

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:          :
                            :
Georgetown Suites,        :
LLC/Wabbit, LLC           :
t/a Georgetown Inn West   :
End/Casta's Rum Bar       :
1121 New Hampshire Ave NW: Protest
Retailer CR - ANC 2A      : Hearing (Status)
License No. 109462        :
Case #22-PRO-00034       :
                            :
(Application to Renew     :
the License)              :
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Wednesday  
July 13, 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:

SARAH FASHBAUGH, DC ABRA Staff  
SIDON YOHANNES, Applicant Counsel  
ELIZABETH HACK, Protestant  
ELAINE RIGGS, Protestant  
MICHAEL MILLER, Protestant  
SALLY BLUMENTHAL, Protestant

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

2 (11:03 a.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, the  
4 next case is case number 22-PRO-00034, Georgetown  
5 Inn West End/Casta's Rum Bar, License No. 109462.  
6 Ms. Jeni Hansen will recuse herself from  
7 participating in this case.

8 MS. FASHBAUGH: Please stand by.  
9 Elaine Rigas, your rights have been elevated.  
10 Sally Blumenthal, your rights have been elevated.  
11 Michael Miller, your rights have been elevated.  
12 Elizabeth Hack, your rights have been elevated.  
13 That is all, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.  
15 Thank you, very much, again. I think Ms. Rigas  
16 is saying that she's, she's having some problems.  
17 So maybe Ms. Fashbaugh, if you can elevate her  
18 rights? So she says she's having some problems  
19 on that. I'm not quite sure. Okay, there she  
20 is.

21 MS. RIGAS: Thank you

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.  
23 All right, good morning, everyone. This is the  
24 protest hearing for application to renew the  
25 license for Georgetown West End/Casta's Rum Bar.

1 So let's, let me start off by having the  
2 representative of the licensee introduce himself  
3 on the record please.

4 MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes, on  
5 behalf of the licensee, Wabbit, LLC. And that's  
6 SIDON, YOHANNES.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
8 Ms. Yohannes. Ms. Rigas, can please spell and  
9 state your name for the record please?

10 MS. RIGAS: It is Elaine Rigas,  
11 E-L-A-I-N-E, R-I-G-A-S, Rigas, thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is your  
13 relationship to this case, ma'am?

14 MS. RIGAS: I am a butter, and  
15 protesting.

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

19 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Yes, good morning,  
20 Mr. Anderson, Chairperson Anderson. I am Sally  
21 Blumenthal. S-A-L-L-Y, B-L--U-M-E-N-T-H-A-L. I  
22 am a protestant.

23 I am the President of the Board of  
24 Directors of 22 West, a condominium. We are  
25 directly across New Hampshire Avenue from

1 Casta's.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
3 ma'am. Mr. Miller, can you please identify  
4 yourself for the record, please?

5 MR. MILLER: Yes. Hi, this is Michael  
6 Miller, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, M-I-L-L-E-R,  
7 representative of Gelman Management and Savoy  
8 Apartments.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
10 sir. And Ms. Hack, can you please spell and  
11 state your name for the record?

12 MS. HACK: Elizabeth Hack,  
13 E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H, Hack, H-A-C-K. And I'm a  
14 resident at 22 West with my unit on New Hampshire  
15 Avenue, which is directly across from Casta's.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
17 This matter, are there any preliminary matters  
18 that each, any of the parties need to bring to  
19 the attention of the Board? I'll start with you  
20 Ms. Yohannes.

21 MS. YOHANNES: None for the applicant.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm going  
23 to see. Ms. Blumenthal, go ahead, please.

24 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you. We are in  
25 a position where we will never be able to reach

1 settlement with Casta's. We need to go to  
2 protest.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, as I, are  
4 there any other preliminary matters that each,  
5 any other party wish to bring to the attention of  
6 the Board?

7 MS. RIGAS: This is Elaine Rigas, I am  
8 the abutter, I agree with Ms. Blumenthal, thank  
9 you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Well,  
11 this matter is scheduled for a protest hearing on  
12 September 14th, at 1:30 p.m. September 14th at  
13 1:30 p.m., we will have a protest hearing.

14 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Yes. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I'm sorry.  
16 Hold on, hold on, hold on. Okay, before, I'm  
17 sorry, before -- there's a preliminary matter  
18 that I need to. I'm not following, I'm not doing  
19 my homework.

20 It's my understanding that at the roll  
21 call hearing there were only four members present  
22 at the roll call hearing. And so, preliminary  
23 status was given to the protest. So preliminary  
24 status was given to the protestants. So  
25 Ms. Yohannes who was at the roll call hearing?

1 MS. BLUMENTHAL: I have these four  
2 individuals. Elaine Rigas, Sally Blumenthal,  
3 Michael Miller, Elizabeth Hack. And another  
4 male, I need to pull the name right now. I'm  
5 pulling the name.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who was at roll  
7 call hearing?

8 MS. BLUMENTHAL: I can answer the  
9 question. If you can answer, you can go ahead.  
10 But I have another.

11 MS. YOHANNES: I can tell you who was  
12 at the -- right, I know who was at the hearing.  
13 Who was --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We  
15 got, we need five members. It's my understanding  
16 that there is, conditional standing was granted  
17 to the group of five or more at the roll call  
18 hearing.

19 And what needed to occur today, if for  
20 some, one party who was not at the roll call --  
21 do we have someone here today who was not at the  
22 roll call hearing?

23 MS. YOHANNES: Elizabeth Hack.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So Ms. Hack,  
25 you were not at the roll call hearing, is that

1 correct?

2 MS. HACK: Correct.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And  
4 Ms. Fashbaugh, I'm sorry. Ms. Yohannes, at the  
5 roll hearing, there were four -- how many people  
6 were at the roll call hearing?

7 MS. YOHANNES: They were at the roll  
8 call hearing. But Ms. Hack is the new individual  
9 that has appeared here that was not at the roll  
10 call hearing. There was another, I have another  
11 name. But there was a there was a male, another  
12 male present that was at the roll call hearing.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm sorry.  
14 You're raising your hand. Let me, hold on, let  
15 me see. So Ms. Blumenthal --

16 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Yes?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- do you have  
18 something to say, ma'am?

19 MS. BLUMENTHAL: I can explain to you  
20 who was at the hearing. And we had five people  
21 there. I was there. Elaine Rigas was there.  
22 Florence Harmon from West End Place was there.  
23 She, I think, was there by phone. Michael Miller  
24 was there.

25 And the person that was there from 22

1 West, who was, was unable to be here today, Ms.  
2 Hack is his substitute. The other man is Ross  
3 Heckinger. That is five people. It was a little  
4 confusing, but there were five protestants.  
5 Well, that's fine.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well that's  
7 fine. We have someone here today, who was not at  
8 the roll call hearing. And so, my records state  
9 that we needed to ensure that there is one  
10 additional individuals here today who was not on  
11 the roll call here.

12 MS. BLUMENTHAL: That is --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So in that  
14 case --

15 MS. BLUMENTHAL: -- she was a  
16 substitution that we proposed. That is correct.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So since the,  
18 as far as, as I said before, to correct the  
19 record that there is -- I was told in order to  
20 grant full standing to the protestants' group  
21 there has to be individual here today who was not  
22 at the call hearing.

23 And so, Ms. Hack is here today, and  
24 she was roll call, the status hearing, I'm sorry  
25 the roll call hearing. I then make a motion that



1 full standing be granted to that protestants. Is  
2 there a second?

3 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short on second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has  
5 seconded the motion. We will now have a roll  
6 call vote on the motion.

7 (Roll call)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?

9 MEMBER SHORT: Short, I agree.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

11 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?

13 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I  
14 agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms., I'm sorry.  
16 Mr. Grandis?

17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Grandis, I  
18 abstain.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.  
20 Anderson, I agree. The matter passes, 4 to  
21 nothing with Mr. Grandis abstaining. All right,  
22 so full standing has now been granted to the  
23 protestants group of five or more for the protest  
24 hearing. So now the protest hearing, then, now  
25 scheduled for September 14th at 1:30 p.m.

1 Do the parties, do I need to provide  
2 instructions? I mean, the major instruction that  
3 needs to be provided to the parties is that seven  
4 days before the hearing, you are required to do a  
5 PIP.

6 And with the PIP, you are required to  
7 disclose the documents and witnesses you wish to  
8 call on at the hearing. Because these hearings  
9 are now done, virtually each side is, you'll have  
10 one hour to present your case.

11 And each side will not be allowed to  
12 call no more than five witnesses. Okay? So just  
13 want to alert you to that. Are there any other  
14 questions that anyone else wants to bring to the  
15 attention of the Board?

16 MS. BLUMENTHAL: We're good.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No? All right,  
18 so we will see you then on September 14th, at  
19 1:30 p.m. for the protest hearing? All right?

20 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, very  
22 much. Have a great day. Oh, by the way, I'm  
23 sorry. If you have any questions, you're welcome  
24 to Ms. Imani Moreland at 202-442-6942.

25 So if you can talk to her about how to

1 do the PIP, or just technical, not standard, but  
2 technical issues like how to do something like  
3 that, you can contact the Agency and we will  
4 provide you with guidance how to do that. Okay?

5 MS. RIGAS: Can you provide the phone  
6 number again, please?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 202-442-6942,  
8 Imani Moreland.

9 MS. RIGAS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right?  
11 Thank you, very much.

12 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have great day.

14 MS. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
16 thank you. I'm sorry, I was -- who was  
17 protesting? And I'm thinking --

18 MS. YOHANNES: Casta's?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The ANC, yes.  
20 Did ANC protest the offer?

21 MS. YOHANNES: No, they did not. It  
22 is the abutting property owner and the group of  
23 five or more.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because I was  
25 looking at the list that we have, the ANC and

1       ours. And I'd seen earlier that Mr. -- ANC 1B,  
2       Dan Orlaskey, had stated that he was not sure how  
3       long he could stay on the case. But you're  
4       saying that he was not, the ANC was not a  
5       protestant?

6                   MS. YOHANNES: Well, they were not.  
7       And Mr. Orlaskey is actually an ANC Commissioner  
8       for another district. So he's from 1B. This ANC  
9       was 2A.

10                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I guess,  
11       all right. Oh, okay, I'm looking at my list  
12       wrong. I'm sorry. All right. The next case on  
13       our calendar is case --

14                   You know what it is, Ms. Yohannes?  
15       Because you're on today for all these hearings.  
16       All right. Normally we have an AG for the day,  
17       but you are the attorney for the day since we  
18       don't someone --

19                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20       went off the record at 11:17 a.m.)

21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Casta's Rum Bar

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 07-13-22

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.

*Neal R Gross*

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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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