

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 + + + + +  
 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD  
 + + + + +  
 ROLL CALL HEARING

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 IN THE MATTER OF:                 :  
   :  
 DC Sushi, LLC                         :  
 t/a Mita Ethio Japan Cafe:         :  
 703 Kennedy Street NW            :  
 Retailer CT - ANC 4D               :  
 License No. 127241                 :  
 Case #24-PRO-00029               :  
 (Transfer to New                     :  
 Location - from 3103               :  
 Mount Pleasant Street NW         :  
 to 703 Kennedy Street NW):  
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Monday  
 April 1, 2024

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

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABC Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

MISRAK GEBREHIWOT, Licensee  
 HEMEN SOLOMON, Point of Contact  
 ABEL AMENE, ANC 4D

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

2 10:16 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the  
4 calendar is Mita Ethio Japan Cafe, Case No. 24-  
5 PRO-00029, DC Sushi, LLC, 703 Kennedy Street NW,  
6 License No. ABRA 127241. This is a Retailer  
7 Class CT for a transfer to a new location from  
8 3103 Mount Pleasant Street NW to 703 Kennedy  
9 Street NW.

10 The protest issues in this matter are  
11 adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet. My  
12 name is LaVerne Fletcher conducting the roll call  
13 hearing as the Board's agent. Is anyone present  
14 on behalf of Mita? Is anyone present on behalf  
15 of the establishment? Is anyone present on  
16 behalf of ANC 4D? Is anyone present on behalf of  
17 ANC 4D?

18 I see that I am receiving a phone call  
19 from the applicant. I'm going to ask him to  
20 email me. I'm not going to interrupt the  
21 proceedings to answer the phone. I don't want to  
22 have any connectivity issues. What I'm going to  
23 do for now is take a moment to reach out to the  
24 applicant.

25 Is anyone present on behalf of ANC 4D?

1 ANC 4D is not present. Therefore, the protest  
2 filed by ANC 4D is dismissed. I am not going to  
3 dismiss the application because I can see where  
4 the applicant called in so I'm assuming he's  
5 having some connectivity issues because he did  
6 receive the WebEx invitation so the application  
7 is not dismissed, but the protest is dismissed.  
8 The roll call hearing in the matter of Mita Ethio  
9 Japan Cafe is concluded.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
11 off the record at 10:20 a.m. and resumed at 10:27  
12 a.m.)

13 MS. FLETCHER: This is for the court  
14 reporter. You may stay on the line. I think I  
15 have something to add for the record. I believe  
16 I just received an email from the protestant in  
17 the matter of Mita Ethio Japan Cafe. Let me  
18 check that before I reopen that case. Just a  
19 moment, please.

20 Okay. So I will reopen the matter of  
21 Mita Ethio Japan Cafe. I see -- who is present  
22 for the applicant? You're muted right now.  
23 You're muted right now. Can you unmute yourself?  
24 Thank you. Who is present on behalf of Mita  
25 Ethio Japan Cafe?

1 MR. AMENE: I am here on behalf of the  
2 ANC 4D but I believe Mita Cafe is also on the  
3 call, yes.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Let's tart with  
5 ANC 4D. Can you state your name one more time?

6 MR. AMENE: Yes. My name is Abel  
7 Amene. I am the ANC commission for 4D02.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Um-hum.

9 MR. AMENE: And on behalf of the  
10 Commission.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Could you spell your  
12 name for the record, please?

13 MR. AMENE: Absolutely. First name is  
14 Abel, A-B-E-L. Last name is Amene, A-M-E-N-E.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Amene, just so that  
16 you know, before you showed up I had dismissed  
17 the ANC 4D as a protestant because no one was  
18 present, but now that you are present, I retract  
19 that dismissal and ANC 4D does have standing as a  
20 protestant.

21 MR. AMENE: I appreciate it. Thank  
22 you very much. My colleague was not able to come  
23 because of some health issues and I apologize for  
24 being late myself.

25 MS. FLETCHER: No problem. We were

1 still on the line so I was able to just reopen  
2 the case. Give me one second, please.

3 And who is present on behalf of the  
4 establishment? Okay. You're muted again.

5 MS. SOLOMON: I'm sorry. This is  
6 Hemen Solomon, and she is Ms. Misrak Geberehiwot.  
7 She is the owner of the cafe.

8 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry. Who is  
9 speaking right now?

10 MS. SOLOMON: Hemen Solomon.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

12 MS. SOLOMON: I am the point of  
13 contact.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Are you the applicant  
15 or the point of contact?

16 MS. SOLOMON: Point of contact.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Could you spell your  
18 name for the record?

19 MS. SOLOMON: Sure. H-E-M-E-N. Last  
20 name is Solomon, S-O-L-O-M-O-N.

21 MS. FLETCHER: And is the applicant  
22 present as well?

23 MS. SOLOMON: Yes.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. If I could get  
25 the name of the applicant and the spelling of the

1 name.

2 MS. SOLOMON: Sure. It's --

3 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: My name is Misrak,  
4 M-I-S-R-A-K.

5 MS. FLETCHER: M-I-S-R -- excuse me.  
6 M I --

7 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: S-R-A-K.

8 MS. FLETCHER: H-R?

9 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: S-R-A-K.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Just a second.  
11 Just bear with me for a moment. Okay. Pronounce  
12 the first name again?

13 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Misrak.

14 MS. FLETCHER: And please spell it  
15 again? Could you spell it slower for me, please?

16 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: M-I-S --

17 MS. FLETCHER: S like Sam?

18 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Yeah.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

20 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: I'm going to put it  
21 in the chat. Is that okay?

22 MS. FLETCHER: No. Spell it for the  
23 court reporter, please.

24 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: M-I-S-R-A-K.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. And what's the

1 last name?

2 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Geberehiwot. It's  
3 G --

4 MS. FLETCHER: Spell it slow, though.

5 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Sure.

6 MS. FLETCHER: That was G-E.

7 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: G-E-B-E-R-E-H-I-W-O-  
8 T.

9 MS. FLETCHER: I'm going to spell is  
10 back. I have G-E-B-E-R-E-H-I-W-O-T.

11 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Yes.

12 MS. FLETCHER: I got it. Okay. Thank  
13 you. Thank you very much. Okay. So ANC 4D has  
14 standing as a protestant. We need to schedule a  
15 date for mediation, a status hearing, and a  
16 protest hearing. I will give you the dates for  
17 the status and protest hearing first.

18 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

19 MS. FLETCHER: The status hearing is  
20 scheduled for May 1st.

21 MS. SOLOMON: Um-hum.

22 MS. FLETCHER: May 1, 2024, at 10:30  
23 a.m.

24 MS. SOLOMON: 10:30. So May 1st you  
25 say?

1 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

2 MS. SOLOMON: 10:00 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: At 10:30.

4 MS. SOLOMON: 10:30.

5 MS. FLETCHER: And the protest hearing  
6 is scheduled for June 5th.

7 MS. SOLOMON: June 5th.

8 MS. FLETCHER: At 1:30. That's for  
9 the protest hearing.

10 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. So I will write  
11 it down quickly. Just give me one second.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Solomon, is that  
13 you speaking?

14 MS. SOLOMON: Yes.

15 MS. FLETCHER: I want to let the court  
16 reporter know who is speaking.

17 MS. SOLOMON: Oh, I'm so sorry.

18 MS. FLETCHER: That's okay. I forgot  
19 to tell you.

20 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. So 10:30 May 1st.  
21 That one is for what again?

22 MS. FLETCHER: That's the status  
23 hearing. The status hearing is on May 1st.

24 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

25 MS. FLETCHER: At 10:30 a.m.



1 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. And then --

2 MS. FLETCHER: The protest hearing is  
3 on June 5th at 1:30.

4 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

5 MS. FLETCHER: And we need to set a  
6 date for a mediation.

7 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

8 MS. FLETCHER: I will give you the  
9 next available day to see if the parties are both  
10 available. The next available day is Tuesday,  
11 April 9.

12 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Anytime between 10:30  
14 and 1:30. That's the next available day.

15 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. I am available.  
16 I just want to make sure.

17 MR. AMENE: I'm sorry. April 9 may  
18 not work. I'm sorry about that. Is there  
19 another date?

20 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. Would you prefer  
21 the following week or a different day --

22 MR. AMENE: April 10 like the next day  
23 right after?

24 MS. FLETCHER: Could you state your  
25 name for the court reporter, please?

1 MR. AMENE: Yeah, this is Abel Amene.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Amene.

3 Yes, Wednesday, April 10, is also available.

4 MR. AMENE: Would that work for you?

5 MS. FLETCHER: Would that work for  
6 you?

7 MR. AMENE: April 10 would work for  
8 me.

9 MS. SOLOMON: Yeah. I mean, April 10?  
10 Yeah. So what time?

11 MS. FLETCHER: Anytime between 10:30  
12 and 1:30.

13 MS. SOLOMON: I would say 12:00 if  
14 possible.

15 MS. FLETCHER: That works on this end  
16 if it works for Mr. Amene.

17 MR. AMENE: Would it be possible to do  
18 it earlier?

19 MS. FLETCHER: Anytime between 10:30  
20 and 1:30.

21 MR. AMENE: Yeah, the earliest time  
22 that day would be best.

23 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. What is your  
24 other availability?

25 MR. AMENE: Would 10:30 work that day?

1 April 10 at 10:30?

2 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Solomon, would  
3 10:30 on that day work for you on April 10th, or  
4 should we look at another date?

5 MS. SOLOMON: No. Actually, you know  
6 what? I will do 10:30. Yeah, that's fine.

7 MS. FLETCHER: 10:30. Okay. Then  
8 mediation is set for Wednesday, April 10, at  
9 10:30. I'll send you a WebEx invitation to  
10 attend the mediation. Ms. Solomon, I have a  
11 question for you.

12 MS. SOLOMON: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. FLETCHER: The question I have for  
14 you is you are the point of contact so you're the  
15 person that we've been communicating with by  
16 email and you're the person that we sent the  
17 WebEx invitation to. Should that continue to be  
18 the case or should it be -- does the applicant  
19 need to receive these invites? How are you all  
20 going to --

21 MS. SOLOMON: Yeah, it would be great  
22 if you copy her. If not, I will communicate with  
23 her. It's not a problem.

24 MS. FLETCHER: So can the applicant  
25 say if that's fine with her?

1 MS. SOLOMON: Yeah, yeah.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Can you say that's fine  
3 with you?

4 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Yes, I'm okay. No  
5 problem.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.

7 Ms. Solomon, should we consider you  
8 the representative for the applicant?

9 MS. SOLOMON: Yeah. Yes.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Is that okay with you?

11 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Yes, I'm okay.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, Ms. Solomon. So  
13 we'll continue to send you the WebEx invitations  
14 and then you can forward them to the applicant.

15 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. I have just one  
16 quick question. I'm very new to this and I'm  
17 trying to find out like I'm not really sure what  
18 the protest is about. Like I'm not familiar  
19 what --

20 MR. AMENE: Ms. Fletcher, I didn't  
21 mean to interrupt. This is Abel Amene. If I  
22 could actually say some words about that, that  
23 would really be useful. Is that okay?

24 MS. FLETCHER: It depends on what it  
25 is but go ahead and get started and then I'll let

1 you know.

2 MR. AMENE: Yes. Ms. Solomon, we've  
3 spoken many times and I think the ANC Commission  
4 completely supports, you know, having this  
5 license issued. We just want a settlement  
6 agreement. It's just part of our process. Most  
7 of our concerns are about the times. This is a  
8 very easy thing to solve.

9 I'm sorry you have to go through  
10 months of this to do it, but we need it because  
11 this license can be transferred from people to  
12 people so we want to make sure we have a good  
13 settlement agreement before, but this is not  
14 going to prevent you from doing this. Rest  
15 assured we'll solve this. It just takes some  
16 time. Thank you.

17 MS. SOLOMON: It's just that the  
18 license was originally mine. I transferred it to  
19 her and the hours were just carried on to her,  
20 but she is not operating at that time, which the  
21 mediation would work. Perfect.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Exactly. Guess what?  
23 Then we'll move to mediation. We'll talk about  
24 it in a week or so.

25 MS. SOLOMON: Thank you, Ms. Fletcher.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you for  
2 clarifying that. I appreciate it.

3 Well, then, any other questions or  
4 concerns?

5 MS. SOLOMON: No from my end.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Then I will see you on  
7 April 10th at 10:30. Like I said, I'll send you  
8 the WebEx invitation and thank you for coming  
9 this morning.

10 MS. SOLOMON: Thank you.

11 MS. GEBEREHIWOT: Thank you.

12 MR. AMENE: Thank you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.  
14 I'll say goodbye and the roll call hearings for  
15 today have been concluded. Bye everybody.

16 MS. SOLOMON: Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
18 went off the record at 10:40 a.m.)

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25

<b>A</b>	3:25 4:2 5:7 <b>calendar</b> 2:4 <b>call</b> 1:3 2:12,18 3:8 4:3 14:14 <b>called</b> 3:4 <b>Cannabis</b> 1:2,14 <b>carried</b> 13:19 <b>case</b> 1:8 2:3,4 3:18 5:2 11:18 <b>chat</b> 6:21 <b>check</b> 3:18 <b>clarifying</b> 14:2 <b>Class</b> 2:7 <b>colleague</b> 4:22 <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1 <b>come</b> 4:22 <b>coming</b> 14:8 <b>commission</b> 4:7,10 13:3 <b>communicate</b> 11:22 <b>communicating</b> 11:15 <b>completely</b> 13:4 <b>concerns</b> 13:7 14:4 <b>concluded</b> 3:9 14:15 <b>conducting</b> 2:12 <b>connectivity</b> 2:22 3:5 <b>consider</b> 12:7 <b>contact</b> 1:20 5:13,15,16 11:14 <b>continue</b> 11:17 12:13 <b>copy</b> 11:22 <b>court</b> 3:13 6:23 8:15 9:25 <b>CT</b> 1:7 2:7	<b>Exactly</b> 13:22 <b>excuse</b> 6:5	<b>F</b>	<b>familiar</b> 12:18 <b>filed</b> 3:2 <b>find</b> 12:17 <b>fine</b> 11:6,25 12:2 <b>first</b> 4:13 6:12 7:17 <b>Fletcher</b> 1:15,17 2:3,12 3:13 4:4,8,11,15,25 5:8,11,14,17,21,24 6:5,8,10,14,17,19,22 8:1,3,5,8,12,15,18,22 8:25 9:2,5,8,13,20,24 10:2,5,11,15,19 11:2 11:7,13,24 12:2,6,10 12:12,20,24 13:22,25 14:1,6,13 <b>following</b> 9:21 <b>forgot</b> 8:18 <b>forward</b> 12:14	<b>interrupt</b> 2:20 12:21 <b>invitation</b> 3:6 11:9,17 14:8 <b>invitations</b> 12:13 <b>invites</b> 11:19 <b>issued</b> 13:5 <b>issues</b> 2:10,22 3:5 4:23	<b>J</b>	<b>Japan</b> 1:6 2:4 3:9,17,21 3:25 <b>June</b> 8:6,7 9:3	<b>K</b>	<b>Kennedy</b> 1:7,10 2:5,8 <b>know</b> 4:16 8:16 11:5 13:1,4	<b>L</b>	<b>late</b> 4:24 <b>LaVerne</b> 1:14,17 2:12 <b>Let's</b> 4:4 <b>license</b> 1:8 2:6 13:5,11 13:18 <b>Licensee</b> 1:19 <b>line</b> 3:14 5:1 <b>LLC</b> 1:6 2:5 <b>location</b> 1:9 2:7 <b>look</b> 11:4	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b> 6:6 <b>M-I-S</b> 6:16 <b>M-I-S-R</b> 6:5 <b>M-I-S-R-A-K</b> 6:4,24 <b>ma'am</b> 11:12 <b>matter</b> 1:5 2:10 3:8,10 3:17,20 14:17 <b>mean</b> 10:9 12:21 <b>mediation</b> 7:15 9:6 11:8 11:10 13:21,23 <b>met</b> 1:14 <b>mine</b> 13:18 <b>Misrak</b> 1:19 5:6 6:3,13 <b>Mita</b> 1:6 2:4,14 3:8,17 3:21,24 4:2 <b>moment</b> 2:23 3:19 6:11 <b>Monday</b> 1:12 <b>months</b> 13:10 <b>morning</b> 14:9 <b>Mount</b> 1:10 2:8 <b>move</b> 13:23 <b>muted</b> 3:22,23 5:4	<b>N</b>	<b>name</b> 2:12 4:5,6,12,13 4:14 5:18,20,25 6:1,3 6:12 7:1 9:25
<b>A-B-E-L</b> 4:14 <b>A-M-E-N-E</b> 4:14 <b>a.m</b> 2:2 3:11,12 7:23 8:2 8:25 14:18 <b>ABC</b> 1:17 <b>Abel</b> 1:20 4:6,14 10:1 12:21 <b>able</b> 4:22 5:1 <b>above-entitled</b> 3:10 14:17 <b>ABRA</b> 2:6 <b>Absolutely</b> 4:13 <b>add</b> 3:15 <b>adverse</b> 2:11 <b>agent</b> 1:15,17 2:13 <b>agreement</b> 13:6,13 <b>ahead</b> 12:25 <b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,14 <b>Amene</b> 1:20 4:1,6,7,9 4:13,14,15,21 9:17,22 10:1,1,2,4,7,16,17,21 10:25 12:20,21 13:2 14:12 <b>ANC</b> 1:7,20 2:16,17,25 3:1,2 4:2,5,7,17,19 7:13 13:3 <b>answer</b> 2:21 <b>Anytime</b> 9:13 10:11,19 <b>apologize</b> 4:23 <b>applicant</b> 2:19,24 3:4 3:22 5:14,21,25 11:18 11:24 12:8,14 <b>application</b> 3:3,6 <b>appreciate</b> 4:21 14:2 <b>April</b> 1:12 9:11,17,22 10:3,7,9 11:1,3,8 14:7 <b>assuming</b> 3:4 <b>assured</b> 13:15 <b>attend</b> 11:10 <b>availability</b> 10:24 <b>available</b> 9:9,10,10,14 9:15 10:3	<b>date</b> 7:15 9:6,19 11:4 <b>dates</b> 7:16 <b>day</b> 9:9,10,14,21,22 10:22,25 11:3 <b>DC</b> 1:6 2:5 <b>depends</b> 12:24 <b>different</b> 9:21 <b>dismiss</b> 3:3 <b>dismissal</b> 4:19 <b>dismissed</b> 3:2,7,7 4:16 <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1 <b>doing</b> 13:14	<b>D</b>	<b>date</b> 7:15 9:6,19 11:4 <b>dates</b> 7:16 <b>day</b> 9:9,10,14,21,22 10:22,25 11:3 <b>DC</b> 1:6 2:5 <b>depends</b> 12:24 <b>different</b> 9:21 <b>dismiss</b> 3:3 <b>dismissal</b> 4:19 <b>dismissed</b> 3:2,7,7 4:16 <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1 <b>doing</b> 13:14	<b>E</b>	<b>earlier</b> 10:18 <b>earliest</b> 10:21 <b>easy</b> 13:8 <b>email</b> 2:20 3:16 11:16 <b>establishment</b> 2:15 5:4 <b>Ethio</b> 1:6 2:4 3:8,17,21 3:25 <b>everybody</b> 14:15	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b> 7:3 <b>G-E</b> 7:6 <b>G-E-B-E-R-E-H-I-W-O-</b> 7:7 <b>G-E-B-E-R-E-H-I-W-O...</b> 7:10 <b>Geberehiwot</b> 5:6 6:3,7 6:9,13,16,18,20,24 7:2,2,5,7,11 12:4,11 14:11 <b>GEBREHIWOT</b> 1:19 <b>give</b> 5:2 7:16 8:11 9:8 <b>go</b> 12:25 13:9 <b>going</b> 2:19,20,22 3:2 6:20 7:9 11:20 13:14 <b>good</b> 13:12 <b>goodbye</b> 14:14 <b>great</b> 11:21 <b>Guess</b> 13:22	<b>H</b>	<b>H-E-M-E-N</b> 5:19 <b>H-R</b> 6:8 <b>health</b> 4:23 <b>hearing</b> 1:3 2:13 3:8 7:15,16,17,19 8:5,9 8:23,23 9:2 <b>hearings</b> 14:14 <b>Hemen</b> 1:20 5:6,10 <b>hours</b> 13:19	<b>I</b>	<b>impact</b> 2:11				
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13:10  
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**O**

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**P**

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**  
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**Perfect** 13:21  
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**quickly** 8:11

**quiet** 2:11

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Mita Ethio Japan Cafe

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 04-01-24

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.



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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