



ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ADVISORY BOARD

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Alcohol Beverage Services
201 Edison Park Drive, 1st Floor, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Minutes

Members and Staff Present: In person meeting at Oak Barrel & Vine (Montgomery County Liquor & Wine Cabin John) *John Gaughan, Chair; Brett Robinson, ABAB Member; Dr. Nkemjika Ofodile-Carruthers, ABAB; Susan Heltemes, BLC; Victoria Virador, BLC; Lt. Adam Currie, Montgomery County Police Department; Amy Samman, Chief of Licensing, Regulation and Education; Kent Massie Chief of Retail Operations; and Kathie Durbin, ABS Director.*

Absent: Evelin Chavez, ABS

General Discussion:

The ABS members toured the new ABS retail store with Kent Massie. The tour began around 9:00 AM and ended at about 9:30 AM. Ms. Heltemes asked where shoplifting falls on list the of priorities. Lt. Currie said it depends on the circumstance. How much of a response? Is someone detained? Ms. Heltemes asked if ABS calls a non-emergency number or 911 to report incidents. Mr. Massie explained the police is always called because employees usually aren't aware of the circumstances. He also explained that ABS retail stores expect to hire a loss prevention manager who will target high theft stores as well as internal theft.

Mr. Gaughn asked if compliance checks have resumed, and Lt. Currie confirmed that they have and that the majority of the places in Silver Spring are not licensed. He said that from a police department standpoint they want them to continue. And added that the department currently has vacancies in Alcohol Division. Ms. Durbin explained that ABS is mandated to do 400 compliance checks per year. Ms. Virador commented the importance of businesses not overserving customers. Ms. Heltemes asked if the board could write a letter to support moving Human Resources. Ms. Durbin said they could if they would like but its supported. She added that most of the issues ABS is experiencing is related to Covid. Parents not allowing kids to participate.

Kathie Durbin, ABS Update:

Ms. Durbin introduced Victoria Virador as the new Board of License Commissioners Chair.

Amy Samman, ABS Update:

Ms. Samman provided an update on local bills and the grocery store statewide bills.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the ABAB is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.