COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSLYVANIA AVENUE, NW, SUITE 406
WASHINGTON, DC 20004
202.724.8068

WENDELL FELDER
Ward 7 Councilmember

Chair
Subcommittee on Local Business Development

October 20, 2026

Members of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration
899 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Opposition to License Transfer—Kingman Park Wine & Spirits, ABRA-130199

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to oppose the application by EthioMeloti, Inc., trading as Kingman Park Wine & Spirits, to transfer its Class A liquor license to 2409 Benning Road NE.

As the Councilmember representing Ward 7, I am concerned about the existing concentration of alcohol retailers along the Benning Road corridor and the impact another liquor store could have on a community already facing significant substance use challenges.

The Board should consider the cumulative impact of this proposed location, including the number and proximity of existing alcohol outlets and the potential to compound concerns involving public drinking, litter, and disruptive activity. Increasing alcohol availability in this setting could place additional pressure on residents, neighboring businesses, and public resources.

Our residents deserve a safe, welcoming commercial corridor with businesses that meet neighborhood needs and support its long-term growth. People experiencing substance use disorders also deserve access to treatment and support. Licensing decisions should account for these community needs and existing conditions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to deny the requested transfer to 2409 Benning Road NE. Please include this letter in the application record and carefully consider input from ANC 7D and affected residents.

Sincerely,

Wendell Felder
Ward 7 Councilmember