

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

2 1:44 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon
4 everyone. We are back on the record. For those
5 who are just joining us for the first time, my
6 name is Donovan Anderson. Welcome to the ABC
7 Board. My name is Donovan Anderson. I'm
8 Chairman of the Board.

9 The Board has five members this
10 afternoon. That constitutes a quorum. The five
11 members who are participating this afternoon is
12 Mr. James Short, Ms. Rema Wahabzadah, Ms. Jeni
13 Hansen, and Mr. Ed Grandis. As I stated before,
14 the five members constitutes a quorum for the
15 conduct of business today.

16 Before we get started this afternoon,
17 there are -- I'd like to make a few instructions
18 very clear so that the conduct of this hearing is
19 understood by everyone. This is the only hearing
20 that we have on the calendar today.

21 Once your case is called, it will take
22 a moment for our IT specialist to elevate the
23 rights for each party to enable their camera and
24 microphone. Then, and only then, will you have
25 the ability to enable your equipment. There were

1 some other cases scheduled for this afternoon
2 that were cancelled so if there is anyone else
3 online for any other case, this is the only case
4 that is on our afternoon agenda today.

5 All right. Our first order of
6 business this afternoon is a protest hearing,
7 Case No. 19-PRO-00113 and 20-PRO-00003, Mirror
8 Lounge, License No. 111950.

9 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate
10 the rights of the protestant and the licensee. I
11 believe that the licensee is Bruno Casu. I'm
12 sorry, the attorney, I believe, is Sidon
13 Yohannes.

14 MS. ANDREWS: Stand by.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

16 Ms. Yohannes, your rights have been
17 elevated.

18 Ms. Glasgow, your rights have been
19 elevated.

20 Mr. Casu, your rights have been
21 elevated.

22 Mr. O'Brien, your rights have been
23 elevated.

24 Mr. Michael, your rights have been
25 elevated.

1 That's all, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
3 right. For the folks who have a camera, can you
4 please open your camera, please. Let me see.
5 Let me have the folks who are online please
6 identify themselves for the record.

7 I'll start with you, Ms. Yohannes.
8 Please spell your name.

9 MS. YOHANNES: Yes. Sidon Yohannes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.

11 Mr. Michael, can you please mute your
12 microphone, please.

13 MR. MICHAEL: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you're not
15 speak, please mute your microphone.

16 Go ahead, Ms. Yohannes.

17 MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Sidon Yohannes,
18 and that is S-I-D-O-N Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who do you
20 represent, ma'am?

21 MS. YOHANNES: The applicant.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who else? Let
23 me have -- who is with you and have them identify
24 themselves, please.

25 MS. YOHANNES: Yes. So the owners is

1 Mr. Bruno, Mr. Casu. If you two can identify
2 yourselves as the owner. I believe there are two
3 other people on the call who are witnesses.

4 Those two would be Mr. Michael and David O'Brien.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's have the
6 owners introduce themselves for the record.

7 MS. YOHANNES: He's muted.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you unmute
9 yourself, Mr. O'Brien?

10 MR. CASU: Hello. Good afternoon
11 everyone.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. Good
13 afternoon.

14 MR. CASU: My name is Bruno Casu of
15 the Mirror Lounge.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Casu, can
17 you please spell your name for the record,
18 please.

19 MR. CASU: Sure. My first name is B-
20 R-U-N-O, last name C-A-S-U.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Casu, for
22 some reason I can hardly hear you so can you
23 repeat it -- repeat your name and spell your name
24 again, please, sir. I cannot see you and you are
25 too far from the microphone so get closer.

1 MR. CASU: Okay. My name is Bruno
2 Casu. My first name is spelled B-R-U-N-O, my
3 last name is spelled C-A-S-U.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank
5 you.

6 Who else do we have?

7 MR. BEHA: Good afternoon. I'm an
8 owner. My name is M-A-N-F-R-I-D-A. My last name
9 is B-E-H-A.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know
11 who's speaking. I don't see who -- who just
12 spoke?

13 MR. BEHA: Manfrida Beha, owner.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your
15 name again, sir?

16 MR. BEHA: Manfrida Beha. My first
17 name is M-A-N-F-R-I-D-A, and my last name is B-E-
18 H-A.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes,
20 can you identify the person for the record and
21 spell their name, please?

22 MS. YOHANNES: Yes. That is Manfrida,
23 M-A-N-F-R-I-D-A is the first name. B-E-H-A is
24 the last name. He is at the same location with
25 the other owner, Bruno Casu, who just spoke.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Who
2 else do we have?

3 MS. YOHANNES: The other two
4 individuals, David O'Brien.

5 You want to identify yourself?

6 He's a witness.

7 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes. My name is David
8 O'Brien, D-A-V-I-D O-B-R-I-E-N.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who else do
10 we have?

11 MS. YOHANNES: And we have two other
12 witnesses. I believe they are also together.
13 That would be Miller Michael and Anthony Lyle, or
14 it could be just Miller Michael.

15 Mr. Michael, can you identify
16 yourself?

17 MR. MICHAEL: Yes. My name is Miller
18 Michael and I'm with my partner Anthony Lyle. We
19 are the owners of Lyle Michael, LLC.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm confused.
21 This is for Mirror Lounge. Who are these people?

22 MS. YOHANNES: There are no
23 protestants on this call currently.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know, I know.
25 Are they witnesses or are they owners? Who are

1 they? That's what I'm trying to find out.

2 MS. YOHANNES: They are witnesses.
3 The only owners are Bruno Casu and Manfrida Beha.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Miller, can
5 you mute your phone, please? If you're not
6 speaking, please mute your phone.

7 Go ahead, Ms. Yohannes.

8 MS. YOHANNES: The two individuals
9 that first identified themselves, Bruno Casu and
10 Manfrida Beha, they are the two owners.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And
12 the other two people, what are their names again,
13 please?

14 MS. YOHANNES: David O'Brien, Michael
15 Miller -- Miller Michael, and Anthony Lyle.
16 Those three individuals are witnesses.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. How
18 does Anthony Lyle spell his name?

19 MS. YOHANNES: A-N-T-H-O-N-Y L-Y-L-E.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Are
21 there any protestants on the line?

22 I mean, Ms. Andrews, is there anyone
23 else on this line?

24 MS. ANDREWS: No, sir.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All

1 right. Let me say this. This matter comes
2 before the Board for a consolidated protest on
3 two applications; one to renew 9th Street Lounge,
4 LLC., Mirror Lounge, Case No. 19-PRO-00113.

5 And the other application is a
6 substantial change for summer garden endorsement
7 with 13 seats, Case No. 20-PRO-00003. This
8 applicant is a Retailer Class C Tavern License
9 No. 111950 located at 1920 9th Street, N.W.

10 Before this hearing gets -- all right.
11 Now, it's my understanding, Ms. Yohannes, that
12 the protestant did not serve you. Is that
13 correct?

14 MS. YOHANNES: That's correct.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And it's my
16 understanding that the renewal and the
17 substantial change was being protested by two
18 different groups. Is that correct?

19 MS. YOHANNES: Yes, that's correct.

20 Both --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Go
22 ahead, ma'am.

23 MS. YOHANNES: No, go ahead. I was
24 just going to say both groups were identified in
25 the email correspondence. Both were asked about

1 the protest information form. Both did not serve
2 this form on me.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And both
4 protestants are not here today. Is that correct?

5 MS. YOHANNES: That is correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is it
7 that -- since the protestants are not here today,
8 what is it that the licensee -- what is it that
9 the licensee is requesting of the ABC Board?

10 MS. YOHANNES: The licensee is
11 requesting that the Board approve both
12 applications and dismiss the protest.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I make the
14 motion that the ABC Board approve the renewal of
15 the license.

16 Can you tell Mr. O'Brien to be quiet?
17 He has no reason to say nothing.

18 I make a motion that the ABC Board
19 approve the renewal of the license and, secondly,
20 that the ABC Board approve the substantial change
21 application based on the failure of the
22 protestant to prosecute this matter. This matter
23 was scheduled for a protest hearing today at
24 1:30.

25 I had pushed the hearing back to 1:00

1 -- I'm sorry, it was scheduled for 1:30. They
2 were at the status hearing when the motion was
3 made to consolidate this matter. Both hearings
4 were scheduled for 1:30 today. We started the
5 hearing at 1:45 -- at 1:40. It is now 1:57.

6 The protestants did not provide a PIP
7 to the Agency or to the licensee and the
8 protestants are not here today. With that said,
9 I make a motion that the Board dismiss the
10 protest on both cases, renew the license, and
11 approve the substantial change application. Is
12 there a second? Is there a second?

13 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah
14 seconds.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah
16 seconds the motion. I will now take a roll call
17 vote on the motion that has been properly
18 seconded by Ms. Wahabzadah.

19 Mr. Short.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah.

22 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah.

23 I agree.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen.

25 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen. I agree.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.

2 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis. I agree.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.

4 I agree. The matter passes 5-0-0. The protest
5 has been dismissed. The license has been renewed
6 and the substantial change application has been
7 approved. The Board will issue an order
8 accordingly. Thank you very much for your
9 participation today and have a great day. Thank
10 you very much. Bye bye.

11 This concludes the afternoon session
12 of the Board. If there are no other business, I
13 will now close the meeting formally.

14 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
15 Beverage Control Board for the District of
16 Columbia and in accordance with the Title 3,
17 Chapter 45, Office of Open Government, I move
18 that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on
19 February 3, 2021, for the purpose of discussing
20 and hearing reports concerning ongoing or planned
21 investigations of alleged criminal or civil
22 misconduct or violations of law or regulations
23 and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel
24 on the Board's investigative agenda, legal
25 agenda, and licensing agenda for February 3, 2021

1 as published in the D.C. Register on January 29,
2 2021. Is there a second?

3 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
5 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
6 vote on the motion that has been properly
7 seconded by Mr. Short.

8 Mr. Short.

9 MEMBER SHORT: I agree.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah.

11 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah.

12 I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen.

14 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen. I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.

16 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis. I agree.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.

18 I agree. As it appears that the motion has
19 passed 5-0-0 I hereby give notice that the ABC
20 Board will hold the aforementioned closed meeting
21 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notice will
22 also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room
23 bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar
24 on ABRA's website, and published in the D.C.
25 register in as timely a manner as practical.

1 We are now adjourned for the day for
2 our public session. I want to thank the Board
3 members for their participation today. The Board
4 will now return to executive session. Thank you
5 very much. See you. Bye bye.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
7 off the record at 2:01 p.m.)

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9th 1:6,7 9:3,9

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Mirror Lounge

Before: DCABRA

Date: 01-28-21

Place: teleconference

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



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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