



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Bowser supports Police Chief's closure of Island Café and ABRA Board issues Summary Suspension

(Washington, DC) – On Saturday March 15th, 2008 at 1:17 AM an adult male was shot in the head and the hand at the Island Café, 829 Upshur Street, NW. Following the violent incident, Councilmember Bowser urged MPD to take aggressive action and suspend liquor sales immediately. MPD Chief Cathy Lanier suspended the liquor license of the Island Café for 96 hours, pending an investigation by the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) regarding the safety of this establishment's continued operation.

On Monday the ABRA Board met with MPD officials and today they issued a summary suspension which will keep the business closed until the ABRA Board has a hearing. The hearing date will be posted at the Island Café this morning at 11:30 AM and the press is invited to attend.

“I have heard from Petworth residents, ANC Commissioners and members of the Metropolitan Police Department about their concerns about this club.” said Councilmember Bowser. “This club has been cited for violations for a number of years. I commend the Chief of Police and the ABRA Board for taking swift action with this club until the investigation is complete. This is an action that will keep our residents and neighborhoods safer.”

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