DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF: :

Seedless, LLC, t/a No Kids Allowed :

637 Pennsylvania Ave SE : Protest (Status)

Retailer MC - ANC 6B : Hearing

License #126742 Case # 24-PRO-00006 :

(Application for a New : License)

Wednesday February 28, 2024

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson SILAS GRANT, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff CHANDLER JAYARAMAN, ANC 6B MACKENZIE MANNS, Applicant's Representative

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

(10:33 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.

As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage and

Cannabis Board for the District of Columbia and
in accordance with D.C. Code Section 2571 et seq.

of the Open Meetings Act, OMA, I'm welcoming you
to the regular scheduled meeting of the Alcoholic

Beverage and Cannabis Board.

This meeting is being conducted pursuant to guidance made available by the District of Columbia's Office of Open Government regarding electronic meetings held by public bodies. Electronic meetings by the ABC Board are authorized pursuant to Section 2577A of the D.C. Code.

Pursuant to the OMA requirements, notice of today's meeting was provided 48 hours in advance of the meeting on ABCA's website and on the District Central Meeting calendar. The notice included the time, date, agenda, and callin or login information for public participation.

This electronic meeting has been posted by a Webex account provided by the District of Columbia government. Please address

any questions or complaints to the OOG at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

My name is Donovan Anderson. I'm Chairperson of the Board. I would like to introduce the other members of the ABC Board who are also participating electronically. Please respond when I announce your name.

Mr. James Short?

MR. SHORT: James Short, present.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silas

Grant?

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MR. GRANT: Silas Grant, present.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board has three members in attendance for the conduct of business today and that constitutes a quorum.

Before we get underway with today's hearing calendar, I need to make a few instructions that are clear so that the conduct of these hearings is understood by everyone.

There are 12 cases scheduled for today.

Once your case is called, I will take a moment for our IT specialist to elevate the rights for each party, to enable their camera and microphone. Then, and only then, will you have the ability to enable your equipment. If your

1 case has not been heard, you will remain mute and 2 your camera will be disabled. At the conclusion of each case, the 3 parties will have the option to leave. If the 4 5 parties chooses to stay, all cameras and microphones for the concluded case will be 6 7 disabled. 8 Should you have any questions or 9 require technical assistance during the hearing, please submit them using the question-and-answer 10 11 feature. Our first case this morning is a 12 13 protest hearing status, Case No. 24-PRO-00006, No Kids Allowed, License No. 126742. 14 15 Good morning, Mr. Orellana. Can you 16 please elevate the rights of the licensee and the protestant in this case? 17 18 MR. ORELLANA: Sure. 19 Chander Jayaraman, your access has been elevated. 20 21 Mackenzie Manns, your access has been 2.2 elevated. And that appears to be all, Chairman. 23 2.4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 25 MR. JAYARAMAN: Good morning, Members

1	of the ABC Board.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
3	sir. Hold on a minute, please.
4	MS. MANNS: Good morning, everybody.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
б	Ms. Manns, can you please spell and state your
7	name for the record?
8	MS. MANNS: Yes, sir. Mackenzie
9	Manns, M-A-C-K-E-N-Z-I-E M-A-N-N-S.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is
11	your relationship to this establishment?
12	MS. MANNS: I'm the representative for
13	the establishment.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15	Thank you.
16	Mr. Jayaraman, can you please spell
17	and state your name for the record?
18	MR. JAYARAMAN: Yes. Chander
19	Jayaraman, C-H-A-N-D-E-R, last name J-A-Y-A-R-A-
20	M-A-N.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And your
22	relationship to this establishment, sir?
23	MR. JAYARAMAN: I'm actually
24	representing ANC 6B.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Good morning.

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MR. JAYARAMAN: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is there any preliminary matters in this case? In that, not substantive, but do you have any preliminary issues that you need to bring to the attention of the Board?

MS. MANNS: I don't believe that there's any issues that we need to bring to the attention of the Board. We're in amicable conversations with the ANC about the settlement agreement, and it seems like both sides are going to be able to finish it by the end of this week, hopefully.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you.

Any preliminary matters you want to bring to the attention of the Board, Mr. Jayaraman?

MR. JAYARAMAN: I concur with what Ms. Manns has said. However, I do want to mention to the Board, we are having a, trying to figure out the inherent conflict between the required that sign that says, persons under 18 are not allowed inside a cannabis retailer, but then the Human

Rights Act says you can't deny access, and so how do we kind of bring those to make those mesh because of in conflict with each other, so I think we're getting there.

And I completely agree. I think we're working through the language. I think we're down to the last couple of items. And like Ms. Manns said, we expect to have those resolved by the end of the week, so our committee can take it up next week.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you can always reach out to our legal office if you need some understanding. I know that generally, the law states that if you're not an adult, you cannot be in the facility, but I believe if you are a patient, you can be in the facility if you are a patient younger than 18, but you can reach out to our legal office, and we can provide you whatever guidance you require to move through this issue.

This is the second protest hearing status that we have had on a cannabis license, so I know that this is going to be - it's going to be a learning process for all of us, and the Board included, and so, therefore, please reach

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out to our legal office, and we can provide you whatever guidance you might require to ensure that this is a smooth process for both parties, okay?

MR. JAYARAMAN: Yes. I'm glad I just said that, Mr. Chair. I agree with you wholeheartedly and there are some issues that the Board is going to have to weigh in on, and so I appreciate you being open and understanding that this is new for all of us.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Now, if this matter is on our schedule, it is - I'm sorry. If this matter is not settled, it is scheduled for a protest hearing on March 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Do the parties feel confident that this matter will be settled?

MS. MANNS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I know Mr. Jayaraman has been to several protest hearings, and you probably have never been to one, but just in case, I just want to make sure that I put it in the record to let you know, ma'am, what the process and procedures are if this matter goes to a protest hearing.

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MS. MANNS: I appreciate that, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now that we've scheduled this matter for a protest hearing, there are a few things that I would like to instruct the applicant and the protestant about so that the protest hearing is focused and addresses only those issues that are being protested.

The Board does not intend to hear testimony matters that are not relevant to this case. You should have received by electronic or regular mail a letter explaining the protest process and a copy of the protest information form and a copy of the exhibit form. If you do not have these documents, please contact our legal office, and we will provide them to you.

It is imperative that you review the rules closely and adhere to them before and during the protest hearing. You're also required to complete and submit a protest information form, PIP, and exhibit form seven days before the hearing.

And, so, what this means is if this matter goes to a protest hearing, seven days before the hearing, you're supposed to do the

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PIP. The PIP, you'll have the documents you're going to rely on upon the hearing, and also the witnesses that you will call.

These two forms and the accompanying documents need to be submitted to ABRA's legal and to the opposing parties in this matter. If we do not receive a copy of your PIP seven days before the hearing and if the other side doesn't receive it seven days before the hearing, your case may be subject to dismissal.

Likewise, if we do not receive a copy of the exhibit form and the exhibits themselves, your exhibits may be excluded from the record upon finding that the opposing party has been prejudice or no good cause for failure to submit has been shown.

Likewise, witnesses, other than the party, may also be subject to exclusion if not identified on the PIP. Accordingly, these forms are very important. They greatly assist the Board in narrowing the protest issues, facilitate in the process, and keeping the parties informed during the hearing. They likewise provide notice to the opposing parties enabling them to better prepare for the hearing.

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1 As you're also aware, all of these 2 hearings are - they're conducted virtually. You will have one hour to present your case, and 3 you'll only be allowed to call five witnesses. 4 5 If you require more time to present or if you need more witnesses, please make a motion to the 6 7 Board. As I stated before, this is a new 8 9 territory for all parties, and so please if this matter is going to move forward or in this 10 11 process, any questions you have, both for the 12 applicant and both for the protestant, please 13 reach out to our legal office, and we will 14 provide you whatever guidance you require to 15 ensure that this works for you, okay? 16 MS. MANNS: That sounds great. 17 appreciate that. Thank you. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome. 19 All right. If you have any - yes, Mr. 20 Jayaraman? 21 MR. JAYARAMAN: I have one broad 2.2 request, sir. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. 2.4 MR. JAYARAMAN: On behalf of ANC 6B, 25 we're trying to find the right regulation, but

the regulations have all the previous testimony from last summer, and only amends the original, so we don't have - we can't find access to a clean set of regulations that lays it out what the rulemaking was, what the final document looks like.

It is not available anywhere, and so we would be grateful if ABCA could publish a clean version that doesn't include the testimony from the public and responses by the Board since those have been resolved and to publish something that's a clean version of the rulemaking written laws.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There are a significant amount of emergency and proposed rules, so specifically, what is it that you're asking for, sir? Because I know everything is on our website, but just specifically tell me what is it that you're asking for so I'll make sure that if it's not, for what you're asking, if it's not available, I'll ensure that the Agency publishes that.

MR. JAYARAMAN: So what we've received is what, you know, from your counsel, it's called, The Medical Cannabis Technical Third

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Proposed Emergency, dated December 6, 2023. And when you open that document, it still has pages and pages of testimony, and then the Board's response to the testimony, and it says what the particular section was changed to or amended to based on the testimony.

However, there is no one clean document that shows from back from March 2023 to December everything that's been decided. What are the final rules? I'm unable to find them.

I go to the ABC website, the medical cannabis takes me to 22C, which was a dispensary, the old cannabis regulation, so we'd like to have a clean version public of the current regulations as they stand now.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, that's fine. Send an email to our legal office to make this specific request, and I'll talk to - if once that's provided to you, if it's not on our website, I will make sure that the Agency has that copy available or we can direct you where it is on our website, okay?

MR. JAYARAMAN: That would be great. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

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Thank you very much and have a great day. And good luck in your negotiations. Thank you. All right. Bye-bye. (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:46 a.m.)

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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: No Kids

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 02-28-24

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

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