

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Prince Hall Free & Accepted :
Order of the Eastern Star :
Title Holding Company, :
1000 U Street NW : Roll Call
Retailer Class CX : Hearing
(Multipurpose) :
ANC 1B :
New Application :
License #ABRA-124767 :
Case #23-PRO-00066 :
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Monday
August 14th, 2023

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:

SANDREA BALLESTRO
FRANK CHAUVIN
NICOLE GRAY
DAVID GREER
MARQUIS McCANTS
TANIA SHAND
BRIAN WESOLOSKI

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

2 10:05 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Now we can get
4 started. Before we start, if anyone is going to
5 have any sound or speaking in the background if
6 you would space yourself on mute. My name is
7 LaVerne Fletcher. I will be conducting the roll
8 call hearing as the Board's agent. There are two
9 cases on the calendar today.

10 The first case on the calendar is
11 Prince Hall Free and Accepted Order of the
12 Eastern Star Title Holding Company.

13 Could someone mute themselves, please?
14 Someone need to mute themselves. I am hearing a
15 telephone call and voice message in the
16 background.

17 Trading as Prince Hall Free and
18 Accepted Order of the Eastern Start Title Holding
19 Company, 1000 U Street, NW, License Number ABRA-
20 124767. This is a Retailer Class CX multipurpose
21 application for a new application. The protest
22 issues are adverse impact on peace, order and
23 quiet.

24 My name is Laverne Fletcher,
25 conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's

1 agent. Is anyone present on behalf of Prince
2 Hall?

3 MR. McCANTS: Good morning, ma'am. My
4 name is Marquis McCants. I am present on behalf
5 of the Prince Hall organization.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. McCants.
7 Would you spell your name for the record, please?

8 MR. McCANTS: Marquis, that is M-A-R-
9 Q-U-I-S, last name is McCANTS, that is M-C-C-A-N-
10 T-S, and I am a senior.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.
12 Is anyone present with you, Mr. McCants, or just
13 you today?

14 MR. McCANTS: I cannot see everybody
15 on the boxes, but it may just be me today.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you. We
17 also have a group of 36. Mr. Chauvin, are you
18 here today?

19 MR. CHAUVIN: I am, but I am under Mr.
20 Greer's -- or with Mr. Greer, who is another
21 signatory. I signed that one.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Well, Mr. Chauvin,
23 could you spell your name for the record?

24 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes, Frank, F-R-A-N-K,
25 last name C-H-A-U-V-I-N.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. There are
2 other members from the group today who are
3 present?

4 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes --

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, --

6 MR. CHAUVIN: David Greer, who is with
7 me here. So I got --

8 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Greer, would you
9 spell your name for the record, please?

10 (No audible response.)

11 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Greer, I cannot
12 hear you, but I --

13 MR. GREER: Can you hear me now?

14 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

15 MR. GREER: Okay. It is David Greer,
16 D-A-V-I-D, Greer, G-R-E-E-R.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.
18 Anyone else?

19 MS. SHAND: Yes, this is Tania Shand,
20 T-A-N-I-A, last name Shand, S-H-A-N-D.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Shand.
22 Anyone else?

23 MS. BALLESTERO: Yes, Sandra
24 Ballestero.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Could you spell that,

1 please?

2 MS. BALLESTERO: Okay, S-A-N-D-R-E-A,
3 and Ballestero, B-A-L-L-E-S-T-E-R-O.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone
5 else?

6 MS. GRAY: Yes, Nicole Gray, N-I-C-O-
7 L-E, Gray, G-R-A-Y.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Anyone else?

9 MR. WESOLOSKI: Brian Wesoloski, B-R-
10 I-A-N, W-E-S-O-L-O-S-K-I.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Can you spell
12 your last name one more time, please?

13 MR. WESOLOSKI: Sure, W-E-S-O-L-O-S-K-
14 I.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone
16 else?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mr. Chauvin, you
19 are still the designated representative for the
20 group?

21 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes, (audio interference).

22 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, I cannot
23 hear you right now, but I did hear you say that
24 you are still the designated representative for
25 the group.

1 MR. CHAUVIN: (Audio interference.)

2 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, I still
3 cannot hear you, but I --

4 MR. CHAUVIN: Can you hear me now?

5 MS. FLETCHER: I can hear you now.

6 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes, it is also -- it is
7 me, and Brian Wesoloski and Tania Shand are also
8 co-representatives, but, yes.

9 MS. FLETCHER: So who is going to be
10 the primary designated representative?

11 MR. CHAUVIN: I will be. I will be.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. I
13 have listed all three, but I have you as the
14 primary.

15 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, you are
17 also a protestant, right?

18 MR. CHAUVIN: Correct.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.

20 There are six individuals from the group of 36
21 present today, which means that the group is
22 granted standing as a protestant.

23 Mr. Chauvin, what that means is that
24 at the upcoming status hearing only a designated
25 representative needs to appear. The Board needs

1 to see at least five people in person. There are
2 six of you present today, so at the status
3 hearing only one person needs to appear. You can
4 all appear if you like, but only one person is
5 required.

6 We need to set a date for mediation,
7 a status hearing, and a protest hearing. I do
8 not know if I mentioned the protest issues in
9 this case are adverse impact on peace, order and
10 quiet. I am going to give you the date for the
11 status and protest hearing first. The status
12 hearing is scheduled for September 20, September
13 20, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. This is for the status
14 hearing. The protest hearing is set for October
15 4, October 4, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

16 MS. SHAND: Ms. Fletcher.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Who is speaking?

18 MS. SHAND: This is Tania Shand. I
19 have a question. Can you explain status versus
20 protest?

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. The purpose of
22 the status hearing is for the parties to give the
23 Board the status of the case. What normally
24 happens is the status of the case will be that
25 mediation has been held, and the Board will want

1 to know the result of the mediation. So the
2 status hearing is just letting the Board know
3 what has happened so far, and the status of the
4 case. If this were a case where at least five
5 people were not present today then the additional
6 people would need to appear for the status
7 hearing, so it is just a status.

8 MS. SHAND: So that means that between
9 now and then we are supposed to be working with
10 the Masons. Is that what that means?

11 MS. FLETCHER: The mediation of the
12 date that we are about to set for mediation, that
13 is going to occur prior to the status hearing.

14 MS. SHAND: Okay.

15 MS. FLETCHER: At the status hearing
16 if the matter has not yet been settled you will
17 tell the Board that you had mediation, either
18 there was a settlement or not. The Board will
19 then restate the protest hearing date, which you
20 already have, which is October 4, 2023. Then
21 there will be the protest hearing. At the
22 protest hearing is where the Board (audio
23 interference) witness' testimony, accept
24 documents.

25 It is like a little mini-trial, and so

1 the Board hears both sides and within 90 days the
2 Board issues an opinion, a decision as to whether
3 or not the new application will be issued.

4 During mediation the parties have an opportunity
5 to reach an agreement, and if the Board approves
6 the agreement that you reach then the Board will
7 issue the license once the agreement has been
8 approved. They will issue the license once the
9 agreement has been approved. Does that explain
10 it?

11 MS. SHAND: Yes, Ms. Fletcher. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You are very welcome.
14 All right, does anybody else have any questions
15 from group? Okay. Then the next available date
16 --

17 MR. McCANTS: Ms. Fletcher, this is
18 Mr. McCants.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. McCants. Oh, uh huh

20 MR. McCANTS: Yes, ma'am. The
21 mediation hearing, is that in person or will that
22 be virtual as well?

23 MS. FLETCHER: It is virtual as well,
24 and it is actually a mediation session, Mr.
25 McCants. It will just be me. I am the Board

1 mediator. It will be me, you, and the
2 protestants here, same as we are today, to talk
3 about the concerns of the community, and ideal
4 situation is that their concerns are addressed to
5 your mutual satisfaction.

6 If that happens, we would write a
7 settlement agreement, which would be submitted to
8 the Board for approval, but the mediation is
9 virtual, and we just all come back together so
10 that you have an opportunity to hear what the
11 community's concerns are.

12 MR. McCANTS: Thank you, ma'am.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You are welcome. The
14 next available day for mediation is Tuesday,
15 August 22nd, any time between 10:30 and 1:30.
16 That is actually next Tuesday, August 22nd, any
17 time between 10:30 and 1:30. That is the next
18 available day.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. FLETCHER: I am sorry, Ms. Shand,
21 I should have said before you speak if you could
22 state your name for the court reporter. That was
23 Ms. Shand speaking.

24 MS. SHAND: Yes, this is Ms. Shand,
25 just checking to see what Frank's availability

1 was for August 22nd since we know we have some
2 vacations coming up when we were talking.

3 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes, can you hear me?
4 Can you hear me?

5 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

6 MR. CHAUVIN: I would like -- if there
7 is a date in that following week that would work
8 better for me.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. There is a day
10 available the following week. Is that you
11 speaking, Mr. Chauvin?

12 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes.

13 MS. FLETCHER: The date available the
14 following week is Tuesday, August the 29th any
15 time between 10:30 and 1:30 on Tuesday, August
16 29th.

17 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes. How about 1:30 on
18 the 29th?

19 MS. FLETCHER: 1:30 works on this end.
20 Does that work for you, Mr. McCants?

21 MR. McCANTS: Absolutely, ma'am.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, I have a
24 question for you. Are the other two designated
25 representatives appearing for mediation, or just

1 you?

2 MR. CHAUVIN: We are not positive. I
3 would have to look at their schedule, but we
4 would like at least one if not both of them
5 there, except we haven't worked it out, so it may
6 be three of us.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. You may -- I
8 will send you the WebEx invitation to attend the
9 mediation, and you may forward a copy of your
10 invitation to anyone else that is going to
11 attend.

12 MR. CHAUVIN: Great. Thank you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You are welcome.
14 Mediation is set for Tuesday, August 29 at 1:30.
15 Any questions anyone?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, --

18 MR. CHAUVIN: I'm sorry, Ms. Fletcher.
19 Will you be sharing information with us after
20 this meeting between the parties?

21 MS. FLETCHER: You mean contact
22 information, Mr. Chauvin?

23 MR. CHAUVIN: Yes. Yes. Can you hear
24 me?

25 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. So the contact

1 information you will be asking for is that of Mr.
2 McCants?

3 MR. CHAUVIN: That is correct.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Chauvin, I hear
5 you. Are you opposed to Mr. Chauvin having your
6 contact information?

7 MR. McCANTS: No, ma'am, I am not.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mr. Chauvin, I
9 will email it to you when I am done this morning.

10 MR. CHAUVIN: Great. Thank you.

11 MS. FLETCHER: You are very welcome.
12 Okay. Well if there is nothing else the roll
13 call hearing in this matter is concluded. Thank
14 you for coming, and I will see you in mediation.
15 Have a good day.

16 MR. CHAUVIN: Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
18 went off the record at 10:20 a.m.)

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25

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:2 7:13 13:18 ABC 1:18 above-entitled 13:17 ABRA- 2:19 ABRA-124767 1:10 Absolutely 11:21 accept 8:23 Accepted 1:6 2:11,18 additional 8:5 addressed 10:4 adverse 2:22 7:9 agent 1:15,18 2:8 3:1 agreement 9:5,6,7,9 10:7 Alcoholic 1:2,14 ANC 1:9 anybody 9:14 appear 6:25 7:3,4 8:6 appearing 11:25 application 1:9 2:21,21 9:3 approval 10:8 approved 9:8,9 approves 9:5 asking 13:1 attend 12:8,11 audible 4:10 audio 5:21 6:1 8:22 August 1:13 10:15,16 11:1,14,15 12:14 availability 10:25 available 9:15 10:14,18 11:10,13</p>	<p>13:13 Cannabis 1:2,14 case 1:10 2:10 7:9,23 7:24 8:4,4 cases 2:9 Chauvin 1:21 3:17,19 3:22,24 4:4,6 5:18,21 5:22 6:1,2,4,6,11,15 6:16,18,23 11:3,6,11 11:12,17,23 12:2,12 12:18,22,23 13:3,4,5 13:8,10,16 checking 10:25 Class 1:8 2:20 co-representatives 6:8 COLUMBIA 1:1 come 10:9 coming 11:2 13:14 community 10:3 community's 10:11 Company 1:7 2:12,19 concerns 10:3,4,11 concluded 13:13 conducting 2:7,25 contact 12:21,25 13:6 copy 12:9 correct 6:18 13:3 court 10:22 CX 1:8 2:20</p>	<p>5:4,8,11,15,18,22 6:2 6:5,9,12,16,19 7:16 7:17,21 8:11,15 9:11 9:13,17,19,23 10:13 10:20 11:5,9,13,19,23 12:7,13,17,18,21,25 13:4,8,11 following 11:7,10,14 forward 12:9 Frank 1:21 3:24 Frank's 10:25 Free 1:6 2:11,17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>know 7:8 8:1,2 11:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>L-E 5:7 LaVerne 1:15,18 2:7,24 letting 8:2 license 1:10 2:19 9:7,8 listed 6:13 little 8:25 look 12:3</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: Order of the Eastern Star

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 08-14-23

Place: videoconference

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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