

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:           :
                               :
Empire, LLC                 :
t/a Empire Lounge          :
1909 9th Street, NW        :
Retailer CT - ANC 1B       :
License #110702            : Show Cause
Case #22-CMP-00014         : Hearing (Status)
                               :
(Substantial Change in     :
Operation Without Board   :
Approval, Trade Name      :
Change Without Board      :
Approval)                  :
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Wednesday
June 15, 2022

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson
Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

WALTER ADAMS, DC OAG
RICHARD BIANCO, Licensee's Counsel
SARAH FASHBAUGH, DC ABRA Staff
DESSALEGN NIGUSSIE, Licensee

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

2 10:51 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next cause
4 in our show case hearing status calendar is Case
5 #22-CMP-00014, Empire Lounge, License #110702.

6 Ms. Fashbaugh, can you please elevate
7 the rights of the parties in this case, please.

8 MS. FASHBAUGH: Please standby.

9 Richard Bianco's rights are already
10 elevated.

11 Dessalegn Nigussie, your rights have
12 been elevated.

13 That is all, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15 Thank you, ma'am.

16 Hi, good morning, Mr. Adams. Can you
17 please introduce yourself for the record, please.

18 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, Mr.
19 Chairman. Walter Adams representing the District
20 of Columbia.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.

22 Mr. Bianco, can you please introduce
23 yourself for the record, please.

24 MR. BIANCO: Sure. Richard Bianco, R-
25 I-C-H-A-R-D, B-I-A-N-C-O, counsel for the

1 licensee. Mr. Dessalegn Nigussie is the owner of
2 the establishment. He is present, and I will
3 have him introduce himself as well.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
5 Thank you, Mr. Bianco.

6 Mr. Nigussie, can you please spell and
7 state your first and last name for the record,
8 please.

9 Dn; Yes. Good morning, Your Honor.
10 My first name is Dessalegn, spelled as D-E-S-S-A-
11 L-E-G-N. Nigussie is N-I-G-U-S-S-I-E.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
13 Mr. Nagussie.

14 Good morning, everyone.

15 Mr. Adams, are there any preliminary
16 matters in this case?

17 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there are no
18 preliminary matters in this case.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

20 Just Mr. Bianco included in the
21 matters in this case as far as you're concerned,
22 sir?

23 MR. ADAMS: No, we'd just update the
24 Board that the Attorney General's Office
25 communicated in OIC yesterday it's under

1 consideration.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

3

4 All right, then matter is scheduled
5 for a show cause hearing in July 13th, 2022, at
6 1:30 p.m.

7 Just want to remind each party that if
8 this matter is scheduled for a show cause
9 hearing, if it may actually go to a show cause
10 hearing.

11 Seven days prior to the hearing, each
12 side is required to disclose their documents and
13 witnesses to the other side, and a copy should
14 also be served on ABRA legal.

15 Any questions from anyone?

16 MR. ADAMS: No, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18 Hearing none, thank you very much. Again, this
19 matter is scheduled for a show cause hearing in
20 July 13th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Thank you very
21 much.

22 Thank you very much, Mr. Adams.

23 Thank you very much, Mr. Bianco. Have
24 a great day.

25 MR. ADAMS: You, too. Take care.

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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: Empire Lounge

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 06-15-22

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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