

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:      :
                        :
Hiwot Ethiopian        :
Restaurant & Market, LLC :
t/a Hiwot Ethiopian    :
Restaurant & Market    : Roll Call
5333 Georgia Avenue NW : Hearing
Retailer CR - ANC 4D   :
License #ABRA-100297  :
Case #21-PRO-00018    :
                        :
(Substantial Change -  :
Additional Capacity on :
1st Floor, Expansion to :
2nd Floor)             :
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Monday
June 7, 2021

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
met via Videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher,
Board's Agent, presiding.

- PRESENT:**
LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent
- ALSO PRESENT:**
KENNETH JOHNSON
BERNARDO RAMOS, Applicant Representative
SARA TESHOME, Applicant

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

2 10:19 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: I am now calling Hiwot
4 Ethiopian Restaurant & Market. This is Case
5 Number 21-PRO-00018, located at 5333 Georgia
6 Avenue, Northwest. License Number ABRA-110297.
7 This is a Retailer Class CR, substantial change
8 or addition of capacity on the first floor and
9 expansion for the second floor. The protest
10 issues are adverse impact on peace, order, and
11 quiet.

12 My name is LaVerne Fletcher conducting
13 the Roll Call Hearing as the Board's Agent.

14 Will the individual present on behalf
15 of the Applicant please identify yourselves?

16 MS. TESHOME: Okay. I'm Sara Teshome,
17 the owner of Ethiopian Restaurant & Market.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Teshome, would you
19 please spell your name for the record?

20 MS. TESHOME: Sara, S-A-R-A, last name
21 T-E-S-H-O-M-E, Teshome.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.
23 And is anyone else present on behalf of the
24 Applicant?

25 MR. RAMOS: Yes, Bernardo Ramos,

1 present.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Bernardo Ramos,
3 would you please spell your name for the record?

4 MR. RAMOS: Bernardo, B-E-R-N-A-R-D-O.
5 My last name is Ramos, R-A-M-O-S.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.
7 And is there anyone else present on behalf of the
8 Applicant? Ms. Teshome and Mr. Ramos, at this
9 moment I don't see any of the Protestants
10 present. Have you had any communication --

11 MR. JOHNSON: I'm here.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Who is here?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Kenneth Johnson, owner
14 of 1132 Jefferson Street.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I see your number.
16 Okay.

17 Mr. Johnson.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. I'm the owner --

19 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you. Okay.
20 You called in. I see you. Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Johnson, do you by any chance know
22 whether or not ANC 4D or the group of five
23 individuals intend to appear today? Do you by
24 any chance know?

25 MR. JOHNSON: No, ma'am, I'm not aware

1 of that.

2 MS. FLETCHER: That's okay, thank you.

3 Mr. Johnson, I read your protest
4 letter and it wasn't clear to me whether or not
5 you were filing a letter in support of the ANC 4D
6 protest or whether or not you were filing a
7 protest of your own.

8 MR. JOHNSON: I would say in
9 conjunction with the ANC.

10 MS. FLETCHER: So, your protest letter
11 was in support of the protest filed by ANC 4D?

12 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, yes.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. And so your
14 intention was not to file a protest yourself but
15 to support the ANC 4D protest?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Correct. This is my first
17 time doing this do so I wanted to do this.

18 MS. FLETCHER: That's fine. That's
19 what it appeared to be to me. I just wanted to
20 make sure that you weren't filing a protest. And
21 so you filed a protest in support of ANC 4D and
22 that protest letter is in the file. So, we have
23 that. ANC 4D is not present for the Roll Call
24 Hearing which means that their protest will have
25 to be dismissed because they're not present

1 today, Mr. Johnson, but ANC 4D will receive a
2 Board Order dismissing the protest. They'll have
3 10 days from the receipt of that order to explain
4 to the ABC Board why they were not present today.
5 And if the ABC Board reinstates the protest I
6 supposed they'll let you know because you're in
7 support of the protest and we'll go from there.
8 But for the purpose of the Roll Hearing today the
9 protest filed by ANC 4D is dismissed.

10 Is there anyone present on behalf of
11 the group of five that includes Aida and Bryan
12 Cohen? I'll spell those names for the Court
13 Reporter. That's A-I-D-A and Bryan spelled B-R-
14 Y-A-N, Cohen, C-O-H-E-N. Are either one of those
15 individuals present or is anyone present on that
16 group of six?

17 The protest filed by the group of six
18 is dismissed because neither of the parties are
19 present today. Same thing applies to the protest
20 filed by the group of six. The Board will issue
21 an order dismissing the protest and the
22 protestants will have 10 days to seek
23 reinstatement of the protest explaining to the
24 ABC Board why they were not present here today.

25 Ms. Teshome or Mr. Ramos, do you have

1 any questions about that?

2 MR. RAMOS: No, Your Honor.

3 MS. TESHOME: Thank you.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. It's
5 LaVerne, Ms. Fletcher is good.

6 Mr. Ramos? Thank you for coming.

7 MR. RAMOS: Thank you very much.

8 MS. FLETCHER: We are concluding the
9 Roll Call Hearing in this matter.

10 Have a nice day.

11 MS. TESHOME: All right, thank you.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Bye, bye.

13 MR. JOHNSON: So, ma'am, does that
14 mean if I was to protest on my own I would have
15 been heard?

16 MS. FLETCHER: So, who is speaking?

17 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Johnson.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Johnson, if you had
19 filed the protest on your own you would have to
20 be an abutting property owner which means that
21 you and the applicant share a property line.

22 MR. JOHNSON: We do.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Well, you didn't file
24 a protest as an abutting property owner. You
25 filed a protest in support of ANC 4D. But, Mr.

1 Johnson, just for the record I have your address
2 and you're saying that your property touches the
3 property of the establishment?

4 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct.

5 MS. FLETCHER: But that's not the
6 protest that you filed. I'm going to have to go
7 with the protest that you filed which was in
8 support of the ANC 4D protest and you did not
9 file as an abutting property owner. You may,
10 you're not considered a protestant today. But you
11 may if you wish you may filed a statement with
12 the ABC Board informing them that your intention
13 was to file a protest of your own, although
14 that's not what your protest letter said and
15 that's not what you said today and that's okay.
16 But you didn't claim to be an abutting property
17 own and so I did not check the D.C. geographic
18 information system to see if your properties
19 abut.

20 But let me, Ms. Teshome. Does Mr.
21 Johnson's property abut yours, do you know?

22 MS. TESHOME: From which property? I
23 mean, next to me there's an empty lot and there
24 is Macombo next to me. I want to know which
25 property is that, I don't see any property in

1 that --

2 MR. JOHNSON: It's in their driveway,
3 the back that we abut.

4 MS. TESHOME: That would touch -- that
5 wouldn't touch us. I've believe the person is on
6 Jefferson side --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 MR. JOHNSON: -- to the alleyway.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, that's -- yeah,
10 it doesn't sound like the properties abut, but
11 that's not even an issue today, Mr. Johnson,
12 because you didn't contact us. It sounds like
13 you have an alley between you and you're on
14 opposite sides of an alley?

15 MR. JOHNSON: No, no. My backyard is
16 adjacent to their parking area. We share a fence.

17 MS. FLETCHER: It doesn't sound like
18 the properties abut, but that's really a non-
19 issue today, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Teshome. I'm
20 only inquiring because you said that you intended
21 to file a protest. But today you're not
22 considered to be a protestant but you may, Mr.
23 Johnson, if you wish, you may petition the ABC
24 Board to consider you as a protestant. You may
25 do that if you wish and explain to them why you

1 should be considered a protestant.

2 MR. PATEL: All right. Thank you.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, and just so you
4 know, Mr. Johnson, there is no protest dismissed
5 related to you today because you're not
6 recognized as a protestant. At this point you're
7 recognized as a supporter of the ANC 4D protest.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

9 MS. FLETCHER: But feel free to --
10 okay, thank you, very much. Thank you for
11 appearing. Thank you.

12 MR. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.

14 Ms. Teshome, were you going to say
15 something?

16 MS. TESHOME: Yes, just to say thank
17 you so much and --

18 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, well, you're very
19 welcome and thank you and Mr. Ramos for appearing
20 today and I'm going to conclude this Roll Call
21 Hearing and have a nice day.

22 MS. TESHOME: Okay, thank you.

23 MR. RAMOS: Thank you.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Ramos.

25 MR. RAMOS: Thank you. Bye-bye.

1 MS. FLETCHER: And so I have one more
2 person left on the line. Would you please
3 identify yourself, Mr. Gebreheiwot if I'm
4 pronouncing that correctly.

5 Mr. Gebreheiwot, can you hear me?
6 Hailemariam, can you hear me? Can you please
7 unmute yourself.

8 Just for the record, I'm going to
9 spell the name of a person whose name I see on
10 the screen. The name seems to be pronounced
11 Hailemariam Gebreheiwot. I'll spell that.

12 Mr. Gebreheiwot, if at any point you
13 can hear me and you would like to speak to me
14 please say so.

15 The name is spelled H-A-I-L-E-M-I-R-I-
16 A-M. The last name is spelled G-E-B-R-E-H-E-I-W-
17 O-T. So, I'm acknowledging your presence. I
18 don't know which case you're present for. But I
19 read your name into the record just for the
20 record in the event that for some reason your
21 present and you're having technical difficulties.

22 The Roll Call Hearings for today are
23 concluded.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
25 went 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: Hiwot Ethiopian Restaurant

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-07-21

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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