

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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Pub Crawl :
Applicant: Miranda McLean:
Date: October 28, 2023 : Fact Finding
Event: Nightmare on :
M Street :
(Lindy Promotions) :
Neighborhood: Multiple :
Licensed Premises :
Size of Event: 2000 :
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Wednesday
September 14, 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:

- JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
- MIRANDA MCLEAN, Applicant

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

2 3:36 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the last
4 event on our calendar is another bar crawl, this
5 is -- a pub crawl, I'm sorry, I don't know why I
6 keep on saying bar crawl. Another pub crawl,
7 this is Nightmare on M Street Lindy Promotions,
8 and so Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate the
9 rights of the parties, the applicants for Lindy
10 Promotions?

11 MR. ORELLANA: Miranda McLean, your
12 access has been elevated.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

14 MS. MCLEAN: Hello.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. McLean, do
16 you have a camera you can turn on, ma'am?

17 MS. MCLEAN: Yes, one second, I'm just
18 starting it now. Why is it not turning on? All
19 right, is it on?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, can
21 you spell and state your name for the record,
22 ma'am?

23 MS. MCLEAN: Miranda, M-I-R-A-N-D-A
24 McLean, M-C-L-E-A-N.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what

1 organization are you with?

2 MS. MCLEAN: Lindy Promotions.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell us a
4 little bit about Lindy Promotions, ma'am.

5 MS. MCLEAN: We've been actually doing
6 crawls with you guys for over 12 years now. We
7 do Halloween, Saint Pat's, and some small, you
8 know, holiday events like Santa Con, or just
9 random summer crawls, and stuff like that with
10 you guys, but we've been doing crawls with you
11 guys for awhile now.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you pull
13 your camera down a little bit?

14 MS. MCLEAN: Sorry.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
16 you are requesting a pub crawl for Saturday,
17 October 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. In
18 what specific area of town are you requesting
19 this pub crawl?

20 MS. MCLEAN: The same, Dupont Circle.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how many
22 participants are you requesting, ma'am?

23 MS. MCLEAN: We, on our application
24 put 2000, but we've always been okay, and we've
25 always sold 1500 or less. So, we're fine with

1 the 1500, because we understand that, you know,
2 us and Project D.C. does the crawls the same day,
3 and, you know, we want to work on, you know,
4 overcrowding on a Saturday night, a holiday
5 weekend. So, we're okay with the 1500. We
6 actually have never gone over the 1500, even
7 though we put, you know, 2000 on the application.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't think
9 you should say that, ma'am so I think you should
10 say to the best of my knowledge I don't believe
11 that we have gone over, because I believe that
12 Mr. Short will remind you of some --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MS. MCLEAN: I mean from the last
15 hiccup, correct, you're right.

16 (Laughter.)

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
18 Mr. Board Member Short's knowledge will go back
19 ten years.

20 MS. MCLEAN: Yeah, I was going to say,
21 yeah.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, just
23 describe for us this event, ma'am.

24 MS. MCLEAN: So, basically it's 2:00
25 to 10:00, registration will begin at 2:00. We

1 have a couple of registration locations, we have
2 staff that checks in. We're hiring, even though
3 the venues assure us they have security, we
4 always hire security ourselves. We hire, I know
5 cleaning is always a big deal every year.

6 So, just like the other company, we
7 use Bayside, and which we actually ask Bayside to
8 come in after all the venues are closed. So,
9 Bayside is normally cleaning, and they always
10 send us pictures between the hours of 5:00 a.m.
11 and 9:00 a.m. And then this year we are actually
12 investing more on security when it comes to the
13 crowd control.

14 And just checking, and overflow of the
15 (audio interference) --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I've lost you,
17 ma'am.

18 MS. MCLEAN: Can you hear me now?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, go ahead.

20 MS. MCLEAN: Yeah, so we're actually
21 -- I was saying that we're actually investing
22 this year more on us, like you know, hiring more
23 security to help with check in, help with crowd
24 control at the venues in the street. Because I
25 know in the past, you know, between the two

1 organizations, plus the regular Saturday night
2 life, day time can be, you know -- I know she
3 said that, you know, day time normally starts at
4 10:00, it gets hectic, but with all these
5 organizations, and stuff like that, and the bars
6 reached out to us.

7 We're asking if we can have extra
8 security this year, we're going to invest on
9 extra security.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what plans do
11 you have in place to prevent underage drinking,
12 and excessive drinking?

13 MS. MCLEAN: So, what's going to
14 happen is at the checkpoints we're actually IDing
15 before we wristband. So, instead of just getting
16 a wristband, what we normally do is we just, you
17 know, they have to -- security has to check the
18 ID, and obviously if the ID is 21 and over, they
19 get their wristband, if it's not they just --
20 they don't get a wristband, and they lose out on
21 their ticket.

22 But our new site also is giving the
23 option to enter birthdays, but like I said, we
24 have security that will be checking at the
25 checkpoints, IDs.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know you
2 spoke about another organization who you normally
3 have a pub crawls, so you're there during the
4 same time. So, are you aware that the licensee
5 can only participate in one pub crawl?

6 MS. MCLEAN: Correct, we just -- I
7 just heard that just now, and we're actually
8 going to go back to the drawing board with some
9 of the venues, and we can provide an updated list
10 if needed be. I just actually -- while I was
11 listening on the other calls, actually texted my
12 other partners to let them know that this is
13 something we have to be very strict on so that,
14 you know, we don't get in trouble and we're, you
15 know asked out, the day of. And everybody
16 agrees, so we're going to actually go, because he
17 mentioned some of the ones that we normally work
18 with every year. So, we're going to go back to
19 the drawing board on the venue list.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
21 for any of the board members? Go ahead, Mr.
22 Short.

23 MEMBER SHORT: Chairman, thank you.
24 Since this year it looks like we have three
25 different companies --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was asking Mr.
3 Short but go ahead Mr. Grandis. I said Mr. Short.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Oh you said Mr. Short,
5 I apologize. No, Mr. Short. No, I apologize. Your
6 volume is low, Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
8 Grandis.

9 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay, Mr. Short, I am
10 really sorry, I didn't hear him say that.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Apologies not necessary.

12 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ma'am, you know, this
13 has sort of put me in sort of a spot where I
14 don't think I've been since I've been on the
15 board, that, you know, we have a situation where
16 three different companies who have good
17 reputations, have had history in Washington, want
18 to have each of them have between 1500 and 2000
19 participants.

20 And you all being a business, you sort
21 of know what is the lowest number you all can
22 have to even make it feasible as a company to
23 make the money you need to pay your staff, and
24 all those things. So, what I said to the last
25 applicant, it seems to me that you all perhaps

1 should at least have communication on trying to
2 say we don't want to put the board in a situation
3 of maybe selecting one or two, instead of three.

4 Maybe if we all work together, the
5 board can consider that the total number is
6 something that the board would feel we're safe,
7 particularly it's a Saturday night. It's one
8 thing for Halloween to be on a Wednesday night,
9 you know, but Halloween is on Tuesday, and this
10 is a Saturday night, and that's the big night
11 when people go out, regardless of what night
12 Halloween is on.

13 So, do you think there's any
14 feasibility of trying to communicate? Because
15 when I'm looking at the list of just the
16 documents that we've been provided today, it
17 seems like some of the licensees are on more than
18 one sheet. So, like I said, we -- I think we
19 want this to be a successful evening for all
20 three companies.

21 If all three companies can come up
22 with a number, and not be overlapping, and having
23 our investigative staff finding out that no, wait
24 a minute, I'm going out that night, and these two
25 -- two of the companies have the same venue,

1 which as our regs say cannot be. So, I'm asking
2 you a long question.

3 But do you think there's any
4 possibility that we cannot be put in the position
5 of having to make that decision, and you all can
6 help us?

7 MS. MCLEAN: Yeah, I mean like I said,
8 I heard when Alex was on, and he named drop some
9 of the venues that we worked, like I said, with
10 every crawl for the last, you know, God knows
11 when they've been open. And that's a
12 conversation, like I said, I was texting my
13 partner on the side, and I think it is a good
14 conversation, and a good point that maybe we
15 should all just discuss, like you know, come up
16 with a game plan, and discuss.

17 So, it's a conversation that, you
18 know, we all would have to have after I get off
19 this call, and see how we can all work together,
20 so it doesn't put you guys in that predicament.
21 And like I said, neither of us are getting in
22 trouble, because, you know, a bar can turn around
23 and say yeah, I'm not on this crawl, and then day
24 of they lie, and we find out they are on the
25 crawl.

1 So, it's just all talking, and finding
2 a way, a common ground in such a way.

3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Because what I find
4 interesting is that the companies that want to do
5 something on that Saturday night before Halloween
6 all want south of Dupont, and it's probably good
7 reason, okay? But there's H Street, you know,
8 there's Adams Morgan, there's U Street, and I'm
9 not saying I'm making those decisions.

10 But we are being put in the position
11 of saying here are three very good companies that
12 have good history with D.C., and how do we avoid
13 picking one over the other? Help us with that.
14 So, thank you, that's my only question. So Mr.
15 Chairman, thank you for the time. And Mr. Short,
16 I really didn't hear your name. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
18 Short.

19 MEMBER SHORT: Well, you're shorter
20 than I am anyway, so -- I think. Anyway, thank
21 you, Mr. Grandis. My only question for you,
22 young lady, is are you familiar with the pub
23 crawl regulations?

24 MS. MCLEAN: Yeah, I've been doing it
25 -- I'm actually the one that's been doing it for

1 12 years now. I'm always doing the applications,
2 and I've been applying, so yes.

3 MEMBER SHORT: So, you know what year
4 we got these regulations, right? What year did
5 the regulations come into?

6 MS. MCLEAN: That I don't know off the
7 top of my head, one second.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, well I'll leave
9 that alone. But the bottom line is you do know
10 the regulations?

11 MS. MCLEAN: Correct. And that's --
12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 MEMBER SHORT: And you know it's your
14 responsibility in regards to the city?

15 MS. MCLEAN: Why I'm saying that in
16 regards to -- correct.

17 MEMBER SHORT: So, if you found out
18 someone was selling tickets who was unauthorized
19 to, what would you do?

20 MS. MCLEAN: I would 100 percent reach
21 out to you guys, and MPD. We're actually,
22 unfortunately a victim of that numerous times.
23 Because we actually do have a team that sits
24 down, and like, you know do their search up. They
25 go on Eventbrite, and they search up to see that

1 there's nobody selling tickets, or fake tickets.

2 Because we did fall victim of people
3 in the past coming to our registration thinking
4 they bought tickets to our crawl, and that wasn't
5 the case. So, we've been very on point with
6 that, but like I said, I've actually had
7 reporting it in the past, probably two years
8 before COVID is when we got, for Saint Pat's that
9 actually happened to us.

10 So, we would definitely report it, and
11 we do have two -- like a team that does do that.
12 Where they literally sit down, and search
13 whatever, because we definitely don't want to get
14 in trouble, we've been in hot water in the past.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, well thank you
16 very much, that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
18 Short. Any final comments to make before I bring
19 this portion of the hearing to an end? Hello?
20 You're not hearing me?

21 MS. MCLEAN: No, I don't have any more
22 questions.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
24 thank you. Thank you for your presentation
25 today. I mean, unless Ms. Nelson, you have a

1 question that you want to ask? Go ahead, ma'am.

2 MS. NELSON: I would just like to make
3 sure -- first of all, how are you today?

4 MS. MCLEAN: I'm good, how are you?

5 MS. NELSON: Doing well, thank you.
6 I would just like to make sure that your staff
7 also assists with controlling the crowds that are
8 standing in line, so that they're not blocking
9 the sidewalk from emergency personnel, and other
10 agencies working in that area. Do you plan to
11 have your staff to assist with crowding?

12 MS. MCLEAN: Correct, and that's why
13 I said we're also -- my staff and them are also
14 investing a lot of money into security, because
15 the venues -- the few venues we've been in
16 communication with asked us to up the security.
17 So, we will have -- me, myself, I will be there.
18 Normally my partners are there, I will actually
19 be there myself. We have where we're going to
20 increase staff, and we're also investing, like I
21 said, in security -- more security.

22 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
24 you, Ms. McLean and Ms. Nelson, our ABRA
25 investigator. ABCA investigator, I apologize.

1 All right, thank you for your presentation today.
2 The board will take this matter in advisement,
3 and this hearing is at an end. So, we'll let you
4 know what decision we have made, whether or not
5 we're going to approve the pub crawl, and for
6 what numbers. All right?

7 MS. MCLEAN: All right, no problem,
8 thank you guys, have a good day.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
10 thank you, ma'am. That is the last matter on our
11 calendar for the day, and so I'm going to --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, before we
14 close?

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short?

16 MEMBER SHORT: Is there any way
17 possible, I'm just thinking, instead of having
18 one investigator check on three pub crawls in the
19 same area, and to keep down confusion about which
20 one of the -- which one of the venues is supposed
21 to have each one of the -- they're selling
22 tickets for that particular venue, if we had one
23 investigator per the three applicants.

24 Meaning that that investigator who was
25 assigned to the very first applicant would only

1 have to deal with that particular person, and
2 where they're selling their tickets, and where
3 the long lines are for that particular venue, or
4 that particular licensee, and we have the second
5 one for the second applicant, and a third one.

6 And having three ABRA investigators
7 working the three events I think would make it
8 easier. Because I can't see, with the number of
9 people if all three of these are permitted, that
10 one investigator can thoroughly do that.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The suggestion

12 --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MEMBER SHORT: Your ideas? Or maybe I
15 should ask this question of the investigator?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, Mr. Short,
17 this is part of the board will raise --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MEMBER SHORT: I can barely hear you,
20 Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The board will
22 address your concern with the agency director.
23 That's a decision that the board will have this
24 conversation with the agency director.

25 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
2 thank you Ms. Nelson. All right, let me bring
3 this day to an end. As Chairperson of the
4 Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the
5 District of Columbia, and in accordance with
6 Title 3, Chapter 4 and 5 Office of Open
7 Government, I move that ABC Board hold a closed
8 meeting on September 21st for the purpose of
9 discussing and hearing reports concerning ongoing
10 or planned -- I'm sorry, not September 21st. I'm
11 sorry.

12 On September 20th, I move the ABC
13 Board hold a closed meeting on September 20th for
14 the purpose of discussing and hearing reports
15 concerning ongoing or planned investigations of
16 alleged criminal or civil misconduct, or
17 violations of law, or regulations, and seeking
18 legal advice from our legal counsel on the
19 board's investigative agenda, legal agenda, and
20 licensing agenda for September 20th as published
21 in the D.C. Register on September 15th. Is there
22 a second?

23 MEMBER CATO: Second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato has
25 seconded the motion, and we'll now have a roll

1 call vote. Mr. Short?

2 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

4 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

6 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I

7 agree.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson,

9 I agree. The matter passes four zero zero. As
10 it appears the motion has passed. I hereby give
11 notice that ABC Board will hold this closed
12 meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, notice
13 will also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room
14 board, placed on the electronic calendar on
15 ABCA's website, and published in the D.C.
16 Register in a timely manner effectively.

17 We are now adjourned for the day. I
18 want to thank the public who participated in our
19 hearings today. Thank the board members who
20 actively participated in our hearing today, and
21 now I ask all the board members to return to
22 executive session for further action. Thank you
23 very much, have a great day.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
25 went off the record at 3:54 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Miranda McLean

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 09-14-23

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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