

LAST CALL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013



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EAST DUPONT CIRCLE MORATORIUM REVIEW

The ABC Board temporarily extended the East Dupont Circle Moratorium for 120 days while it reviews whether renewing the moratorium is appropriate. The moratorium was set to expire on Monday, Sept. 23. During the extension period, the same limitations on ABC licensing will apply in the zone. A hearing on the issue is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

AUTUMN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

ABC establishments that are normally open until 2 or 3 a.m. on the weekends will gain an extra hour of business on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 2. On that day, clocks fall back an hour from 2 to 1 a.m. for autumn daylight savings. Since the hour between 1 and 2 a.m. is repeated, licensees normally open during that time will automatically gain another hour to sell and serve alcoholic beverages.

14th and U St. Corridor Moratorium Not in Public Interest

Petition Denied at Public Hearing Oct. 2.

On Oct. 2, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) unanimously denied a petition for a moratorium on the issuance of new liquor licenses in the District's 14th and U St. corridor.

The Board determined the moratorium is not in the public interest after carefully considering public input and evaluating various standards for issuing a moratorium. Information reviewed by the Board shows the 14th and U St. corridor has undergone a revival. Property values are appreciating, the violent crime rate has decreased, and residents and businesses alike are being attracted to the area. There was no evidence that additional ABC-licensed establishments will have an adverse effect on the neighborhood.

New Penalty Schedule In Effect

Effective Sept. 25, the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) adopted a revised Civil Penalty Schedule for issuing citations to establishments in violation of ABC laws and regulations.


The revised schedule, which lists primary and secondary-tier violations, is more comprehensive and redefines violations that are eligible to receive first-time written warnings.


Of 161 defined violations, 35 are now eligible to receive mandatory warnings. An ABC establishment that receives a written warning, will have 10 days to correct the violation. If

it is not corrected in the ten day period, the appropriate fine or penalty will be assessed for the violation. Once an ABC establishment receives a written warning for an offense, it will not be entitled to another warning for the same offense.

In making its decision, the Board also considered comments provided by Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs). All four ANCs within the affected area—1B, 2B, 2F and 6E—opposed the moratorium. In their comments, ANCs said members of the public also opposed the petition and raised concerns it would have negative consequences on the area's economic development. The ANCs also noted that alternative tools—adding more police, street lights and better management of facilities—could address the concerns raised in the petition by the Shaw-Dupont Citizens Alliance (SDCA).

The SDCA filed the petition with ABRA last year requesting a five-year moratorium on (Continued on page 2)

ABRA defines violations by primary and secondary tier offenses. The main difference between the two is that five primary-tier offenses in a four year period will result in the revocation of an ABC license while secondary offenses in the same time frame would continue to incur fines. Visit www.ABRA.DC.gov to review the complete Civil Penalty Schedule. 

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2014 EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS

Restaurants, taverns, nightclubs, hotels and multipurpose facilities interested in participating in the extended hours program in 2014 can register at www.ABRA.DC.gov or the ABRA office. New Year's Day will be the first holiday in 2014 that registered on-premise establishments can remain open until 4 a.m. and operate 24 hours a day. The deadline to register for New Year's Day is Monday, Dec. 2.

Establishments that want to participate in extended hours need to register once each calendar year. On-premise establishments that have not already signed up to participate in 2013, can still do so by completing a 2013 registration form. Friday, Oct. 11 is the deadline to register for Veteran's Day on Monday, Nov. 11.

2 P.M., NOV. 14 NEW LICENSEE ORIENTATION

New ABC licensees and members of the public are invited to attend ABRA's orientation training on Thursday, Nov. 14 to review:

- District ABC laws and regulations,
- Working with ANCs,
- Settlement agreements,
- Expectations of licensees,
- Best practices, and
- Sound management.

Reservations for training and requests for interpreters must be made by Friday, Nov. 8:

- 202-397-3971, or
- Sarah.Fashbaugh@dc.gov.

Training will be conducted at the ABRA office.

ABRA OFFICE

2000 14th St., NW
Suite 400 S., 4th Floor,
Washington, D.C. 20009

ABRA Warning Sign Ready for Pick Up

New sign must be posted in establishments by Nov. 27.

Approximately 650 of 1,800 ABC licensees have picked up the new alcoholic beverage warning sign that was unveiled at the end of August. Licensees are required to pick up and post the new sign in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises by Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Signs are available for pick up at the ABRA office:

- 2000 14th St., NW, Suite 400 S., 4th floor

The new sign provides several benefits to the public and ABC licensees. It allows ABRA to address several warnings and requirements for consuming alcoholic beverages in one posted notice. Messages on the sign include:

- You must show a valid government issued photo I.D. displaying proof of age;
- You must be 21 years or older to purchase or consume alcohol;
- Driving while intoxicated or under the influence is illegal; and
- Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects.

The sign will reduce the number of notices an ABC establishment is required to post on its premises.

ABRA collaborated with a committee comprised of representatives from local hotel, restaurant, nightclub, and merchant associations to design the new sign in accordance with District law.

"We hope this new sign will assist with clearly communicating to the public the legal requirements for consuming alcoholic beverages and the risks that can be associated with doing so," said ABRA Director Fred Moosally. "We appreciate the time and effort of everyone on the committee. We will be working closely with ABC licensees over the next few months to ensure the signs are properly posted."

Letters were sent to ABC licensees with instructions for obtaining the new sign. Licensees may contact ABRA with questions at (202) 442-4423 or ABRA@DC.gov.

14th and U St. Corridor Moratorium Not in Public Interest

(Continued from page 1)

the issuance of new liquor licenses in an area extending 1,800 feet in radius from Ben's Next Door located at 1211 U St., NW. The size would have been comparable to the moratorium zone existing in Georgetown. The petition requested the Board:

- Prohibit the issuance of all new alcoholic beverage licenses, except licenses to sell beer and wine (class B) at full service grocery stores;
- Prohibit the transfer of licenses into the moratorium zone;
- Place a cap on the number of nightclub licenses at zero;
- Place a cap on the number of tavern licenses at ten; and
- Prohibit the expansion of existing licensees into adjoining spaces, properties or lots.

For more information on the Board's decision, review the Notice Denying Petition for Rulemaking and Order at www.ABRA.DC.gov.

		ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE WARNING	
	YOU MUST SHOW A VALID GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO ID DISPLAYING PROOF OF AGE.		YOU MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER TO PURCHASE OR CONSUME ALCOHOL.
	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE IS ILLEGAL.		DRINKING ALCOHOL DURING PREGNANCY CAN CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS.
			



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