

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Hope Convenience Inc. :
t/a 24HR Convenience :
& Deli :
1736 Good Hope Road SE : Roll Call
Retailer B - ANC 8A : Hearing
License No. 127260 :
Case #24-PRO-00032 :
 :
(License Renewal) :
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Monday
April 29, 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:

BARBARA CLARK, ANC 8A

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

2 10:03 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, everyone.

4 Thank you for participating in ABCA's public roll
5 call hearing via the WebEx platform provided by
6 the D.C. Office of Open Government.

7 My name is LaVerne Fletcher,
8 conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's
9 agent. There is one case on the calendar today.
10 This is the case of 24-hour Convenience and Deli,
11 Case Number 24-PRO-00032, Hope Convenience Inc.,
12 1736 Good Hope Road SE, Licence Number
13 ABRA-127260.

14 This is a Retailer Class B License
15 Renewal. The protest issues are adverse impact
16 on peace, order, and quiet. Is anyone present on
17 behalf of 24-hour Convenience?

18 (No audible response.)

19 MS. FLETCHER: Is anyone present on
20 behalf of the establishment?

21 (No audible response.)

22 MS. FLETCHER: Is anyone present on
23 behalf of ANC 8A?

24 MS. CLARK: Barbara Clark, ANC 8A.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, Ms.

1 Clark. Would you spell your name for the record,
2 please?

3 MS. CLARK: Okay, the whole name?

4 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

5 MS. CLARK: B-A-R-B-A-R-A C-L-A-R-K.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

7 We allow at least ten minutes for parties to
8 appear in case they're experiencing any technical
9 issues, Ms. Clark. It's about 10:05, so we'll
10 wait an additional five minutes to see whether or
11 not the Applicant appears.

12 But in the meantime, Ms. Clark, have
13 you all been in communication at all, you and the
14 establishment?

15 MS. CLARK: No, I have not. Prior to
16 this I went around to talk to the owner or who
17 was ever in charge. And I was told that they
18 didn't know anything. They didn't know who the
19 owner was, they didn't know how to contact him.
20 And this was back in, I think, December. So
21 they don't seem to be that cooperative.

22 But we do have a community agreement
23 with the previous owner, which I understand is
24 still, it's still good for the owners now. And
25 they are in violation somewhat of the other

1 community agreement.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you, Ms.
3 Clark. And so there's an existing agreement, but
4 there is not an agreement between you and this
5 new owner?

6 MS. CLARK: Right, which needs to be
7 updated somewhat. It needs to be tweaked,
8 really.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. I'm just making
10 a note of that, Ms. Clark.

11 MS. CLARK: But I would like to note
12 that the community agreement was for a deli. And
13 the hours were already established. And now
14 they've just gone completely out of what was
15 originally agreed upon.

16 And they made no effort whatsoever to
17 come to the community to try to contact anyone,
18 just showed up with 24-hour Hooka store.

19 MS. FLETCHER: That is, excuse me,
20 just one second. So that's something that we'll
21 talk about during the upcoming mediation, Ms.
22 Clark. But what I will do while we wait for the
23 Applicant is provide you with some dates.

24 MS. CLARK: Yes.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, I see someone has

1 just -- the Applicant has just joined us. The
2 Applicant is now present. Someone is now present
3 on behalf of the 24-hour Convenience.

4 Is someone now present on behalf of
5 24-hour Convenience?

6 (No audible response.)

7 Ms. Clark, I don't know whether you
8 can see on your end, but on my end it appears
9 that someone has appeared on behalf of the
10 establishment. But I can't hear them if they're
11 speaking. Can you see that from your end?

12 MS. CLARK: I'm trying to

13 MS. FLETCHER: On my end, I see the
14 last name.

15 MS. CLARK: I see where somebody left
16 the meeting. That's what I saw.

17 MS. FLETCHER: And I see that they're
18 present.

19 MS. CLARK: Oh, okay. Well, ha, ha,
20 ha.

21 MS. FLETCHER: But I don't believe
22 they can hear me. I can't hear them, and I can't
23 -- they don't appear to be muted. So I'm just
24 waiting to give them a moment. I'll wait before
25 I give you some dates available for mediation.

1 And, Ms. Clark, just FYI, the name of
2 the person that I can see, it's Rashel Hossain.
3 I'll spell that for the record. That's spelled
4 R-A-S-H-E-L, last name, H-O-S-S-A-I-N. Does that
5 name sound familiar, Ms. Clark, Rashel Hossain?

6 MS. CLARK: No, it does not. Is that
7 the owner or the representative?

8 MS. FLETCHER: I'll see if I can tell
9 you that right now.

10 MS. CLARK: You know, I had even
11 reached out to Kevin Lee, because I thought that
12 he was the rep for them again, and he was not.
13 So I was at a dead end then.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. I understand why
15 you would check, because did represent them, I
16 believe, in the past, right.

17 MS. CLARK: Yes, he did. Well,
18 actually he represents most of the ABC license
19 around this area anyway, at least he used to.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Clark, here's what
21 I'm going to do. I can see that -- I don't know
22 if it's Mr. or Ms. Hossain. I'm not sure if it's
23 a male or a female by the spelling of the name.

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MS. FLETCHER: But rather than dismiss

1 the application because no one is present, I can
2 actually see that someone is present, I'm just
3 trying to give them a chance to make a connection
4 with us here today.

5 I'm going to go ahead and give you a
6 couple of dates available for mediation. You can
7 let me know your availability and maybe, by the
8 time we do that, they will have been able to
9 connect to us.

10 MS. CLARK: Yes.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Clark, the next
12 available day for mediation is -- can you still
13 hear me?

14 MS. CLARK: Yes, I'm fine.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, good. Okay, you
16 disappeared on my end, I wanted to make sure I
17 didn't lose you.

18 MS. CLARK: No, I was writing
19 something down. I didn't want to be rude.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, that's okay. I
21 have the next date available as Monday, May 6th,
22 at 11:30 or Tuesday, May 7th, anytime between
23 10:30 and 1:30.

24 MS. CLARK: Okay.

25 MS. FLETCHER: May 6th is a Monday.

1 MS. CLARK: Right, May 6th at --

2 MS. FLETCHER: 11:30.

3 MS. CLARK: 11:30. Okay. Now is that
4 through WebEx or will it be in person?

5 MS. FLETCHER: WebEx. We're still
6 doing everything by WebEx right now. And I would
7 send you the WebEx invitation to attend.

8 MS. CLARK: Okay.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 MS. CLARK: Okay.

11 MS. FLETCHER: So if Monday at 11:30
12 is good for you, I will contact the Applicant by
13 email. He or she still has not connected with
14 us, although I can see they're here.

15 MS. CLARK: Hum. I saw someone come
16 and someone leave, and they came back, and then
17 they left. I don't know

18 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, they're here.

19 MS. CLARK: They're still there?

20 Okay.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

22 MS. CLARK: I don't know why I can't,
23 because I went out to look, not went out, but I
24 checked to see, but there was nothing there so

25 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, sometimes -- I'm

1 sorry, go ahead, Ms. Clark.

2 MS. CLARK: I said, oh, I didn't know,
3 because mine is acting a little funny too.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, because sometimes
5 that happens, and that's why I, when he
6 disappeared, I checked to make sure that you
7 could still hear me. Because sometimes there are
8 technical issues. And apparently that's what's
9 happening with Mr. or Ms. Hossain. I can see
10 that they're here.

11 MS. CLARK: Okay.

12 MS. FLETCHER: For some reason they're
13 not connecting. So what I'm going to do is grant
14 standing to ANC 8A as a protestant, Ms. Clark.
15 And I'm going to contact the Applicant by email

16 MS. CLARK: Right. Am I the only one
17 protesting?

18 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, what did you
19 say, Ms. Clark?

20 MS. CLARK: Is 8A the only one
21 protesting?

22 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

23 MS. CLARK: Okay.

24 MS. FLETCHER: 8A is the only
25 protestant. So now I see that Mr. Hossain has

1 appeared twice. So let's see if he or she will
2 be able to connect via the second connection.

3 Sometimes when we have two
4 connections, there is a loud echo in the back
5 when the person speaks. So if he or she can
6 connect, it could be an echo in the back. But
7 we'll see. I'll wait for one more minute.

8 MS. CLARK: Oki doki.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Clark, I see you're
10 back.

11 MS. CLARK: Yes, ha, ha, ha. I'm a
12 little confused on this. It says start my video.
13 And when I hit start my video evidently it comes
14 to a stop.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MS. CLARK: I don't know what's going
17 on.

18 MS. FLETCHER: I know. You never know
19 what's going to happen.

20 MS. CLARK: No.

21 MS. FLETCHER: I disappeared myself
22 about two weeks ago.

23 MS. CLARK: Oh.

24 MS. FLETCHER: The tech person had to
25 come and pull me back.

1 MS. CLARK: Oh, okay.

2 MS. FLETCHER: So sometimes things
3 happen. That's why we allow a little additional
4 time. But in this case, Ms. Clark, I don't
5 believe that the Applicant is going to be able to
6 speak to us, although I see them present twice.

7 So I'm going to go ahead and conclude
8 the roll call hearing. I'm going to get back to
9 you shortly to let you know, to confirm the date
10 for mediation. If that doesn't work for the
11 Applicant, I'll give you some additional dates.

12 And, Ms. Clark, normally I would give
13 you a date for a status hearing and a protest
14 hearing today.

15 MS. CLARK: Yes.

16 MS. FLETCHER: But those dates have
17 not been provided to me. But I'll provide you
18 with those dates hopefully today as well.

19 MS. CLARK: Okay. Well, I also
20 noticed that there's another one which we're,
21 let's see, the deadline is May 20th. There's a
22 June 10th one for our change hearing.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, that's for a
24 different establishment?

25 MS. CLARK: No, that's for the same

1 establishment.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, they're submitting
3 a different application for substantial change?

4 MS. CLARK: Yes. For an hour change.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

6 MS. CLARK: 24-hours themselves,
7 actually, just about.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Well, then that means
9 I'll see you again soon.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MS. FLETCHER: Well, Ms. Clark, it's
12 nice to see you this morning.

13 MS. CLARK: Yes, it's been a lot of
14 years have passed.

15 MS. FLETCHER: I know. I know, this
16 is like a reunion of sorts.

17 MS. CLARK: It is. It's been about,
18 what, about ten years?

19 MS. FLETCHER: At least.

20 MS. CLARK: Yes.

21 MS. FLETCHER: At least ten years.

22 MS. CLARK: Yes.

23 MS. FLETCHER: All right, well --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MS. FLETCHER: -- Ms. Clark, I'm going

1 to go ahead and conclude the roll call hearing.
2 And I'll be in touch with you shortly.

3 MS. CLARK: All right, thank you
4 again.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you for
6 coming.

7 MS. CLARK: All right, bye-bye.

8 MS. FLETCHER: All right, bye-bye.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 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: 24HR Convenience and Deli

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 04-29-24

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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