

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
+ + + + +  
ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
  :  
Union Hospitality                   :  
Group, LLC                           :  
t/a Union Bar & Lounge           :  
501 Morse Street NE               :  
Retailer CR - ANC 5D               :  
License No. 110747                 :  
Case #23-PRO-00012               :  
  :  
(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:

SHYAMSUNDER BASKER RAO, Applicant  
RUSSELL WEBSTER, Applicant  
CHRISTINE GODINEZ, Protestant  
JESSICA MEIJA, Protestant

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

2 10:09 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the  
4 calendar is Union Oyster Bar and Lounge. This is  
5 Case No. 23-PRO-00012, Union Oyster Bar and  
6 Lounge, 501 Morse Street NE, License No. ABRA  
7 110747. This is a Retailer Class CR License  
8 Renewal, protest issues, adverse impact on peace,  
9 order, and quiet.

10 My name is LaVerne Fletcher,  
11 conducting the roll hall hearing as the Board's  
12 Agent.

13 Is anyone present on behalf of Union  
14 Oyster Bar?

15 MR. RAO: Yes, my name is Mr. Rao, and  
16 Mr. Webster is also present.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Could you please  
18 state your name and spell it for the record,  
19 please?

20 MR. RAO: Yeah. My first name is Shyam,  
21 S-H-Y-A-M, last name is R-A-O.

22 MS. FLETCHER: So, let me ask you  
23 something. Now, we have your full name spelled  
24 out, but you are not using your full name?

25 MR. RAO: I can use my full name, I can

1 spell it out.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, but could you spell  
3 your full name?

4 MR. RAO: Sure Shyamsunder, S-H-Y-A-M-  
5 S-U-N-D-E-R, last name Basker, B-A-S-K-E-R R-A-  
6 O.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So, we just have  
8 R-A-O as your last name, but you have a middle  
9 name as well? So, which one will you use, I just  
10 want to make sure that we have it accurate.

11 MR. RAO: Just use the Mr. Rao as the  
12 last name. That's fine.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. And, someone else  
14 is with you?

15 MR. WEBSTER: Mr. Webster, what name do  
16 you have for me, Ms. Fletcher?

17 MS. FLETCHER: I don't have a name for  
18 you right now.

19 MR. WEBSTER: Okay. I'm Russell  
20 Webster, R-U-S-S-E-L-L, last name Webster, W-E-B-  
21 S-T-E-R.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
23 Webster.

24 Okay. So, let me --

25 MR. WEBSTER: I'm sorry, you are

1 welcome.

2 MS. FLETCHER: So we, so who is going  
3 to be the contact person for Union Oyster Bar and  
4 Lounge? We have Mr. Rao as the contact person,  
5 so is that going to continue to be the case?

6 MR. WEBSTER: That's correct.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you. Thank  
8 you very much.

9 We have a Group of Five as well. Are  
10 the designated representatives present from this  
11 group?

12 MS. MEIJA: Yeah, I just didn't read  
13 the five, two of our cases have been  
14 grandfathered in, but there's two of us on.

15 MS. FLETCHER: If you will state your  
16 name and spell it for the record, please.

17 MS. MEIJA: Jessica Meija, J-E-S-S-I-C-  
18 A, Meija, M as in Mary- E-I-J-A.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. And, someone else  
20 is present also Ms. Meija?

21 MS. MEIJA: Yes, Christine Godinez, C-  
22 H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, last name G-O-D-I-N-E-Z.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Godinez, just so  
24 that you know, you are breaking up a little, but  
25 I did get that spelling. I'll just spell it

1 again for the record.

2 MS. MEIJA: Sure. Yeah, my internet is  
3 bad today.

4 MS. FLETCHER: That's okay.

5 MS. MEIJA: C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, last  
6 name G-O-D-I-N-E-Z.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you.

8 Anyone else from the group today?

9 Ms. MEIJA: No.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you.

11 There are two of you present today.

12 Therefore, the group is granted conditional  
13 standing.

14 MS. MEIJA: No, Ms. Fletcher. No, I'm  
15 speaking just in here. We, our case has been  
16 granted for --

17 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, you were  
18 grandfathered in, weren't you?

19 MS. MEIJA: Yes. Yes.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Thanks for  
21 reminding me of that, it's not on the sheet I'm  
22 looking at.

23 Yeah, and so, just for the record  
24 you'll put the five that are grandfathered in  
25 from the previous roll call hearing where you

1 were granted standing. And so, you are -- your  
2 standing is granted, as grandfathered in. So,  
3 there is no requirement that at the upcoming  
4 status hearing that you bring an additional three  
5 people, just either one of you needs to appear.

6 MS. MEIJA: Okay.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

8 We need to set a date for mediation,  
9 a status hearing, and a protest hearing. I've  
10 give you the dates for the status and protest  
11 hearings first.

12 The status hearing is schedule for  
13 March the 22nd, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. The protest  
14 hearing is set for May the 3rd, 2023, at 1:30.

15 I'll give you the next available day  
16 for mediation. The next available day is  
17 Wednesday, February the 8th, Wednesday February  
18 8th, any time between 10:00 and 1:30.

19 MR. WEBSTER: February?

20 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, I think I  
21 said February. I meant March 8th. March 8th, any  
22 time between 10:00 and 1:30.

23 MR. WEBSTER: You say any time, do we  
24 pick that?

25 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, any time that's

1 available, any time that you are available  
2 between 10:00 and 1:00. Any time that all  
3 parties are available.

4 So, is anyone available on March 8th?

5 MR. WEBSTER: We are available at  
6 10:00, whatever works for everyone.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Who is speaking?

8 MR. WEBSTER: Should I pronounce this  
9 every time I speak?

10 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, yes.

11 MR. WEBSTER: That's no problem

12 MS. FLETCHER: I should have said that  
13 each time so that the court reporter knows who is  
14 speaking.

15 MR. WEBSTER: Okay. This is Russell  
16 Webster from Union Oyster Bar.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

18 MR. WEBSTER: 10:00 works for us.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
20 Webster.

21 What about the Protestants?

22 MS. MEIJA: I can't join, but  
23 Christine, does that work for you?

24 MS. GODINEZ: No audible response.

25 MS. FLETCHER: So, Ms. Meija, did you

1 just say you can't join?

2 MS. MEIJA: Sorry, yes, Christine, does  
3 that work for you?

4 MS. GODINEZ: Yes, that's fine. This  
5 is Christine Godinez, that's fine. Any of those  
6 dates at the moment are fine for Christine  
7 Godinez, who is speaking.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Mediation is set for  
10 Wednesday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. I will send  
11 you the WebEx invite to attend that mediation.

12 Any questions at all?

13 MR. WEBSTER: No, not -- Russell  
14 Webster speaking, nothing from me.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Webster.

16 Okay. Then the roll call hearing in  
17 this matter is concluded. Thank you for coming.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
19 went off the record at 11:21 a.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p>a.m 2:2 6:13 8:10,19  above-entitled 8:18  <b>ABRA</b> 1:17 2:6  accurate 3:10  additional 6:4  adverse 2:8  <b>Agent</b> 1:14,17 2:12  <b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,13  <b>ANC</b> 1:8  appear 6:5  <b>Applicant</b> 1:19,19  attend 8:11  audible 7:24  available 6:15,16 7:1,1  7:3,4,5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><b>B-A-S-K-E-R</b> 3:5  bad 5:3  <b>Bar</b> 1:7 2:4,5,14 4:3  7:16  <b>Basker</b> 1:19 3:5  behalf 2:13  <b>Beverage</b> 1:2,13  <b>Board</b> 1:2,13  <b>Board's</b> 1:14,17 2:11  breaking 4:24  bring 6:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <p>C- 4:21  <b>C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E</b> 5:5  calendar 2:4  call 1:3,7 5:25 8:16  case 1:9 2:3,5 4:5 5:15  cases 4:13  <b>Christine</b> 1:20 4:21  7:23 8:2,5,6  Class 2:7  <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1  coming 8:17  concluded 8:17  conditional 5:12  conducting 2:11  contact 4:3,4  continue 4:5  <b>Control</b> 1:2,13  correct 4:6  court 7:13  <b>CR</b> 1:8 2:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <p>date 6:8  dates 6:10 8:6  day 6:15,16  designated 4:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <p><b>E-I-J-A</b> 4:18  either 6:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <p><b>February</b> 1:12 6:17,17  6:19,21  fine 3:12 8:4,5,6  first 2:20 6:11  five 4:9,13 5:24  <b>Fletcher</b> 1:14,17 2:3,10  2:17,22 3:2,7,13,16  3:17,22 4:2,7,15,19  4:23 5:4,7,10,14,17  5:20 6:7,20,25 7:7,10  7:12,17,19,25 8:8,9  8:15  full 2:23,24,25 3:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>G-O-D-I-N-E-Z</b> 4:22 5:6  give 6:10,15  <b>Godinez</b> 1:20 4:21,23  7:24 8:4,5,7  going 4:2,5  grandfathered 4:14  5:18,24 6:2  granted 5:12,16 6:1,2  group 1:6 4:9,11 5:8,12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E</b> 4:22  hall 2:11  hearing 1:3,8 2:11 5:25  6:4,9,9,12,14 8:16  hearings 6:11  <b>Hospitality</b> 1:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p>impact 2:8  internet 5:2  invite 8:11  issues 2:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>J-E-S-S-I-C-</b> 4:17  <b>Jessica</b> 1:20 4:17  join 7:22 8:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p>know 4:24  knows 7:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>LaVerne</b> 1:14,17 2:10  <b>License</b> 1:8,10 2:6,7</p>	<p>little 4:24  <b>LLC</b> 1:6  looking 5:22  <b>Lounge</b> 1:7 2:4,6 4:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>M</b> 4:18  <b>March</b> 6:13,21,21 7:4  8:10  <b>Mary-</b> 4:18  <b>matter</b> 1:5 8:17,18  meant 6:21  <b>mediation</b> 6:8,16 8:9,11  <b>Meija</b> 1:20 4:12,17,17  4:18,20,21 5:2,5,9,14  5:19 6:6 7:22,25 8:2  met 1:14  middle 3:8  moment 8:6  <b>Morse</b> 1:7 2:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <p>name 2:10,15,18,20,21  2:23,24,25 3:3,5,8,9  3:12,15,17,20 4:16,22  5:6  <b>NE</b> 1:7 2:6  need 6:8  needs 6:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>O</b> 3:6  <b>Oh</b> 5:17  <b>okay</b> 2:17 3:7,13,19,22  3:24 4:7,19 5:4,7,10  6:6 7:15,19 8:16  order 2:9  <b>Oyster</b> 2:4,5,14 4:3  7:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S</b>  2:1  parties 7:3  peace 2:8  people 6:5  person 4:3,4  pick 6:24  please 2:17,19 4:16  present 1:16,18 2:13,16  4:10,20 5:11  presiding 1:14  previous 5:25  problem 7:11  pronounce 7:8  protest 2:8 6:9,10,13  <b>Protestant</b> 1:20,20  <b>Protestants</b> 7:21</p>	<p>put 5:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q</b></p> <p>questions 8:12  quiet 2:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <p><b>R-A-</b> 3:5  <b>R-A-O</b> 2:21 3:8  <b>R-U-S-S-E-L-L</b> 3:20  <b>Rao</b> 1:19 2:15,15,20,25  3:4,11,11 4:4  read 4:12  <b>record</b> 2:18 4:16 5:1,23  8:19  reminding 5:21  <b>Renewal</b> 1:10 2:8  reporter 7:13  representatives 4:10  requirement 6:3  response 7:24  <b>Retailer</b> 1:8 2:7  right 3:18  roll 1:3,7 2:11 5:25 8:16  <b>Russell</b> 1:19 3:19 7:15  8:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <p><b>S-H-Y-A-M</b> 2:21  <b>S-H-Y-A-M-</b> 3:4  <b>S-T-E-R</b> 3:21  <b>S-U-N-D-E-R</b> 3:5  schedule 6:12  send 8:10  set 6:8,14 8:9  sheet 5:21  <b>Shyam</b> 2:20  <b>Shyamsunder</b> 1:19 3:4  sorry 3:25 6:20 8:2  speak 7:9  speaking 5:15 7:7,14  8:7,14  spell 2:18 3:1,2 4:16,25  spelled 2:23  spelling 4:25  standing 5:13 6:1,2  state 2:18 4:15  status 6:4,9,10,12  <b>Street</b> 1:7 2:6  sure 3:4,10 5:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <p>t/a 1:7  thank 3:22 4:7,7 5:7,10  5:20 6:7 7:19 8:15,17  <b>Thanks</b> 5:20  think 6:20  three 6:4</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: Union Bar & Lounge

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.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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