

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
 + + + + +  
 MEETING

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 IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
   :  
 The Cafe-Bar at 14th, LLC:           :  
 t/a Sette Osteria                    :  
 1635 14th Street NW                : Show Cause  
 Retailer CR - ANC 4A                : Hearing (Status)  
 License No. 89205                    :  
 Case #20-CC-00011                   :  
   :  
 (Sale to Minor Violation):  
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Wednesday  
 February 2, 2022

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

**PRESENT:**

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson  
 BOBBY CATO, JR., Member  
 RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member  
 EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

SARAH FASHBAUGH, DC ABRA Staff  
 MOHAMED MEHDI ZORGANI, APPLICANT  
 JAMES JORDAN, ESQ., DC OAG

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

2 10:52 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The  
4 next case on our calendar is Case Number  
5 20-CC-00011, Sette Osteria, License Number 89205.

6 Ms. Fashbaugh, can you please elevate  
7 the rights of the Licensee in this case, please?

8 MS. FASHBAUGH: Please stand by. I am  
9 not seeing Iraklis Karabassis on the line. If  
10 you are representing Sette Osteria, can you  
11 please send me a chat? I'm not seeing the owner  
12 on the line, or Rachelle (phonetic).

13 Chairperson, I haven't received a  
14 chat, so I think it's fair to say that they're  
15 not present.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
17 thank you.

18 Mr. Jordan, can you please spell and  
19 state your name for the record, please? Good  
20 morning.

21 MR. JORDAN: Good morning, Mr.  
22 Chairperson, this is James Jordan, J-A-M-E-S J-  
23 O-R-D-A-N, on behalf of the District.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Jordan. I see that the licensee is not here.

1       However, since this is a show cause hearing  
2       status, it's not mandatory for the Licensee to be  
3       here. So this matter is in the schedule for a  
4       show cause hearing on March 2nd, 2022, at 1:30  
5       p.m.

6                   MR. JORDAN: Thank you.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

8                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
9       went off the record at 10:53 a.m. and resumed at  
10      10:55 a.m.)

11                  MS. FASHBAUGH: Stand by, I do have a  
12      raised hand from someone named Mohamed. Can I  
13      please unmute them in case they represent  
14      someone?

15                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Hello?

16                  MR. ZORGANI: Hello, everyone.

17                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.  
18      You are here for what case, sir?

19                  MR. ZORGANI: I've been here for Sette  
20      Osteria. I'm the general manager, on behalf of  
21      Iraklis Karabassis and Rachelle. I just didn't  
22      know how to participate. I heard that you want  
23      me to send you a chat, but I didn't know how. So  
24      now I figured this out.

25                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.

1 All right. So let me recall Case Number  
2 20-CC-00011.

3 Mr. Jordan, can you please spell and  
4 state your name for the record again, please?  
5 I'm sorry, Sette Osteria, License Number 89205.

6 Mr. Jordan, can you please state and  
7 spell your name for the record, please?

8 MR. JORDAN: Of course. James Jordan  
9 on behalf of the District. That's J-A-M-E-S, J-  
10 O-R-D-A-N.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
12 Mohamed, can you please spell and state your name  
13 for the record, and your relationship to this  
14 establishment, sir?

15 MR. ZORGANI: Yes. My name is  
16 Mohamed, M-O-H-A-M-E-D, middle name Mehdi,  
17 M-E-H-D-I, last name Zorgani. And I am the  
18 general manager and vice president of Operations  
19 for the company.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, can you,  
21 you didn't spell your last name, sir.

22 MR. ZORGANI: Zorgani, Z-O-R-G-A-N-I.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
24 Now, you said you're the general manager and vice  
25 president. Are you on the license, sir?

1 MR. ZORGANI: I am not on the license,  
2 no.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you  
4 provided the Agency with a letter of  
5 representation from your employer to say that you  
6 are able to work with this establishment at this  
7 hearing today, sir?

8 MR. ZORGANI: That I have to check  
9 with Rachelle, who's in charge of these things.  
10 I'm not aware.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
12 Well, this matter in a schedule for a show cause  
13 hearing. I mean, my position, sir, is the fact  
14 that you have not provided us -- and I don't know  
15 if there was an offer in compromise.

16 But I guess the bottom line is that --  
17 Mr. Jordan, are you aware of whether or not there  
18 was an offer in compromise in this case?

19 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chairperson, the  
20 offer in compromise has been communicated to the  
21 Licensee. I am unaware if it has been accepted  
22 by the business.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And whose case  
24 is this, Mr. Jordan?

25 MR. JORDAN: This is Mr. Stephen

1 Ortiz' case.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm  
3 sorry, what's your last name again, sir?

4 MR. ZORGANI: Zorgani.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Zorgani, I  
6 would ask that you, well, I'm sorry. Mr. Jordan,  
7 was there -- Mr. Zorgani, do you know whether or  
8 not you had, I'm sorry, on behalf of the  
9 Licensee, whether or not you had accepted the  
10 offer in compromise that was provided by the  
11 Government?

12 MR. ZORGANI: I was not aware of the  
13 offer in compromise. Again, I will double check  
14 today with Rachelle to see where do we stand with  
15 it.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, all  
17 right. Then I would ask that you reach out to  
18 the attorney, Mr. Ortiz, whose case this is  
19 assigned to. And it's my understanding that  
20 there is an offer in compromise on the table.

21 If the parties have agreed to the  
22 offer in compromise, they can provide this in  
23 writing to the Agency. And then if the Board  
24 accepts it, then we will not have the hearing on  
25 the second of March. But currently the hearing

1 is scheduled for March 2nd, 2022. And I'll ask  
2 you, sir, to reach out to Mr. Ortiz.

3 You should have the -- the reason why,  
4 you're saying that you don't understand how to --  
5 you're saying that you don't have the ability to  
6 participate in the chat.

7 So, Mr. Jordan, can you have Mr.  
8 Ortiz, can you remind Mr. Ortiz to reach out once  
9 again to the Licensee just to provide -- if  
10 there's an offer in compromise provided to them,  
11 and let them know that, if the offer in  
12 compromise is accepted, that it can be provided  
13 in writing to the Board. And we'll review it.  
14 And if it's accepted, then there's no need to  
15 have a hearing on the second. All right?

16 MR. JORDAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

17 MR. ZORGANI: Okay. So I think --  
18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. ZORGANI: Go ahead, I have a  
20 question, if you don't mind.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

22 MR. ZORGANI: Now, at this stage  
23 today's hearing was just preliminary hearing, but  
24 March 2nd is the final hearing, correct?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. But

1 it's my - there was an offer in compromise.  
2 It's my understanding that it was on the table.  
3 You said that you were not aware of it. And I'm  
4 not in a position to state what it is.

5 And this is not Mr. Jordan's case. So  
6 we'll make sure that we will have you in contact  
7 with Mr. Ortiz. So if there is an offer in  
8 compromise that's accepted in writing we don't  
9 need to have this hearing, sir, okay?

10 MR. ZORGANI: Okay, sounds good.  
11 Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
13 okay. You have a great day. Thank you, bye-bye.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 11:01 a.m.)  
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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: Sette Osteria

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 02-02-22

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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