

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
+ + + + +
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

-----=
IN THE MATTER OF:
Elmar, LLC,
t/a Vision Lounge
707 H Street NE
Retailer CT - ANC 6A
License #121350
Case # 23-CIT-00672
(Operating After Hours)
-----=

Wednesday
April 3, 2024

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

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
ANTHONY P. CELO, DC OAG

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

2 10:44 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
4 we're on the record.

5 Good morning, as Chairperson of the
6 Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the
7 District of Columbia, and in accordance with D.C.
8 Code Section 2571(x)(c) of the Open Meetings Act,
9 OMA, I am welcoming you to the regularly
10 scheduled meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage and
11 Cannabis Board.

12 This meeting is being conducted
13 pursuant to guidance made available by the
14 District of Columbia's Office of Open Government,
15 regarding electronic meetings held by public
16 bodies.

17 Electronic meetings by the ABC Board
18 are authorized pursuant to Section 2577(a) of the
19 D.C. Code.

20 Pursuant to the OMA requirements,
21 notice of today's meeting was provided 48 hours
22 in advance of the meeting on ABCA's website, and
23 on the District's central meeting calendar.

24 The notice included the time, date,
25 agenda, and call-in or log-in information for

1 public participation.

2 This electronic meeting has been
3 hosted by a WebEx account provided by the
4 District of Columbia government.

5 Please address any questions or
6 complaints to the OOG at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

7 My name is Donovan Anderson, I'm
8 Chairperson of the Board. I would like to
9 introduce the other members of the ABC Board, who
10 are also participating electronically.

11 Please respond when I announce your
12 names.

13 Mr. James Short?

14 MR. SHORT: Mr. James Short, present.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silas Grant?

16 MR. GRANT: Mr. Silas Grant, present.

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

20 Before we get underway with today's
21 hearing calendar, I need to make a few
22 instruction very clear so that the conduct of
23 these hearings is understood by everyone.

24 There are seven cases scheduled for
25 this morning's calendar. Once your case is

1 called, I will take a moment for IT specialist to
2 elevate the rights for each party to enable their
3 camera and microphone.

4 Then and only then will you have the
5 ability to enable your equipment.

6 If your case is not being heard, you
7 will remain mute and your camera will be
8 disabled.

9 At the conclusion of each case, the
10 parties will have the option to leave. If the
11 party chooses to stay, all cameras and
12 microphones for the concluded case will be
13 disabled.

14 Should you have any questions or
15 require technical assistance during the hearing,
16 please submit them using the question and answer
17 feature.

18 Our first case this morning is a show
19 cause hearing status case. It's Case Number 23-
20 CIT-00672, Vision Lounge, License Number 121350.

21 Good morning, Mr. Orellana. Can you
22 please elevate the rights of the government and
23 the licensee in this case?

24 MR. ORELLANA: Good morning, Anthony
25 Celso, your access has been elevated.

1 That appears to be all, Chairman.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
3 you.

4 Good morning, Mr. Celo. Can you
5 please spell and state your name for the record?

6 MR. CELO: My name is Anthony Celo, A-
7 N-T-H-O-N-Y C-E-L-O.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

9 We're here for Vision Lounge. I see
10 that the licensee is not here, but however, for
11 show cause status hearing the licensee is not
12 required to be here.

13 This matter then is scheduled for a
14 show cause hearing on March 8 at 10:30 a.m.

15 I would like to remind the government
16 and the parties that if this matter goes to a
17 show cause hearing, seven days prior to the
18 hearing the parties are required to exchange
19 documents and witnesses.

20 Failure by either side to exchange
21 documents and witnesses, the Board is empowered
22 to prevent that side from moving forward unless
23 reasonable cause is shown why documents and
24 witnesses were not disclosed seven days prior.

25 Any questions, Mr. Celo?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. CELO: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
went off the record at 10:48 a.m.)

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A- 5:6 a.m 2:2 5:14 6:5 ABC 2:17 3:9 ABCA 1:19 ABCA's 2:22 ability 4:5 above-entitled 6:4 access 4:25 account 3:3 Act 2:8 address 3:5 advance 2:22 agenda 2:25 Alcoholic 1:2,13 2:6,10 ANC 1:7 Anderson 1:14,16 2:3 3:7,15,17 5:2,8 6:2 announce 3:11 answer 4:16 Anthony 1:20 4:24 5:6 appears 5:1 April 1:11 assistance 4:15 attendance 3:18 authorized 2:18 available 2:13</p>	<p>clear 3:22 Code 2:8,19 Columbia 1:1 2:7 3:4 Columbia's 2:14 complaints 3:6 concluded 4:12 conclusion 4:9 conduct 3:18,22 conducted 2:12 constitutes 3:19 CT 1:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>D.C 2:7,19 date 2:24 days 5:17,24 DC 1:19,20 disabled 4:8,13 disclosed 5:24 District 1:1 2:7,14 3:4 District's 2:23 documents 5:19,21,23 Donovan 1:14,16 3:7</p>	<p>hours 1:9 2:21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>included 2:24 information 2:25 instruction 3:22 introduce 3:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>James 1:17 3:13,14 JOSE 1:19 JR 1:17,17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>leave 4:10 License 1:8 4:20 licensee 4:23 5:10,11 LLC 1:6 log-in 2:25 Lounge 1:6 4:20 5:9</p>	<p>3:6 Operating 1:9 option 4:10 Orellana 1:19 4:21,24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P 1:20 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 participating 3:10 participation 3:1 parties 4:10 5:16,18 party 4:2,11 please 3:5,11 4:16,22 5:5 present 1:15,18 3:14,16 presiding 1:14 prevent 5:22 prior 5:17,24 provided 2:21 3:3 public 2:15 3:1 pursuant 2:13,18,20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>Beverage 1:2,13 2:6,10 Board 1:2,13 2:6,11,17 3:8,9,17 5:21 bodies 2:16 business 3:19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>either 5:20 electronic 2:15,17 3:2 electronically 3:10 elevate 4:2,22 elevated 4:25 Elmar 1:6 empowered 5:21 enable 4:2,5 equipment 4:5 exchange 5:18,20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>March 5:14 matter 1:5 5:13,16 6:4 meeting 1:3 2:10,12,21 2:22,23 3:2 meetings 2:8,15,17 Member 1:17,17 members 3:9,18 met 1:13 microphone 4:3 microphones 4:12 moment 4:1 morning 2:3,5 4:18,21 4:24 5:4 morning's 3:25 moving 5:22 mute 4:7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>question 4:16 questions 3:5 4:14 5:25 quorum 3:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>reasonable 5:23 record 2:4 5:5 6:5 regarding 2:15 regularly 2:9 remain 4:7 remind 5:15 require 4:15 required 5:12,18 requirements 2:20 respond 3:11 Retailer 1:7 right 5:2,8 6:2 rights 4:2,22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C-E-L-O 5:7 calendar 2:23 3:21,25 call-in 2:25 called 4:1 camera 4:3,7 cameras 4:11 Cannabis 1:2,13 2:6,11 case 1:8 3:25 4:6,9,12 4:18,19,19,23 cases 3:24 cause 1:7 4:19 5:11,14 5:17,23 Celo 1:20 4:25 5:4,6,6 5:25 6:1 central 2:23 Chair 6:1 Chairman 5:1 Chairperson 1:13,16 2:3,5 3:8,15,17 5:2,8 6:2 chooses 4:11 CIT-00672 4:20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>Failure 5:20 feature 4:17 first 4:18 forward 5:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>goes 5:16 Good 2:3,5 4:21,24 5:4 government 2:14 3:4 4:22 5:15 Grant 1:17 3:15,16,16 guidance 2:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>H 1:7 heard 4:6 hearing 1:7 3:21 4:15 4:19 5:11,14,17,18 hearings 3:23 held 2:15 hosted 3:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>N-T-H-O-N-Y 5:7 name 3:7 5:5,6 names 3:12 NE 1:7 need 3:21 notice 2:21,24 Number 4:19,20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>OAG 1:20 Office 2:14 OMA 2:9,20 Once 3:25 OOG 3:6 Open 2:8,14 opengovoffice@dc.g...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>scheduled 2:10 3:24 5:13 Section 2:8,18 see 5:9 seven 3:24 5:17,24 Short 1:17 3:13,14,14 show 1:7 4:18 5:11,14 5:17 shown 5:23 side 5:20,22 Silas 1:17 3:15,16 specialist 4:1 spell 5:5 Staff 1:19</p>

state 5:5
status 1:7 4:19 5:11
stay 4:11
Street 1:7
submit 4:16

T

t/a 1:6
take 4:1
technical 4:15
thank 5:2 6:2
three 3:18
time 2:24
today 3:19
today's 2:21 3:20

U

understood 3:23
underway 3:20

V

videoconference 1:13
Vision 1:6 4:20 5:9

W

W 1:14,16
we're 2:4 5:9
WebEx 1:13 3:3
website 2:22
Wednesday 1:11
welcoming 2:9
went 6:5
witnesses 5:19,21,24

X

Y

Z

0

1

10:30 5:14
10:44 2:2
10:48 6:5
121350 1:8 4:20

2

2024 1:11
23- 4:19
23-CIT-00672 1:8
2571(x)(c) 2:8
2577(a) 2:18

3

3 1:11

4
48 2:21

5

6

6A 1:7

7

707 1:7

8

8 5:14

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Vision Lounge

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 04-03-24

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

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831