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

10:03 a.m.

MS. FLETCHER: And we're ready. Good morning, everyone.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. FLETCHER: Laverne Fletcher, I'll be conducting the roll call hearing this morning as the Board's agent. There is only one case on the calendar today.

MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

MS. FLETCHER: Let's see here. This is Case Number 23-PRO-00064, Prosperity DC, LLC, trading as Deja Vu DC Lounge, 2020 9th Street NW, License Number ABRA-121029. This is a Retailer Class CR. This is a transfer to a new location from 1307 H Street NE to 2020 9th Street NW.

The protest issues are adverse impact on peace, law, and quiet, residential parking, and vehicular and pedestrian safety, over-concentration, and the Licensee's compliance with DC regulations.

MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

MS. FLETCHER: Is anyone present on behalf of Deja Vu.

MR. GEBREMESKEL: Yeah.

1 MS. FLETCHER: I am not able to hear.
2 So the Applicant is present?

3 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Again, ma'am?

4 MS. FLETCHER: I don't know why I
5 can't hear you. You don't appear to be muted on
6 my end, but let me see something. Hold on one
7 second.

8 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Maybe there's something
10 on my end. Give me a moment.

11 MR. GEBREMESKEL: I hear you clearly
12 on my end.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Well, it's not on my
14 end.

15 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Yeah, I hear you.

16 MS. FLETCHER: So I guess on your end
17 you're unmuted, right?

18 MR. GEBREMESKEL: It's unmuted now.

19 MS. FLETCHER: You can hear me, I
20 don't know why I can't hear you.

21 MR. GEBREMESKEL: I hear you now, I
22 hear you.

23 MS. FLETCHER: You're here on behalf
24 of the Applicant?

25 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Yeah.

1 MS. FLETCHER: And I see -- can you
2 hear me?

3 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Yeah, I hear you.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, then we'll be
5 able to get through this just fine.

6 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

7 MS. FLETCHER: So on the screen I see
8 that your name is spelled, okay, I just received
9 a message I've got to respond to. Hold on for a
10 second please.

11 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Excuse me. Hold on
13 just a moment.

14 MR. GEBREMESKEL: No problem.

15 MS. FLETCHER: One moment, thank you.
16 Okay, I apologize for that.

17 Apparently the person representing the Protestant
18 did not have a copy of his link for the hearing
19 today. And so I just sent that to him. So I
20 will wait until he shows up.

21 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Okay.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, Mr.
24 Chauvin.

25 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Chauvin, okay.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, you're on
2 mute right now.

3 MR. CHAUVIN: Good morning. It's
4 Frank Chauvin.

5 MS. FLETCHER: I should be able to
6 hear you now.

7 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Good morning.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Can you hear me okay?
9 Mr. Chauvin can you hear me?

10 So I'm having, if you can hear me, I'm
11 having a trouble hearing everybody today.

12 MR. CHAUVIN: For some reason I have
13 a delay. I can hear you, but you can't hear me.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Can you hear me? Can
15 you hear me?

16 MR. CHAUVIN: Geez.

17 I'll wait a couple of minutes, and
18 then I'm going to proceed. But everyone will be
19 recognized as being present today, whether you
20 can hear me or not. One second please.

21 MR. CHAUVIN: I can hear you.

22 MS. FLETCHER: I'm back again. Mr.
23 Chauvin, I'll give you a chance to see my email.

24 MR. CHAUVIN: Can you hear me now?
25 Can you hear me now?

1 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, I see you
2 a second time. I don't know if I'll be able to
3 hear you, but I see you. Did you see my email?

4 Can the Applicant still hear me? No.
5 Okay.

6 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Oh, here it is.

7 MS. FLETCHER: The parties are not
8 able to hear me this morning for some reason that
9 none of us can figure out.

10 The Applicant in this matter is
11 present. Mr. Chauvin is also present. Mr.
12 Chauvin is present on behalf of the Westminster
13 Neighborhood Association, and his name is spelled
14 F-R-A-N-K C-H-A-U-V-I-N.

15 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Mr. Chauvin, your
16 voice is low.

17 MS. FLETCHER: The Applicant is
18 present. Can the Applicant hear me yet?

19 Okay. The Applicant is present. I'm
20 going to spell the name of the Applicant, I
21 believe this is the proper spelling. If it is
22 not, I'll correct it later.

23 But the Applicant whose name we have
24 on record is Mr. Adanech Gebremeskel. I'm going
25 to spell that for the record. It's spelled A-D-

1 A-N-E-C-H G-E-B-R-E-M-E-S-K-E-L. That is the
2 name of the Applicant. The Applicant is present
3 --

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin is present
6 on behalf of the Association. I do have couple
7 of questions for the Westminster Neighborhood
8 Association that I cannot ask at this moment.
9 But I will state what those questions are for
10 the record. My question is --

11 MR. GEBREMESKEL: It's very low.

12 MS. FLETCHER: -- whether or not the
13 Association is still incorporated and whether or
14 not the Association held a duly called meeting in
15 accordance with their bylaws concerning the
16 application with at least seven-day notice given
17 to the voting body --

18 MR. GEBREMESKEL: It's very low.

19 MS. FLETCHER: -- and to the
20 Applicant.

21 Mr. Chauvin, I'm going to ask you
22 those questions by email right now. And you can
23 provide me with your response.

24 MR. GEBREMESKEL: I don't hear
25 anything.

1 MS. FLETCHER: I have sent Mr. Chauvin
2 an email.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MS. FLETCHER: I'm giving him an
5 opportunity to respond to the email to answer the
6 two questions that I just posed.

7 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Hello? Can you hear
8 me? But I don't hear you. I don't hear
9 anything. If you are waiting for me, I don't
10 hear anything.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin has
12 responded to my questions.

13 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Can you hear me?

14 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin said that
15 the Westminster Neighborhood Association is still
16 incorporated, that a duly called meeting was held
17 in accordance with the bylaws concerning the
18 application, and that the WNA body and the
19 Applicant were given at least seven days' notice
20 of that meeting.

21 Therefore the Westminster Neighborhood
22 Association is granted standing. I have
23 communicated that to Mr. Chauvin by email. I
24 will communicate that to the Applicant as well.

25 For whatever reason, we are not able

1 to hear one another. I can't hear the Applicant
2 or the Protestant. And they cannot hear me --

3 MR. GEBREMESKEL: No, I hear you. It
4 is low, but I hear you.

5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6 MS. FLETCHER: -- record and I am
7 going to wave goodbye to the parties now. And I
8 will contact the parties shortly with dates of
9 upcoming proceedings, including mediation, a
10 status hearing, and the protest hearing.

11 Mr. M. --

12 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Now I hear you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: -- I'm waiting for the
14 Applicant to see me, so I'm waving goodbye. He's
15 not looking up right now. But I imagine he will
16 in a minute.

17 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Is that adjourned?

18 MS. FLETCHER: He doesn't seem to be
19 watching. Oh, waiting.

20 MR. GEBREMESKEL: Is it over, but I
21 hear you.

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

24

25

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A-D 6:25 A-N-E-C-H 7:1 a.m 2:2 9:23 ABC 1:17 able 3:1 4:5 5:5 6:2 6:8 8:25 above-entitled 9:22 ABRA-121029 2:14 Adanech 1:19 6:24 adjourned 9:17 adverse 2:17 agent 1:15,17 2:8 Alcoholic 1:2,14 ANC 1:7 answer 8:5 apologize 4:16 Apparently 4:17 appear 3:5 Applicant 1:19 3:2 3:24 6:4,10,17,18 6:19,20,23 7:2,2 7:20 8:19,24 9:1 9:14 application 7:16 8:18 Association 6:13 7:6,8,13,14 8:15 8:22 August 1:12</p>	<p>call 1:3,7 2:7 called 7:14 8:16 Cannabis 1:2,14 case 1:8 2:8,12 chance 5:23 Chauvin 1:20 4:24 4:25 5:1,3,4,9,12 5:16,21,23,24 6:1 6:11,12,15 7:5,21 8:1,11,14,23 Class 2:15 clearly 3:11 COLUMBIA 1:1 communicate 8:24 communicated 8:23 compliance 2:20 concentration 2:20 concerning 7:15 8:17 conducting 2:7 contact 9:8 copy 4:18 correct 6:22 couple 5:17 7:6 CR 1:7 2:15</p>	<p>Fletcher 1:15,17 2:3,6,6,11,23 3:1 3:4,9,13,16,19,23 4:1,4,7,12,15,22 4:23 5:1,5,8,14,22 6:1,7,17 7:5,12,19 8:1,4,11,14 9:6,13 9:18 Frank 1:20 5:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>G-E-B-R-E-M-E... 7:1 Gebremeskel 1:19 2:10,22,25 3:3,8 3:11,15,18,21,25 4:3,6,11,14,21,25 5:7 6:6,15,24 7:11 7:18,24 8:7,13 9:3 9:12,17,20 Geez 5:16 give 3:10 5:23 given 7:16 8:19 giving 8:4 going 5:18 6:20,24 7:21 9:7 Good 2:3 4:23 5:3 5:7 goodbye 9:7,14 granted 8:22 guess 3:16</p>	<p>imagine 9:15 impact 2:17 including 9:9 incorporated 7:13 8:16 issues 2:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>know 3:4,20 6:2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>LaVerne 1:14,17 2:6 law 2:18 Let's 2:11 License 1:8 2:14 Licensee's 2:20 link 4:18 LLC 1:6 2:12 location 1:9 2:15 looking 9:15 Lounge 1:6 2:13 low 6:16 7:11,18 9:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M 9:11 ma'am 3:3 matter 1:5 6:10 9:22 mediation 9:9 meeting 7:14 8:16 8:20 message 4:9 met 1:14 minute 9:16 minutes 5:17 moment 3:10 4:13 4:15 7:8 Monday 1:12 morning 2:4,7 4:23 5:3,7 6:8 mute 5:2 muted 3:5</p>	<p>name 4:8 6:13,20 6:23 7:2 NE 1:10 2:16 Neighborhood 6:13 7:7 8:15,21 new 1:9 2:15 notice 7:16 8:19 Number 2:12,14 NW 1:7,10 2:13,16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>Oh 6:6 9:19 okay 2:10,22 3:8 4:4,6,8,11,16,21 4:25 5:8 6:5,19 opportunity 8:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-... 2:1 parking 2:18 parties 6:7 9:7,8 peace 2:18 pedestrian 2:19 person 4:17 please 4:10 5:20 posed 8:6 present 1:16,18 2:23 3:2 5:19 6:11,11,12,18,19 7:2,5 presiding 1:15 problem 4:14 proceed 5:18 proceedings 9:9 proper 6:21 Prosperity 1:6 2:12 protest 2:17 9:10 Protestant 1:20 4:17 9:2 provide 7:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>question 7:10 questions 7:7,9,22 8:6,12 quiet 2:18</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C-H-A-U-V-I-N 6:14 calendar 2:9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>F-R-A-N-K 6:14 figure 6:9 fine 4:5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</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: Deja Vu

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 08-07-23

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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