

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
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Toro Bar Corporation :
t/a Toro Bar :
3708 14th Street NW :
Retailer CT - ANC 4C :
License No. 092074 :
Case #23-PRO-00009 :
 :
(License Renewal) :
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Tuesday
February 21, 2023

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
met via videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher,
Board's Agent, presiding.

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

ANA DE LEON, Applicant Counsel
MARIA R. ESCOLERO DE CRUZ, Applicant
RALPH BERNSTEIN, Protestant

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

2 10:00 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, everyone.
4 Thank you for joining ABRA's roll call hearings,
5 being conducted via the WebEx platform provided
6 by the DC Office of Open Government.

7 My name is LaVerne Fletcher. I'll be
8 conducting these roll call hearings as the
9 Board's Agent.

10 There are five cases on the calendar
11 today. The first case on the calendar is Toro
12 Bar, Toro Bar. This is Case No. 23-PRO-00009,
13 Toro Bar Corporation, 3708 14th Street NW, License
14 No. ABRA 092074. This is a Retailer Class C2
15 License Renewal. The protest issues are adverse
16 impact on peace, order and quiet, real property
17 value, residential parking, and vehicular and
18 pedestrian safety.

19 My name is LaVerne Fletcher conducting
20 the roll call hearings as the Board's Agent.

21 Who is present on behalf of Toro Bar?

22 MS. DE LEON: Good morning. My name is
23 Ana De Leon, and I represent Toro Bar, and I have
24 here also the owner.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. DeLeon, would you,

1 before we introduce the owner would you spell
2 your name for the record, please?

3 MS. DE LEON: Yes, ma'am. It's Ana, A-
4 N-A, De Leon, D-E-L-E-O-N.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you.

6 Ms. Reyes, if you could spell your
7 name for the record, state it and spell it for
8 the record, please?

9 MS. REYES: M-A-R-I-A R D-E, Cruz,
10 C-R-U-Z, Cruz.

11 MS. FLETCHER: No, that's not the name
12 I have. So, the name that I have is Rosilia De
13 Reyes, but what is -- are you that person? What
14 name are we going to use?

15 MS. REYES: Maria R Cruz, that's the
16 real name.

17 MS. FLETCHER: You can tell me what
18 name we should use. You want me to change it
19 from Rosilia De Reyes, and change it in the
20 record to something else?

21 MS. REYES: Maria R. Escolero De Cruz,
22 that what is on the license.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. I'm using the
24 name Ms. De Leon gave me. I'm going to change
25 it.

1 MS. DE LEON: It would be Maria R. For
2 Maria Rosilia.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Give me a minute.
4 Let me change it, one second.

5 Okay, I'm ready. So, What's the first
6 name?

7 MS. DE LEON: Yeah, M-A-R-I-A.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

9 MS. DE LEON: Then Rosilia, but it
10 would be middle initial R.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

12 MS. DE LEON: And then, Escolero, E-S-
13 C-O-L-E-R-O De Cruz.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, C-R-U-Z?

15 MS. DE LEON: Then yes, D-E C-R-U-Z.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So, we are going
17 to change the name to that.

18 MS. DE LEON: That is her true name on
19 her ID, yes, ma'am.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

21 And, we also have a Group of Five. Is
22 anyone present on behalf of the Group of Five or
23 more?

24 MR. BERNSTEIN: Hello, can you hear me?

25 MS. FLETCHER: I sure can.

1 MR. BERNSTEIN: Hello, can you hear me?

2 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, this is Ralph
3 Bernstein, R-A-L-P-H B-E-R-N-S-T-E-I-N. I am
4 the representative from the Group of Five or
5 More, the 1400 block, residents of the 1400 block
6 of Quincy Street and Spring Road NW.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Bernstein, are there
8 any other members of your group?

9 MR. BERNSTEIN: Hello, can you hear me?

10 MS. FLETCHER: I sure can.

11 Are there any other members of your
12 group present today?

13 MR. BERNSTEIN: Not this morning.

14 MS. FLETCHER: That's fine. What that
15 means is that your group is granted conditional
16 standing as a Protestant. At the upcoming status
17 hearing, at least four more people will need to
18 appear who are not here today. At that time, the
19 Board would grant full standing to your group as
20 a Protestant. Otherwise, the protest would be
21 dismissed.

22 MR. BERNSTEIN: Understand.

23 MS. FLETCHER: But today your group is
24 granted full standing as a Protestant, I mean,
25 granted conditional standing as a Protestant.

1 Excuse me one second, please.

2 We need to schedule a date for
3 mediation, a status hearing, and a protest
4 hearing. I'm going to give you the dates for the
5 status hearing and protest hearing first.

6 The status hearing is scheduled for
7 March 22nd, March 22, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. That's
8 the status hearing.

9 The protest hearing is scheduled for
10 May the 3rd, 2023, at 1:30.

11 We need to set a date for mediation.
12 I'll give you the next date available for
13 mediation. The next available day for mediation
14 is March the 7th. That's a Tuesday, March 7th, any
15 time between 10:00 and 1:30 in the afternoon.

16 MS. DE LEON: Oh, I'm sorry, Ms.
17 LaVerne.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Any time between 10:00
19 and 1:30.

20 MS. DE LEON: 1:00 p.m., would be okay.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, 1:00 p.m. would be
22 fine.

23 Mr. Bernstein, is that good for you,
24 1:00 on March 7th?

25 MR. BERNSTEIN: I'm glad that that's

1 okay for them, but, yeah, no, I would need to,
2 first can I clarify? You said I need to get four
3 more, at least four more, and I can have more.

4 MS. FLETCHER: You won't need four for
5 mediation. You just need four when you appear
6 for the status hearing.

7 MR. BERNSTEIN: Status hearing, okay,
8 that's 10:30 on the 22nd of March.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, the status hearing
10 is on March 22nd at 10:30. It is during that
11 hearing that you need the four people, not for
12 the mediation. You can appear for the mediation
13 on behalf of the group.

14 MR. BERNSTEIN: Understood. Can I get
15 back to you on that time? I have to check my
16 work calendar.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Um --

18 MR. BERNSTEIN: Or, I can do it right
19 now, hold on.

20 MS. FLETCHER: That would be helpful,
21 thank you.

22 MR. BERNSTEIN: Of course. Let me see,
23 7 March.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, at 1:00.

25 MR. BERNSTEIN: Yes, 1:00 is fine.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, one second.

2 MS. DE LEON: We have a question, Ms.
3 LaVerne. Is this also done by WebEx or is this
4 in person?

5 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. DeLeon, is that you
6 speaking?

7 MS. DE LEON: Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry,
8 yes, ma'am, this is Ana De Leon.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Yes, that will
10 also be done by WebEx. At this time all of the
11 Board's proceedings are by WebEx.

12 MS. DE LEON: Wonderful, thank you so
13 much.

14 MS. FLETCHER: You are very welcome.
15 Any other questions at all?

16 Okay. Well, thank you for coming.
17 I'll just clarify that the mediation is scheduled
18 for Tuesday, March 7, at 1:00 in the afternoon.
19 I will send you a WebEx invitation to attend the
20 mediation, and I will see you then.

21 Thank you for coming.

22 MS. DE LEON: Thank you so much. Have
23 a wonderful day.

24 MR. BERNSTEIN: I have additional
25 questions --

1 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Bernstein, did you
2 say something?

3 MR. BERNSTEIN: Yes, can you hear me?
4 I have one more questions, is that acceptable?

5 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

6 MR. BERNSTEIN: We would like to know
7 if we can add more people to the Group of Five or
8 More. Is that a problem, or is it --

9 MS. FLETCHER: You can't add more
10 people to the protest. The petition deadline has
11 past to do that.

12 MR. BERNSTEIN: Okay, thank you, ma'am,
13 very much. Have a good day.

14 MS. FLETCHER: You are welcome. You,
15 too, thanks for coming.

16 The roll call hearing in this matter
17 is now completed.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
19 went off the record at 11:12 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: Toro Bar

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 02-21-23

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.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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