

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
+ + + + +  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD  
+ + + + +  
ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :  
 :  
Sahara Market, LLC :  
t/a Sahara Market :  
1901 Michigan Avenue NE : Roll Call  
Retailer CR ANC 5B : Hearing  
License No. 128673 :  
Case #24-PRO-00075 :  
 :  
(New Application) :  
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Monday  
July 29, 2024

The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board met via WebEx videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher, Board's Agent, presiding.

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABC Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

EMMANUEL IRONO, Licensee  
PRITA PIEKARA, ANC 5B  
NANDINI SEN, ANC 5B  
BRIAN RELFORD, Union Wesley African Methodist  
Episcopal Zion Church, Protestant  
CHARLOTTE LEWIS, Queens Chapel Civic  
Association, Protestant  
DEBORAH JACKSON, Queens Chapel Civic  
Association, Protestant  
LAWRENCE THURSTON, Queens Chapel Civic  
Association, Protestant  
TIMOTHY THOMAS, Queens Chapel Civic Association,  
Protestant

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

2 10:53 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the  
4 calendar is Sahara Market, Case Number  
5 24-PRO-00075, Sahara Market, LLC, 1901 Michigan  
6 Avenue NE, License Number ABRA 128673. This is a  
7 Retailer Class B for a beer and wine license, a  
8 new application.

9 The protest issues are adverse impact  
10 on peace, order, and quiet, real property values,  
11 residential parking, and vehicular and pedestrian  
12 safety, and proximity to school, daycare centers,  
13 or other similar facilities.

14 My name is Laverne Fletcher conducting  
15 the roll call hearing as the Board's agent. Is  
16 anyone present on behalf of the Applicant?

17 Mr. Irono, that would be you.

18 DR. IRONO: Yes, I'm here, I'm sorry.

19 MS. FLETCHER: If you would state your  
20 name and spell it for the record, please.

21 DR. IRONO: My name is Dr. Emmanuel  
22 Irono with Sahara Market.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

24 DR. IRONO: Mr. Jackson is not --

25 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

1 Is anyone present on behalf of ANC 5B?

2 MS. PIEKARA: Present, Prita Piekara,  
3 P, as in Paul, R-I-T-A, last name is Piekara, P-  
4 I-E-K-A-R-A.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Piekara.  
6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MS. FLETCHER: Is anyone else with you  
8 today?

9 MS. SEN: Nandini Sen, that is N-A-N-  
10 D-I-N-I, last name is S-E-N.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.  
12 Does anyone -- Oh, ANC 5B does have standing as a  
13 protestant.

14 Is anyone present on behalf of Queens  
15 Chapel Civic Association?

16 MS. LEWIS: Yes, Charlotte Lewis, C-H-  
17 A-R-L-O-T-T-E, last name, L-E-W-I-S.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Any other members from  
19 your association present today, Ms. Lewis?

20 MR. THURSTON: Yes, Lawrence Thurston,  
21 L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E, Thurston, T-H-U-R-S-T-O-N.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Thurston, did you  
23 say T-H-U-R-S-T-O-N?

24 MR. THURSTON: Yes.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anybody

1 else?

2 MS. JACKSON: Deborah Jackson, D-E-B-O-R-A-H  
3 J-A-C-K-S-O-N.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Jackson.  
5 Anyone else?

6 MR. THOMAS: Yes, Timothy Thomas, T-  
7 I-M-O-T-H-Y, and the last name is Thomas, T-H-O-  
8 M-A-S.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.  
10 Queens Chapel Civic Association does  
11 have standing as a protestant.

12 Is anyone present on behalf of Union  
13 Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church?

14 DR. RELFORD: Yes, Brian Relford, B-R-  
15 I-A-N R-E-L-F-O-R-D.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Dr. Relford.  
17 Churches do not have standing as a protestant.  
18 Dr. Relford, do you need me to provide any  
19 further explanation?

20 DR. RELFORD: No, I think you did that  
21 for the first.

22 (Laughter.)

23 DR. RELFORD: As a matter of fact, I  
24 would ask this, is it possible that I could leave  
25 this meeting, and I'll get the information and

1 the dates from Ms. Lewis, the president of the  
2 Queens Chapel Civic Association.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

4 DR. RELFORD: And I hope that she will  
5 allow me, that being Ms. Lewis, would allow me to  
6 be present as a resident through Queens Chapel  
7 Civic Association.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 DR. RELFORD: All right.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Dr. Relford, you are  
12 free to leave. Thanks for coming.

13 DR. RELFORD: Thank you so much for  
14 delivering me, okay?

15 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, take care.

16 DR. RELFORD: All right. Bye.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Bye-bye.

18 So we have, as protestants, ANC 5B and  
19 the Queens Chapel Civic Association. We need to  
20 set a date for a status hearing, protest hearing,  
21 and a mediation. I will give you the date for  
22 the status hearing first. They're going to be  
23 the same as in the prior case, which is August 7  
24 at 10:30 a.m., and September 18 at 1:30 p.m.

25 Regarding mediation, do you want to do

1 both cases at the same time on August the 5th at  
2 11:30? You want to just do it all at one time?

3 MS. PIEKARA: Yes.

4 MS. FLETCHER: The issues are the  
5 same?

6 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So then I am  
8 making a note that both of these cases are going  
9 to be in mediation on August 5 at 11:30. Okay,  
10 so I just did that.

11 Does anyone have any questions about  
12 anything?

13 Okay. And, Ms. Jackson, I'm going to  
14 send you the regulations related to the bases  
15 upon which a protest can be filed.

16 MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

17 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Okay,  
18 well, I have nothing more. Does anyone else?

19 MS. LEWIS: No.

20 MS. JACKSON: No.

21 MS. PIEKARA: No. Thank you.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Those are all the cases  
23 for today.

24 MS. PIEKARA: Thank you.

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MS. FLETCHER: I'll see you all --

2 DR. IRONO: I would like the record to  
3 reflect that Mr. Jackson is not available today,  
4 but I will share the dates and time of everything  
5 with him.

6 MS. FLETCHER: So Jeff Jackson is your  
7 representative, Dr. Irono?

8 DR. IRONO: That's correct.

9 MS. FLETCHER: I'm going to spell his  
10 name for the record. It's J-E-F-F, Jeff,  
11 Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N.

12 And so you're going to check with Mr.  
13 Jackson to see if those dates, well, the date of  
14 mediation is good.

15 DR. IRONO: Thank you so much.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, I'll make a note  
17 of that. The sooner I know the better. Because  
18 you're -- I know you're going to do it right  
19 away. I'm just telling you this just FYI.

20 Because this is a new application, we  
21 don't like to change dates. And so if the date  
22 for the mediation is going to be changed, let me  
23 know as soon as you can. Either you or Mr.  
24 Jackson can confirm that the 5th at 11:30 is good  
25 or not.

1 DR. IRONO: Yes. I will let you know.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, thank you  
3 very much. If there's nothing more, there are no  
4 other cases on the calendar today.

5 DR. IRONO: Thank you.

6 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Roll  
7 call hearings for today are concluded. Thank  
8 you, everybody.

9 MS. PIEKARA: Thank you.

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.

12 Bye-bye.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 went off the record at 11:00 a.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>A-R-L-O-T-T-E</b> 3:17  <b>a.m</b> 2:2 5:24 8:14  <b>ABC</b> 1:16  <b>above-entitled</b> 8:13  <b>ABRA</b> 2:6  <b>adverse</b> 2:9  <b>African</b> 1:20 4:13  <b>agent</b> 1:14,16 2:15  <b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,13  <b>allow</b> 5:5,5  <b>ANC</b> 1:7,19,19 3:1,12 5:18  <b>Anybody</b> 3:25  <b>Applicant</b> 2:16  <b>application</b> 1:9 2:8 7:20  <b>association</b> 1:21,22,23 1:24 3:15,19 4:10 5:2 5:7,19  <b>August</b> 5:23 6:1,9  <b>available</b> 7:3  <b>Avenue</b> 1:7 2:6</p>	<p><b>coming</b> 5:12  <b>concluded</b> 8:7  <b>conducting</b> 2:14  <b>confirm</b> 7:24  <b>correct</b> 7:8  <b>CR</b> 1:7</p>	<p><b>I-M-O-T-H-Y</b> 4:7  <b>impact</b> 2:9  <b>information</b> 4:25  <b>Irono</b> 1:18 2:17,18,21 2:22,24 7:2,7,8,15 8:1 8:5  <b>issues</b> 2:9 6:4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>Oh</b> 3:12  <b>okay</b> 5:8,14,15 6:7,9,13 6:17 7:16 8:2  <b>order</b> 2:10</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: Sahara Market

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 07-29-24

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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