

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
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Kaza Lounge, LLC :
t/a Medusa Lounge :
2632 Georgia Ave NW : Show Cause
Retailer CR - ANC 1E : Hearing (Status)
License No. 121559 :
Case #23-CIT-00101 :
:
(No ABC Manager on Duty, :
Failed to Post License :
Conspicuously in the :
Establishment, Operating :
After Board Approved :
Hours) :
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Wednesday
August 16, 2023

The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis
Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson
Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:

- DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

- MR. CARTER, DC ABCA Staff
DAWIT SERMOLO, Applicant
CHRIS SOUTHCOTT, DC OAG

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

2 11:10 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on
4 our calendar we now move to a Show Cause Hearing
5 Calendar. Case Number 23-CIT-00101, Medusa
6 Lounge, License Number 121559.

7 Mr. Carter, can you please elevate the
8 rights of the government and the Licensee in this
9 case, please.

10 MR. CARTER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Chris
11 Southcott has been elevated. Dawit Sermolo has
12 been elevated.

13 MR. SERMOLO: Good morning. Dawit
14 Sermolo here, D-A-W-I-T --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold up on this,
16 please.

17 Mr. Southcott, good morning. Can you
18 please spell and state your name for the record,
19 please.

20 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Chris Southcott, first
21 name, C-H-R-I-S. Last name Southcott, S-O-U-T-H-
22 C-O-T-T from DC's Office of the Attorney General
23 representing the government.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
25 sir.

1 Mr. Sermolo, can yo please spell and
2 state your name for the record and your
3 relationship to this case, please.

4 MR. SERMOLO: Dawit Sermolo, I'm one of
5 the owner of Medusa Lounge. Dawit is D-A-W-I-T
6 S-E-R-M-O-L-O.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
8 sir.

9 MR. SERMOLO: Good morning.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Southcott,
11 are there any preliminary matters in this case?

12 MR. SOUTHCOTT: There are not.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sermolo, do
14 you have any preliminary matters that you wish to
15 raise?

16 MR. SERMOLO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. So,
17 I got a citation.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. All
19 right. Sir, when I said preliminary matters it's
20 more so do you have any issues or like any
21 clarifications. But if you're trying to explain
22 to us what happened with the citation, that's if
23 you cannot settle this matter with the
24 government, then we're going to have a hearing on
25 September 20th at 10:30. That is when you will

1 explain, you'll bring your documents and
2 witnesses to explain your case why is it that you
3 believe that this citation that was provided to
4 you, it's not appropriate. All right. That when
5 you would explain. All right.

6 So, this matter is scheduled for
7 September 20th at 10:30 a.m. Now, seven days
8 before the hearing, sir, you have to if you're
9 going to call any witnesses and if you have any
10 documents you need to provide a copy of those
11 documents and witnesses to the government and you
12 also need to provide a copy of those documents to
13 ABCA Legal.

14 The government will also provide you
15 a copy of their documents.

16 Mr. Southcott, whose case is this? Is
17 this your case, sir?

18 MR. SOUTHCOTT: This is not my case.
19 The case is Shani Brown's case.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Shani Brown,
21 Mr. Sermolo, Shani Brown will contact you and
22 she'll provide you the documents and you also
23 would provide her a copy of whatever witnesses
24 and documents you're going to rely on. And you
25 just do that seven days before the hearing, sir.

1 Do you have any questions?

2 MR. SERMOLO: No, sir, thank you.

3 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Chairman, may I
4 quickly--

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SOUTHCOTT: -- interject here?

7 I will note that Shani informed me
8 that she's attempted to reach out to you, Mr.
9 Sermolo, on a couple of times via email and then
10 did not receive any response to her emails. Did
11 you receive her communications?

12 MR. SERMOLO: No. I just updated my
13 email so she should have the new email address.

14 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Okay. What is your new
15 email address?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, can you
17 put -- hold on, hold on a minute.

18 Can you put on the chat, please,
19 since--

20 MR. SERMOLO: Yeah.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, put it on
22 the chat, please.

23 MR. SERMOLO: I just sent it.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have it,
25 Mr. Southcott:

1 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Yes. I believe it's
2 the same email address that Shani indicated to me
3 that she had reached out to you on. So, if you
4 could just tell --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you put her
6 email address in the chat so maybe he can maybe
7 he can then reach out to the government to see
8 whether or not this is a matter that can be
9 settled.

10 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Yes. Just one second.

11 MR. SERMOLO: Okay, got it.

12 MR. SOUTHCOTT: Okay. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. SERMOLO: Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, this proceeding was
16 concluded at 1:15 p.m.)

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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: Medusa Lounge

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 08-16-23

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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