



**Lynne Breaux, President of the
Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON**

**PR18-0315, The “Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation
Administration Frederick P. Moosally Confirmation Resolution of 2009”**

**Friday, June 26th, 2009 – 10:00 am
Council Chamber, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004**

Good morning Councilmember Graham and Council staff. I am Lynne Breaux, President of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW). RAMW, a 501C 3 trade association, is proud to be the voice of the Metropolitan Washington food service industry and establishments of hospitality. RAMW has over 700 members ranging from casual eateries to internationally acclaimed fine dining restaurants. Approximately 87% of our member restaurants are licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

It is my pleasure to be here today in support of Fred Moosally’s appointment as Director of the Alcohol Beverage Regulatory Agency (ABRA). In my position at RAMW, I have frequent interaction with ABRA and have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Moosally since 1999. We have communicated frequently, as promoting responsible hospitality is our mutual goal. Mr. Moosally has always been professional, courteous and responsive to any questions and inquiries.

Furthermore, he understands the importance of restaurants to the communities as well as their revitalizing effect on building and sustaining our neighborhoods. Mr. Moosally has been positively responsive to invitations from the hospitality industry and has made himself available to present at meetings to answer questions and address concerns of licensed establishments in the District of Columbia.

Shortly after his interim appointment, Mr. Moosally was faced with the major challenge of registering those businesses which wished to remain open the later hours allowed by the Inaugural Hours Extension Act. Although we understand almost 300 licensees registered, we heard no complaints concerning the process. Despite the few neighborhoods who would not allow waivers of voluntary agreement limitations on hours, there was almost universal praise for all aspects of this temporary change in law, including ABRA's handling of this program. We suspect Mr. Moosally's leadership must have had something to do with the success.

Mr. Moosally appears to have embraced a policy of seeking compliance by educating licensees concerning the requirements of ABC laws and regulations rather than merely finding and punishing noncompliant businesses. This is an approach that has been sought by our association for many years. Since Mr. Moosally took the reins as interim director of ABRA in January, he has already managed to publish a quick guide of requirements for licensees, as well as a more comprehensive, detailed guide that sets forth in plain English the many,

many rules which must be followed by our members. We certainly applaud the shift in emphasis from punishment, to education and compliance.

I believe you have heard RAMW state in previous testimony before your committee its goal of helping members minimize contacts with government. ABRA has begun to adopt measures which will make licensee's interactions with the agency less onerous. Mr. Moosally has already started to implement our suggestion that quarterly food reports be filed on line. Previously, these reports had to be filed in person, or else the licensee had no proof that the form had been filed and risked a fine for noncompliance. When we discussed these issues with Mr. Moosally, he readily agreed that on line filing would protect all parties, and might result in staff economies in his office. We understand he hopes to have on-line filing implemented by next month.

If Mr. Moosally is confirmed, which we support, we look forward to continuing the partnership we have enjoyed thus far. We believe it is a partnership which seeks compliance by all licensees, by educating businesses as to their responsibilities, and reserving punishment for those businesses which are well aware of the rules, but choose to ignore them. We are hopeful that this approach, particularly if other agencies follow Mr. Moosally's lead, will begin to elevate the District from its last place position on the Small Business Survival Index, the least friendly jurisdiction within which to do business in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

