

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

2 10:08 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
4 everyone. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
5 Beverage Control Board for the District of
6 Columbia, and in accordance with D.C. official
7 Code Section 2576 of the Open Meetings Act, I'm
8 welcoming you to the regular scheduled meeting of
9 the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

10 This meeting is being conducted
11 pursuant to guidance made available by the
12 District of Columbia's Office of Open Government
13 regarding electronic meetings held by public
14 bodies during the public health emergency.

15 Pursuant to this guidance notice of
16 today's meeting was provided 48 hours in advance
17 of the meeting on ABRA's website and on the
18 District's central meeting calendar.

19 This notice included the time, date,
20 agenda, and call in and log in information for
21 public participation. This electronic meeting is
22 being hosted by a WebEx account provided by the
23 District of Columbia Government. Please address
24 any questions or complaints to the OOG at
25 opengovoffice@dc.gov. Hold on a minute, please.

1 My name is Donovan Anderson, and I'm
2 Chairman of the Board. I would like to introduce
3 the other members of the ABC Board who are also
4 participating electronically, pursuant to Mayor's
5 Order 2020-054. Please respond when I announce
6 your name. Mr. James Short.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. James Short,
8 present.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bobby Cato.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Bobby Cato,
11 present.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Rafi
13 Crockett.

14 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett,
15 present.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jeni
17 Hansen.

18 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, present.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Edward
20 Grandis.

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis,
22 present.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board has
24 six members in attendance for the conduct of
25 business today, and that constitutes a quorum.

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

5 There are actually two cases scheduled
6 for today. Once your case is called I will take
7 a moment for our IT specialist to elevate the
8 rights for each party, to enable their camera and
9 microphone.

10 Then and only then will you have
11 ability to enable your equipment. If your case
12 is not being heard you will remain mute, and your
13 camera will be disabled.

14 At the conclusion of each case the
15 parties will have the option to leave. If the
16 party chooses to stay all cameras and microphones
17 for the concluded case will be disabled.

18 Should you have any questions or
19 require technical assistance through the hearing,
20 please submit them using the question and answer
21 feature, or emails to moan.docanswersto@dc.gov
22 (inaudible).

23 Our first order of business today is
24 Case number, is a protest hearing status, Case
25 number 21-PRO-00011, Charcoal Town, License

1 number 117535.

2 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate
3 the rights of the applicant, the attorney for,
4 the applicant's attorneys, Ms. Yohannes? And the
5 protestants I believe are Rick Murphy, Lisa
6 Palmer. We have, and we also have a citizens
7 association (inaudible), which is Karen Cruse,
8 please.

9 MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

11 MS. ANDREWS: Ms. Yohannes, your
12 rights have been elevated. Ms. Cruse, your
13 rights have been elevated.

14 MS. YOHANNES: Good morning. Sidon
15 Yohannes here on behalf of the applicant.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
17 on, Ms. Yohannes. Hold on. Is your client
18 joining you this morning?

19 MS. YOHANNES: No, he's not.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

21 MS. ANDREWS: Ms. Palmer, your rights
22 have been elevated.

23 MS. PALMER: Good morning.

24 MS. ANDREWS: That's all, Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.

1 Andrews. Ms. Cruse, Ms. Palmer, if you have a
2 camera your rights were elevated. So you're, you
3 can open your camera, please, if you have the
4 ability. If you do not, that's fine. All right.
5 Ms. Cruse. Ms. Cruse.

6 MS. CRUSE: I can't get through.

7 MS. ANDREWS: Now you're through.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you,
9 Ms. Cruse.

10 MS. CRUSE: Oh, okay. I can't --

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see
12 you. But I can hear you.

13 MS. CRUSE: Okay. I can't see
14 anybody. But as long as you can hear me. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear
17 you. Good morning. All right. Good morning,
18 everyone. So, let me have the parties introduce
19 themselves for the record. I will start with the
20 applicant.

21 MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes here on
22 behalf of the applicant.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Ms.
24 Yohannes, can you spell your name for the record,
25 please?

1 MS. YOHANNES: S-I-D-O-N, Y-O-H-A-N-N-
2 E-S.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.
4 Yohannes. Let's then go to Ms. Palmer, right?

5 MS. PALMER: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you say and
7 spell your name for the record please, and then
8 identify yourself?

9 MS. PALMER: Sure. Lisa, L-I-S-A,
10 Palmer, P-A-L-M-E-R. And I'm with ANC 2E.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.
12 Palmer. Ms. Cruse, can you say and spell your
13 name for the record, please, and identify
14 yourself?

15 MS. CRUSE: Yes. I am Karen Cruse, K-
16 A-R-E-N, C-R-U-S-E, and I represent the Citizens
17 Association of Georgetown.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
19 Good morning. Thank you very much.

20 MS. CRUSE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
22 Good morning, everyone. We're here for the
23 protest status hearing. And are there any
24 preliminary matters that either side wishes to
25 bring to the Board's attention?

1 MS. YOHANNES: None for the applicant.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Palmer?

3 MS. PALMER: None for the protestants.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Ms. Cruse.

5 MS. CRUSE: None for the protestants.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,

7 fine. All right. Thank you. Now, this matter
8 is scheduled for a protest hearing on May 26th at
9 10:30 a.m. So, May 26th at 10:30 a.m.

10 All right. Now that we've scheduled
11 this matter for a protest hearing there are a few
12 things that I would like to instruct you about.
13 Because the Board's practices on the COVID 19
14 restriction have changed.

15 As you know, the Board's hearings are
16 conducted virtually. So, it is more important
17 than ever that protest hearings are focused, and
18 addresses only those issues that are being
19 protested.

20 Following this hearing you will
21 receive an email from Assistant General Counsel
22 April Randall that will include a copy of a
23 protest information form, and a copy of an
24 exhibit form, as well as specific instructions
25 for the hearing.

1 You are required to complete and
2 submit the PIF and exhibit forms at least seven
3 days before the date of the hearing. If we do
4 not receive a copy of your forms seven days
5 before the hearing your application or your
6 protest may be subject to dismissal.

7 These documents need to be submitted
8 to ABRA.legal.gov and to the opposing parties.
9 Please know that these documents greatly assist
10 the Board, and narrow the protest issues,
11 facilitating the process, and keeping the parties
12 on point during the hearing.

13 Each side is limited to no more than
14 five witnesses. And you will only have 60
15 minutes to present your case. And this is a
16 change. Before it used to be 90 minutes. Now
17 it's 60 minutes. This includes all direct and
18 cross examination.

19 The Board does not intend to hear
20 testimony on matters that are not relevant to
21 those issues that are being protested. Are there
22 any questions by anyone at this juncture?

23 MS. PALMER: No.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Cruse.

25 MS. CRUSE: No.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
2 Yohannes.

3 MS. YOHANNES: No.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
5 Thank you. We thank you greatly for your
6 cooperation. If you have any questions at any
7 time leading up to the hearing, please do not
8 hesitate to contact AGC April Randall at 202-329-
9 6354. Or you can also contact her by email,
10 which is april.randall2@dc.gov.

11 Thank you very much. I've always
12 supported settlement agreements. So, if the
13 parties are able to settle the matter through
14 settlement agreements, the parties look forward
15 to that. The Board looks forward to that.

16 But if the parties are unable to
17 settle this by settlement, we will see you on May
18 26th at 10:30 a.m. All right. Thank you very
19 much. Have a great day.

20 MS. CRUSE: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 MS. YOHANNES: Bye, bye.

23 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
24 went off the record at 10:18 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

In the matter of: Charcoal Town

Before: DCABRA

Date: 04-01-21

Place: teleconference

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



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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