



ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ADVISORY BOARD

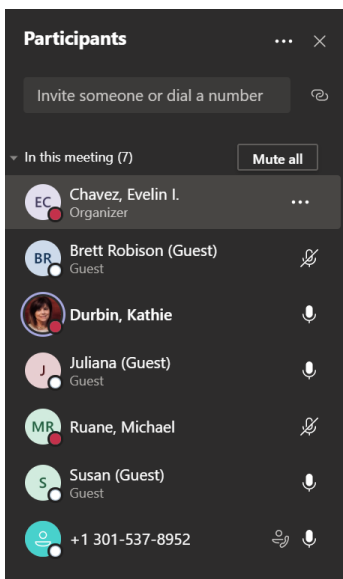
Marc Elrich
County Executive

Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Alcohol Beverage Services' Meeting Room
201 Edison Park Drive, 1st Floor, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Minutes

Members and Staff Present (virtually through Microsoft Teams): John Gaughan, Chair; Brett Robinson, ABAB Member; Juliana Levitt, ABAB Member; Susan Heltemes, BLC; Evelin Chavez, ABS; Lt. Michael Ruane, Montgomery County Police Department; and Kathie Durbin, Chief of Licensing, Regulation and Education & ABS (*Acting*) Director.

Absent: Christopher (Scott) Maravilla



John Gaughan called the meeting to order at 9:09 am. A motion was made to approve the November meeting minutes by Ms. Levitt, seconded by Ms. Heltemes, and unanimously approved by the members present.

General Discussion:

Mr. Gaughan asked Ms. Durbin to inform the board members about the transition of her new role as Acting Director for ABS. The department has had 9 stores close due to COVID issues, the

latest store that closed was the Clarksburg store. When an employee tests positive, the department closes the store(s) for 2 weeks.

Evelin Chavez, ABAB Update:

Ms. Chavez reported that new/reappointed ABAB members would be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

John Gaughan, ABAB Member:

Mr. Gaughan did not have any updates. However, he did request that all new ABAB members be given the opportunity to tour the department once things return back to normal, but for now he would like to have department chiefs attend ABAB meetings to give the members a change to see how a controlled county operates.

Kathie Durbin, ABS Update:

Ms. Durbin provided the board with information on the new bill that Del. Eric Luedtke has proposed. State Del. Eric Luedtke, introduced legislation to exempt Montgomery County bars and restaurants next year from paying on-premises alcohol licensing fees in 2021-2022. The county also could refund its 2020-2021 fees. It is currently in the process of being worked with the County Executive which is why it has not been brought to the Board of License Commissioners. The fiscal note is approximately 3 million dollars for both FY20 and FY21

The other local bill the county is currently working on is expanding the capacity limits of community performing art centers. The department is currently working on trying to develop another type of license which doesn't happen very often, making sure it is not a one-time license. This gives performing arts centers a little more flexibility. The department is also working on a project with Responsible Hospitality Institute which entails reopening and measuring social economy in Montgomery County. This report will be available very soon.

There is also a state-wide carry-out and delivery bill. The language was forwarded to Montgomery County Police for comment. This bill was changed from third party to employee only delivery, but that would allow more people to drive around with more alcohol. If the Bill passes, permission for delivery would have to be granted by the liquor board. Additionally, we are waiting for a chain store Bill to be filed. If this bill were to be approved, it would allow all chain stores to sell alcohol in our state.

Susan Heltemes, BLC Update:

Ms. Heltemes requested that a thank you letter be sent to Robert Dorfman thanking him for his contribution to the board. She hopes going forward the County makes an effort to look for someone with a similar business background like Bob had.

Despite the challenging times we are dealing with, the board continues to see new businesses apply for alcohol licenses. She also suggested that in the future the board should strive for a more diverse representation. Krazy Steve's on Seminary Rd, Silver Spring, MD is closing at the end of the month. Java Nation will open a new location in the Kentlands.

Lt. Michael Ruane, MCPD:

The police department started giving employees the COVID vaccine today, Tuesday, January 12, 2021. There were about 1,000 employees scheduled to have their vaccines over the next few days – this includes fire, police and corrections. Lt. Ruane reported that during the past eight

weeks of enforcement 262 people were arrested for DUI by Task Force officers. 48 of the 262 people arrested for DUI were arrested for DUI after being involved in a collision.

The total of arrest was about 9% percent less from the total arrests made last year which is still pretty high. These numbers are high in comparison to the previous years. Looking at 2020, there was a total of 39 fatal collisions with 41 people killed and 18 of those were alcohol related. Whereas 2019, there was a total of 32 crashes which is 7 less than we had this year and 33 people killed, 8 of which were alcohol less and that's ten less alcohol collision related accidents than we had this year.

Tasks:

- Put together a thank you letter for Robert Dorfman thanking him for his contribution to ABAB.
- Send ABAB members the list of dates for the virtual Alert trainings being offered.
- Ask Acting Director to have one or two division chiefs attend the next ABAB meeting to explain what their division does.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the ABAB is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.