



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

February 25, 2026

Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1 Council Member of the District of Columbia
Chairperson-Committee on Committee Public Works & Operations
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 108
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) Performance Oversight Resolution 2026

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With five of six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Chairperson Patel and seconded by Commissioner Dicapò, adopted the following resolution by (4-1-0):

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “the Commission”) is a duly constituted body pursuant to the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, as amended, and is charged with advising District agencies on matters affecting its neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2025, ANC 2A was notified by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (“ABCA”) of a Medical Cannabis Retail License application (ABRA-130768) for Velvet’s, located at 2517 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; and

WHEREAS, the application was initially docketed for ANC 2A’s regularly scheduled April 2025 meeting and subsequently deferred to a special meeting held on May 7, 2025, to allow for additional discussion and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, following a contentious public meeting, ANC 2A voted to protest the license in order to provide adequate time for community feedback and to negotiate a Settlement Agreement addressing operational concerns; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2025, ABCA was formally notified of the protest, and Commissioners Trupti Patel and May Yang were designated as ANC 2A’s authorized representatives in the matter; and



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WHEREAS, on June 12, 2025, Commissioner Yang notified the Commission that she would be traveling internationally from June 14 through July 8, 2025, and would have limited access to email; and

WHEREAS, despite this notice, ABCA conducted a protest hearing on June 25, 2025, without notifying Commissioner Patel, the second designated ANC representative; and

WHEREAS, due to what was characterized as a nonappearance, ANC 2A was dismissed as a protestant, despite the fact that a designated representative was available and would have attended had notice been provided; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2025, ANC 2A submitted a formal written request for reinstatement outlining these circumstances; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has since learned that similar procedural failures have occurred with other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, indicating that this incident was not isolated; and

WHEREAS, the failure to notify all designated ANC representatives, confirm attendance, and review relevant communications prior to dismissing an ANC as a protestant undermines the statutory role of ANCs and erodes trust in the regulatory process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 2A expresses serious concern regarding ABCA’s handling of ANC protest procedures in this matter and urges immediate corrective action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 2A recommends ABCA adopt and formalize procedures requiring that **all designated ANC representatives receive notice of hearings, proceedings, and material communications** related to protested applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 2A recommends ABCA **confirm in advance which designated representative will be in attendance** prior to conducting protest hearings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 2A urges ABCA to **refrain from dismissing ANC protestants without a full review of relevant communications, designations, and context**, and to establish safeguards to prevent improper dismissals; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ANC 2A requests the Council of the District of Columbia include these issues in ABCA’s performance oversight and consider whether statutory or



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regulatory changes are necessary to ensure consistent and fair treatment of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Commissioner Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Chairperson Trupti J Patel (she/her)
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
Historic Foggy Bottom
Single Member District 2A03

CC:

Fred Moosally, Director, District of Columbia Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis Administration
Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia
Robert White, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Jimika Williams, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations