

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
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1547 7th Ventures, LLC :
t/a Ambar :
1547-1549 7th Street NW : Roll Call
License #100804 : Hearing
Retailer CR - ANC 2G :
Case #23-PRO-00047 :
:
(License Renewal) :
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Monday
May 22, 2023

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:
ANDREW KLINE, Applicant's Counsel
ALEXANDER PADRO, ANC 2G

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

2 10:23 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the
4 calendar is Ambar, Case No. 23-PRO-00047, 1547-
5 1549 7th Street NW, License No. ABRA 100804.
6 This is a Retailer Class CR license renewal. The
7 protest issues are adverse impact on peace,
8 order, and quiet. My name is LaVerne Fletcher
9 conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's
10 agent.

11 Is anyone present on behalf of Ambar?

12 MR. KLINE: Yes. Good morning.
13 Andrew Kline, A-N-D-R-E-W, Kline, K-L-I-N-E, with
14 the Veritas Law Firm. Veritas, V-E-R-I-T-A-S Law
15 Firm on behalf of the Applicant. Joining me is
16 my associate Cameron Mixon, M-I-X-O-N, Cameron,
17 C-A-M-E-R-O-N. He's joined by phone.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Kline.
19 Anyone present on behalf of ANC-2G?

20 MR. PADRO: Yes, Ms. Fletcher. This
21 is Alexander Padro, A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R P-A-D-R-O,
22 Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Padro.
24 I don't know why we are still having a lot of
25 echoes here but I think we'll be able to get

1 through it because we are just about done. ANC-2G
2 does have standing as a protestant. We need to
3 set a date a status hearing, protest hearing, and
4 a mediation.

5 MR. KLINE: Ms. Fletcher, this is
6 probably an issue that I'll have to raise with
7 the Board.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

9 MR. KLINE: We're a little puzzled as
10 to why we're here and why this application was
11 placarded. This was an application that was
12 approved under 405.1. The licensee did not
13 operate during the last license period so we are
14 a little confused as to what it is, like what are
15 the issues here given that this licensee never
16 operated.

17 I understand you don't have the
18 authority to deal with that issue at this point
19 but I raise it preliminarily to preserve it. We
20 are going to look at it and, if appropriate,
21 we'll file a motion.

22 I think we've got a few of these
23 cases. I've raised with the Agency and I just do
24 not understand why these applications were
25 placarded when they did not operate and their

1 licenses were not issued until after the renewal
2 deadline. It's babbling to me as to how that
3 happened.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Kline.

5 Any response to that, Mr. Padro?

6 MR. PADRO: The claims is due for
7 renewal. This is, again, as we indicated, one of
8 a city-wide score of licenses that fall into this
9 same category of operation. There is also a
10 matter that will be coming forward of a
11 substantial change in consultation with counsel.
12 We agreed to issue a protest to consolidate.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Kline, were you
14 able to understand any of that?

15 MR. KLINE: Enough of it. Because I
16 know the background I know what was being said
17 but, yeah, we are having some severe technical
18 difficulties today.

19 MS. FLETCHER: You are the only person
20 that's not echoing.

21 MR. KLINE: Well, good. At least the
22 old guy's got it right, uh? So, yeah. I mean,
23 Mr. Padro is correct that there's also
24 substantial change pending so there have been
25 discussions about consolidating those. We work

1 well with Mr. Padro. I mean, this is not about
2 Mr. Padro or his ANC or anything else.

3 It's just a procedural issue that
4 probably is not going to be terribly relevant
5 here because we do have a concurrent request for
6 substantial change but it's babbling,
7 nonetheless, and there are a number of cases that
8 are in the same boat and we think going forward
9 this probably should get fixed in some way.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Kline.
11 I wasn't aware. I made a note of that and I'll
12 pass this information along that you're going to
13 be contacting the Board regarding this issue, Mr.
14 Kline. I will --

15 MR. KLINE: I mean, I suspect I have
16 to file a motion because I've raised it
17 repeatedly with Mr. Moosally and Ms. Jenkins and
18 Sean Gordon, the licensing director, with
19 promises that someone was going to get back to
20 me, but that has not happened at this point. We
21 have several of these cases and it doesn't really
22 make any sense to me.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Well, I have made a
24 note of that and I'm going to -- I'll go ahead
25 and give you some dates because this is roll

1 call.

2 MR. KLINE: Sure.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The dates are as
4 follows. The status hearing is set for June 28
5 at 10:30.

6 MR. PADRO: I'm sorry, Ms. Fletcher.
7 I couldn't hear the date because of the echo.

8 MS. FLETCHER: June 28 at 10:30.

9 MR. KLINE: That's for mediation?

10 MS. FLETCHER: That's for the status
11 hearing.

12 MR. KLINE: Oh, that's for the status.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Padro, were you
14 able to get that?

15 MR. PADRO: Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. FLETCHER: The protest hearing
17 August 9 at 1:30. Let's see. So I'm thinking we
18 should also set mediation out closer to the
19 status hearing.

20 MR. KLINE: Sure.

21 MS. FLETCHER: What about Friday June
22 23, or Monday June 26.

23 MR. KLINE: I would rather do Monday.
24 As a rule, I don't do Fridays in the summer,
25 although I made an exception in the last case.

1 MS. FLETCHER: I'll try to remember
2 that.

3 MR. PADRO: I concur with Mr. Kline's
4 request of no Fridays.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, okay. Well, we
6 can do it Monday at 11:30 or 1:30.

7 MR. PADRO: Mr. Kline, do you have a
8 preference?

9 MR. KLINE: No, I don't care. Well,
10 let's do 1:30. I have a standing meeting at
11 11:30 and I won't need to change it.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Well, then, in that
13 case, mediation is set for June 26 at 1:30.
14 Okay, we got through it so far. Unless there are
15 any questions, the roll call hearing is
16 concluded.

17 MR. KLINE: Thank you both.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. I'll sign off
19 now. Bye everybody.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
21 off the record at 10:32 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: Ambar

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 05-22-23

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

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