

GET AN ABRA EDUCATION

2 P.M., SEPT. 5 NEW LICENSEE ORIENTATION

New ABC licensees and members of the public are invited to attend ABRA's orientation training on Thursday, Sept. 5 to review:

- District ABC laws and regs,
- Working with ANCs,
- Settlement agreements,
- Expectations of licensees,
- Tips for best practices, and
- Sound management.

Reserve your spot by Friday, Aug. 23 to attend:

- 202-397-3971, or
- Sarah.Fashbaugh@dc.gov.

9 A.M./2 P.M., SEPT. 12 HOTEL & RESTAURANT RECORD KEEPING 101

ABRA is hosting two compliance training sessions for restaurant and hotel licensees on Thursday, Sept. 12:

- 9-11 a.m. (Spanish interpreter available), or
- 2-4 p.m. (Korean interpreter available.)

Licensees will learn about:

- Food sales requirements,
- Food sales reporting,
- Quarterly statement filings, and
- Books and records tracking.

Reserve your spot by Friday, Aug. 23 to attend:

- 202-442-4438, or
- Monica.Clark@dc.gov.

Trainings are free of charge.

TRAINING LOCATION

2000 14th St NW,
Suite 400 S., 4th Floor,
Washington, D.C.



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Labor Day Deadline Approaches

Apply for extended hours by Aug. 2.

The deadline to apply for extended hours for Labor Day weekend is right around the corner.

The extended hours program allows eligible restaurants, taverns, hotels, and nightclubs licensed with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) to remain open until 4 a.m. and operate 24 hours a day during certain three-day holiday weekends, including Labor Day weekend. Licensees are required to register to participate.

For Labor Day weekend, alcoholic beverages can be sold, served, and consumed at registered establishments until 4 a.m., on the mornings of:

- Saturday, Aug. 31,
- Sunday, Sept. 1, and
- Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2.

In order to enroll in the extended hours program, a licensee must provide written notification and a public safety plan to ABRA by Friday, Aug. 2. Postmarks

do not count as received.

Once a licensee is registered and approved for extended hours for any holiday in 2013, the registration is valid for all remaining applicable holidays this year. A new application would need to be submitted to participate in 2014.

There is no fee to apply. Complete details, registration forms, and requirements are available at www.abra.dc.gov or ABRA's office: 2000 14th St. NW, Suite 400 S., 4th Floor, Washington, D.C.

On-premises establishments with settlement agreements that restrict closing hours are not eligible to register.

Contact ABRA at 202-442-4423 or email abra@dc.gov with questions. 



SECURITY PLAN ALERT

Is your establishment required to comply with a security plan?

If so, remember to submit your revised security plan to the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) by **Friday, Aug. 9**. Postmarks do not count as received.

As part of the Omnibus Act of 2012, all security plans must now comply with new requirements adopted by the D.C. Council, which took effect on Wednesday, May 1.

One of the biggest changes licensees will need to make to security plans is adding procedures for preserving a crime scene.

Licensees will also need to adhere to several new security camera requirements such as ensuring cameras are operational; maintaining footage related to incidents involving firearms or violence for at least 30 days; and surrendering footage to ABRA and Metropolitan Police officials within forty-eight hours of receiving a request.

In early July, ABRA mailed security plan forms along with informational guides to all licensed establishments required to comply with security plans. Forms must be returned to ABRA by the deadline to avoid any penalties.

ABRA Director Confirmed for Second Term

On July 10, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) Director Fred Moosally was confirmed to serve a second term by the District of Columbia Council.

Under Moosally's leadership, ABRA has been successful in advancing key agency initiatives.

In FY2012, ABRA regulatory inspections were up almost 15 percent from 2011. Compliance checks for underage drinking also increased almost 12 percent, with nearly 90 percent of establishments complying with sale to minor restrictions. A number that can in part be credited to the agency's nationally recognized program to combat underage drinking.

Fiscal performance was also successful. ABRA exceeded its revenue expectations for four consecutive fiscal years and was under budget for each.

Application processing time also improved in FY2012. Almost 97 percent of the temporary and one-day substantial change applications received by ABRA were processed within 15 days.

During his testimony on June 28, Moosally provided the Council with several agenda items for his next term, including:

- Providing licensees with a cohesive alcoholic beverage warning sign that will reduce the number of required notices to be posted at establishments from three to one;
- Updating the ABC licensee information handbook with the latest rules and regulations set forth by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board);
- Rolling out ABRA's new and improved website;
- Producing educational videos explaining ABRA's processes and procedures; and



ABRA Director Fred Moosally has served as the agency's permanent director since July 14, 2009.

- Implementing an online licensing payment system for renewals in FY2014.

The Board first appointed Moosally as director in 2009. He previously served as the agency's general counsel for more than eight years.

As director, Moosally oversees a staff of approximately 40 employees; ensures the proper enforcement of District alcoholic beverage laws and regulations; and coordinates Board and ABRA initiatives with the District of Columbia Council, executive office of the Mayor and applicable District agencies. 





Revisiting Settlement Agreements at Renewal

Taverns, nightclubs are eligible Sept. 30 if requirements are met.

More than 900 settlement agreements—formerly known as voluntary agreements—are attached to alcoholic beverage licenses in the District of Columbia. Settlements are agreed upon limitations to a license between a licensee and a protestant to a license.

In September, taverns and nightclubs will be eligible to file requests to change or terminate settlement agreements without the consent of any signatories to the agreement.

The catch is licensees need to meet all of the requirements. Requests can only be made to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) at the time of license renewal, which falls on Monday, Sept. 30 for taverns and nightclubs, and if the agreement has been in effect for more than four years.

Licensees also need to make a good faith effort to contact and meet with signatories. A request can still be made if the other party is unwilling to meet or if a new agreement cannot be reached. A notarized affidavit proving those efforts would need to be provided.

Revisiting a settlement agreement can only be done at the same time of handing in the license renewal application—not a day later. If taverns and nightclubs miss the renewal deadline this September, they will need to wait until 2016, which is when restaurants, hotels, and multipurpose facilities will be eligible to revisit settlement agreements.

Businesses should keep in mind that the Board treats any request to amend or terminate these agreements the same as a substantial change, which subjects the request to placarding and a potential protest.

Licensees who have questions can contact ABRA at 202-442-4448. 

ABC Board Summer Recess

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) will begin summer recess next month. As a result, the Board will not be in session on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Aug. 21,
- Wednesday, Aug. 28, and
- Wednesday, Sept. 4.

ABRA's office will remain open during the Board's recess and operate during regular business hours:

- 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and
- 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (license processing hours.)

ABRA's office is located at 2000 14th St. NW, Suite 400 S., Washington, D.C.



Last Call
July 2013