

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

2 11:28 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
4 Orellana, the next case is green cloud Shop
5 license number 1307775. I'm sorry and a good
6 morning again. Can you please elevate the
7 parties for this next case.

8 MR. ORELLANA: Sure. Abdelhak
9 Hamsasse, your access is elevated.

10 That appears to be all, Chairman.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

12 MR. HAMSASSE: My name is Abdelhak Hamsasse.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, can
14 you come on camera, sir? Are you able to come
15 on camera?

16 MR. HAMSASSE: Yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
18 sir. Can you please spell and state your name
19 for the record, sir?

20 MR. HAMSASSE: My name is -- good
21 morning, everybody, Chairperson Anderson and the
22 members. My name is Abdelhak Hamsasse.
23 I am the solo owner of the Green Cloud located
24 at 6124 Georgia Avenue, NW.

25

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Spell your name,
2 sir. So we have a court reporter.

3 MR. HAMSASSE: My name is my name A-B-
4 D-E-L-H-A-K. Last name is H-A-M-S-A-S-S-E.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Pronounce it
6 again for me one more time. Just your last
7 name.

8 MR. HAMSASSE: Last name is Hamsasse.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hamsasse. Okay.

10 MR. HAMSASSE: So H-A-M-S-A-S-S-E. And
11 first name is A-B-D-E-L-H-A-K.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, I'll just
13 ask you to pronounce it because I'm going to
14 refer to you by your last name so I won't
15 butcher it too much. Okay? Mr. Hamsasse.
16 Okay.

17 MR. HAMSASSE: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you have
19 applied for medical cannabis retail license with
20 delivery endorsement. There was a summary
21 closure issued for Green Cloud Shop on September
22 24.

23 Specifically the establishment
24 continued to operate as an unlicensed cannabis
25 retail and sell cannabis and cannabis products

1 in violation of DC law after previously
2 receiving a cease and desist.

3 And in addition, the unlicensed
4 establishment offered for sale psychedelic
5 products, including psilocybin which are
6 Schedule 1 substances. Okay? And there was an
7 offering compromise that was signed. So let me
8 -- were you the owner -- and let me explain the
9 purposes here. It's a fact finding
10 hearing. If you're not under oath, the Board
11 cannot take any action against you. So, in a
12 sense, this is a fact finding hearing and we're
13 just asking questions, gathering information.

14 The Board can say -- the Board, we
15 can't order you to take any specific action
16 because it's a fact finding hearing. And again,
17 you're not on the oath and so nothing that you
18 said here can be used against you in a court of
19 law, because again, you're not under oath.

20 So I'm just asking you have applied for
21 a license. The Board is in the process of
22 determine whether or not this license for Green
23 Cloud Shop should be should be issued.

24 And so I'm just -- we just want to make
25 sure that if this license is issued to your

1 establishment, that we'll never have -- well,
2 yeah, there will never be another summary action
3 against your action, that you will comply, that
4 this establishment will comply with the law.

5 And the rules and regulations of
6 selling cannabis, medical cannabis within the
7 District of Columbia. So I guess what I'm
8 trying to find out, so the previous action that
9 was taken under Green Cloud Shop, were you the
10 owner of that establishment, sir?

11 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir. Sole owner.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So maybe you can
13 just give me -- provide some information that if
14 you're a sole owner and you're aware of the law,
15 why did you continue? I mean, why do we have
16 this summary? Well, why did why was -- so, can
17 you please explain your prior involvement in
18 action that led to a summary closure?

19 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, I previously
20 operating my all the business at the location
21 706 Candy Street. I was operating under the
22 I71. So COVID. I start April 2021.

23 And after the enhancement of the new
24 integration -- new legislation of Washington,
25 D.C. I was forced to seize my shop by the

1 outcome in September 13, 2024. So after that,
2 we -- we lost the location. And we had to move
3 to a new location in Georgia Avenue.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I guess what
5 I'm trying to find out, so you are a former I71.

6 How long -- I mean, this is this is positive.
7 You said -- so how long did you operate as an
8 I71?

9 MR. HAMSASSE: For two years.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Three years.

11 MR. HAMSASSE: Yeah, two years.

12 So from 2001 to 2002.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so how
14 large --

15 MR. HAMSASSE: 2024, September,
16 because we got closed in September, 13th
17 September of 2024.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how large
19 was your business? I'm just trying to find out
20 your history to say what background you have in
21 the industry.

22 MR. HAMSASSE: Yeah, my background
23 because I have my brother-in-law who have a
24 business, tobacco business, in Washington and in
25 Virginia and I used to assist him.

1 So after that, I had an opportunity to
2 open a business, a regular grocery shop in
3 Washington, D.C. and I find out that everyone
4 doing I71 and I start doing the I71 by buying
5 stuff and selling it in the District of
6 Columbia. So when the new law came out
7 from Washington, D.C., you know, they, they
8 asked me to shut down the business and try --
9 and try to apply for the legal license from D.C.
10 District.

11 So what happened I got shut down and I
12 was interested in following with the business so
13 I apply legally through the ABCA of Washington,
14 D.C. to get a legal cannabis license, medical
15 cannabis license to operate.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
17 the business was closed down and what -- when
18 was business closed again?

19 MR. HAMSASSE: Is it, I think,
20 September 13, 2024.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
22 is the ownership still involved in an illegal
23 cannabis activity?

24 MR. HAMSASSE: No.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any

1 mitigating precautions set in place to ensure
2 that illegal activity will not occur again?

3 MR. HAMSASSE: No.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think the
5 answer to that question should be yes, but I
6 know what you meant. That's why I'm correcting
7 you, because I know what you meant, but you
8 answered incorrectly. So let me ask you the
9 question again. Okay?

10 I said are there any mitigating
11 precautions set up in place to ensure illegal
12 activity will not occur again?

13 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15 Okay. I know what you meant, but I knew you --
16 I knew you responded incorrectly. How can you
17 ensure us that this will not occur again?

18 MR. HAMSASSE: Because we're doing some
19 training, like, legal training and we're
20 complying with the D.C. law. So, since we got
21 punished by losing our shop, so we're not going
22 to do it again. So, yeah.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
24 you said that, if I'm correct, you are 100%
25 owner of this establishment?

1 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just explain to
3 me your business model.

4 MR. HAMSASSE: My business model is
5 just like a solo owner business. I don't have
6 no franchise. It's going to be only one shop.
7 It's going to be operating in 6124, Georgia
8 Avenue, Northwest.

9 My wife is going to be the team
10 manager. And we've been, we've been taking some
11 classes online to, you know, to get to get hands
12 on with the metric.

13 And also we've been taking classes with
14 the patientforcertification.org. Also we
15 register the metric the Marijuana Software, LLC.

16 So, all the training will be conduct through
17 the Patient for Certification, and we're going
18 to make sure the resource and maintenance
19 education training for our team.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you plan to
21 hire any management team to help you run your
22 business there?

23 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you have
25 you identified one as of yet?

1 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, I have -- I have my
2 wife. Her name is Hanel El Mahfoudi. She's
3 going to be the manager. And I have a friend of
4 mine who is going to be helping us.

5 So, the location is ready to go because
6 we -- we list the location last year in January
7 2024. We've been paying rents for a year. And
8 we think we never sold any items or any product
9 in that location so, we're just waiting for the
10 license to operate.

11 So the business is ready to go. So, we
12 have the team, we have the certification. We
13 have everything for the knowledge and training.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
16 ownership understand that it can only
17 distribute, store, and sell medical cannabis
18 products provided by D.C. license cultivation
19 centers and manufacturers?

20 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir. So we're
21 going to get all the product from D.C. Yeah,
22 from the city license legal cannabis.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
24 business understand -- does the business have
25 any schedule 1 substance in its possession

1 either on site or on another location?

2 MR. HAMSASSE: No, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
4 business have any have any non medical cannabis
5 products in its possession either on site or
6 another location?

7 MR. HAMSASSE: No, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
9 business understand that the presence or
10 distribution of schedule 1 or non medical
11 cannabis products may lead to the closure of the
12 business or the revocation of the license?

13 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by
15 any of the Board members?

16 MR. HAMSASSE: No, I just

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, I'm
18 sorry. I was asking if there were any questions
19 by any of the Board members.

20 MR. HAMSASSE: No, I don't have no
21 question. I just want to I just want
22 to --

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I was asking
24 the other board members if they have any
25 questions of you. No?

1 Any final comments that you want to
2 make, sir?

3 MR. HAMSASSE: No, thank you. I just
4 want to appreciate for your help and for all the
5 advice you've given us. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
7 Hamsasse, if the Board issues this --this
8 license, you've been involved with illegal
9 operations prior. And I'm glad that -- as I'm
10 glad that since September of '24, when the
11 business was shut down that you -- you did not
12 continue to sell products.

13 But just be mindful that if the Board
14 issues this license, we hold you to a high
15 standard in the sense that you are providing
16 medication to residents of the District of
17 Columbia.

18 You can only provide medication to
19 folks in the District Columbia who have a
20 medical license because as, you know, only
21 medicinal cannabis is legalized in the District
22 of Columbia, so everyone who receives purchases
23 must have a medical card to purchase.

24 And so, just need to make sure that
25 everyone who you serve has a medical license and

1 that you only purchase legal products from a
2 licensed distributor. I'm sorry, a license
3 cultivation center or a manufacturer in D.C.
4 Okay, sir?

5 MR. HAMSASSE: Yes, sir. Thank you
6 very much. I understand.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
8 the Board will take this matter under advisement
9 and we will advise the agency the next steps
10 towards the issuance of your license. Thank you
11 for being here today. Have a great day.

12 MR. HAMSASSE: Thank you very much.
13 Take care everybody. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Bye bye.

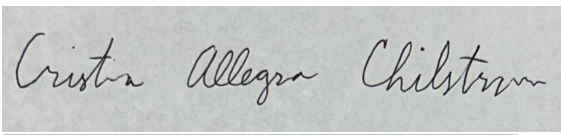
15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 went off the record at 11:43 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this matter was taken; and further that I am not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Cristina Allegra Chilstrom

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