

ABC Ad Hoc Committee Zoom Meeting – July 25, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Roll call:

Present:

Ms. Mason
Councilman Leyba-Martinez
M. Sepulveda-Bassa
Officer Baker

Others:

John Stein, ACA
Howard McCoach, Esq.

Public: Jack Ayoub

Approval of previous minutes:

1st – Councilman Leyba-Martinez
2nd- Ms. Mason

Vote - yes:

Ms. Mason
Councilman Leyba-Martinez
M. Sepulveda-Bassa
Officer Baker

Minutes approved.

Discussion:

Process of bar converting to restaurant-bar

-They are categorized under the same license (plenary consumption) so it is a business decision whether to convert

-A liquor store is not able to convert (distribution license)

Should the committee reduce the distance requirement between plenary consumption license establishment.

-Currently under City Ordinance the distance requirement between the establishments is 500 feet, entrance to entrance

Committee recommends to eliminate the distance requirement in the three piolt zones

-Waterfront, Federal Street and Haddon Avenue

Consideration of removing the distance requirement city wide was rejected

Benefits of removing distance requirement in piolet zones

-potential for inactive license to be bought or sold

City cannot issue new license

-further economic development in the City

- expand nightlife and late dining opportunities

A goal of eliminating the distance requirement and establishment of the pilot zones is to not have a negative impact on community

Such as the surrounding residential zones already established and the surrounding businesses in or around the zones.

Concerns raised were the noise impact and unruly patrons after leaving the plenary consumption establishment and how to address those concerns

Any injury , hurt or harm falls on the business and they should self-police to assure compliance with the applicable laws.

Suggested that a collaboration with the Camden County police force to educate business owners to understand the proposed zones, ordinance and violations

Hours of operation under the City ABC ordinance:

- Monday through Saturday: 7:00 AM until 3:00 Am
- Sunday:12:00 PM until 3:00 AM

- Restaurants hours under ordinance section 485-32 are:
 - Sunday through Thursday: 6:00 AM until 11:00 PM
 - Friday and Saturday: 6:00 AM until 12:00 PM

- Latest alcoholic beverage can be consumed if purchased before 3:00 AM is 3:15 AM

The language in the proposed ordinance to create the pilot zones must be very specific

- Government action must be reasonable and not appear arbitrary

Committee is hopeful the pilot zone in the Federal Street corridor will help reduce loitering

Committee needs to gather data from Camden County Police Department

- what is the crime data now prior to the pilot zones?

Public Comment: Mr. Jack Ayoub

- Camden County Police should assist owners

- Most criminal conduct results from liquor stores, not bars or restaurant
 - loitering and drinking in public

Setting of next meeting:

August 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

- Committee to discuss which blocks in the three corridors should be considered for the pilot zones
- Committee needs to hold a public forum and will be set soon

Motion to adjourn – Granted

Adjourned at 5:26 PM