

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:
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H M Theatre and Jazz :
Lounge, LLC, :
t/a Skylit Lounge :
(formerly Bravo Lounge) : Protest Hearing
2917 Georgia Ave NW : (Status)
License #118192 :
Retailer CT - ANC 1E :
Case #23-PRO-00043 :
:
(Application to Renew :
the License) :
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Wednesday
June 28, 2023

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

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

- ENRIQUE CACERES, Protestant
ALLAN EBERT, Applicant's Representative
JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
MULUGETA REDDA, Applicant

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

2 11:14 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is Case Number 23-PRO-00043, this
5 -- it's Skylit Lounge, formerly Bravo Bravo,
6 License No. 118192.

7 Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate
8 the rights of the Licensee and the Protestants in
9 this case, please?

10 MR. ORELLANA: Sure. Mulugeta Redda,
11 your access has been elevated. And Enrique
12 Caceres, your access has been elevated. That
13 appears to be all, Chairman.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
15 or Mrs. Redda, do you have a camera you can turn
16 on, please? Hello?

17 MR. REDDA: Hello. I am -- I'm trying
18 --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do
20 you have a camera, sir? If you don't have a
21 camera, then it's fine. I'm just trying to make
22 sure.

23 MR. REDDA: It's not working for me,
24 sorry.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.

1 Redda, can you please spell and state your name
2 for the record, please, and who do you represent?

3 MR. REDDA: My name is Mulugeta Redda,
4 M-U-L-U-G-E-T-A, and last name Redda, R-E-D-D-A.
5 And my agent is also here, he's looking to join,
6 he already signed during last time, the --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are
9 you, sir? You said -- so, who are you?

10 MR. REDDA: I am the owner of the
11 Skylit Lounge.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.
13 And who is your agent who's there with you?

14 MR. REDDA: Allan Ebert. He joined.
15 He needs to be elevated. Yes, please. He's now
16 on.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ebert, can
18 you please -- and do you have a camera, sir? And
19 can you spell and state your name for the record?

20 MR. EBERT: Yes, good morning,
21 Chairman and Board. My name's Allan Ebert, A-L-
22 L-A-N, E-B-E-R-T is the last name. I am the
23 Executive Director of Ninth Street Association, a
24 non-profit organization representing
25 entertainment and culture businesses in the

1 District. And Mr. Redda's business, formerly
2 Bravo Lounge, now Skylit Lounge, is a member of
3 our organization. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
5 are you here in support of him or are you his
6 representative?)

7 MR. EBERT: Yes, Chairman, I am.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Which one is
9 it? Are you representing him or are you in
10 support of him? Which one are you?

11 MR. EBERT: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
12 representing him.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
14 thank you.

15 MR. EBERT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Caceres,
17 can you please spell and state your name for the
18 record?

19 MR. CACERES: Yes, sir. So, Enrique
20 Caceres. It's first name Enrique, E-N-R-I-Q-U-E,
21 and last name Caceres, C-A-C-E-R-E-S.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what role
23 do you play in this matter, sir?

24 MR. CACERES: I own the abutting
25 property, so I'm the Protestant.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, Mr.
2 Caceres, good morning.

3 All right, good morning, everyone.
4 Mr. Ebert, are there any preliminary matters in
5 this case?

6 MR. EBERT: Yes, Chairman. We did
7 have a mediation meeting on June 5, which was
8 unsuccessful. Not because we were at odds
9 largely, but because Mr. Caceres did have some
10 urgent matter he had to attend to and left. We
11 tried to reschedule that, without success.

12 But, as early as this morning, Mr.
13 Caceres has texted Mr. Redda that things have
14 improved and he would like to work with us. And
15 we feel an agreement can be made. Of course,
16 that's up to Mr. Caceres to speak to that, but we
17 feel we're on the right track to come to an
18 agreement.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Caceres,
20 any preliminary matters you want to bring to the
21 attention of the Board? Not substantive, just
22 procedural.

23 MR. CACERES: Yes, sir. Aside from
24 just that conversation and trying to reach a
25 settlement, nothing aside from that. Yeah, so,

1 we're trying to get there.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Understood. All
3 right, thank you, sir. I know that what was
4 stated was that the mediation was not successful;
5 the parties can speak outside of mediation. I
6 mean, if the parties are able to settle this
7 matter, you can have conversations at any point.

8 Now, if you need a formal mediation,
9 the Agency can schedule a formal mediation. But
10 you can meet outside. And if you believe that
11 this matter can be settled, you can have informal
12 conversations, put a settlement together. Or you
13 could contact our Agency and we could assist the
14 parties with settlement terms, if they're trying
15 to figure out if certain terms can be placed in a
16 settlement.

17 I mean, we're not going to negotiate
18 it for you, but if you're saying, can I put this
19 in a settlement, or can I not do this in a
20 settlement, the Agency can help you with that,
21 both sides, if the parties believe that they can
22 settle this matter.

23 MR. CACERES: Yes, sir. Thank you for
24 that.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. All

1 right, so you can reach out to our legal office
2 and we will -- both sides, you can reach out to
3 our legal office, and we can provide you whatever
4 assistance that you require to move this matter
5 forward, if it can be settled.

6 This matter, then, is --

7 MR. EBERT: Thank you, Chairman.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.

9 This matter, then, is scheduled for a Protest
10 Hearing on August 9 at 1:30 p.m.

11 And, as I stated before, if the
12 parties truly believe that this matter can be
13 settled, and if you need some assistance, you can
14 reach out to the legal office and we'll provide
15 you with some guidance in how to bring closure to
16 this matter, if the parties truly want that to
17 happen.

18 Or, also, if you want to schedule
19 another formal mediation, you can also reach out
20 to our legal office, and we can make sure that
21 another mediation is scheduled for this matter to
22 be settled, if it can be. But, if not, we will
23 see you on August 9 at 1:30 p.m.

24 Please feel free -- once again, I want
25 to remind both parties, if this matter goes to a

1 hearing, you are required to do a PIF seven days
2 before the hearing, and which has to be disclosed
3 to both sides.

4 But, again, our legal office will
5 provide you instructions how to exchange, we'll
6 provide the forms, and so you'll know what is it
7 that you need to do. But, please reach out to
8 our office if there's anything that the legal
9 office can do to assist the parties, we're here
10 to assist you.

11 Any questions?

12 MR. EBERT: No questions.

13 MR. CACERES: No, sir. Thank you very
14 much.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
16 good luck with your negotiations, and have a
17 great day. All right? Thank you very much.

18 MR. EBERT: Thank you. You, too.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
20 thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 11:21 a.m.)
23
24
25

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A-L 3:21 a.m 2:2 8:22 ABCA 1:23 able 6:6 above-entitled 8:21 abutting 4:24 access 2:11,12 Agency 6:9,13,20 agent 3:5,13 agreement 5:15,18 Alcoholic 1:2,14 Allan 1:22 3:14,21 ANC 1:9 Anderson 1:15,18 2:3 2:14,19,25 3:8,12,17 4:4,8,13,16,22 5:1,19 6:2,25 7:8 8:15,19 appears 2:13 Applicant 1:24 Applicant's 1:22 Application 1:10 aside 5:23,25 assist 6:13 8:9,10 assistance 7:4,13 Association 3:23 attend 5:10 attention 5:21 August 7:10,23 Ave 1:8</p>	<p>5:1,19 6:2,25 7:8 8:15 8:19 closure 7:15 COLUMBIA 1:1 come 5:17 contact 6:13 conversation 5:24 conversations 6:7,12 course 5:15 CT 1:9 culture 3:25</p>	<p>H 1:6 HANSEN 1:19 happen 7:17 hearing 1:7 7:10 8:1,2 Hello 2:16,17 help 6:20</p>	<p>name 3:1,3,4,19,22 4:17,20,21 name's 3:21 need 6:8 7:13 8:7 needs 3:15 negotiate 6:17 negotiations 8:16 Ninth 3:23 non-profit 3:24 Number 2:4 NW 1:8</p>
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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: Skylit Lounge

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 06-28-2023

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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