

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
:
M. J. Jennings :
Enterprise, LLC :
t/a Relva :
311 H Street NW : Protest
Retailer MC - ANC 6E : Hearing (Status)
License No. 127296 :
Case #24-PRO-00030 :
:
(Application for a :
New License) :
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Thursday
April 24, 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
MARCUS JENNINGS, Applicant
DALE PRINCE, ANC 6E

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

2 10:36 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is Case No. 24-PRO-00030, Relva,
5 License No. 127296.

6 Mr. Orellana, good morning. Could you
7 please elevate the rights of the Licensee and the
8 Protestant in this case?

9 MR. ORELLANA: Good morning. Marcus
10 Jennings, your access has been elevated.

11 Dale Prince, your access has been
12 elevated.

13 And that appears to be all, Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
15 Thank you.

16 Mr. Jennings, do you have a -- okay.
17 Fine.

18 All right. Good morning, everyone.
19 This is a --

20 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- protest
22 status hearing. And so I would like the parties
23 to identify themselves for the record. Let's
24 start with you, Mr. Jennings. Can you please
25 spell and state your name and your relationship

1 to this establishment?

2 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, this is Marcus
3 Jennings, M-A-R-C-U-S, J-E-N-N-I-N-G-S. I'm the
4 CEO and owner of Relva Dispensary.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
6 sir.

7 Mr. Prince, can you please spell and
8 state your name for the record?

9 MR. PRINCE: Good morning. My name is
10 spelled D-A-L-E, P-R-I-N-C-E. I'm the Advisory
11 Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member
12 District 6E-08.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So this is a
14 protest hearing status for a -- I believe this is
15 a cannabis, medical cannabis dispensary. Is that
16 correct?

17 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, it is.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Are
19 there any preliminary matters that need to be
20 brought to the attention of the Board? We're not
21 asking for any substantive, but like any
22 procedural type of problems that you have been
23 having so far, Mr. Jennings?

24 MR. JENNINGS: I wouldn't say any
25 issues. We just are -- haven't come to agreement

1 yet with the ANC Board. I feel like we're
2 probably about like 80 percent there. Me and
3 Dale have come into communication for a little
4 over a month now and we've been going back and
5 forth trying to come up with a agreement.

6 I think that -- I think that a big
7 problem is is that we still all learning
8 different stuff with the consumption lounge
9 rules. And as we're learning as we go, that's
10 why I feel like we haven't come up with a
11 Settlement Agreement yet.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
13 Thank you for that representation.

14 Mr. Prince, and again not substantive,
15 just any preliminary matters that you want to
16 bring to the attention of the Board?

17 MR. PRINCE: No, nothing to add.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
19 Fine. Thank you for that.

20 If this matter is not settled, then
21 this will be scheduled for a protest hearing on
22 May 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

23 Let me provide some instructions to
24 the parties because protest hearings on cannabis
25 on dispensaries are still new to the Board. It's

1 still new to everyone and so it's a learning
2 process.

3 All right. So as I stated before, if
4 this matter goes to a hearing it's scheduled for
5 May 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

6 Now that we have scheduled this matter
7 for a protest hearing, there are a few things
8 that I would like to intrust the Applicant and
9 the Protestants about so that the protest hearing
10 is focused and addresses only those issues that
11 are being protested.

12 The Board does not intend to hear
13 testimony on matters that are not relevant to
14 this case. You should have received by
15 electronic or regular mail a letter explaining
16 the protest process, a copy of the Protest
17 Information Form, and a copy of the exhibit form.
18 If you do not have these documents, please
19 contact our legal office following the hearing.

20 It is imperative that you review the
21 rules closely and adhere to them before and
22 during the protest hearing. You are also
23 required to complete and submit the Protest
24 Information Form, PIF, and the exhibit form seven
25 days before the date of the hearing. These two

1 forms and accompanying documents need to be
2 submitted to ABRA's legal division and to all
3 opposing parties in this matter.

4 If we do not receive a copy of your
5 PIF, your application, or your protest, whichever
6 side you're representing, may be subject to
7 dismissal. Likewise, if we do not receive a copy
8 of the exhibit form and the exhibits themselves,
9 your exhibits may be excluded from the record
10 upon a finding that the opposing party has been
11 prejudiced or no good cause for failure to submit
12 has been shown.

13 Likewise, witnesses other than a party
14 may also be subject to exclusion if not
15 identified on the PIF. Accordingly, these forms
16 are very important. They greatly assist the
17 Board in narrowing the protest issues,
18 facilitating the process, and keeping the parties
19 on point during the hearing. They likewise
20 provide notice to the opposing parties enabling
21 them to better prepare for the hearing.

22 Also, as you're aware, all our
23 hearings are now conducted virtually. You will
24 have one hour to present your case and you'll
25 only be allowed to call five witnesses. If you

1 require more time or more witnesses, you're
2 welcome to file a motion with the Board for
3 additional time and witnesses.

4 Any questions?

5 MR. JENNINGS: No.

6 MR. PRINCE: No.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
8 as I've stated before, this is a new process for
9 the Board. We have only had one actual protest
10 hearing on medical cannabis dispensary so far.
11 Please feel free to reach out to the agency. The
12 agency will -- if this matter is going to a
13 hearing, the agency will provide both parties
14 with whatever assistance is required to move
15 forward. Again, if this matter is going to a
16 hearing, it is imperative that seven days before
17 the hearing documents and witnesses are
18 exchanged. That is very important that that is
19 done.

20 If the parties believe that this
21 matter can truly be settled, the Board is open to
22 accept settlement as soon as possible. But if
23 you believe that this case can truly be settled,
24 please advise the agency so we do not have to
25 assign an investigator to write a report.

1 But again, the Board supports
2 settlement. If you need to have another
3 mediation, if the Board -- if the agency can help
4 you to do that, we will. But we're here to
5 assist you, but if this matter truly cannot be
6 settled, we will see you at a protest hearing on
7 May 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

8 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10 Have a great day. Thank you very much.

11 MR. JENNINGS: You, too. Thank you.
12 Thank you, everybody.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right then.
14 Thanks.

15 MR. PRINCE: Thank you.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
17 went off the record at 10:43 a.m.)
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| <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:2 8:17 ABCA 1:20 above-entitled 8:16 ABRA's 6:2 accept 7:22 access 2:10,11 accompanying 6:1 actual 7:9 add 4:17 additional 7:3 addresses 5:10 adhere 5:21 advise 7:24 Advisory 3:10 agency 7:11,12,13,24 8:3 agreement 3:25 4:5,11 Alcoholic 1:2,14 allowed 6:25 ANC 1:8,21 4:1 Anderson 1:15,17 2:3 2:14,21 3:5,13,18 4:12,18 7:7 8:9,13 appears 2:13 Applicant 1:21 5:8 application 1:10 6:5 April 1:12 asking 3:21 assign 7:25 assist 6:16 8:5 assistance 7:14 attention 3:20 4:16 aware 6:22</p> | <p>2:3,14,21 3:5,13,18 4:12,18 7:7 8:9,13 closely 5:21 COLUMBIA 1:1 come 4:5 Commissioner 3:11 communication 4:3 complete 5:23 conducted 6:23 consumption 4:8 contact 5:19 copy 5:16,17 6:4,7 correct 3:16</p> | <p>forms 6:1,15 forth 4:5 forward 7:15 free 7:11</p> | <p>likewise 6:7,13,19 little 4:3 LLC 1:6 lounge 4:8</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:4 believe 3:14 7:20,23 better 6:21 Beverage 1:2,14 big 4:6 Board 1:2,14 3:20 4:1 4:16,25 5:12 6:17 7:2 7:9,21 8:1,3 bring 4:16 brought 3:20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>D-A-L-E 3:10 Dale 1:21 2:11 4:3 date 5:25 day 8:10 days 5:25 7:16 DC 1:20 different 4:8 dismissal 6:7 dispensaries 4:25 dispensary 3:4,15 7:10 District 1:1 3:12 division 6:2 documents 5:18 6:1 7:17 Donovan 1:15,17</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>go 4:9 goes 5:4 going 4:4 7:12,15 good 2:6,9,14,18,20 3:5 3:9 6:11 GRANT 1:18 great 8:10 greatly 6:16</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M 1:6 M-A-R-C-U-S 3:3 mail 5:15 Marcus 1:21 2:9 3:2 matter 1:5 4:20 5:4,6 6:3 7:12,15,21 8:5,16 matters 3:19 4:15 5:13 MC 1:8 mediation 8:3 medical 3:15 7:10 Member 1:18,18 3:11 met 1:14 month 4:4 morning 2:6,9,14,18,20 3:5,9 motion 7:2 move 7:14</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>calendar 2:4 call 6:25 cannabis 1:2,14 3:15 3:15 4:24 7:10 case 1:9 2:3,4,8 5:14 6:24 7:23 cause 6:11 CEO 3:4 Chair 2:13 Chairperson 1:14,17</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>electronic 5:15 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 enabling 6:20 Enterprise 1:6 establishment 3:1 everybody 8:12 exchanged 7:18 excluded 6:9 exclusion 6:14 exhibit 5:17,24 6:8 exhibits 6:8,9 explaining 5:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>facilitating 6:18 failure 6:11 far 3:23 7:10 feel 4:1,10 7:11 file 7:2 finding 6:10 Fine 2:17 4:19 five 6:25 focused 5:10 following 5:19 form 5:17,17,24,24 6:8</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>H 1:7 hear 5:12 hearing 1:3,8 2:22 3:14 4:21 5:4,7,9,19,22,25 6:19,21 7:10,13,16,17 8:6 hearings 4:24 6:23 help 8:3 hour 6:24</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 2:25 3:8,9 narrowing 6:17 need 3:19 6:1 8:2 Neighborhood 3:11 new 1:10 4:25 5:1 7:8 notice 6:20 NW 1:7</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:4 believe 3:14 7:20,23 better 6:21 Beverage 1:2,14 big 4:6 Board 1:2,14 3:20 4:1 4:16,25 5:12 6:17 7:2 7:9,21 8:1,3 bring 4:16 brought 3:20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>electronic 5:15 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 enabling 6:20 Enterprise 1:6 establishment 3:1 everybody 8:12 exchanged 7:18 excluded 6:9 exclusion 6:14 exhibit 5:17,24 6:8 exhibits 6:8,9 explaining 5:15</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>identified 6:15 identify 2:23 imperative 5:20 7:16 important 6:16 7:18 Information 5:17,24 instructions 4:23 intend 5:12 intrust 5:8 investigator 7:25 issues 3:25 5:10 6:17</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>office 5:19 okay 2:16 8:8 open 7:21 opposing 6:3,10,20 Orellana 1:20 2:6,9 owner 3:4</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:4 believe 3:14 7:20,23 better 6:21 Beverage 1:2,14 big 4:6 Board 1:2,14 3:20 4:1 4:16,25 5:12 6:17 7:2 7:9,21 8:1,3 bring 4:16 brought 3:20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>electronic 5:15 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 enabling 6:20 Enterprise 1:6 establishment 3:1 everybody 8:12 exchanged 7:18 excluded 6:9 exclusion 6:14 exhibit 5:17,24 6:8 exhibits 6:8,9 explaining 5:15</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>J 1:6 J-E-N-N-I-N-G-S 3:3 JAMES 1:18 Jennings 1:6,21 2:10 2:16,20,24 3:2,3,17 3:23,24 7:5 8:8,11 JOSE 1:20 JR 1:18,18</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-I-N-C-E 3:10 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 p.m 4:22 5:5 8:7 parties 2:22 4:24 6:3,18 6:20 7:13,20 party 6:10,13 percent 4:2 PIF 5:24 6:5,15 please 2:7,24 3:7 5:18 7:11,24 point 6:19 possible 7:22 prejudiced 6:11 preliminary 3:19 4:15 prepare 6:21</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:4 believe 3:14 7:20,23 better 6:21 Beverage 1:2,14 big 4:6 Board 1:2,14 3:20 4:1 4:16,25 5:12 6:17 7:2 7:9,21 8:1,3 bring 4:16 brought 3:20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>electronic 5:15 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 enabling 6:20 Enterprise 1:6 establishment 3:1 everybody 8:12 exchanged 7:18 excluded 6:9 exclusion 6:14 exhibit 5:17,24 6:8 exhibits 6:8,9 explaining 5:15</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>keeping 6:18</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-I-N-C-E 3:10 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 p.m 4:22 5:5 8:7 parties 2:22 4:24 6:3,18 6:20 7:13,20 party 6:10,13 percent 4:2 PIF 5:24 6:5,15 please 2:7,24 3:7 5:18 7:11,24 point 6:19 possible 7:22 prejudiced 6:11 preliminary 3:19 4:15 prepare 6:21</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:4 believe 3:14 7:20,23 better 6:21 Beverage 1:2,14 big 4:6 Board 1:2,14 3:20 4:1 4:16,25 5:12 6:17 7:2 7:9,21 8:1,3 bring 4:16 brought 3:20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>electronic 5:15 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 enabling 6:20 Enterprise 1:6 establishment 3:1 everybody 8:12 exchanged 7:18 excluded 6:9 exclusion 6:14 exhibit 5:17,24 6:8 exhibits 6:8,9 explaining 5:15</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>learning 4:7,9 5:1 legal 5:19 6:2 Let's 2:23 letter 5:15 License 1:8,10 2:5 Licensee 2:7</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-I-N-C-E 3:10 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 p.m 4:22 5:5 8:7 parties 2:22 4:24 6:3,18 6:20 7:13,20 party 6:10,13 percent 4:2 PIF 5:24 6:5,15 please 2:7,24 3:7 5:18 7:11,24 point 6:19 possible 7:22 prejudiced 6:11 preliminary 3:19 4:15 prepare 6:21</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| present 1:16,19 6:24 | start 2:24 | 10:43 8:17 |
| presiding 1:15 | state 2:25 3:8 | 127296 1:8 2:5 |
| Prince 1:21 2:11 3:7,9 4:14,17 7:6 8:15 | stated 5:3 7:8 | <hr/> 2 <hr/> |
| probably 4:2 | status 1:8 2:22 3:14 | 2024 1:12 |
| problem 4:7 | Street 1:7 | 22nd 4:22 5:5 8:7 |
| problems 3:22 | stuff 4:8 | 24 1:12 |
| procedural 3:22 | subject 6:6,14 | 24-PRO-00030 1:9 2:4 |
| process 5:2,16 6:18 7:8 | submit 5:23 6:11 | <hr/> 3 <hr/> |
| protest 1:7 2:21 3:14 4:21,24 5:7,9,16,16 5:22,23 6:5,17 7:9 8:6 | submitted 6:2 | 311 1:7 |
| Protestant 2:8 | substantive 3:21 4:14 | <hr/> 4 <hr/> |
| Protestants 5:9 | supports 8:1 | <hr/> 5 <hr/> |
| protested 5:11 | <hr/> T <hr/> | <hr/> 6 <hr/> |
| provide 4:23 6:20 7:13 | t/a 1:7 | 6E 1:8,21 |
| <hr/> Q <hr/> | testimony 5:13 | 6E-08 3:12 |
| questions 7:4 | Thank 2:15 4:13,19 8:10,11,12,15 | <hr/> 7 <hr/> |
| <hr/> R <hr/> | Thanks 8:14 | <hr/> 8 <hr/> |
| reach 7:11 | things 5:7 | 80 4:2 |
| receive 6:4,7 | think 4:6,6 | |
| received 5:14 | Thursday 1:12 | |
| record 2:23 3:8 6:9 8:17 | time 7:1,3 | |
| regular 5:15 | truly 7:21,23 8:5 | |
| relationship 2:25 | trying 4:5 | |
| relevant 5:13 | two 5:25 | |
| Relva 1:7 2:4 3:4 | type 3:22 | |
| report 7:25 | <hr/> U <hr/> | |
| representation 4:13 | <hr/> V <hr/> | |
| representing 6:6 | videoconference 1:14 | |
| require 7:1 | virtually 6:23 | |
| required 5:23 7:14 | <hr/> W <hr/> | |
| Retailer 1:8 | W 1:15,17 | |
| review 5:20 | want 4:15 | |
| right 2:18 3:18 4:12,18 5:3 7:7 8:9,13 | we're 3:20 4:1,9 8:4 | |
| rights 2:7 | we've 4:4 | |
| rules 4:9 5:21 | WebEx 1:14 | |
| <hr/> S <hr/> | welcome 7:2 | |
| scheduled 4:21 5:4,6 | went 8:17 | |
| see 8:6 | whichever 6:5 | |
| settled 4:20 7:21,23 8:6 | witnesses 6:13,25 7:1,3 7:17 | |
| settlement 4:11 7:22 8:2 | wouldn't 3:24 | |
| seven 5:24 7:16 | write 7:25 | |
| SHORT 1:18 | <hr/> X <hr/> | |
| shown 6:12 | <hr/> Y <hr/> | |
| side 6:6 | <hr/> Z <hr/> | |
| SILAS 1:18 | <hr/> 0 <hr/> | |
| Single 3:11 | <hr/> 1 <hr/> | |
| sir 3:6 | 1:30 4:22 5:5 8:7 | |
| soon 7:22 | 10:36 2:2 | |
| spell 2:25 3:7 | | |
| spelled 3:10 | | |
| Staff 1:20 | | |

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Relva

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

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