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## Terminate MPNA Voluntary Agreements

Resolved, ANC1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board that termination of the "Voluntary Agreements" between the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance (MPNA) and certain Mount Pleasant restaurants, namely Haydee's Restaurant, Don Jaime's Restaurant, and Don Juan's Restaurant, will do no harm to Mount Pleasant.

Why: These restaurants are subject to other, more recent voluntary agreements with other neighborhood organizations, and in particular have signed, or have agreed to sign, voluntary agreements with the Mount Pleasant ANC. The more recent VAs incorporate a modernized system for dealing with problems that may arise, based on local "Responsible Hospitality" groups that can negotiate and resolve problems at the neighborhood level, without involving ABRA inspectors or the ABC Board. Conflict resolution at the neighborhood level will relieve ABRA and the Board from having to spend time and resources on minor problems, and will promote better engagement of restaurant operators and the neighboring public in cooperative efforts to resolve problems.

The existing Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance voluntary agreements are ten to thirteen years old, and have been rendered obsolete by changing demographics and income levels in this neighborhood. These primitive agreements include provisions inappropriate for such agreements, for example, restrictions that merely repeat District regulations, restrictions on the manner in which alcoholic beverages may be served (i.e., pitchers), and mandates to promote off-street parking for patrons. Other unduly restrictive provisions which banned live music and dancing have, happily, been removed by order of the ABC Board, but indicate the obsolescence of these circa-1999 agreements.

It is time that the MPNA agreements be replaced by more modern "cooperative agreements". In June, 2007, this ANC, by unanimous vote, advised the ABC Board to approve requests for termination of these three so-called voluntary agreements. Termination of these agreements will not only do no harm to the neighborhood, but will allow the more recent agreements, with their "responsible hospitality" provisions, to govern the relationship between the neighborhood and these restaurants, without competition from or conflict with the obsolete MPNA version of a decade ago.

*Passed by 5 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on June 15, 2010, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Edwards, Lepanto, Bosserman, Tunda, McKay.*