

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

2 1:38 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now the only
4 case that we have on our calendar then this
5 afternoon is Case No. 24-PRO-00015, Mechos
6 Dominican Kitchen, License No. 114514.

7 Good afternoon, Mr. Orellana. Can you
8 please elevate the rights of the parties in this
9 case?

10 MR. ORELLANA: My pleasure.
11 Investigator Bernell Davis, your access has been
12 elevated.

13 Aris Compres, your access has been
14 elevated.

15 Tequia Hicks Delgado, your access has
16 been elevated.

17 That is all, Chairman.

18 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Hello?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on please.
20 If everyone has a camera, can you please turn
21 that one, please?

22 MS. HICKS DELGADO: I'm having trouble
23 accessing my camera.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, we can
25 wait, ma'am.

1 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Like it's not
2 visible.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you want to
4 log off and then log back on, I will have Mr.
5 Orellana look for you so when you come back on he
6 can elevate your rights.

7 (Pause.)

8 MS. HICKS DELGADO: All right. I
9 should be on now. Sorry. Thanks.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.
11 Good afternoon, everyone.

12 All right. Now that we're ready, I
13 would like the parties to identify themselves for
14 the record. Let's start with Mr. Compres.

15 Please spell and state your name for
16 the record.

17 MR. COMPRES: Sure. It's Aris
18 Compres, A-R-I-S. Last name is C-O, M as Mary, P
19 as in Paul, R-E-S.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's your
21 relationship to the establishment, sir?

22 MR. COMPRES: I am one of the owners.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, good
24 afternoon.

25 Ms. Hicks Delgado, can you please

1 spell and state your name for the record?

2 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Tequia Hicks
3 Delgado, TEQUIA is my first name. Last name is a
4 double last name. H-I-C-K-S and Delgado, D-E-L-
5 G-A-D-O.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Davis, can
7 you identify yourself for the record?

8 MR. DAVIS: I am Investigator Bernell
9 Davis. That's B-E-R-N-E-L-L, D-A-V-I-S.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 This matter is scheduled for a protest hearing
12 today. The establishment applied for a
13 substantial change and this matter was protested
14 by the ANC. At the -- when we had the prehearing
15 -- I'm sorry, the protest status hearing I
16 informed both parties that seven days before the
17 hearing both parties were required to file a PIF.
18 It's my understanding that neither party filed a
19 PIF.

20 And now let me start off first with
21 the Licensee. Are there any preliminary matters
22 that the parties want to discuss today before we
23 do this hearing?

24 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms. --

1 well -- okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Ms. Hicks.
2 I was going to start with the Licensee first, but
3 go ahead. What's the preliminary matter that you
4 want to bring to the attention of the Board?

5 MS. HICKS DELGADO: So the quick piece
6 is that we were short signatures last time and we
7 are still short signatures only because I thought
8 that there was -- I didn't realize there was a
9 certification that was required. And so that
10 piece is necessary and so I just -- that's taken
11 a second. But otherwise, both parties are still
12 in agreement and still have a standing Settlement
13 Agreement that we just are short signatures on.
14 The ANC --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
16 You're talking about what certification? What
17 certification are you talking about, ma'am?

18 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Certification of
19 the actual vote taken by the ANC to approve the
20 Settlement Agreement.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is it that
22 you're asking the Board to do today?

23 MS. HICKS DELGADO: To -- I guess
24 there's -- there was an option to a continuance
25 or something like that. I don't think we need

1 one necessarily too long. I mean, the end of the
2 week is fine. But it's just getting the chair of
3 the 5C's signature on the Settlement Agreement.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're
5 making a motion for us to continue this hearing.
6 Is that what -- for -- you're asking for a one-
7 week continuance to -- for us to continue this
8 hearing?

9 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Yes. It's a
10 likely cancellation once we get the signatures.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Mr.
12 Compres, what is your position on whether the
13 Board should continue this hearing?

14 MR. COMPRES: This whole time I
15 thought that the Settlement Agreement -- you
16 know, I already sent it to ABCA and I was just
17 under the impression it was under review and it
18 was going to be approved. I didn't know that we
19 were still waiting on a signature from the ANC,
20 if they already voted on it. So it just seems
21 like -- it's becoming a long time I feel.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, are you
23 asking us to -- are you objecting to the granting
24 of the continuance or are you in agreement for
25 the Board to grant a continuance?

1 MR. COMPRES: So how long would the
2 continuance be?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board
4 hasn't decided yet, sir. It is your call whether
5 or not the Board -- we are -- this matter was
6 scheduled for a hearing today and the Board is
7 here to move forward with the hearing. And my
8 assumption is that you -- although you didn't
9 file a PIF you are here to go -- move forward
10 with the hearing. The ANC is requesting a
11 continuance.

12 I think that as -- well, the earliest
13 that this case could be scheduled is next week
14 Wednesday when we have -- when the Board has its
15 next meeting. And I think what Ms. Hicks Delgado
16 has stated, she had stated through the end of the
17 week, but in all practicality if the Board was to
18 grant the hearing -- if the Board was grant the
19 continuance, it would be for us to have a hearing
20 next week Wednesday. But you can either agree or
21 disagree. That is your call, sir. That is your
22 -- if you decide not to agree to the continuance,
23 then the Board will move forward today with the
24 hearing.

25 Of course we will have the

1 investigator testify. I assume that you're
2 prepared to testify why is it that you request
3 this substantial change. And the Board will make
4 its decision. If you -- that's if you disagree.
5 If you agree, then the Settlement Agreement will
6 come in. I assume the Settlement Agreement will
7 come in before the week is over. The Board will
8 review it and the Board will make a determination
9 whether or not we are going to adopt the
10 Settlement Agreement and move forward. So it is
11 your call today, sir.

12 MR. COMPRES: Okay. Let's go ahead
13 and move with the continuance.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So you
15 agree to the continuance.

16 All right. So both parties have
17 requested a continuance. I am in agreement that
18 we can grant a one-week continuance and move this
19 -- let me make sure that -- all right. So I will
20 -- both parties have agreed to a one-week
21 continuance, and so therefore I make a motion
22 that the Board approve a one-week condition --
23 continuance for this case. Is there a second?

24 MEMBER SHORT: Short. I second.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has

1 seconded the motion. We'll have a roll call
2 vote.

3 Mr. Short?

4 MEMBER SHORT: Short. I agree.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

6 MEMBER GRANT:

7 (No audible response.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.

9 I agree. The matter pass three-zero.

10 So what this means, Ms. Delgado, the
11 Board will grant a one-week continuance. If the
12 settlement does not -- if the Board does not
13 receive a Settlement Agreement, we're moving
14 forward next year -- next week with the hearing.
15 I assume that this hearing will be scheduled at
16 1:30 next afternoon -- in the afternoon. No
17 further continuances will be granted.

18 If as you stated that the Board -- I'm
19 sorry, that the ANC at a public meeting -- if
20 they had grant -- to approve the settlement, it's
21 just a matter of the ANC sending the Settlement
22 Agreement into our legal office and to state that
23 we voted on a public -- the same letter that was
24 submitted when the ANC sent us a letter clearly
25 stating that we had a public meeting. This is

1 the vote and we voted to protest this -- the
2 substantial change. It's the same documentation
3 that we require when the Settlement Agreement
4 comes in.

5 Since -- if the Licensee has already
6 signed it. And so all the ANC is saying that we
7 had a public vote and this is when the -- we had
8 the vote. This is the vote, the date of the vote
9 and this is what the -- I don't know the process
10 and procedures about the chair has to sign it,
11 but it's the same -- whatever was submitted when
12 you -- when the ANC protested, informed the
13 agency that they protested the substantial
14 change, it is the same type of documentation that
15 needs to provide to the agency to state that here
16 is the Settlement Agreement and we voted at a
17 public meeting to approve the settlement.

18 The agency will look at it. We'll
19 review it for legal sufficiency. And then this
20 Board will vote at a public meeting to adopt the
21 approval of the settlement. And then we will --
22 once the Settlement Agreement is approved by the
23 Board, then the agency will move towards issuing
24 the substantial change endorsement on the
25 license.

1 Any questions?

2 MS. HICKS DELGADO:

3 (No audible response.)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear
5 you, ma'am. You're speaking, but I can't hear
6 you.

7 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Yes, I understand.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
9 by you, Mr. Compres?

10 MR. COMPRES: No questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

12 With that said, then this matter is adjourned.

13 Thank you. Have a great day.

14 MR. COMPRES: Thank you.

15 MS. HICKS DELGADO: Thank you. You,
16 too.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

18 Good.

19 All right. That then was the only
20 case that we have scheduled for this afternoon.
21 And since this is the only case that we have
22 scheduled for the afternoon, I will now close the
23 record for the day.

24 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
25 Beverage and Cannabis Board for the District of

1 Columbia and in accordance with Title 3, Chapter
2 405, Office of Open Government, I move that ABC
3 Board hold a closed meeting on April 25th for the
4 purpose of discussing and hearing the reports
5 concerning ongoing or planned investigations of
6 alleged criminal or civil misconduct or
7 violations of law or regulations and seeking
8 legal advice from our legal counsel on the
9 Board's investigative agenda, legal agenda, and
10 licensing agenda for April 25th as published in
11 the D.C. Register on April 19th.

12 Is there a second?

13 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant. I second
14 the motion.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has
16 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
17 vote on the motion before us now that it has been
18 properly seconded.

19 Mr. Short?

20 MEMBER SHORT: (Audio interference).

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

22 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant. (Audio
23 interference).

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant
25 agrees.

1 Mr. Anderson? I agree.

2 AS it appears that the motion has
3 passed, I hereby notice that the ABC Board will
4 hold this closed meeting pursuant to the Open
5 Meetings Act. Notice will also be posted on the
6 ABC Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on
7 the electronic calendar on ABCA's website, and
8 published in the D.C. Register in as timely a
9 manner as practical.

10 We're now adjourned for the day. We'd
11 like to thank the members of the public who
12 participated in our hearings today.

13 I now direct all Board members to
14 return to executive session for further Board
15 business. Good afternoon.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
17 went off the record at 1:54 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A

A-R-I-S 3:18
ABC 12:2 13:3,6
ABCA 1:22,23 6:16
ABCA's 13:7
above-entitled 13:16
access 2:11,13,15
accessing 2:23
Act 13:5
actual 5:19
adjourned 11:12 13:10
adopt 8:9 10:20
advice 12:8
afternoon 2:5,7 3:11,24
 9:16,16 11:20,22
 13:15
agency 10:13,15,18,23
agenda 12:9,9,10
agree 7:20,22 8:5,15
 9:4,9 13:1
agreed 8:20
agreement 5:12,13,20
 6:3,15,24 8:5,6,10,17
 9:13,22 10:3,16,22
agrees 12:25
ahead 5:1,3 8:12
Alcoholic 1:2,15 11:24
alleged 12:6
ANC 1:8,23 4:14 5:14
 5:19 6:19 7:10 9:19
 9:21,24 10:6,12
Anderson 1:16,19 2:3
 2:19,24 3:3,10,20,23
 4:6,10,25 5:15,21 6:4
 6:11,22 7:3 8:14,25
 9:5,8,8 11:4,8,11,17
 12:15,21,24 13:1
appears 13:2
Applicant 1:22
applied 4:12
approval 10:21
approve 5:19 8:22 9:20
 10:17
approved 6:18 10:22
April 1:14 12:3,10,11
Aris 1:22 2:13 3:17
asking 5:22 6:6,23
assume 8:1,6 9:15
assumption 7:8
attention 5:4
audible 9:7 11:3
Audio 12:20,22

B

B-E-R-N-E-L-L 4:9
back 3:4,5
becoming 6:21
Bernell 1:23 2:11 4:8

Beverage 1:2,15 11:25
board 1:2,16 5:4,22
 6:13,25 7:3,5,6,14,17
 7:18,23 8:3,7,8,22
 9:11,12,18 10:20,23
 11:25 12:3 13:3,6,6
 13:13,14

Board's 12:9
bring 5:4
bulletin 13:6
business 13:15

C

C-O 3:18
calendar 2:4 13:7
call 7:4,21 8:11 9:1
 12:16
camera 2:20,23
cancellation 6:10
Cannabis 1:2,15 11:25
case 1:9 2:4,5,9 7:13
 8:23 11:20,21
certification 5:9,16,17
 5:18
chair 6:2 10:10
Chairman 2:17
Chairperson 1:16,19
 2:3,19,24 3:3,10,20
 3:23 4:6,10,25 5:15
 5:21 6:4,11,22 7:3
 8:14,25 9:5,8 11:4,8
 11:11,17,24 12:15,21
 12:24
change 1:10 4:13 8:3
 10:2,14,24
Chapter 12:1
civil 12:6
clearly 9:24
close 11:22
closed 12:3 13:4
Columbia 1:1 12:1
come 3:5 8:6,7
comes 10:4
Compres 1:22 2:13
 3:14,17,18,22 6:12,14
 7:1 8:12 11:9,10,14
concerning 12:5
condition 8:22
continuance 5:24 6:7
 6:24,25 7:2,11,19,22
 8:13,15,17,18,21,23
 9:11
continuances 9:17
continue 6:5,7,13
counsel 12:8
course 7:25
CR 1:8
criminal 12:6

Crossing 1:6

D

D-A-V-I-S 4:9
D-E-L- 4:4
D.C 12:11 13:8
Dakota 1:6
date 10:8
Davis 1:23 2:11 4:6,8,9
day 11:13,23 13:10
days 4:16
DC 1:22
decide 7:22
decided 7:4
decision 8:4
Delgado 1:23 2:15,18
 2:22 3:1,8,25 4:2,3,4
 4:24 5:5,18,23 6:9
 7:15 9:10 11:2,7,15
determination 8:8
direct 13:13
disagree 7:21 8:4
discuss 4:22
discussing 12:4
District 1:1 11:25
documentation 10:2,14
Dominican 1:6,7 2:6
Donovan 1:16,19
double 4:4

E

earliest 7:12
either 7:20
electronic 13:7
elevate 2:8 3:6
elevated 2:12,14,16
endorsement 1:11
 10:24
Entertainment 1:11
establishment 3:21
 4:12
executive 13:14

F

feel 6:21
file 4:17 7:9
filed 4:18
fine 6:2
first 4:3,20 5:2
forward 7:7,9,23 8:10
 9:14
further 9:17 13:14

G

G-A-D-O 4:5
Garden 1:12
getting 6:2
go 5:1,3 7:9 8:12

going 5:2 6:18 8:9
good 2:7 3:11,23 11:18
 13:15
Government 12:2
grant 1:19 6:25 7:18,18
 8:18 9:5,6,11,20
 12:13,13,15,21,22,22
 12:24
granted 9:17
granting 6:23
great 11:13
guess 5:23

H

H-I-C-K-S 4:4
hear 11:4,5
hearing 1:3,8 4:11,15
 4:17,23 6:5,8,13 7:6,7
 7:10,18,19,24 9:14,15
 12:4 13:6
hearings 13:12
Hello 2:18
Hicks 1:23 2:15,18,22
 3:1,8,25 4:2,2,24 5:1
 5:5,18,23 6:9 7:15
 11:2,7,15
hold 2:19 4:25 12:3
 13:4

I

identify 3:13 4:7
impression 6:17
informed 4:16 10:12
Inside 1:11
interference 12:20,23
investigations 12:5
investigative 12:9
investigator 1:23 2:11
 4:8 8:1
issuing 10:23

J

JAMES 1:20
JOSE 1:22
JR 1:19,20

K

Kitchen 1:6,7 2:6
know 6:16,18 10:9

L

law 12:7
legal 9:22 10:19 12:8,8
 12:9
Let's 3:14 8:12
letter 9:23,24
license 1:9 2:6 10:25
Licensee 4:21 5:2 10:5

licensing 12:10
 LLC 1:6
 log 3:4,4
 long 6:1,21 7:1
 look 3:5 10:18

M

M 3:18
 ma'am 2:25 3:10 5:17
 11:5
 making 6:5
 manner 13:9
 Market 1:8
 Mary 3:18
 matter 1:5 4:11,13 5:3
 7:5 9:9,21 11:12
 13:16
 matters 4:21
 mean 6:1
 means 9:10
 Mechos 1:6,7 2:5
 meeting 7:15 9:19,25
 10:17,20 12:3 13:4
 Meetings 13:5
 Member 1:19,20 8:24
 9:4,6 12:13,20,22
 members 13:11,13
 met 1:16
 misconduct 12:6
 motion 6:5 8:21 9:1
 12:14,16,17 13:2
 move 7:7,9,23 8:10,13
 8:18 10:23 12:2
 moving 9:13

N

name 3:15,18 4:1,3,3,4
 NE 1:8
 necessarily 6:1
 necessary 5:10
 need 5:25
 needs 10:15
 neither 4:18
 notice 13:3,5

O

objecting 6:23
 office 9:22 12:2
 okay 5:1 8:12,14
 once 6:10 10:22
 one- 6:6
 one-week 8:18,20,22
 9:11
 ongoing 12:5
 Open 12:2 13:4
 option 5:24
 Orellana 1:22 2:7,10
 3:5

Outside 1:11
 owners 3:22

P

P 3:18
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2:1
 p.m 2:2 13:17
 participated 13:12
 parties 2:8 3:13 4:16,17
 4:22 5:11 8:16,20
 party 4:18
 pass 9:9
 passed 13:3
 Paul 3:19
 Pause 3:7
 piece 5:5,10
 PIF 4:17,19 7:9
 placed 13:6
 planned 12:5
 please 2:8,19,20,21
 3:15,25
 pleasure 2:10
 position 6:12
 posted 13:5
 practical 13:9
 practicality 7:17
 prehearing 4:14
 preliminary 4:21 5:3
 prepared 8:2
 PRESENT 1:18,21
 presiding 1:16
 procedures 10:10
 process 10:9
 properly 12:18
 protest 1:8 4:11,15 10:1
 protested 4:13 10:12
 10:13
 provide 10:15
 public 9:19,23,25 10:7
 10:17,20 13:11
 published 12:10 13:8
 purpose 12:4
 pursuant 13:4

Q

questions 11:1,8,10
 quick 5:5

R

R-E-S 3:19
 ready 3:12
 realize 5:8
 receive 9:13
 record 3:14,16 4:1,7
 11:23 13:17
 Register 12:11 13:8
 regulations 12:7

relationship 3:21
 reports 12:4
 request 8:2
 requested 8:17
 requesting 7:10
 require 10:3
 required 4:17 5:9
 response 9:7 11:3
 Retailer 1:8
 return 13:14
 review 6:17 8:8 10:19
 right 3:8,12 4:10 8:16
 8:19 11:11,17,19
 rights 2:8 3:6
 roll 9:1 12:16
 room 13:6

S

saying 10:6
 scheduled 4:11 7:6,13
 9:15 11:20,22
 second 5:11 8:23,24
 12:12,13
 seconded 9:1 12:16,18
 seeking 12:7
 sending 9:21
 sent 6:16 9:24
 session 13:14
 settlement 5:12,20 6:3
 6:15 8:5,6,10 9:12,13
 9:20,21 10:3,16,17,21
 10:22
 seven 4:16
 short 1:20 5:6,7,13 8:24
 8:24,25 9:3,4,4 12:19
 12:20
 sign 10:10
 signature 6:3,19
 signatures 5:6,7,13
 6:10
 signed 10:6
 SILAS 1:19
 sir 3:21 7:4,21 8:11
 sorry 3:9 4:15 5:1,15
 9:19
 speaking 11:5
 spell 3:15 4:1
 Staff 1:22
 standing 5:12
 start 3:14 4:20 5:2
 state 3:15 4:1 9:22
 10:15
 stated 7:16,16 9:18
 stating 9:25
 status 4:15
 Street 1:8
 submitted 9:24 10:11
 substantial 1:10 4:13

8:3 10:2,13,24
 sufficiency 10:19
 Summer 1:12
 sure 3:17 8:19

T

t/a 1:7
 take 12:16
 taken 5:10,19
 talking 5:16,17
 Tequia 1:23 2:15 4:2,3
 testify 8:1,2
 thank 11:13,14,15
 13:11
 Thanks 3:9
 think 5:25 7:12,15
 thought 5:7 6:15
 three-zero 9:9
 Thursday 1:13
 time 5:6 6:14,21
 timely 13:8
 Title 12:1
 today 4:12,22 5:22 7:6
 7:23 8:11 13:12
 trouble 2:22
 turn 2:20
 type 10:14

U

understand 11:7
 understanding 4:18

V

videoconference 1:16
 violations 12:7
 visible 3:2
 vote 5:19 9:2 10:1,7,8,8
 10:8,20 12:17
 voted 6:20 9:23 10:1,16

W

W 1:16,19
 wait 2:25
 waiting 6:19
 want 3:3 4:22 5:4
 We'll 9:1 10:18
 we're 3:12 9:13 13:10
 WebEx 1:16
 website 13:7
 Wednesday 7:14,20
 week 6:2,7 7:13,17,20
 8:7 9:14
 went 13:17

X

Y

year 9:14

Z

0

1

1:30 9:16
1:38 2:2
1:54 13:17
114514 1:9 2:6
19th 12:11

2

2024 1:14
24 1:14
24-PRO-00015 1:9 2:5
2450 1:8
25th 12:3,10

3

3 12:1

4

405 12:2

5

5C 1:8,23
5C's 6:3

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Mechos Dominican

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 04-24-24

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.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831