



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

"Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C."

Special Meeting ANC2A Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 7 pm
Meeting held via Zoom only

1. Call to Order. Chair Trupti Patel called the meeting to Order at 7:01 pm. Commissioners DiCapo (01), May Yang (02), Trupti Patel (03) Ed Comer (04), Jim Malec (08) and Sean Youngstone (09) were present.

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Minutes of the April meeting was adopted by unanimous consent.

2. Matters before the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration.

An application was filed by Velvet Smoke, 2517 Pennsylvania Ave NW, for a Medical Cannabis Retailer license. Commissioner Yang indicated that she had visited the store and that it sold flavored tobacco in violation of DC law. Several neighbor groups opposed the application because it is too close to a licensed child-care center and the store offers flavored tobacco in violation of DC laws. John McGowan, representing Velvet explained the rules defining who they could serve and what they can sell. There has to be a waiting room, people can self-certify. Employees must register with ABCA. He explained that Velvet asked to have ability to make deliveries and that deliveries will take place in rear alley and off hours. He also indicated that Velvet wants a safe-use facility, which requires an air filter unit, security coverage. No alcohol can be served or tobacco can be used, there but music and food are permissible. One must enter the "safe use" area through the store, no entrance from the street is allowed. Mr. McGowan also stated they expect serve people staying in nearby hotels. They also applied for a "summer garden" endorsement, which allows consumption outside, but Velvet is now abandoning this request. He claimed that Velvet is not violating the setback limit with Learning Leaf child-care center. He further claimed that Velvet does not sell flavored tobacco products.

Commissioner Yang moved for debate and Commissioner DiCapo seconded the motion. Following extensive questions and comments from Commissioners and members of the public, Chair Patel moved to object to the application and to begin settlement agreement negotiations. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner DiCapo. The Motion was approved with all 6 Commissioners voting yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Ed Comer
Secretary