

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Aurora Enterprises, LLC :
2006 Rhode Island Ave NE :
Retailer MC - ANC 5B :
License No. 128386 :
Case #24-PRO-00125 :
 :
(Application for a :
New License - Requesting :
Endorsements for Home :
Delivery Services, :
Education Tasting, :
Summer Garden, :
and Safe Use Facility) :
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Wednesday
January 15, 2025

The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member
RYAN JONES, Member
DAVID MEADOWS, Member
TERI JANINE QUINN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
RAHEL KASSA, Licensee
JEFF JACKSON, Licensee Counsel

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:53 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Case Number 24-
4 PRO-00125 Aurora Enterprises, LLC, License Number
5 128386. Good morning, Mr. Orellana, can you
6 please elevate the rights of the parties in this
7 case?

8 MR. ORELLANA: Good morning, Chairman,
9 and the Board. Jeff Jackson, your access has
10 been elevated. Rahel Kassa, your access has been
11 elevated. That is all Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

13 MR. JACKSON: Chairman, Happy New Year
14 to you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
16 Mr. Jackson, Happy New Year. Rahel Kassa, can
17 you turn your camera on, please, if you have one?

18 (Pause.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Rahel Kassa, can
20 you please --

21 MS. KASSA: Rahel Kassa.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
23 camera you can turn on, ma'am?

24 MS. KASSA: It says it is on. Let me
25 please start my video. How about now?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I do not see
2 you, but you are there so that is fine. Oh, yes,
3 I can see you ma'am. All right, good morning.
4 Mr. Jackson, can you please identify yourself for
5 the record and your representation, sir?

6 MR. JACKSON: Yes, Jeff Jackson,
7 representative of Aurora Enterprises.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
9 Mr. Jackson. Ms. Kassa, can you please spell and
10 state your name for the record and identify your
11 representation?

12 MS. KASSA: My name is Rahel Kassa, and
13 I am from Aurora Enterprises.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I'm sorry,
15 I thought you were -- who is the ANC? Is this
16 the case where the ANC was having issues to log
17 on, or was that one of the other parties that was
18 having issues logging on?

19 MR. ORELLANA: I could check with
20 legal.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, please. I
22 am trying to figure it out. Mr. Jackson or Ms.
23 Kassa, were you having issues this morning
24 logging on?

25 MR. JACKSON: No, I was not, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Kassa, you
2 did not have any problems logging on this
3 morning?

4 MS. KASSA: Yes, I did. The link that
5 was provided was for yesterday's meeting, but a
6 updated link was sent before 10:30.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

8 MR. ORELLANA: I am being told she is
9 in a bad wi-fi spot.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who, the ANC?

11 MR. ORELLANA: Yes, Prita Piekara, ANC
12 5B06.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is it
14 that -- I mean, this is a case that they need to
15 be here.

16 MR. ORELLANA: I am going to suggest a
17 call in.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thanks.

19 (Pause)

20 MR. ORELLANA: Just waiting on an
21 update.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
23 you.

24 (Pause)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. What

1 I am going to do is let me recall this case. I
2 think we had received a message this morning that
3 the ANC was having some issues connecting, so I
4 know that the ANC representative is here. I am
5 not going to dismiss the case based on failure to
6 appear because we are on notice that they are
7 trying to appear, but they are having some
8 technical difficulties. So what I am going to do
9 Mr. -- let me see if there are any other protest
10 hearing cases before I move on. All right, so
11 let me -- have we heard any responses yet back
12 from the ANC?

13 MR. ORELLANA: Nothing yet.

14 MR. JACKSON: To give you an update,
15 Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of discussing
16 the settlement agreement.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I am
18 going to move forward with doing this protest
19 hearing status, because we have been in contact
20 with the ANC. Normally, we do not do protest
21 hearing status if one of the parties is not able
22 to make it. What the Board normally does is to
23 withdraw -- I'm sorry, is to dismiss the protest,
24 but we were informed today that the ANC
25 representative is having some technical

1 difficulties. She had contacted our legal office
2 and our IT specialist had also confirmed that the
3 individual was having some technical difficulties
4 in being able to log on. So with that said, I
5 believe that the individual is present so,
6 therefore, I am not recommending that we dismiss
7 this protest based on the failure of the ANC to
8 appear because we have sufficient information
9 that the ANC representative has been attempting
10 to log on. So the parties have identified
11 themselves for the record, and Mr. Jackson stated
12 that the parties are discussing settlement. If
13 this matter can be settled then it is settled,
14 however, this matter is scheduled for a protest
15 hearing on February 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., so
16 February 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Just want to
17 advise the parties that seven days prior to the
18 hearing you are required to complete the PIP. If
19 this matter can be settled the Board supports
20 settlement, so I will say good luck with your
21 settlement discussions, and if I do not see you
22 on February 12th at 1:30 then that tells me that
23 the parties have settled this matter. If there
24 is any representation that you can provide, or
25 the ANC representative can provide to our legal

1 office on the status we will look forward to
2 that. So thank you for your appearance, Mr.
3 Jackson, today.

4 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just please
6 remind the ANC, your representative, that the
7 hearing is scheduled for February 12th if it is
8 not settled it is February 12th at 1:30 p.m.,
9 okay?

10 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, sir. Yes,
11 have a good one.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
13 you. Have a great day.

14 MR. JACKSON: Okay.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 went off the record at 11:02 a.m.)
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<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:2 7:16 ABCA 1:23 able 5:21 6:4 above-entitled 7:15 access 2:9,10 advise 6:17 agreement 5:16 Alcoholic 1:2,15 ANC 1:7 3:15,16 4:10 4:11 5:3,4,12,20,24 6:7,9,25 7:6 Anderson 1:16,19 2:3 2:12,15,19,22 3:1,8 3:14,21 4:1,7,10,13 4:18,22,25 5:17 7:5 7:12 appear 5:6,7 6:8 appearance 7:2 Application 1:9 attempting 6:9 Aurora 1:6 2:4 3:7,13 Ave 1:6</p>	<p>DAVID 1:20 day 7:13 days 6:17 DC 1:23 Delivery 1:10 difficulties 5:8 6:1,3 discussing 5:15 6:12 discussions 6:21 dismiss 5:5,23 6:6 DISTRICT 1:1 doing 5:18 Donovan 1:16,19</p>	<p>6:11 7:3,4,10,14 JANINE 1:21 January 1:14 Jeff 1:24 2:9 3:6 JONES 1:20 JOSE 1:23 JR 1:19</p>	<p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 p.m 6:15,16 7:8 parties 2:6 3:17 5:21 6:10,12,17,23 Pause 2:18 4:19,24 Piekara 4:11 PIP 6:18 please 2:6,17,20,25 3:4 3:9,21 7:5 present 1:18,22 6:5 presiding 1:16 prior 6:17 Prita 4:11 PRO-00125 2:4 problems 4:2 process 5:15 protest 1:6 5:9,18,20,23 6:7,14 provide 6:24,25 provided 4:5</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>call 4:17 camera 2:17,23 Cannabis 1:2,15 case 1:8 2:3,7 3:16 4:14 5:1,5 cases 5:10 Chair 2:11 Chairman 2:8,13 5:15 Chairperson 1:16,19 2:3,12,15,19,22 3:1,8 3:14,21 4:1,7,10,13 4:18,22,25 5:17 7:5 7:12 check 3:19 COLUMBIA 1:1 complete 6:18 confirmed 6:2 connecting 5:3 contact 5:19 contacted 6:1 Counsel 1:24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>Facility 1:12 failure 5:5 6:7 February 6:15,16,22 7:7,8 figure 3:22 fine 3:2 forward 5:18 7:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>legal 3:20 6:1,25 License 1:7,9 2:4 Licensee 1:23,24 link 4:4,6 LLC 1:6 2:4 log 3:16 6:4,10 logging 3:18,24 4:2 look 7:1 luck 6:20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>Rahel 1:23 2:10,16,19 2:21 3:12 recall 5:1 received 5:2 recommending 6:6 record 3:5,10 6:11 7:16 remind 7:6 representation 3:5,11 6:24 representative 3:7 5:4 5:25 6:9,25 7:6 Requesting 1:9 required 6:18 responses 5:11 Retailer 1:7 Rhode 1:6 right 3:3 4:22,25 5:10 5:17 7:12 rights 2:6 RYAN 1:20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">D</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>Garden 1:11 give 5:14 going 4:16 5:1,5,8,18 good 2:5,8,15 3:3,8 6:20 7:11 GRANT 1:19 great 7:13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>ma'am 2:23 3:3 matter 1:5 6:13,14,19 6:23 7:15 MC 1:7 MEADOWS 1:20 mean 4:14 meeting 1:3 4:5 Member 1:19,20,20,21 message 5:2 met 1:16 morning 2:5,8,15 3:3,8 3:23 4:3 5:2 move 5:10,18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>Safe 1:12 says 2:24 scheduled 6:14 7:7 see 3:1,3 5:9 6:21 sent 4:6 Services 1:10 settled 6:13,13,19,23 7:8 settlement 5:16 6:12,20 6:21</p>
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Aurora Enterprises

Before: DC ABCA

Date: January 15, 2025

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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