

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:
Universal Daruwala
t/a Universal Liquors
2018 Florida Ave, NW
Retailer A - ANC 2B
License No. 72213
Case #20-CC-00059
(Sale to Minor Violation,
Failed to Take Steps
Necessary to Ascertain
Legal Drinking Age)

Wednesday
June 23, 2021

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
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member
ALSO PRESENT:
SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff
STEPHEN ORTIZ, DC OAG
SANJEEV BHALLA, APPLICANT

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

2 11:01 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: The next case on  
4 our calendar is Case Number 20-CC-00059,  
5 Universal Liquors, License Number 72213. Ms.  
6 Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of the  
7 parties in this case please?

8 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by. Mr., or  
9 Ms., your rights have been elevated, that's all  
10 Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: All right, Mr.,  
12 and Mrs. Bhalla, B-H-A-L-L-A, do you have a  
13 camera? Open your camera please, so we can see  
14 you, or if you do not have one, just let me know  
15 that you don't have one. I'm sorry?

16 MR. BHALLA: We're just doing that,  
17 trying to, can you see us?

18 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: No, we can't --  
19 yes, we can see you now, thank you. All right,  
20 thank you sir. All right, let's start, Mr.  
21 Ortiz, can you introduce yourself for the record  
22 please?

23 MR. BHALLA: I am Sanjeev Bhalla, S-A-  
24 N-J-E-E-V B-H-A-L-L-A, I am the owner of  
25 Universal Liquors.

1 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Good morning Mr.  
2 Bhalla, thank you. Mr. Ortiz, can you please  
3 spell, and state your name for the record please?

4 MR. ORTIZ: Stephen Ortiz on behalf of  
5 the District of Columbia. That's S-T-E-P-H-E-N  
6 O-R-T-I-Z.

7 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: All right, good  
8 morning. Mr. Ortiz, are there any preliminary  
9 matters in this case?

10 MR. ORTIZ: We do not have any  
11 preliminary matters at this time, the parties do  
12 not have an offer in compromise to present to the  
13 board.

14 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: All right Mr.  
15 Bhalla, this matter then is scheduled for a Show  
16 Cause Hearing on August 4th, 2021, 1:30 p.m. So,  
17 on August 4th, that is when you can bring your  
18 documents, and witnesses, if you have witnesses  
19 that you want to call, and documents.

20 MR. BHALLA: Yeah, I have some  
21 documents which we would like to share with the  
22 board, and the reason why we have, my manager  
23 made a mistake --

24 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Sir, that is  
25 what you will do on August 4th. So, seven days

1 before the hearing I would like the parties to  
2 exchange the documents, and the witnesses that  
3 you have, you need to exchange that with, who's  
4 case is this? Mr. Thornton, with the government.  
5 So, seven days before the hearing, a week before  
6 the hearing you're supposed to exchange the  
7 documents. If you do not know how to do that,  
8 please ask. You can contact our agency, and our  
9 agency will let you know how to provide documents  
10 to the other side, and also provide documents to  
11 our side.

12 So therefore, when we have the  
13 hearing, we'll know what your documents are, and  
14 we'll know who is it that you're going to have  
15 testify. Are you clear with that sir?

16 MR. BHALLA: Yes sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: So, the hearing  
18 is now August 4th at 1:30, August 4th at 1:30,  
19 that's when you do all of that, okay?

20 MR. BHALLA: Sir, is there by the  
21 same, the Webex?

22 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Yes, it's going  
23 to be like this, yes, also over Webex.

24 MR. BHALLA: All right, thank you so  
25 much.

1                   CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: And I see it  
2 appears that Webex works for you because you're  
3 also in your store, and you can remain open, and  
4 your employees can be there. So, it appears that  
5 Webex works best for you as a licensee, because  
6 you can still operate while you do your hearing,  
7 okay?

8                   MR. BHALLA: Yes, at the same time, we  
9 locked the door, because we don't want any  
10 customers to come in, and we're making  
11 (Inaudible.)

12                   CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: All right. So  
13 August 4th at 1:30, okay?

14                   MR. BHALLA: All right, thank you.

15                   CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Thank you, have  
16 a great day.

17                   MR. BHALLA: We can log off now?

18                   CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Yes you can sir,  
19 yes.

20                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
21 went off the record at 11:06 a.m.)  
22  
23  
24

<b>A</b>	<b>doing</b> 2:16 <b>Donovan</b> 1:15,18 2:3 2:11,18 3:1,7,14,24 4:17,22 5:1,12,15,18 <b>door</b> 5:9 <b>Drinking</b> 1:11	<b>morning</b> 3:1,8	<b>sorry</b> 2:15 <b>spell</b> 3:3 <b>Staff</b> 1:23 <b>stand</b> 2:8 <b>start</b> 2:20 <b>state</b> 3:3 <b>Stephen</b> 1:23 3:4 <b>Steps</b> 1:10 <b>store</b> 5:3 <b>supposed</b> 4:6
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4

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5:13

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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: Universal Liquors

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-23-21

Place: teleconference

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



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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