



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

2 10:30 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the  
4 calendar is Sahara Market. This is Case Number  
5 24-PRO-00076, Sahara Market, LLC, 1901 Michigan  
6 Avenue NE, License Number ABR 128674. This is a  
7 Retailer Class CR restaurant for a new  
8 application.

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

15 My name is Laverne Fletcher, conducting  
16 the roll call hearing as the Board's agent. I  
17 anyone present on behalf of Sahara Market?

18 Is anyone present on behalf of Sahara  
19 Market?

20 Is anyone present on behalf of ANC 5B?

21 MS. PIEKARA: Yes.

22 MS. FLETCHER: If you will state you  
23 name and spell it for the --

24 DR. IRONO: Yes, I'm here, please. I'm  
25 here, Dr. Emmanuel --

1 MS. FLETCHER: Excuse me one second.  
2 Excuse me one second, ANC 5B. Did someone just  
3 say something?

4 DR. IRONO: Yes, this is Dr. Emmanuel  
5 Irono on behalf of Sahara Market which --

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. Mr.  
7 Irono, will you please spell your name, state  
8 your name again and spell it for the record,  
9 please?

10 DR. IRONO: My name is Dr. Emmanuel  
11 Irono, with Sahara Marker.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Would you spell it,  
13 please?

14 DR. IRONO: E-M-M-A-N-U-E-L, last name  
15 Irono, I-R-O-N-O, with Sahara Market, S-A-H-A-R-A  
16 --

17 (Audio interference.)

18 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.  
19 Okay, so let me go back to ANC 5B, and who's  
20 present on behalf of ANC 5B?

21 MS. PIEKARA: Prita Piekara, first name  
22 is P-R-I-T, as in Tom, A, last name is Piekara,  
23 P-I-E-K-A-R-A.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. Is  
25 anyone else present from ANC 5B today?

1 MS. PIEKARA: Commissioner Sen, who I  
2 think is muted.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Is Commissioner Sen here?

4 MS. SEN: Yes, Nandini Sen, spelled N-A-  
5 N-D-I-N-I, last name S-E-N.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Sen, I think I may  
7 have your name misspelled. How do you spell your  
8 first name again?

9 MS. SEN: N-A-N, Nancy, N for Nancy,  
10 David-India-Nancy-India, S-E-N.

11 MS. FLETCHER: You just lost me, 100  
12 percent, hold on. I have your first name spelled  
13 N-A-N-D-I-N, is that right?

14 MS. SEN: N-A-N-D-I-N-I.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, there's an I missing,  
16 one second. Okay, now I have N-A-N-D-I-N-I.

17 MS. SEN: Yes.

18 MS. FLETCHER: S-E-N is the last name.  
19 That's spelled correctly?

20 MS. SEN: Yes.

21 MS. FLETCHER: ANC 5B does have standing  
22 as a protestant. Is anyone present on behalf of  
23 Queens Chapel Civic Association?

24 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

25 MS. FLETCHER: If you would state your

1 name, and spell it or the record, please.

2 MS. LEWIS: Yes, Charlotte, oh, excuse  
3 me, I think I have two, I have an echo. So let's  
4 see what I can do.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Well, you know, it's  
6 probably more noticeable on your end than this  
7 end. I see that you're in both places. And  
8 sometimes it creates a really big echo. But I  
9 can hear you.

10 MS. LEWIS: Okay, great. Charlotte, C-  
11 H-A-R-L-O-T-T-E, Lewis, L-E-W-I-S.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Lewis.  
13 The Queens Chapel Civic Association has standing  
14 as a protestant.

15 Is anyone present on behalf of Union  
16 Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church?

17 DR. RELFORD: Yes, I'm Brian Relford, B-  
18 R-I-A-N, Relford, R-E-L-F-O-R-D.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Dr. Relford, is anyone  
20 else present with you today?

21 DR. RELFORD: No, no one else for Union  
22 Wesley.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

24 MS. LEWIS: Question?

25 MS. FLETCHER: Who's speaking, Ms.

1 Lewis, yes.

2 MS. LEWIS: Yes, I have other people on  
3 the WebEx from Queen's Chapel. Do they need to  
4 state their names?

5 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

6 MS. LEWIS: Thank you. Larry Thurston.

7 MR. THURSTON: Lawrence Thurston.

8 MS. FLETCHER: So I should tell you that  
9 you need to state your name and spell it for the  
10 record.

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

13 MS. JACKSON: And Deborah Jackson.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Jackson, would you  
15 spell your name, please?

16 MS. LEWIS: She's is muted.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Huh?

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MS. JACKSON: All right, I'm unmuted  
20 now. I'm sorry. D-E-B-O-R-A-H --

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

22 MS. JACKSON: -- last name, Jackson, J-  
23 A-C-K-S-O-N.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

25 MS. LEWIS: And Timothy Thomas.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Did you say Timothy?

2 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

3 MR. THOMAS: Tim Thomas, T-I-M-O-T-H-Y,  
4 last name is Thomas, T-H-O-M-A-S.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.  
6 Anybody else?

7 MS. LEWIS: That's all, Ms. Fletcher.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you very  
9 much. One second here. Okay, thank you for  
10 that.

11 Dr. Relford, churches do not have  
12 standing as protestants and so I can't grant the  
13 church standing as a protestant. But your  
14 protest is a part of the protestant letter that  
15 you filed as a part of the file.

16 DR. RELFORD: Does that mean that I'm  
17 not able to speak?

18 MS. FLETCHER: That means that beyond  
19 today you would not be involved in any of the  
20 other proceedings. But all of our proceedings  
21 except mediation are public hearings. And so  
22 you're going to have -- there's going to be a  
23 status hearing and a protest hearing in this  
24 case. We live stream to YouTube and so you may  
25 attend the hearing, the hearings via YouTube. So

1 all our hearings are public hearings.

2 DR. RELFORD: So again, attend but not  
3 speak, correct?

4 MS. FLETCHER: You won't be able to  
5 speak at all. When you're on YouTube, you're  
6 only watching.

7 DR. RELFORD: Got you.

8 MS. FLETCHER: For the roll call hearing  
9 today this is a public hearing also, but because  
10 you filed the protest, you needed to appear  
11 today. The mediation is confidential. And so  
12 that will be -- the church would not be present  
13 for the mediation either.

14 DR. RELFORD: Right. Just for clarity,  
15 today I can be present, but I can't speak.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Well, today you're  
17 speaking, because we're at the roll call hearing.  
18 But at the status hearing --

19 DR. RELFORD: I understand what you said  
20 about the others.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, okay.

22 DR. RELFORD: Yes.

23 MS. LEWIS: Ms. Fletcher?

24 MS. FLETCHER: Did I leave out anything?  
25 I'm not sure. Did I leave out anything, do you

1 need to ask me anything else, Dr. Relford?

2 DR. RELFORD: No. No, you've given --  
3 you've been perfectly clear.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Ha, ha, ha. Okay, thank  
5 you.

6 MS. LEWIS: Now, Ms. Fletcher, may I ask  
7 a clarifying question --

8 MS. FLETCHER: So, who is speaking for  
9 the Court Reporter?

10 MS. LEWIS: It's Charlotte Lewis.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, Ms. Lewis?

12 MS. LEWIS: Yes. Now the Union Wesley  
13 Church is an active member of the Queens Chapel  
14 Civic Association. So is there any way that they  
15 could participate as part of this protest?

16 MS. FLETCHER: Are you referring to the  
17 church?

18 MS. LEWIS: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. FLETCHER: No.

20 MS. LEWIS: All right.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, Ms. Lewis, you're  
22 popping around now. I see you over here now, ha,  
23 ha, ha.

24 MS. LEWIS: I don't know what's going  
25 on.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, no,  
2 mediation is confidential, and only the parties  
3 granted standing can attend.

4 Any other questions from anyone?

5 Okay, we need to set some dates now.  
6 The status hearing is scheduled for August the  
7 7th, August the 7th, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. The  
8 protest hearing is set for September 18, 2024, at  
9 1:30 p.m.

10 Dr. Relford, those are the two hearings  
11 that you can live stream on YouTube so that you  
12 can see what's going on.

13 DR. RELFORD: Okay, thank you.

14 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome.

15 MS. PIEKARA: Can you repeat those dates  
16 again? My apologies.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Who's speaking?

18 MS. PIEKARA: Prita Piekara, ANC 5B.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, okay. Yes. The  
20 dates are, for the status hearing, August 7, at  
21 10:30 a.m., and for the protest hearing,  
22 September 18th, at 1:30.

23 MS. PIEKARA: Thank you very much.

24 MS. FLETCHER: You are very welcome.

25 MS. LEWIS: Ms. Fletcher, this is

1 Charlotte Lewis again. I'm got a couple of  
2 questions for when you're able --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, now is a good time.

5 MS. LEWIS: Okay. With respect to  
6 August 7th date, I know that I cannot be available  
7 that day, but Mr. Lawrence Thurston will be my  
8 stand-in.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So you can do a  
10 couple of things, Ms. Lewis. The WebEx  
11 invitation will come to you, because you're the  
12 designated representative. You can forward that  
13 to -- who's coming in our place?

14 MS. LEWIS: Lawrence Thurston.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, you can forward  
16 that to Mr. Thurston. Just forward it to him,  
17 and then he can attend on that same invitation.

18 MS. LEWIS: Thank you. All right. Now  
19 --

20 MS. FLETCHER: Yes?

21 MS. LEWIS: In our protest, in each  
22 protest letter we noted that we should note that  
23 our concerns, and I just mentioned to the two  
24 facts that he mentioned. When will we have an  
25 opportunity to discuss those things?

1 MS. FLETCHER: Say that again?

2 MS. LEWIS: In our protest letter of  
3 June 28th, we noted that we had other concerns.  
4 And our concerns were not just limited to the two  
5 facts that were specified.

6 MS. FLETCHER: So you have other  
7 concerns other than those mentioned in the  
8 protest letter?

9 MS. LEWIS: Yes, we do.

10 MS. FLETCHER: So the only things we'll  
11 discuss in the protest letters will be based on  
12 the bases upon which you can file a protest. So  
13 if you want to talk about something other than  
14 the bases upon which you can file a protest, we  
15 won't talk about those things.

16 For example, we can talk about the real  
17 property values, we can talk about the piece,  
18 order, and quiet, we can talk about the  
19 residential parking and vehicular and pedestrian  
20 safety. We can talk about those things.

21 You mentioned in your protest letter  
22 proximity to schools, daycare centers, and other  
23 similar facilities. So I noted that on the  
24 record, but those are not protestable issues.  
25 But we do take those factors into consideration

1 when an application is received. But, you know,  
2 we could talk about that for a minute.

3 MS. LEWIS: Right. Ms. Fletcher, in our  
4 letter, each letter that we filed we were  
5 specific that after the careful review of the  
6 application, meaning Dr. Irono's applications and  
7 other relevant data, we will raise other reasons  
8 why the applications should not be approved.

9 MS. FLETCHER: The only issues we'll  
10 talk about are the ones that are covered in our  
11 regulations and not any others.

12 MS. LEWIS: Okay. All right. The Board  
13 has told us that they will consider all relevant  
14 information, and we're prepared to present that  
15 information.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. But we won't.

17 MS. LEWIS: So we have --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MS. FLETCHER: When you filed your  
20 protest you were only able to file it on -- you  
21 filed them on the bases that we cover, the real  
22 property values, peace, order and quiet, et  
23 cetera, those are the bases that we cover and the  
24 bases upon which you can file a protest.

25 And you did that, and those are the

1 things that we'll talk about. I don't know what  
2 other things you want to talk about, Ms. Lewis,  
3 but you can speak with Mr., how do you pronounce  
4 it, pronounce the name? Is it Irono?

5 DR. IRONO: Yes.

6 MS. FLETCHER: You all can discuss those  
7 issues at any time that you like, and you can  
8 come to some resolution or understanding. But  
9 for us, we discuss the issues that we cover.  
10 But, you know, we'll just get started in  
11 mediation and see how things go.

12 MS. LEWIS: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: So those things will be  
14 discussed during the mediation date that we're  
15 going to set.

16 MS. LEWIS: Okay.

17 MS. JACKSON: Ms. Fletcher, this is  
18 Deborah Jackson. I want to ask a question. Are  
19 you able to send the regulations on what you can  
20 file a protest on and what you cannot?

21 MS. FLETCHER: I can, and you actually  
22 did it. It looks like somebody with you. I'm  
23 going to send them to you anyway though, Ms.  
24 Jackson.

25 MS. JACKSON: Okay, I appreciate that.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Let me make a note here.  
3 So Ms. Jackson, you want me to send those to you.  
4 Ms. Lewis, you want me to send those to you.  
5 Where do you want me sent them to?

6 MS. LEWIS: My email.

7 Charlotte, you want it to go to you, and  
8 you want to send it out or you want to --

9 MS. JACKSON: Yes, Ms. Fletcher, if you  
10 can send that to my email address, and that's on  
11 file, and then I'll disburse them.

12 MS. FLETCHER: So, Ms. Jackson, I'm  
13 going to send them to you?

14 MS. JACKSON: Yes. You can send them to  
15 me. I'll give you my email address.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Did you say it's already  
17 on the record or on file.

18 MS. JACKSON: That I'm not certain.

19 MS. LEWIS: I don't think so.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Do you want to give it to  
21 me --

22 MS. JACKSON: I'll give it to you, yes.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Do you want to give it  
24 to me publically, or do you want to give it to  
25 me --

1 MS. JACKSON: I can give it to you  
2 publically.

3 MS. FLETCHER: I'm ready.

4 MS. JACKSON: dajackson526@gmail.com.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. D, and what's the  
6 next letter?

7 MS. JACKSON: A as in apple.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, and then Jackson?

9 MS. JACKSON: 526@mail.com.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay,  
11 dajackson526@gmail.com?

12 MS. JACKSON: Correct.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Ms. Jackson, I'll  
14 send those to you.

15 MS. JACKSON: Thank you very much.

16 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Anything  
17 else before I set the date for mediation?

18 DR. RELFORD: Ms. Fletcher?

19 MS. FLETCHER: Who's speaking?

20 DR. RELFORD: This is Brian Relford, the  
21 pastor of Union Wesley.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, yes.

23 DR. RELFORD: I also live in the  
24 community. I'm a resident of the community. If  
25 Queens Chapel Civic Association wanted to add me

1 as a representative of Queens Chapel Civic  
2 Association, could I then be present and speak as  
3 a resident on behalf of Queen's Chapel and not  
4 Union Wesley Church?

5 MS. FLETCHER: During the protest  
6 hearing, you could become a witness. If there's  
7 a protest hearing, Dr. Relford, you could be  
8 designated as a witness.

9 DR. RELFORD: And I would think that  
10 witnesses are called to speak, correct?

11 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

12 DR. RELFORD: Okay, all right. Thank  
13 you so much.

14 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome.

15 MS. LEWIS: Thank you, Dr. Relford.

16 MS. JACKSON: Thank you. Yes, thank  
17 you.

18 MS. FLETCHER: All right, is there  
19 anything else?

20 Well, let me give you the next available  
21 date for mediation. And to the Sahara Market  
22 protesters, I just want to remind you to stay on  
23 the line when we're finished with this case,  
24 because the next one is yours as well.

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MS. FLETCHER: Because sometimes when I  
2 see a roll call hearing is concluded, everybody  
3 normally hangs up. But the next one is yours as  
4 well, because there are two protests for Sahara  
5 Market, one for a restaurant and one for a Class  
6 B license.

7 The next available date for mediation is  
8 -- August the 5th, at 11:30 is the next available  
9 day. If that day is good for everyone, otherwise  
10 we'll move to another day.

11 MS. LEWIS: That should work for me and  
12 I'm sure it works for --

13 DR. IRONO: That is fine with us too.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

15 MS. LEWIS: That works for me.

16 MS. PIEKARA: What was the time?

17 MS. FLETCHER: The time is going to be  
18 11:30 a.m.

19 MS. PIEKARA: All right, thank you.

20 MS. SEN: Would you please repeat the  
21 date?

22 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, the date of the  
23 status hearing is August 7th at 10:30. The  
24 protest hearing is September 18 at 1:30. And the  
25 mediation is on August the 5th at 11:30.

1 MS. SEN: Thank you.

2 MS. FLETCHER: And so that date of 11/5  
3 at 11:30, okay, that's good for everyone. Mr.  
4 Irono, did you say that date is good for you as  
5 well?

6 DR. IRONO: Yes. I will check with Mr.  
7 Jackson.

8 MS. FLETCHER: All right, thank you.

9 I will send you the WebEx invitation to  
10 attend the mediation. You'll receive your link  
11 to attend the status and protest hearing from  
12 someone else on the staff. But they'll send it  
13 to you the day before those hearings.

14 Any questions, anybody?

15 Okay. The roll call hearing in this  
16 matter is over, but we have the same parties for  
17 the next case. So everybody stay on the line.  
18 But the roll call hearing in the matter of Sahara  
19 Market related to the Class CR restaurant is  
20 concluded.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22 went off the record at 10:53 a.m.)

23

24

25

<b>A</b>	<b>calendar</b> 2:4 <b>call</b> 1:3,7 2:16 8:8,17 18:2 19:15,18 <b>called</b> 17:10 <b>Cannabis</b> 1:2,13 <b>careful</b> 13:5 <b>case</b> 1:8 2:3,4 7:24 17:23 19:17 <b>centers</b> 2:13 12:22 <b>certain</b> 15:18 <b>cetera</b> 13:23 <b>Chapel</b> 1:21,22,23,24 4:23 5:13 6:3 9:13 16:25 17:1,3 <b>Charlotte</b> 1:21 5:2,10 9:10 11:1 15:7 <b>check</b> 19:6 <b>church</b> 1:20 5:16 7:13 8:12 9:13,17 17:4 <b>churches</b> 7:11 <b>Civic</b> 1:21,22,23,24 4:23 5:13 9:14 16:25 17:1 <b>clarifying</b> 9:7 <b>clarity</b> 8:14 <b>Class</b> 2:7 18:5 19:19 <b>clear</b> 9:3 <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1 <b>come</b> 11:11 14:8 <b>coming</b> 11:13 <b>Commissioner</b> 4:1,3 <b>community</b> 16:24,24 <b>concerns</b> 11:23 12:3,4 12:7 <b>concluded</b> 18:2 19:20 <b>conducting</b> 2:15 <b>confidential</b> 8:11 10:2 <b>consider</b> 13:13 <b>consideration</b> 12:25 <b>correct</b> 8:3 16:12 17:10 <b>correctly</b> 4:19 <b>couple</b> 11:1,10 <b>Court</b> 9:9 <b>cover</b> 13:21,23 14:9 <b>covered</b> 13:10 <b>CR</b> 1:7 2:7 19:19 <b>creates</b> 5:8	<b>David-India-Nancy-In...</b> 4:10 <b>day</b> 11:7 18:9,9,10 19:13 <b>daycare</b> 2:13 12:22 <b>Deborah</b> 1:22 6:13 14:18 <b>designated</b> 11:12 17:8 <b>disburse</b> 15:11 <b>discuss</b> 11:25 12:11 14:6,9 <b>discussed</b> 14:14 <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1 <b>Dr</b> 2:24,25 3:4,4,10,10 3:14 5:17,19,21 7:11 7:16 8:2,7,14,19,22 9:1,2 10:10,13 13:6 14:5 16:18,20,23 17:7 17:9,12,15 18:13 19:6	17:18 18:1,14,17,22 19:2,8 <b>forward</b> 11:12,15,16
	<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	
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