

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
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 MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
   :  
 Hiwot Ethiopian                    :  
 Restaurant & Market, LLC, :  
 t/a Hiwot Ethiopian                :  
 Restaurant and Market            : Summary Suspension  
 5333 Georgia Ave NW             : Hearing  
 License #100297                   :  
 Retailer CR - ANC 4D             :  
 Case # 21-CMP-00005             :  
   :  
 (The Alcoholic Beverage         :  
 Control Board Closure -         :  
 February 1, 2021)                :

Wednesday  
 February 10, 2021

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  
 JENI HANSEN, Member  
 JAMES SHORT, JR., Member  
 REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff  
 JOHN LUI, DC OAG  
 SARA TESHOME, Licensee

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

2 10:50 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case  
4 on our calendar is Case No. 21-CMP-0000, Hiwot  
5 Ethiopian Restaurant and Market, License No.  
6 100297.

7 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate  
8 the rights of the Government. I believe its Mr.  
9 Lui, and the Licensee, please.

10 MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.

11 Mr. Lui, your rights have been  
12 elevated.

13 Ms. Teshome, your rights have been  
14 elevated.

15 That's all, Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

17 Ms. Teshome, can you please -- do you  
18 have a camera? If you have a camera, can you  
19 open your camera, please?

20 MS. TESHOME: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please open  
22 your camera. I'm sorry?

23 MS. TESHOME: Okay. Is it open now?

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I cannot  
25 see you, ma'am. That's better. Thank you. Ms.

1 Teshome, it's my understanding that you have  
2 requested a translator for this morning. Is that  
3 correct?

4 MS. TESHOME: Yes, that is okay. I  
5 can go.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So are you  
7 stating that you are comfortable with moving  
8 forward with this hearing without a translator?  
9 Is that correct?

10 MS. TESHOME: Yes, yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, fine.  
12 Thank you.

13 Can I have the parties introduce  
14 themselves for the record starting with the  
15 Government. Please state and spell your name,  
16 please. I cannot hear you, Mr. Lui. I cannot  
17 hear you.

18 MR. LUI: Can you hear me?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear  
20 you now.

21 MR. LUI: Good morning, Mr.  
22 Chairperson. John Lui on behalf of the District  
23 of Columbia. That's J-O-H-N L-U-I. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

25 Ms. Teshome, can you state and spell

1 your name for the record, please.

2 MS. TESHOME: Okay. My name is Sara  
3 Teshome, S-A-R-A, last name is T-E-S-H-O-M-E.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is your  
5 relationship to the establishment?

6 MS. TESHOME: I am the owner.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

8 Mr. Lui, are there any preliminary  
9 matters in this case?

10 MR. LUI: Yes, there is, Mr.  
11 Chairperson.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is  
13 that, please?

14 MR. LUI: There is an offer in  
15 compromise to present for the Board's approval.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
17 Please tell us what it is.

18 MR. LUI: Certainly. There are 10  
19 terms. No. 1, Respondent shall serve a 15-day  
20 suspension of its ABC license. The date of the  
21 15-day suspension to be served shall be Monday,  
22 February 1, 2021, through Monday, February 15,  
23 2021, which includes time served during the  
24 summary suspension period. The ABC license  
25 suspension shall be lifted at 8:00 a.m. on

1 Tuesday, February 16, 2021 provided all other  
2 applicable requirements in this OIC have been  
3 satisfied by the Respondent.

4 No. 2, Masks. Except when eating or  
5 drinking while seated during the public health  
6 emergency, the Respondent shall require that all  
7 owners and employees of the establishment wear a  
8 mask, a face covering while present on the  
9 licensed premises regardless of whether they are  
10 on duty.

11 Respondent shall also require patrons  
12 during the public health emergency to wear masks  
13 or face coverings prior to entering or while  
14 waiting in line outside the licensed premises,  
15 while travel to use the restroom, or until they  
16 are seated and eating or drinking.

17 No. 3, Music and Entertainment.  
18 Respondent shall not offer live music or  
19 entertainment including disc jockeys while the  
20 District of Columbia maintains subject to the  
21 Mayor's Orders 2020-067, 2020-075, 2020-080,  
22 2020-119, and in accordance with the Board's  
23 Notice of 9th Emergency Rulemaking. The  
24 Respondent shall only offer recorded or  
25 background music that is played at a

1 conversational level.

2 No. 4, Operating Hours. Respondent  
3 shall not sell, serve, or permit the consumption  
4 of alcoholic beverages past 10:00 p.m. but may  
5 operate for patrons until midnight from any day  
6 of the week while the District of Columbia  
7 remains subject to the Mayor's orders and in  
8 accordance with the Board's ruling.

9 No. 5, Dining Activities. Respondent  
10 shall only serve food and alcoholic beverages to  
11 patrons seated at tables while the District of  
12 Columbia remains subject to the Mayor's orders  
13 and in accordance with the Board's ruling.  
14 Tables shall be placed so that patrons in  
15 different parties are placed at least six feet  
16 apart from one another with no more than six  
17 patrons per table.

18 Respondent shall have a menu in use  
19 containing a minimum of three prepared food items  
20 available for purchase and shall require patrons  
21 to purchase one or more of the prepared food  
22 items per table. Patrons shall be permitted to  
23 walk around the establishment but food and/or  
24 alcoholic shall not. Excuse me, patrons shall  
25 not be permitted to walk around the establishment

1 with food and/or alcoholic beverages.

2 No. 6, Bar Activities. Respondent  
3 shall not seat patrons at indoor or outdoor bars  
4 that are being staffed or utilized by a  
5 bartender. Patrons shall not be permitted to  
6 stand at an indoor or outdoor bar to order food  
7 or alcoholic beverages.

8 No. 7, Contact Tracing System.  
9 Respondent shall implement a reservation system  
10 by phone, online, or on site and keep customer  
11 logs to facilitate contact tracing with D.C.  
12 Health.

13 No. 8, Capacity. Respondent shall  
14 limit its indoor dining capacity to no more than  
15 25 percent of the lowest indoor occupancy load or  
16 seating capacity on a Certificate of Occupancy  
17 excluding employees and outdoor seating while the  
18 District of Columbia remains subject to the  
19 Mayor's orders, whichever applies, and in  
20 accordance with the Board's ruling.

21 No. 9, Social Distancing. Prior to  
22 lifting the suspension of the establishment's  
23 alcoholic beverage license, an ABRA investigator  
24 shall conduct a walk-through of the licensed  
25 establishment with Respondent to evaluate the

1 establishment's complaints with the District's  
2 social distancing requirements. This evaluation  
3 shall include an assessment of the  
4 establishment's compliance, with the Mayor's  
5 orders, and 23 DCMR Section 810.

6 No. 10, Show Cause. This matter will  
7 be referred to the Office of the Attorney General  
8 for possible show cause proceeding.

9 That is it, Mr. Chairperson.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
11 thank you.

12 Ms. Teshome, it's my understanding  
13 that there is an offer in compromise and Mr. Lui  
14 just stated the terms of the offer in compromise  
15 and in pertinent part stated that your business  
16 will remain closed from February 1st until  
17 February 15th and that the suspension will be  
18 lifted at 8:00 a.m. on February 16th. Is this  
19 your understanding of the offer in compromise?

20 MS. TESHOME: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you aware  
22 that by accepting an offer in compromise that you  
23 are giving up your right to a hearing?

24 MS. TESHOME: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you also



1 aware that by accept an offer in compromise that  
2 you are giving up the right to appeal this  
3 matter?

4 MS. TESHOME: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
6 With that said, I make a motion that the offer in  
7 compromise that was read into the record by Mr.  
8 Lui be accepted. Is there a second?

9 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has  
11 seconded the motion. We will now have a roll  
12 call vote on the motion that has been properly  
13 seconded by Mr. Short.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato.

16 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato. I agree.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah.

18 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah.

19 I agree.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett.

21 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett. I  
22 agree.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen.

24 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen. I agree.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.

1                   MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis. I  
2 agree.

3                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.  
4 Anderson. I agree. The matter, therefore,  
5 passes 7-0-0.

6                   I want to thank the parties for  
7 working this matter out and coming to an  
8 agreement. Have a great day. Thank you very  
9 much.

10                  MS. TESHOME: Thank you.

11                  (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record at 10:59 a.m.)

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<b>A</b>	<b>cause</b> 8:6,8 <b>Certainly</b> 4:18 <b>Certificate</b> 7:16 <b>Chair</b> 2:15 <b>Chairperson</b> 1:15,18 2:3,16,21,24 3:6,11 3:19,22,24 4:4,7,11 4:12,16 8:9,10,21,25 9:5,10,15,17,20,23,25 10:3 <b>closed</b> 8:16 <b>Closure</b> 1:11 <b>Columbia</b> 1:1 3:23 5:20 6:6,12 7:18 <b>comfortable</b> 3:7 <b>coming</b> 10:7 <b>complaints</b> 8:1 <b>compliance</b> 8:4 <b>compromise</b> 4:15 8:13 8:14,19,22 9:1,7 <b>conduct</b> 7:24 <b>consumption</b> 6:3 <b>contact</b> 7:8,11 <b>containing</b> 6:19 <b>Control</b> 1:2,11,15 <b>conversational</b> 6:1 <b>correct</b> 3:3,9 <b>covering</b> 5:8 <b>coverings</b> 5:13 <b>CR</b> 1:9 <b>Crockett</b> 1:19 9:20,21 9:21 <b>customer</b> 7:10	<b>entering</b> 5:13 <b>entertainment</b> 5:17,19 <b>establishment</b> 4:5 5:7 6:23,25 7:25 <b>establishment's</b> 7:22 8:1,4 <b>Ethiopian</b> 1:6,7 2:5 <b>evaluate</b> 7:25 <b>evaluation</b> 8:2 <b>excluding</b> 7:17 <b>Excuse</b> 6:24	<b>keep</b> 7:10
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Hiwot Ethiopian Restaurant

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-10-21

Place: teleconference

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



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