



## Mount Pleasant Business Association

### Notes from meeting with the Alcohol and Beverage Regulation Administration November 7, 2008 3PM

Attendees:

MPBA: Alex (from Dos Gingos), Alex and Harry (Marx Cafe), Jeremy (Tonic and Radius Pizza), Jamie (Don Jamie), Alberto (Don Juan), Alejandra (Haydee's), Merid (The Raven), Joseph (Corado's and Tikal Burrito Fast), Marleny (Marleny's Restaurant), Gabriela (MPBA). Other participants: Yazmin and Rosa from the tenants association, Juan Carlos a community organizer, Phil Lepanto new ANC Commissioner. Hear Mt Pleasant: Claudia, Wayne and Natalie. ABRA: Cynthia Simms, Peter Feather and Fred Moosally. LEDC: Yvette Zaragoza

The meeting started out by explaining the purpose of the meeting - to engage in constructive dialogue and finds ways to work collaboratively on issues. Also, to get basic questions answered. This was followed by an introduction of the MPBA and its mission and activities.

Business talked extensively about hours of operation and other rules not being applied uniformly. We also talked about how hard it is to get new businesses to come to MTP and the interest in putting the RHI (Responsible Hospitality Institute) process in place.

Fred and Peter said that they would support changes (like extending hours for music) but that there needed to be a plan (with a prototype voluntary agreement) that the community (including the ANC) endorses. When Natalie pointed out that we thought we had already done that, Fred explained the difference between working within the adversarial framework of a contested case and building a relationship with the Board on an on-going basis.

When we also politely pointed out that prior to the rounds of hearings, we were completely shut out of the process, he acknowledged that (1) they are constrained by the statute and (2) mistakes were made.

Overall, the discussion was very cordial and Peter and Fred emphasized how important it is for the business and non-profit community to engage with them. They gave some tips for getting new businesses opened using the stipulated license process (requiring ANC approval) and left the door open for us to come back with a plan to extend hours etc. The problem is that MPNA's VAs remain in place so businesses still have to deal with them. Claudia of Hear Mt Pleasant and other business owners are optimistic that it can move forward. It is going to take a lot more work and working closely (Hear Mt Pleasant, Mt Pleasant Main Street and the MPBA) to improve the current business environment. She thinks this gives Hear Mt Pleasant (and the RHI process) a real opening.

The three organizations are working on putting together a draft plan by mid-December.