

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

2 10:45 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is Case No. 22-PRO-00019, Beirut
5 Nights, License No. 120090. Ms. Fashbaugh, can
6 you please elevate the rights of the parties in
7 this case, please.

8 MS. FASHBAUGH: Please stand by. The
9 licensee is not present. Karen Cruse, your
10 rights have been elevated, Lisa Palmer, your
11 rights have been elevated, and John Hopkins, you
12 have been unmuted. I cannot elevate you. That
13 is all, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. All
15 right, now the licensee is Mr. Ibrahim.
16 Mr. Ibrahim, are you online? If you're having
17 some technical difficulties, can you please make
18 that known through the chat.

19 What I'm going to do, and this is
20 something that I routinely do, this matter was
21 scheduled for a protest hearing status at 10:30.
22 It is now 10:46.

23 I will recall this case in
24 approximately -- I'm going to move forward with
25 the show-cause hearing status and I apologize to

1 the parties, but this is what I do routinely if
2 we were meeting in person.

3 So, what I'm going to do is that I'm
4 going to move forward with our show-cause hearing
5 status calendar. And once I concluded the show-
6 cause hearing status calendar, I will recall
7 Beirut Nights. If the licensee is not there, I
8 will make a motion --

9 MS. FASHBAUGH: Mr. Chairperson?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. FASHBAUGH: I have him present.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank
13 you. All right, thank you.

14 MS. FASHBAUGH: Joseph Jarrouje has
15 been elevated.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, can
17 everyone who has a camera, can you please turn
18 your camera on, please.

19 MS. JARROUJE: Can you hear us now?
20 I'm sorry. You're sending -- just the start,
21 you're sending the invite to Mr. Zakaria. You're
22 not sending it to the licensee. So, this is
23 where the confusion started. We were ready from
24 the beginning, but you were expecting Zakaria.
25 But you're not copying the Beirut Nights' owner.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is the
2 Beirut Nights owner?

3 MS. JARROUJE: Joseph Jarrouje.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is he online?

5 MS. JARROUJE: Yes, we are all here
6 online with Zakaria.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so who's
8 mister -- oh, so Zakaria Ibrahim. Okay. All
9 right, well, I'm glad that everyone is here.
10 Okay, good morning everyone.

11 So, let us start off, so I would like
12 the parties to introduce themselves for the
13 record, to spell and state the name. Let's start
14 with the licensee.

15 MR. JARROUJE: I'm Joseph Jarrouje,
16 the owner of Beirut Night.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you please
18 spell your names. Please spell your name for the
19 record, please.

20 MR. JARROUJE: J-O-S-E-P-H
21 J-A-R-R-O-U-J-E.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
23 How do you pronounce your last name, sir?

24 MR. JARROUJE: Jarrouje.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jarrouje,

1 what is your -- and please forgive me, but I just
2 want to make sure that moving forward, are you
3 comfortable moving forward in English, or do you
4 want the Agency, sir, to provide you with a
5 translator.

6 MS. JARROUJE: I'll translate. I'm
7 his wife. I'll translate.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, but
9 I just want to make sure that the Agency can
10 provide an independent translator, but -- so
11 you're rejecting that because the wife is saying
12 that she will translate? Is that correct?

13 MR. JARROUJE: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need that on
15 the record.

16 MR. JARROUJE: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I'm
18 saying one more time --

19 MR. JARROUJE: Yes, yes. Yes, I
20 agree.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You agree that
22 the Agency doesn't have to provide you an
23 independent translator, that your wife will
24 translate for you. Is that correct?

25 MR. JARROUJE: Yes.

1 MS. JARROUJE: He understands, but he
2 cannot communicate back. So, I understand what
3 you said, but he cannot communicate back
4 properly. That's the point.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I hear you,
6 ma'am. But I need to make sure he understands,
7 and he can properly communicate back to me.
8 Because if that's not so, then I do not want us
9 to have to face an opportunity where at some
10 stage the licensee is stating that you did not
11 provide me a translator, and I did not understand
12 the process. So, that's why I'm going through
13 this.

14 MS. JARROUJE: (Translating.) Can you
15 repeat, sir, so he can confirm it to you,
16 rewording what you said?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm
18 stating is that as the licensee, I sense that
19 there is a language issue. And so, I want to
20 make sure that you do not want the Agency to
21 provide you with a translator, because your wife
22 will translate for you. Is that correct?

23 MS. JARROUJE: Do you want a
24 translator?

25 MR. JARROUJE: Yeah, yeah, I want.

1 MS. JARROUJE: You want a translator?

2 MR. JARROUJE: Yeah, I want my wife to
3 translate for me.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, that's
5 fine. Ma'am, can you please spell and state your
6 name for the record, please.

7 MS. JARROUJE: Okay. My name is
8 Leila, L-E-I-L-A, my family name is Jarrouje,
9 similar to his, J-A-R-R-O-U-J-E.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. And
11 who's the third person sitting there?

12 MR. IBRAHIM: Zakaria Ibrahim. I
13 represent him in the process.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, please
15 spell your first and last name, Mr. Ibrahim.

16 MR. IBRAHIM: First name Zakaria. It
17 is Z-A-K-A-R-I-A, last name is I-B-R-A-H-I-M.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you are the
19 representative for the --

20 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- licensee.
22 Is that correct, sir?

23 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank
25 you. All right, thank you. All right, let's

1 have -- so, let's have the protestants. Let's
2 start with the ANC.

3 MS. PALMER: Good morning. Yes, this
4 is Lisa Palmer, L-I-S-A P-A-L-M-E-R, from
5 ANC 2E.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who else is
7 here? Is there another person from the ANC?

8 MS. PALMER: No.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
10 who are the other protestants? Please spell and
11 state your name and identify yourself, please.

12 MS. CRUSE: Good morning. I am Karen
13 Cruse, K-A-R-E-N C-R-U-S-E. I represent the
14 Citizens Association of Georgetown.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anyone else?
16 So, those are the only parties -- so this --

17 MS. CRUSE: If I may, I know that John
18 Hopkins, who represents the Group of Five
19 neighbors is also present. I was talking to him
20 on the phone. I don't know if he's having issues
21 with his webcam.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need him
23 to -- is he on the line? He has to be on the
24 line.

25 MS. CRUSE: Yes. Ms. Fashbaugh noted

1 that he is.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, where is
3 he?

4 MS. FASHBAUGH: He has been unmuted,
5 Chairperson.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, can he
7 please spell and state his name for the record,
8 please? I'm sorry, what's his name again,
9 please?

10 MS. CRUSE: John Hopkins.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hopkins, I
12 need you to identify yourself, sir. Mr. Hopkins,
13 if you're having some technical issues, I need
14 you to -- hello?

15 Mr. Hopkins, if you're having
16 technical issues, I need you to say so. I need
17 you to identify yourself in the chat if you're
18 having technical issues.

19 Or, if someone has his information,
20 can someone please contact him and find out what
21 problem is he having. I was told that
22 Ms. Fashbaugh elevated his rights.

23 MS. CRUSE: John, they're trying to
24 get you. Hello, John, they're trying to get you.

25 (Foreign language.)

1 PARTICIPANT: Make sure you're
2 unmuted.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jarrouje,
4 can you please unmute yourself if you're not
5 speaking, please? Just mute your telephone,
6 because I can hear you.

7 MS. JARROUJE: I'm muted and the video
8 makes you do not want to talk.

9 MS. CRUSE: Chair Anderson,
10 Mr. Hopkins says that he can see you and he's got
11 everything set up, but he can't hear you. I
12 mean, you can't hear him.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Has he unmuted
14 his line?

15 MS. PALMER: Have you unmuted your
16 line? He's even tried to get on through the
17 telephone number.

18 If I may say, I know from a process
19 perspective we want to know if he's here, but
20 I've been in touch with Ms. Jarrouje, and as the
21 representative from the ANC, I feel comfortable
22 with where we are in the process.

23 Perhaps we can talk about where we
24 are, and then it will be less important if
25 Mr. Hopkins is able to speak.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Palmer, if
2 Mr. Hopkins does not identify himself on the
3 record today, I have to dismiss his protest.
4 Now, if there is a settlement between the ANC and
5 the licensee, then his protest automatically
6 falls. But unfortunately, if he's not here
7 today, I have to dismiss him.

8 Now, because he has representations
9 that he's having some technical difficulties, I
10 probably wouldn't do that in this particular
11 case. But typically, everyone has to show up at
12 the status, because if you're not at the status,
13 I'll dismiss you.

14 MS. PALMER: Could Ms. Cruse put him
15 on speaker and he can speak?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If she can do
17 that, then fine.

18 MS. PALMER: Okay. Cookie, maybe you
19 can just put him on speaker and he can --

20 MS. CRUSE: John?

21 MR. HOPKINS: Yes, I'm here.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so can
23 you identify yourself for the record, sir? Ask
24 him to identify himself for the record, ma'am.

25 MS. CRUSE: Identify yourself for the

1 record, name and spelling.

2 MR. HOPKINS: Okay, John Hopkins.

3 J-O-H-N H-O-P-K-I-N-S.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is he?

5 MR. HOPKINS: I represent the
6 Wadsworth House Residents Group.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.
8 All right, thank you. All right, so we have the
9 Citizens Association of Georgetown, we have the
10 ANC, and we have the protestants group. Okay,
11 fine, so everyone is here. Are there any
12 preliminary matters? You had stated, Ms. Palmer,
13 you want to make some representations?

14 MS. PALMER: Yes. We've been
15 working -- all of the protestants and I have been
16 working with the applicant on a settlement
17 agreement, and I sent an updated draft on Monday
18 evening and heard back from the applicant this
19 morning, that -- and she can speak for herself as
20 well, but it sounds like we're on a good path.

21 But she and I have been trading voice
22 mails this morning, so I can't speak more
23 specifically.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on one
25 minute, please. Hold on one minute, please.

1 Hold on, ma'am. Thank you, Ms. Palmer.

2 MS. PALMER: Sure.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm going
4 to address the applicant last. So, Ms. Cruse,
5 are you part of that agreement also?

6 MS. CRUSE: Yes, the Citizens
7 Association is. And Ms. Palmer is taking the
8 lead on it. We are part of it.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, the
10 licensee. Who's speaking? Go ahead, please.

11 MS. JARROUJE: I'm going to speak on
12 the behalf of Joseph. In terms of what
13 Ms. Palmer just said, yes, she is right, we've
14 been exchanging emails directly so we can have
15 this agreement.

16 She send the agreement (inaudible)
17 night. We went over it after I stated it to
18 Joseph. We don't have any major concerns with
19 what she send. The main stuff, the basics, the
20 timing, everything, is okay.

21 I was going to do a follow-up just
22 about questions related to the (inaudible), but
23 nothing important. But we're so far, so good,
24 with Lisa on everything, because we have a mutual
25 interest to make this work.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for
2 the representation. Well, the Agency supports,
3 the Board supports settlement agreements if the
4 parties can settle this matter.

5 It is application for your license.
6 And so, if the parties can work towards a
7 settlement, that would work out best for the
8 community, because at the end of the day everyone
9 will be happy. If the Board has to make a
10 decision, one side or the other might not be
11 happy.

12 But if this matter is not settled, we
13 will have a protest hearing on March 25, 2022 at
14 1:30 p.m. So, I'll just ask for one --

15 MS. PALMER: May 25.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, May.
17 May 25. I apologize. May 25th at 1:30 p.m. So,
18 I will ask the parties to work towards settling
19 this matter. If it can't be settled, we'll see
20 you on May 25th.

21 And just one last thing I just want to
22 remind everyone. If this matters goes to a
23 protest hearing, seven days prior to the hearing
24 each side must provide a (inaudible). They need
25 to share the document with each other and the

1 Agency. Okay? Yes, ma'am, you want to make a
2 representation?

3 MS. JARROUJE: Quick question, so I
4 can explain to him. So, what you're saying is
5 the agreement that we received from Ms. Palmer,
6 it needs to be signed between both of us before
7 we come to you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

9 MS. JARROUJE: Because we are in
10 agreement with everything that she wrote, but we
11 didn't sign it yet. This is what you're saying?
12 I want to just --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm saying
14 is that as soon as -- if you have a signed
15 agreement --

16 MS. JARROUJE: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- as soon as
18 it's signed, you sent it to the Agency, we'll
19 cancel the hearing. So, you don't even have to
20 show up, as long as we have a signed settlement
21 agreement.

22 So, if this matter can be settled, the
23 parties should come to agreement, send us a
24 signed agreement as soon as possible, and we'll
25 cancel the hearing. That's what I'm saying.

1 MS. PALMER: And, Mr. Anderson, after
2 we submit -- just for the purposes of the
3 applicants, since I know they have questions --
4 after the agreement is signed, the ABRA Board
5 will -- correct me if I'm wrong, but the ABRA
6 Board will review it, ensure that it meets the
7 ABC Board's standards, and will -- then, at what
8 point do they receive a license? How does it
9 work from the settlement agreement being signed,
10 to receiving a license?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Once a signed
12 agreement is submitted to the Agency, our legal
13 office will review it for legal sufficiency, and
14 we'll put it on our legal agenda and we'll vote.

15 And so, therefore, say, for example,
16 if it's submitted today, it probably will be on,
17 if it's legally sufficient, it will be on our
18 legal calendar.

19 Next week Wednesday we'll vote on it,
20 and it's just a matter of process about when the
21 license will be issued. So, the license will be
22 issued as soon as whatever other -- I'm not sure
23 if there are any outstanding documents that the
24 licensee will have to provide to the Agency, but
25 as soon as the -- if there are no other

1 outstanding documents that are required, then in
2 due course the license will be issued.

3 MS. PALMER: And, Mr. Anderson, other
4 documents would include full certificates of
5 occupancy, etc. Is that correct?

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's correct.
7 The Agency will not issue the license until we
8 have received a certificate of occupancy. Then,
9 that's normally -- maybe that's probably the last
10 thing that will be.

11 So, we're not going to issue the
12 license until we receive a certificate of
13 occupancy.

14 MS. PALMER: Okay, thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, even if
16 everything else is done, we're not going to issue
17 the license until we receive a certificate of
18 occupancy.

19 Or, we're not going to issue a license
20 unless we receive clean hands. I'm not sure of
21 the process, but our licensing division will
22 ensure that all the necessary documents, as long
23 as we have the necessary documents, then the
24 license will be issued in due course.

25 So, the quicker -- if this matter is

1 going to be settled, the quicker you provide us
2 with a settlement agreement, the quicker the
3 Agency will work towards issuing the license.

4 Any questions by anyone?

5 PARTICIPANT: (inaudible)

6 MS. JARROUJE: No, we're good.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, thank you
8 very much. It appears that I will see you on
9 May 25th. I hope I don't see you on May 25th.

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, if you have
12 agreed, please provide the signed agreement to
13 the Agency as soon as possible, so we can free
14 this time up on our calendar. Again, good luck
15 with your negotiations, and I will take it as
16 positive if I do not see you on May 25th. Okay?

17 MS. PALMER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
19 thank you very much, and have a great day.

20 MS. PALMER: Thank you very much.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
23 Bye-bye.

24 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter
25 went off the record at 11:05 a.m.)

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In the matter of: Beirut Nights

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 05-04-22

Place: teleconference

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