member, reported follow-up from the Deputy Mayor, including planned nighttime walk-throughs, lighting improvements, pedestrian drop-off zones, and discussions on street closures. Commissioners stressed the need for continued engagement, accountability, and coordination with city agencies. Commissioner Holden confirmed that transportation-related items such as rideshare drop-off zones would be addressed in a future Transportation Committee meeting.

#### **F. Committee on Transportation, Parks, and Public Space**

##### **i. DDOT Response to 1800 block of 8th Street NW One-Way Study Resolution**

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Holden reported that the committee discussed the Vehicular Noise Reduction Act of 2025, but deferred action due to limited information and the absence of a scheduled hearing. The committee reviewed a DDOT response to a resolution from the previous ANC term concerning safety issues on the 1900 block of 8th Street NW. The resolution had requested converting the street to one-way, additional no-truck signage, and improved lighting. DDOT denied the request for a part-time one-way configuration during school pick-up and drop-off, stating it leads to confusion. However, the permanent one-way request has been submitted into DDOT's Traffic Safety Input program, where it will be prioritized and evaluated. DDOT has agreed to add missing no-through-truck signage and has already adjusted lighting levels in the area. Commissioner Holden also noted plans to create a public-facing tracking sheet for transportation-related requests and responses. No committee meeting will be held in April due to scheduling conflicts and the absence of urgent matters. The next meeting is planned for May.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE, COUNCILMEMBER, COMMISSIONER & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **A. Office of the Councilmember, Ward 1: David Meni (3 - 5 Minutes)**

**SUMMARY:** David Meni from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided several brief updates. The mayor's budget submission to the Council has been delayed due to Congressional budget issues, making previously announced oversight hearing dates obsolete until further notice. The Council is also awaiting House passage of the DC budget autonomy fix, already approved by the Senate, which could resume the budget process in mid-to-late April. In recognition of Earth Month, the Councilmember's office is encouraging neighborhood cleanups, especially on April 26, and is offering to coordinate with DPW for supplies and promotion. The next community office hours will be held on April 8 from 6–8 PM at Los Hermanos on Park Road, with Shadow Senator Ankit Jain

attending. Meni addressed the March 27 presidential executive order, noting that it largely reinforces coordination that is already standard between federal and DC agencies. He also discussed recent emergency legislation revising the Open Meetings Act, clarifying that it was intended to resolve logistical issues and not to allow secret decision-making. Councilmember Nadeau supported the measure on the condition that a public hearing on the permanent version be held, which the Council Chair has agreed to. Commissioners expressed concern over transparency, with some disappointed by her vote; Meni responded by reaffirming her commitment to public accountability. The changes apply only to the Council, though similar clarifications for other public bodies like ANCs may be considered in the future.

**B. Office of the Mayor: Stephanie Avincula, MOCRS (3 - 5 Minutes)**

**SUMMARY:** Stephanie Advincula, the Ward 1 liaison from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave several updates. She announced that the Mayor's 8th Annual Spring Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 19 at 10 AM, with the Ward 1 event held at the Columbia Heights Dog Park. She also shared information about three business grant opportunities from DMPED—Great Streets Retail, Manufacturing, and Emerging Retail grants—all open until April 14. Businesses can apply for all three but are encouraged to focus on one if time is limited. She noted that applications are straightforward but require standard documentation like a clean hands certificate and business license. District Bridges can help applicants, and she offered to send out direct links to the applications. Finally, she mentioned that DC Emancipation Day will be celebrated with a free community parade and concert at Freedom Plaza on April 13 from 2–9 PM. She closed by encouraging commissioners to let her know their preferred method of contact to ensure timely communication.

**C. District Agencies: Captain Murphy, MPD and Lieutenant Wheeler, MPD (3 – 5 Minutes)**

**SUMMARY:** Captain Murphy and Lieutenant Wheeler from MPD's Third District provided a public safety update in response to recent incidents in LeDroit Park and at Howard University. Lieutenant Wheeler reported that MPD made 542 arrests in the past month, including for firearms, narcotics, robbery, and quality-of-life offenses, with support from community partners like the Housing Authority and Howard University Police. Captain Murphy detailed the department's enhanced safety plan for the area, including 24/7 overtime patrols with face-to-face shift changes to ensure constant presence. He noted that officers were nearby during a recent shooting on the 200 block of W Street NW, and a subsequent investigation is underway. He also described MPD's use of social media monitoring and search warrants to disrupt illegal firearm activity, including a recent operation that recovered ammunition. Commissioners thanked MPD for their work and presence in the neighborhood, with a suggestion to vary patrol vehicle placement to avoid predictability. Captain Murphy agreed and confirmed the department is already working on that strategy.

**D. Commissioner announcements:** *(2 Minutes per Commissioner)*

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Hanrahan announced that the next ABCR Committee meeting will be rescheduled to Monday, April 22, due to Emancipation Day falling on the usual meeting date. He will follow up with an email reminder to committee members. Commissioner Fay reminded everyone that the LeDroit Park Historic House and Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, and encouraged participation. Additional event details will be included in the upcoming ANC newsletter.

**E. Community announcements:** *(2 Minutes per Community Member)*

**SUMMARY:** No community announcements were made.

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**A. Executive Officers' Reports** *(2 Minutes per Executive)*

**SUMMARY:** Chairperson Trindade Deramo reminded commissioners to schedule their one-on-one meetings with him, as previously invited during the last Committee of the Whole. These quarterly check-ins are intended to discuss goals, committee progress, and how he can offer support. He noted that two meetings have already taken place and one and a half more are scheduled. Commissioners were encouraged to use the sign-up link sent via email.

**B. Approval of the ANC 1B Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) for Q1**

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Lemon-Strauss presented the ANC 1B Quarter 1 Financial Report for October through December 2024. The report was previously distributed to commissioners. He summarized that income consisted primarily of the standard city allotment, along with a refund for a Zoom license. Expenses were mainly related to consultant services, with some minor operational items. Chairperson Trindade Deramo asked for clarification on whether the allotment amount had been reduced due to the ANC's high balance. Commissioner Lemon-Strauss confirmed that the allotment is formula-based and not affected by the ANC's balance. He also confirmed that the report reflected a period in which only one consultant was under contract. Commissioner Kensek and Commissioner Harris discussed the current legal services retainer. Harris noted that approximately \$20,000 remains in the ANC's ABRA attorney retainer, with more usage expected during the current period due to an increase in license applications. No concerns were raised about the content of the financial report.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lemon-Strauss moved that the Commission approve the ANC1B Quarter 1 Financial Report for 2025. Commissioner Kensek seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention).**



## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. SMD 1B02: ANC financial support for “Shaw” street banners

**MOTION:** Commissioner Barrilleaux moved for ANC 1B to purchase light post banners from Michael Cocilla in the amount of \$1,123.60 and pay for installation in the amount of up to \$500 in partnership with ANC 1E. Commissioner Holden seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Barrilleaux noted the banners reuse existing designs and aim to improve neighborhood aesthetics and foster community identity. Discussion revealed that installation costs may be significantly higher than initially anticipated up to \$1,700 due to the need for a bucket truck. Bernard Canepa, representing the Atlantic Plumbing condo board and leading the banner effort, noted he is seeking lower bids and suggested the Commission consider approving printing costs now while they explore installation options, potentially involving DDOT. Commissioners debated whether to wait or proceed with the printing only. **AMENDED MOTION:** Commissioner Barrilleaux moved an amendment to the motion to fund just the printing for now. Commissioner Holden seconded. **DISCUSSION:** During the discussion, it was confirmed that the printing cost is half of the total \$2,247.20 for 20 banners (for 14 light posts, with extras for replacements), and that ANC 1E is covering the other half. The motion excludes installation costs, which will be addressed separately at a later date. Following discussion about the printing cost for the Shaw neighborhood banners, concerns were raised over approving funding without clarity on total project costs, installation logistics, competitive bidding, and DDOT support. Commissioner Kensek questioned the need to vote without a complete plan, and Commissioner Trindade Deramo emphasized the importance of not committing to printing without knowing how and at what cost installation will happen. Commissioners Sycamore and Holden supported the idea of approving the printing now to avoid future delays, especially with summer and World Pride approaching. That while there is general support for the project, there's not enough confidence in the process or information available to responsibly approve funds. After some back and forth, Bernard Canepa, leading the banner project, expressed willingness to wait another 30 days to address the Commission's concerns. **MOTION:** Commissioner Kensek moved to table the matter until next commission meeting to get more information as to the questions in terms of proposals and costs. Commissioner Fay seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion to table **PASSED (6 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions).**

### B. Transportation: NOI 25-18-CPB - Curbside Changes to Implement WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign in ANC 1B

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Holden discussed a resolution he is proposing in response to a Notice of Intent from DDOT regarding curbside changes in LeDroit Park related to the implementation of the Better Bus Network redesign. The changes include renaming the G2 bus route to C91 and adjusting its path through LeDroit Park, with the installation of new bus stops at 3rd & U Street and 3rd & Rhode Island Avenue, as well as the removal of certain curbside parking at Elm and 4th Streets to accommodate turning buses. Additionally, the plan includes adjusting stop bar markings and



removing several flex posts. The resolution supports these changes but includes three specific recommendations: first, that DDOT ensure all new signage and pavement markings are installed simultaneously to avoid confusion; second, that the agency assess ways to maintain pedestrian safety and visibility where flex posts are removed; and third, that DDOT and WMATA engage in more proactive and meaningful outreach to the community in future bus network updates, even when parking is not impacted. Commissioner Fay affirmed that the LeDroit Park Civic Association had discussed the proposal, reached consensus, and was not opposed. He thanked Commissioner Holden for incorporating language around community engagement and stated his support for the resolution. David Meni from Councilmember Nadeau's office explained that although the bus route is reverting to its old path, parking needs to be removed because the smaller buses previously used are being phased out and replaced with full-size buses, which need more space to turn. Commissioner Holden confirmed this detail is included in the NOI. The resolution had passed the Transportation, Parks, and Public Space Committee unanimously. **MOTION:** Commissioner Holden moved to pass the resolution, as written by the Transportation Committee in support of the NOI 25-18-CPD. Commissioner Harris seconded. **DISCUSSION:** none. The motion **PASSED (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention).**

**C. Transportation:** Traffic Safety Improvement at 1300 Block of Clifton Street NW

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Holden presented a second transportation resolution, originating from committee member Johnny Cabrera, addressing safety concerns on the 1300 block of Clifton Street NW. Residents have reported cars parking too close to intersections at 13th and 14th Streets, creating dangerous sightline issues for drivers and putting pedestrians—particularly students, daycare children, and shelter residents—at risk. The resolution asks DDOT to install flex posts at the corners to prevent illegal parking and to conduct a traffic calming study. Potential solutions could include speed bumps, raised crosswalks, or curb modifications. The committee unanimously supported the resolution. Commissioner Barrilleaux proposed an amendment to include language encouraging the installation of bike bypasses alongside potential speed bumps. While some commissioners supported the addition to improve cyclist safety and comfort, others. Commissioner Kensek voiced concerns about maintaining safety for all users, including pedestrians and scooter riders. **MOTION:** Commissioner Barrilleaux moved to amend the motion to add the parenthetical about bike bypass. Motion was seconded. The motion to amend **DID NOT PASS (2 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention).** **MOTION:** Commissioner Holden moved to pass the resolution, as written by the Transportation Committee in support of the traffic safety improvement on 1300 block of Clifton Street NW as originally presented. **DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention).**

**D. Zoning:** HPRB Case: HPA 25-93 – 1922 9th St NW (Arts-2), SMD 1B02 [DC Historic Preservation Office Project Plans | Powered by Box](#)

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Kensek gave a brief update on the previously discussed 1922 9th Street HPRB case, sharing that a resolution had been reached thanks to collaborative efforts by Commissioners Chauvin, Patrick Nelson, and Alex from the ZPD Committee.

**E. Zoning:** HPRB Case: HPA 25-178 – 1103 & 1105 S St NW (RF-1), SMD 1B02 [DC Historic Preservation Office Project Plans | Powered by Box](#)

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kensek moved that the full commission support and accept ZPD committee's decision and review of the applicants request to HPRB located at 1103 & 1105 S Street NW. Commissioner Holden seconded. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Kensek provided background on a zoning and historic preservation matter concerning the properties at 1103 and 1105 S Street NW. He explained that the applicant sought to combine the two rowhouses into a single home, with minimal exterior changes and no major zoning variances. The applicant worked extensively with neighbors, the Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee, and HPRB to revise the design based on community feedback, especially around the rear façade. Commissioner Holden asked clarifying questions about the timeline, confirming that HPRB had already voted on March 27, and that this motion was for the ANC to formally support the ZPD Committee's recommendation. Commissioner Fay asked about the committee's vote, and Commissioner Kensek confirmed it was 6-0 in favor, with one abstention. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**.

**F. Alcohol:** Settlement Agreement- Lounge U

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Hanrahan introduced a settlement agreement related to a license protest the Commission had voted on at a previous meeting. Commissioner Barrilleaux led the negotiations with the business, ultimately securing concessions on hours of operation. Under the agreement, indoor hours are limited to 1 a.m. on weeknights and 2 a.m. on weekends, while the Summer Garden is limited to midnight Sunday through Wednesday, 1 a.m. on Thursday, and 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The business has signed the agreement. **MOTION:** Commissioner Hanrahan moved for the full commission to support the settlement agreement with Lounge U. Commissioner Holden seconded. **DISCUSSION:** Although not listed on the meeting agenda, this agreement follows a prior vote to protest the license application. Commissioner Fay clarified for the record that this item is being added to close out a previously discussed matter. Commissioner Barrilleaux confirmed that the establishment is within the Shaw Moratorium Zone and will operate as a restaurant under ABRA's regulations, including a food sales requirement of at least 45%. The settlement outlines agreed-upon operating hours. Commissioner Kensek raised concerns about the Lounge U settlement, citing its location in the U Street Arts Overlay and questioning whether it's truly a restaurant, given vague answers about food service. Commissioner Barrilleaux noted the business still needs a zoning variance and that the ANC has limited power over ABCA. He emphasized the agreement includes useful limits—on hours, noise, and food sales—that wouldn't

be guaranteed otherwise. Commissioners Holden and Fay agreed that overlay concerns should be handled during the zoning process. Frank Chauvin, community member, added that the food sales rule isn't publicly enforced, and bars can legally operate on upper or lower floors under current rules. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)**.

**G. Alcohol:** ABRA-129513: 1351 U St NW, Class "C" Tavern, SMD 1B08

- i. Application for a new license
- ii. Protest Date 4/7/25
- iii. Committee Action: With a vote of 4 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions, the committee voted to recommend the ANC protest on the grounds of peace, order and quiet.

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Hanrahan discussed a new application for a business at 1351 U Street NW which is in Commissioner Harris's district. Commissioner Harris clarified that the establishment, located above U Street Wine and Beer in a former martial arts studio, is raising concerns due to its proximity to residences and existing neighborhood issues with noise and trash. While the applicant is applying as a restaurant, Commissioner Harris noted this type of use still requires close oversight given the potential impacts on nearby residents. She emphasized that the protest is intended to preserve the Commission's standing and allow time to negotiate a settlement agreement that could address hours of operation, noise, and trash management. Commissioner Holden recommended explicitly stating in the vote language that the protest would be withdrawn upon reaching a satisfactory agreement, to which Harris agreed. Commissioner Kensek voiced appreciation for Harris's leadership on ABCA matters and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining procedural consistency. Chairperson Trindade Deramo and others agreed the protest would proceed, with the understanding that the goal remains a mutually agreeable settlement that protects neighborhood quality of life. **MOTION:** Commissioner Harris moved that the full ANC protest the establishment at 1351 U Street NW on the ground of peace, order and quiet and all applicable grounds and that the ANC will withdraw the motion if and when a settlement is reached. Commissioner Kensek seconded. **DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**.

**H. Alcohol:** ABRA-125919: Ace Lounge - 1817 7th St NW, Class "C" Tavern, SMD 1B02

- i. Application for a Substantial Change to License; Change in operating hours to 8am - 6am Sun - Sat
- ii. Protest Date 4/7/25
- iii. Committee Action: With a vote of 4 yeas, and 1 nay, the committee voted to recommend to protest the substantial change in hours on the grounds of peace, order and quiet.

**SUMMARY:** Commissioner Hanrahan introduced a substantial change request for Ace Lounge, located at 1817 7th Street NW. The establishment currently has a Class C tavern license and is seeking to extend its operating hours from the current 8 AM–2 AM (Sunday–Thursday) and 8 AM–3

AM (Friday–Saturday) to 8 AM–6 AM daily. He noted that while this request does not affect alcohol sale hours, concerns were raised during committee discussions and through community testimony (including comments from Commissioner Fay). Issues cited included the potential impact on public safety, the location’s proximity to a school and Metro station, and concerns about late-night loitering or disturbances. Commissioner Hanrahan added that the proposed change may conflict with the establishment’s existing settlement agreement. While the owner appeared cooperative and open to dialogue. **MOTION:** Commissioner Hanrahan moved that the ANC protest the application for substantial change in license on the grounds of peace order and quiet. Commissioner Fay seconded. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Holden asked whether the protest would affect the underlying license, and Commissioner Harris clarified that because it's a substantial change, the protest would trigger a full ABRA process, similar to a new license or renewal. That could result in modified hours—or, in rare cases, revocation of the license altogether. Commissioner Barrilleaux acknowledged the owner’s engagement and noted no complaints had come from within the building but agreed that 6 AM closing hours are out of line with nearby businesses. Commissioner Fay echoed those concerns, citing proximity to the Metro, ongoing issues identified by the T Street Task Force, and the potential for increased disruption during early morning hours. Commissioner Harris added that even if ABRA grants extended hours, a negotiated settlement agreement could impose stricter, enforceable limits. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).**

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:01pm.

*The next regular meeting of the Commission will be on May 1, 2025.*

Prepared by: Commissioner Matt Fay (1B01), Secretary

Approved on: **May 1, 2025**

Attested by:

  
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