

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

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 IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
   :  
 Beirut Nights, LLC                   :  
 t/a Beirut Nights                   :  
 1025-1027 31st Street, NW : Roll Call  
 License #120090                    :  
 Case #22-PRO-00019               :  
 Retailer CR - ANC 2E               :  
   :  
 (New Application)                   :  
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Monday  
 March 28, 2022

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

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

JOHN BUCHOVECKY, Protestant  
 SUSAN CROWN, Protestant  
 KAREN CRUSE, Citizens Association of Georgetown  
 JOHN HOPKINS, Protestant  
 ZAKARIA IBRAHIM, Applicant  
 JEANNE JORDAN, Protestant  
 HARRISON LINSEY, Protestant  
 LISA PALMER, ANC 2E  
 ELIZABETH STARRELS, Protestant

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

2 10:24 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The last case on the  
4 calendar is Beirut Nights. This is Case  
5 No. 22-PRO-00019, Beirut Nights LLC, 1025-  
6 1027 31st Street, NW, license number ABRA-120090.

7 This is a Retailer Class CR, a new  
8 application. The protest issues are adverse  
9 impact on peace order and quiet.

10 My name is LaVerne Fletcher,  
11 conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's  
12 agent. Is anyone present on behalf of the  
13 applicant?

14 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, Zakaria Ibrahim.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, thank you.

16 Mr. Ibrahim, would you spell your name, please?

17 MR. IBRAHIM: Z-A-K-A-R-I-A, last name  
18 I-B-R-A-H-I-M.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Is anyone  
20 present on behalf of the Citizens Association of  
21 Georgetown?

22 MS. CRUSE: Yes, can you hear me?

23 MS. FLETCHER: I sure can.

24 MS. CRUSE: Oh, good. I cannot get on  
25 the video again. Yes, Karen Cruse, for the

1 Citizens Association of Georgetown.

2 MS. FLETCHER: And, Ms. Cruse, would  
3 you spell your name for the record, please?

4 MS. CRUSE: Yes. Karen, K-A-R-E-N,  
5 Cruse, C-R-U-S-E.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. The  
7 Citizens Association of Georgetown has standing  
8 as a protestant. Is anyone present on behalf of  
9 ANC2E?

10 MS. PALMER: Yes, ma'am, Lisa Palmer.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Palmer, would you  
12 spell that for the record, please?

13 MS. PALMER: Sure. L-I-S-A  
14 P-A-L-M-E-R.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. ANC2E has  
16 standing as a protestant. And we have a group of  
17 five or more. Is Mr. Hopkins present?

18 MS. CROWN: Yes, I am.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning,  
20 Mr. Hopkins.

21 MR. HOPKINS: Good morning.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Hopkins, you're the  
23 designated representative for the group?

24 MR. HOPKINS: Yes, I am.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Would you please spell

1 your name for the record?

2 MR. HOPKINS: First name is John,  
3 J-O-H-N. Last name is Hopkins, H-O-P-K-I-N-S.

4 MS. FLETCHER: And I see other  
5 individuals from your group that are present, so  
6 you can start wherever you want. If you would  
7 just state your name and spell it for the record,  
8 please.

9 MS. CROWN: Susan Crown. S-U-S-A-N  
10 C-R-O-W-N.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Crown.

12 MS. JORDAN: Jeanne Jordan.

13 J-E-A-N-N-E J-O-R-D-A-N.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Jordan.

15 MR. LINSEY: My name is Harrison  
16 Linsey. H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N L-I-N-S-E-Y.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anybody  
18 else?

19 MS. STARRELS: My name is Elizabeth  
20 Starrels. E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H S-T-A-R-R-E-L-S.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you,  
22 Ms. Starrels. And I see one more person.

23 MR. BUCHOVECKY: John Buchovecky. And  
24 last name's spelled B like Bravo, U-C-H-O-V like  
25 Victor, E like Echo, C-K-Y.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone  
2 else? There are at least six individuals present  
3 from your group today, which means that your  
4 group is granted full standing as a protestant  
5 today.

6 What that means is that at the  
7 upcoming status hearing, Mr. Hopkins, only you  
8 will need to appear for that because the group  
9 has already been granted standing. Anyone can  
10 come, but only you need to be present for that.

11 MR. HOPKINS: I understand.

12 MS. FLETCHER: We need to set a date  
13 for mediation, a status hearing, and a protest  
14 hearing. I'm going to give you the date for the  
15 status and protest hearing first.

16 The status hearing is scheduled for  
17 May 4, 2022 at 10:30. The protest hearing is set  
18 for May 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. PALMER: Ms. Fletcher?

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, Ms. Palmer?

22 MS. PALMER: I'm sorry, May 25th at  
23 what time?

24 MS. FLETCHER: 1:30.

25 MS. PALMER: And that's the status?

1 MS. FLETCHER: That's for the protest  
2 hearing.

3 MS. PALMER: They're always in the  
4 afternoon, is that correct?

5 MS. FLETCHER: They're any time the  
6 Board wants to set them. This was the time  
7 available on the calendar. Do you have a problem  
8 with that time?

9 MS. PALMER: Yeah. That would be a  
10 difficult time for me to make. I could do  
11 mornings, but Wednesday afternoons are, generally  
12 I'm not available.

13 MS. FLETCHER: That was a time  
14 available on the calendar at the time these dates  
15 were provided to me. It's a new application, so  
16 I know the Board doesn't like to change the date  
17 of the protest hearing. But you may contact  
18 Martha Jenkins --

19 MS. PALMER: Okay.

20 MS. FLETCHER: -- regarding the time.

21 MS. PALMER: Okay. And in the  
22 meantime, I'm sorry, it's 1:25? Is that what you  
23 said?

24 MS. FLETCHER: The protest hearing is  
25 May 25th at 1:30.

1 MS. PALMER: Okay, thank you.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh. You're  
3 welcome. I'll give you the next available day  
4 for mediation. The next available day for  
5 mediation is Wednesday, April 13. Wednesday,  
6 April 13, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30.

7 MS. PALMER: Could folks do 11:00?  
8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 MS. CRUSE: I'm with Citizens  
10 Association, so it's okay.

11 MR. HOPKINS: It's okay with the group  
12 of five.

13 MS. FLETCHER: What about you,  
14 Mr. Hopkins?

15 MR. HOPKINS: Sorry, I just said I'm  
16 available at that time. The 11:00 a.m. for Pete.

17 MS. FLETCHER: That's 11:30.

18 MR. HOPKINS: That's still fine.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Is that good? What  
20 about you, Mr. Ibrahim?

21 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm fine with  
22 everything. You know, for most people that is  
23 coming, I did wish --

24 MS. FLETCHER: Can you say that again?

25 MR. IBRAHIM: I say I'm good, and

1 there is a month of Ramadan that is coming.

2 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, I still  
3 couldn't hear you. Can you just speak a little  
4 louder?

5 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm just saying, there  
6 is a month which I don't work, which is going to  
7 be starting after five days from now, or six  
8 days. It's going to be a month I'm going to be  
9 off, so mostly March. And we don't work usually  
10 this month.

11 But I'm going to see if I'm going to  
12 hire Mr. Ely, or I'm going to keep representing  
13 the case. But I'm fine with the time, because  
14 I'm available. There is no problem with if I'm  
15 going to continue representing, or I'm going to  
16 have Mr. Ely representing that case any further.  
17 That's it. But I'm fine with the time. It is no  
18 problem whatsoever.

19 MS. FLETCHER: So, you're okay with  
20 11:30 for mediation on Wednesday, April 13th?

21 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

22 MS. FLETCHER: I have to tell you, I  
23 actually didn't understand anything else that you  
24 said.

25 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm saying --



1 MS. FLETCHER: You want to repeat that  
2 again?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: My fault. The month  
4 from above it's going to start --

5 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I heard -- uh-huh.

6 MR. IBRAHIM: Yeah, after six days, I  
7 will get escape for 30 days. During these  
8 30 days, we just push it and we stay home. We  
9 don't work.

10 So, in case if I cannot have Mr. Ely  
11 representing this case full-time, I will be  
12 representing. So, it's no problem.

13 MS. PALMER: Mr. Ibrahim, I don't know  
14 if anybody else is comfortable, but I would be  
15 comfortable waiting to do this until after  
16 Ramadan is complete.

17 MR. IBRAHIM: You see, it is not my  
18 concern regarding that month, because I represent  
19 the client and he doesn't agree to my going.  
20 That's why I'm in that kind of situation.

21 But just we're not going to change the  
22 date for now, until I get back to Mr. Joseph  
23 today and let him know what's happen.

24 And also, I believe that Ms. Lee, that  
25 we can work out something for temporary license

1 for now. I know it is difficulty, and a lot of  
2 in-and-out of this case. But I wish if we can  
3 meet before and we just find some kind of  
4 solution for your protest, if this is okay with  
5 everybody.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Palmer?

7 MS. PALMER: Did you understand what  
8 Ibrahim said?

9 MS. PALMER: I think what he said is  
10 that he's going to talk to his client, who does  
11 not celebrate Ramadan, so he is not interested in  
12 waiting a month, and that there may be a  
13 different lawyer representing the applicant.

14 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Yes.

15 MS. PALMER: He also, I believe, said  
16 that he hopes to have a stipulated license, which  
17 at this point I'm not in a position to support  
18 and we have a whole group of people on the phone  
19 that also have standing. So, we wouldn't be able  
20 to move that forward.

21 MS. FLETCHER: And so, Mr. Ibrahim,  
22 you're representing the applicant?

23 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I do. Yes.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, you're not the  
25 applicant. You're representing the applicant.

1 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm representing Beirut  
2 Nights. Yes.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Just a second. So,  
4 you're not the owner but you're representing the  
5 owner?

6 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

7 MS. FLETCHER: And so, you're going to  
8 have to run this date by the owner? Or is this  
9 date going to be okay?

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry?

12 MR. IBRAHIM: I think it's going to be  
13 okay with the owner. Just my concern, it is just  
14 if I can represent or not. But I think we're not  
15 going to changing no date or anything.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, I understood  
17 that. It think I'm having some trouble with  
18 maybe some volume on this side. So, I'm picking  
19 up words here and there. But I understood you to  
20 say -- so now you've disappeared, Mr. Ibrahim. I  
21 don't if you can hear me.

22 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I hear you very  
23 well.

24 MS. FLETCHER: But you said that you  
25 believe the owner will be available. If you're

1 not available, you would have someone present to  
2 represent the owner?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Yes, I will. Yes.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

5 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, then mediation is  
7 scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30. And  
8 I'll send out a WebEx invitation for everyone to  
9 attend the mediation, the same as I did for the  
10 roll call today.

11 MR. IBRAHIM: Okay.

12 MS. FLETCHER: So, Mr. Hopkins?

13 MR. HOPKINS: Yes.

14 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, who has a  
15 question?

16 MR. HOPKINS: No, I don't. I'm fine.

17 MS. FLETCHER: So, Mr. Hopkins, what  
18 normally happens in these cases is that the  
19 mediation WebEx invitation goes to the designated  
20 representative only.

21 Unless you tell me now that there are  
22 any other individuals from the group that would  
23 be attending mediation, the invitation would go  
24 only to you, because you're the only person  
25 required to be present.

1 MS. CROWN: Can I request that  
2 information sent to me?

3 MS. FLETCHER: Same for everybody  
4 else?

5 MS. STARRELS: Yes.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

7 MS. STARRELS: Thank you.

8 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Okay.

9 MS. PALMER: And, Ms. Fletcher, could  
10 you make sure that I receive it, in addition to  
11 Commissioner Murphy?

12 MS. FLETCHER: In addition to who,  
13 Ms. Palmer?

14 MS. PALMER: Commissioner Murphy.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, I've added you as  
16 a designated representative. So, Ms. Palmer, you  
17 want me to send the invitation to you and Rick  
18 Murphy?

19 MS. PALMER: It can be just to me, but  
20 I --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MS. FLETCHER: I'll just send it to  
23 you.

24 MS. PALMER: Thank you.

25 MS. FLETCHER: I made a note in the

1 record that you're the designated representative.

2 MS. PALMER: Yes, thank you.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Any questions at all  
4 from anyone? Well, thank you for coming. I'll  
5 see you on the 13th at 11:30. All right, thank  
6 you.

7 MS. PALMER: Thank you, Ms. Fletcher.

8 MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.  
9 Nice to see everybody. The roll call hearing is  
10 concluded.

11 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record at 10:39 a.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p>a.m 2:2 7:6,16 14:12  <b>able</b> 10:19  <b>above-entitled</b> 14:11  <b>ABRA</b> 1:16  <b>ABRA-120090</b> 2:6  <b>added</b> 13:15  <b>addition</b> 13:10,12  <b>adverse</b> 2:8  <b>afternoon</b> 6:4  <b>afternoons</b> 6:11  <b>agent</b> 1:14,16 2:12  <b>agree</b> 9:19  <b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,13  <b>ANC</b> 1:8,22  <b>ANC2E</b> 3:9,15  <b>anybody</b> 4:17 9:14  <b>appear</b> 5:8  <b>applicant</b> 1:20 2:13  10:13,22,25,25  <b>application</b> 1:9 2:8 6:15  <b>April</b> 7:5,6 8:20 12:7  <b>Association</b> 1:19 2:20  3:1,7 7:10  <b>attend</b> 12:9  <b>attending</b> 12:23  <b>available</b> 6:7,12,14 7:3  7:4,16 8:14 11:25  12:1</p>	<p>7:9  <b>Class</b> 2:7  <b>client</b> 9:19 10:10  <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1  <b>come</b> 5:10  <b>comfortable</b> 9:14,15  <b>coming</b> 7:23 8:1 14:4  <b>Commissioner</b> 13:11  13:14  <b>complete</b> 9:16  <b>concern</b> 9:18 11:13  <b>concluded</b> 14:10  <b>conducting</b> 2:11  <b>contact</b> 6:17  <b>continue</b> 8:15  <b>Control</b> 1:2,13  <b>correct</b> 6:4  <b>CR</b> 1:8 2:7  <b>Crown</b> 1:19 3:18 4:9,9  4:11 13:1  <b>Cruse</b> 1:19 2:22,24,25  3:2,4,5 7:9</p>	<p>5:21,24 6:1,5,13,20  6:24 7:2,13,17,19,24  8:2,19,22 9:1,5 10:6  10:21,24 11:3,7,11,16  11:24 12:4,6,12,14,17  13:3,6,8,9,12,15,22  13:25 14:3,7,8  <b>folks</b> 7:7  <b>forward</b> 10:20  <b>full</b> 5:4  <b>full-time</b> 9:11  <b>further</b> 8:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>J-E-A-N-N-E</b> 4:13  <b>J-O-H-N</b> 4:3  <b>J-O-R-D-A-N</b> 4:13  <b>Jeanne</b> 1:21 4:12  <b>Jenkins</b> 6:18  <b>John</b> 1:18,20 4:2,23  <b>Jordan</b> 1:21 4:12,12,14  <b>Joseph</b> 9:22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><b>B</b> 4:24  <b>back</b> 9:22  <b>behalf</b> 2:12,20 3:8  <b>Beirut</b> 1:6,6 2:4,5 11:1  <b>believe</b> 9:24 10:15  11:25  <b>Beverage</b> 1:2,13  <b>Board</b> 1:2,13 6:6,16  <b>Board's</b> 1:14,16 2:11  <b>Bravo</b> 4:24  <b>Buchovecky</b> 1:18 4:23  4:23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <p><b>date</b> 5:12,14 6:16 9:22  11:8,9,15  <b>dates</b> 6:14  <b>day</b> 7:3,4  <b>days</b> 8:7,8 9:6,7,8  <b>designated</b> 3:23 12:19  13:16 14:1  <b>different</b> 10:13  <b>difficult</b> 6:10  <b>difficulty</b> 10:1  <b>disappeared</b> 11:20  <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>generally</b> 6:11  <b>Georgetown</b> 1:19 2:21  3:1,7  <b>give</b> 5:14 7:3  <b>granted</b> 5:4,9  <b>group</b> 3:16,23 4:5 5:3,4  5:8 7:11 10:18 12:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N</b> 4:16  <b>H-O-P-K-I-N-S</b> 4:3  <b>happen</b> 9:23  <b>happens</b> 12:18  <b>Harrison</b> 1:21 4:15  <b>hear</b> 2:22 8:3 11:21,22  <b>heard</b> 9:5  <b>hearing</b> 1:3,7 2:11 5:7  5:13,14,15,16,17 6:2  6:17,24 14:9  <b>hire</b> 8:12  <b>home</b> 9:8  <b>hopes</b> 10:16  <b>Hopkins</b> 1:20 3:17,20  3:21,22,24 4:2,3 5:7  5:11 7:11,14,15,18  12:12,13,16,17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p><b>K-A-R-E-N</b> 3:4  <b>Karen</b> 1:19 2:25 3:4  <b>keep</b> 8:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>L-I-N-S-E-Y</b> 4:16  <b>L-I-S-A</b> 3:13  <b>LaVerne</b> 1:13,16 2:10  <b>lawyer</b> 10:13  <b>Lee</b> 9:24  <b>license</b> 1:7 2:6 9:25  10:16  <b>Linsey</b> 1:21 4:15,16  <b>Lisa</b> 1:22 3:10  <b>little</b> 8:3  <b>LLC</b> 1:6 2:5  <b>lot</b> 10:1  <b>louder</b> 8:4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C-K-Y</b> 4:25  <b>C-R-O-W-N</b> 4:10  <b>C-R-U-S-E</b> 3:5  <b>calendar</b> 2:4 6:7,14  <b>call</b> 1:3,7 2:11 12:10  14:9  <b>case</b> 1:8 2:3,4 8:13,16  9:10,11 10:2  <b>cases</b> 12:18  <b>celebrate</b> 10:11  <b>change</b> 6:16 9:21  <b>changing</b> 11:15  <b>Citizens</b> 1:19 2:20 3:1,7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <p><b>E</b> 4:25  <b>E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H</b> 4:20  <b>Echo</b> 4:25  <b>Elizabeth</b> 1:22 4:19  <b>Ely</b> 8:12,16 9:10  <b>escape</b> 9:7  <b>everybody</b> 10:5 13:3  14:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <p><b>fault</b> 9:3  <b>find</b> 10:3  <b>fine</b> 7:18,21 8:13,17  12:16  <b>first</b> 4:2 5:15  <b>five</b> 3:17 7:12 8:7  <b>Fletcher</b> 1:13,16 2:3,10  2:15,19,23 3:2,6,11  3:15,19,22,25 4:4,11  4:14,17,21 5:1,12,20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>I-B-R-A-H-I-M</b> 2:18  <b>Ibrahim</b> 1:20 2:14,14,16  2:17 7:20,21,25 8:5  8:21,25 9:3,6,13,17  10:8,14,21,23 11:1,6  11:12,20,22 12:3,5,11  <b>impact</b> 2:9  <b>in-and-out</b> 10:2  <b>individuals</b> 4:5 5:2  12:22  <b>information</b> 13:2  <b>interested</b> 10:11  <b>invitation</b> 12:8,19,23  13:17  <b>issues</b> 2:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>ma'am</b> 3:10  <b>March</b> 1:11 8:9  <b>Martha</b> 6:18  <b>matter</b> 1:5 14:11  <b>means</b> 5:3,6  <b>mediation</b> 5:13 7:4,5  8:20 12:6,9,19,23  <b>meet</b> 10:3  <b>met</b> 1:13  <b>Monday</b> 1:11  <b>month</b> 8:1,6,8,10 9:3,18  10:12  <b>morning</b> 3:19,21  <b>mornings</b> 6:11  <b>move</b> 10:20  <b>Murphy</b> 13:11,14,18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <p><b>name</b> 2:10,16,17 3:3  4:1,2,3,7,15,19  <b>name's</b> 4:24  <b>need</b> 5:8,10,12  <b>new</b> 1:9 2:7 6:15  <b>Nice</b> 14:9  <b>Nights</b> 1:6,6 2:4,5 11:2  <b>normally</b> 12:18</p>

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In the matter of: Beirut Nights

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-28-22

Place: teleconference

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

*Neal R Gross*

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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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