

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
+ + + + +
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

-----=
IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Salma, LLC :
t/a Red Lounge Hookah :
2013 14th Street NW :
Retailer CT - ANC 1B :
License No. 76011 :
Case #22-PRO-00119 :
 :
(Application to :
Renew the License) :
-----=

Wednesday
March 29, 2023

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABRA Staff
DEAN HUNTER, Applicant Counsel
SABEL HARRIS, ANC 1B
INVESTIGATOR JOVAN MILLER, DC ABRA

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

2 2:20 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, the only
4 case that we have on our calendar this afternoon
5 is case number 22-PRO-00119, Red Lounge Hookah,
6 license number 76011. Good afternoon, Mr.
7 Orellana, can you please elevate the rights of
8 the ANC, and the licensee in this case please?

9 MR. ORELLANA: Dean Hunter, your
10 access has been elevated. Sabel Harris, your
11 access has been elevated. Jovan Miller, your
12 access has been elevated. That is all, Chairman.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
14 thank you. All right, Mr. Hunter, do you have a
15 camera you can turn on, sir?

16 MR. HUNTER: I was trying -- okay,
17 there we go. Sorry about that, I thought I had
18 started it. There we are, how are you, sir?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see you, good
20 afternoon. All right, so let me have you, can you
21 please identify yourself for the record by
22 spelling, and stating your name please?

23 MR. HUNTER: Dean Hunter, D-E-A-N H-U-
24 N-T-E-R on behalf of the licensee, Red Lounge
25 Hookah Lounge.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is the licensee
2 joining us this afternoon, sir?

3 MR. HUNTER: No, we're doing a joint
4 motion to continue, we've reached a settlement
5 agreement, the ANC just has to vote on it.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
7 Ms. Harris, can you please spell, and state your
8 name for the record please?

9 MS. HARRIS: Hi, this is Sabel Harris,
10 S-A-B as in boy E-L H-A-R-R-I-S, and I represent
11 ANCLB.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
13 Miller, can you please identify yourself for the
14 record please?

15 MR. MILLER: Jovan Miller, J-O-V-A-N
16 M-I-L-L-E-R.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are
18 you, sir?

19 MR. MILLER: Investigator for ABCA.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir,
21 good afternoon. All right, so are there any
22 preliminary matters in this case?

23 MR. HUNTER: Yes, as we stated, the
24 parties have reached a settlement agreement.
25 However, in order for it to take effect, and be

1 official, the ANC has to vote to approve it. I
2 believe that the ANC has filed a motion to
3 continue, which we consent to. Or, and on the
4 alternative would be for the board to dismiss the
5 matter pending the approval of the ANC.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, if the
7 parties said that there's a settlement agreement,
8 and the agency is basically stating that it needs
9 to be taken to the meeting for it to be approved,
10 then I wouldn't have a problem granting the
11 continuance for that matter. But I'm not going
12 to entertain a continuance if this matter is not
13 settled.

14 MS. HARRIS: We did reach a settlement
15 agreement, we just don't have our monthly ANC
16 meeting until next Thursday, Mr. Chairman. So,
17 that's why I did request a continuance via email,
18 yesterday, but that wasn't granted.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think the
20 issue is that it's my understanding that it
21 wasn't served on the other side. And so,
22 normally when you are filing asking for a
23 continuance, then you can either file a joint
24 motion to say that both parties are requesting a
25 continuance, or if the other side is not included

1 in the motion, then you needed to -- then the
2 other side needs to respond.

3 So, since we were not aware that the
4 licensee was copied on your continuance, or
5 consented to it, so the board was not in a
6 position to grant the motion until we've had an
7 opportunity to hear from the licensee. So, since
8 the licensee has now consented to the
9 continuance, I'm making a motion that we continue
10 this matter until April 12th, at 1:30 p.m. to
11 allow the parties to provide the agency with a
12 signed settlement agreement. Is there a second?

13 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
15 seconded the motion, we'll now have a roll call
16 vote. Mr. Short?

17 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

19 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hensen?

21 MEMBER HANSEN: Agree.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

23 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
24 agree.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

1 Anderson, I agree, the matter passes five, zero,
2 zero. And the board is granting a continuance of
3 this matter until April 12th, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
4 But it is clear to the board that this is just a
5 placeholder for the ANC to sign off on the
6 settlement agreement, is that correct?

7 I see you shaking your head miss, but
8 the court reporter is not seeing you shake your
9 head Ms. Harris, and Mr. Hunter?

10 MS. HARRIS: Yes.

11 MR. HUNTER: Yeah, we've reached an
12 agreement.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Everything that
14 we do is transcribed by a court reporter, so
15 that's one of the reasons why I ask people to
16 speak, so the court reporter can capture what's
17 being said. All right, thank you very much
18 everyone. As I said, the board has granted a
19 continuance until -- a short continuance until
20 April 12th, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., and that is with
21 the understanding that the ANC will sign off on
22 the settlement agreement, and that this matter
23 will be withdrawn, okay? All right, thank you.
24 Have a great day.

25 MR. HUNTER: Thank you, Commissioner

1 Harris, good bye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good bye.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 2:26 p.m.)

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A

ABCA 3:19
above-entitled 7:3
ABRA 1:19,21
access 2:10,11,12
afternoon 2:4,6,20 3:2
 3:21
agency 4:8 5:11
agree 5:17,19,21,24 6:1
agreement 3:5,24 4:7
 4:15 5:12 6:6,12,22
Alcoholic 1:2,13
allow 5:11
alternative 4:4
ANC 1:7,20 2:8 3:5 4:1
 4:2,5,15 6:5,21
ANC1B 3:11
Anderson 1:14,16 2:3
 2:13,19 3:1,6,12,17
 3:20 4:6,19 5:14,18
 5:20,22,25 6:1,13 7:2
Applicant 1:20
Application 1:9
approval 4:5
approve 4:1
approved 4:9
April 5:10 6:3,20
asking 4:22
aware 5:3

B

basically 4:8
behalf 2:24
believe 4:2
Beverage 1:2,13
board 1:2,13 4:4 5:5 6:2
 6:4,18
Bobby 1:16 5:19
boy 3:10
bye 7:1,2

C

calendar 2:4
call 5:15
camera 2:15
capture 6:16
case 1:8 2:4,5,8 3:22
Cato 1:16 5:18,19,19
Chairman 2:12 4:16
Chairperson 1:13,16
 2:3,13,19 3:1,6,12,17
 3:20 4:6,19 5:14,18
 5:20,22,25 6:13 7:2
clear 6:4
COLUMBIA 1:1
Commissioner 6:25
consent 4:3
consented 5:5,8

continuance 4:11,12,17
 4:23,25 5:4,9 6:2,19
 6:19
continue 3:4 4:3 5:9
Control 1:2,13
copied 5:4
correct 6:6
Counsel 1:20
court 6:8,14,16
CT 1:7

D

D-E-A-N 2:23
day 6:24
DC 1:19,21
Dean 1:20 2:9,23
dismiss 4:4
DISTRICT 1:1
doing 3:3
Donovan 1:14,16

E

E-L 3:10
Edward 1:17 5:23
effect 3:25
either 4:23
elevate 2:7
elevated 2:10,11,12
email 4:17
entertain 4:12

F

file 4:23
filed 4:2
filing 4:22
five 6:1

G

go 2:17
going 4:11
good 2:6,19 3:21 7:1,2
Grandis 1:17 5:22,23
 5:23
grant 5:6
granted 4:18 6:18
granting 4:10 6:2
great 6:24

H

H-A-R-R-I-S 3:10
H-U- 2:23
HANSEN 1:17 5:21
Harris 1:20 2:10 3:7,9,9
 4:14 6:9,10 7:1
head 6:7,9
hear 5:7
Hearing 1:7
Hensen 5:20

Hi 3:9
Hookah 1:6 2:5,25
Hunter 1:20 2:9,14,16
 2:23,23 3:3,23 6:9,11
 6:25

I

identify 2:21 3:13
included 4:25
Investigator 1:21 3:19
issue 4:20

J

J-O-V-A-N 3:15
JAMES 1:18
JENI 1:17
joining 3:2
joint 3:3 4:23
JOSE 1:19
Jovan 1:21 2:11 3:15
JR 1:16,18

K**L**

license 1:7,9 2:6
licensee 2:8,24 3:1 5:4
 5:7,8
LLC 1:5
Lounge 1:6 2:5,24,25

M

M-I-L-L-E-R 3:16
making 5:9
March 1:11
matter 1:4 4:5,11,12
 5:10 6:1,3,22 7:3
matters 3:22
meeting 1:3 4:9,16
Member 1:16,17,17,18
 5:13,17,19,21,23
met 1:13
Miller 1:21 2:11 3:13,15
 3:15,19
monthly 4:15
motion 3:4 4:2,24 5:1,6
 5:9,15

N

N-T-E-R 2:24
name 2:22 3:8
needed 5:1
needs 4:8 5:2
normally 4:22
number 2:5,6
NW 1:6

O

official 4:1
okay 2:16 6:23
opportunity 5:7
order 3:25
Orellana 1:19 2:7,9

P

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2:1
p.m 2:2 5:10 6:3,20 7:4
parties 3:24 4:7,24 5:11
passes 6:1
pending 4:5
people 6:15
placeholder 6:5
please 2:7,8,21,22 3:7,8
 3:13,14
position 5:6
preliminary 3:22
PRESENT 1:15,19
presiding 1:14
problem 4:10
Protest 1:6
provide 5:11

Q**R**

reach 4:14
reached 3:4,24 6:11
reasons 6:15
record 2:21 3:8,14 7:4
Red 1:6 2:5,24
Renew 1:9
reporter 6:8,14,16
represent 3:10
request 4:17
requesting 4:24
respond 5:2
Retailer 1:7
right 2:13,14,20 3:6,21
 6:17,23
rights 2:7
roll 5:15

S

S 1:17
S-A-B 3:10
Sabel 1:20 2:10 3:9
Salma 1:5
second 5:12,13
seconded 5:15
see 2:19 6:7
seeing 6:8
served 4:21
settled 4:13
settlement 3:4,24 4:7
 4:14 5:12 6:6,22

shake 6:8
shaking 6:7
short 1:18 5:13,13,14
 5:16,17,17 6:19
side 4:21,25 5:2
sign 6:5,21
signed 5:12
sir 2:15,18 3:2,18,20
Sorry 2:17
speak 6:16
spell 3:7
spelling 2:22
Staff 1:19
started 2:18
state 3:7
stated 3:23
stating 2:22 4:8
Street 1:6

T

t/a 1:6
take 3:25
taken 4:9
thank 2:14 3:12,20 6:17
 6:23,25
think 4:19
thought 2:17
Thursday 4:16
transcribed 6:14
trying 2:16
turn 2:15

U

understanding 4:20
 6:21

V

videoconference 1:13
vote 3:5 4:1 5:16

W

W 1:14,16
wasn't 4:18,21
we'll 5:15
we're 3:3
we've 3:4 5:6 6:11
WebEx 1:13
Wednesday 1:11
went 7:4
withdrawn 6:23
wouldn't 4:10

X

Y

Yeah 6:11
yesterday 4:18

Z

zero 6:1,2

0

1

1:30 5:10 6:3,20
12th 5:10 6:3,20
14th 1:6
1B 1:7,20

2

2:20 2:2
2:26 7:4
2013 1:6
2023 1:11 6:3,20
22-PRO-00119 1:8 2:5
29 1:11

3

4

5

6

7

76011 1:7 2:6

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Red Lounge Hookah

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-29-23

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

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1716 14TH ST., N.W., STE. 200

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831