

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:                       :  
  :  
Skip's Liquors, LLC,                       :  
t/a Skip's Liquors                         : Roll Call  
405 61st Street NE                        : Hearing  
Retailer A - ANC 7C                        :  
License #78204                             :  
Case #24-PRO-00096                       :  
  :  
(License Renewal)                         :  
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Monday  
September 16, 2024

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:

ANTAWAN HOLMES, ANC 7C  
KYUNG HWAN LEE, Applicant's Counsel  
TEWOLDE MENGISTEAB, Applicant

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

2 10:35 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Let's see here. I  
4 believe -- so I see Mr. Lee.

5 MR. LEE: Good to see you. Good  
6 morning. Yeah, I'm here for Skip's Liquors for  
7 our hearing today. But yeah, I got the email  
8 from the ANC 7C this morning, just before  
9 hearing, and then they submitted the fully signed  
10 settlement agreement to the board. We just got  
11 it. I'm not sure if it's on the record today or  
12 what.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Well, you know what,  
14 Mr. Lee, because you're here, I'm going to call  
15 this case. I just got that information at the  
16 last minute myself. So let me go ahead and just  
17 call this case.

18 This is the matter of Skip's Liquors,  
19 case number 24-PRO-00096, Skip's Liquors, LLC,  
20 405 61st Street Northeast, license number ABRA-  
21 078204. This is a retail class A liquor store  
22 for a license renewal. The protest issues are  
23 adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet,  
24 residential parking, and vehicular and pedestrian  
25 safety.

1           Mr. Lee, would you please state your  
2 name and spell it for the record?

3           MR. LEE: Good morning. My name is  
4 Kyung Hwan Lee, last name L-E-E, first name  
5 K-Y-U-N-G H-W-A-N. I'm here for the licensee.

6           MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Lee, I just got the  
7 same information you got this morning.

8           MR. LEE: All right.

9           MS. FLETCHER: We probably got it at  
10 about the same time.

11          MR. LEE: Okay.

12          MS. FLETCHER: And so I am aware also  
13 that there was a settlement agreement submitted  
14 to us, I think maybe just this morning.

15          MR. HOLMES: This is Antawan Holmes,  
16 ANC 7C's chair.

17          MS. FLETCHER: Hi, Mr. Holmes.

18          MR. HOLMES: How are you doing?

19          MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Holmes, can you  
20 spell your name for the record, please?

21          MR. HOLMES: A-N-T-A-W-A-N  
22 H-O-L-M-E-S.

23          MS. FLETCHER: Did we get that this  
24 morning, Mr. Holmes?

25          MR. HOLMES: I submitted it yesterday

1 afternoon.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

3 MR. HOLMES: And I got a confirmation  
4 from the director, but I had not got a  
5 confirmation from legal. That's why I was still  
6 waiting on the call.

7 MS. FLETCHER: I have it. We have it.

8 MR. HOLMES: Okay, good.

9 MS. FLETCHER: You know, we received  
10 it. And there is nothing for us to do here today  
11 because the settlement agreement was submitted  
12 and we received it. Thanks for coming.

13 MR. HOLMES: Absolutely.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, you never  
15 received anything from us, so it was a good idea  
16 to show up.

17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's exactly  
18 right. And I sent a copy to you too, Mr. Lee,  
19 just to make sure you had a final copy with it.

20 MS. LEER: Yeah, I have it. Good to  
21 talk to you, but I got a question. It's on the  
22 settlement agreement. It's signed by Mr. Holmes  
23 and Northeastern Boundary Civil Association  
24 representative. Why did they come in? Because I  
25 think they are not the protestant.

1 MR. HOLMES: What was that last part?

2 MR. LEE: No, it's the settlement  
3 agreement signed by you. Yes, ANC. ANC is a  
4 protestant.

5 MR. HOLMES: Yes, we're the  
6 protestant. The community worked with the owner,  
7 and they had gotten everything, all the issues  
8 resolved, and they talked about it. And they  
9 presented to us at our last ANC meeting on last  
10 Thursday.

11 With everything being said and done,  
12 we then had an opportunity to do another vote.  
13 And that's why I attached that as well, that we  
14 voted eight to zero in support of the renewal.  
15 And then we went ahead and then signed the  
16 settlement agreement that was completed between  
17 the applicant and the community back in late  
18 August.

19 MR. LEE: Okay. I understand that,  
20 but I'm just making sure. I'm sure the Board  
21 general counsel will review it. And if there is  
22 any issue, probably they ask to change it. In  
23 terms of the details in the settlement agreement,  
24 I just reviewed with my client this morning right  
25 after this and we are okay to move forward.

1                   But I'm just wondering, so why  
2 Northeastern Boundary Civil and Social  
3 Representatives were assigned on this? So that's  
4 my question. And probably the Board general  
5 counsel will review that. I'm just making notes  
6 about it.

7                   MS. FLETCHER: Well, yeah, because  
8 your point, Mr. Lee, I understand they're not a  
9 protestant. And this was an agreement between  
10 ANC 7C and the applicant, not between ANC and the  
11 -- was it the Northeast Boundary? What is it?

12                  MR. HOLMES: Northeastern Boundary  
13 Civil Association.

14                  MS. LEER: That's my question, yeah.

15                  MS. FLETCHER: And so you're right,  
16 that will be reviewed by the Office of the  
17 General Counsel. Mr. Lee, you can raise it as an  
18 issue separately if you wish.

19                  MR. LEE: Yeah. I'm just waiting  
20 because I talked with my client just before, and  
21 he wanted to just focus on the business, no more.

22                  MS. FLETCHER: Well, they're not a  
23 protestant. They're not a protestant. The  
24 protestant in this matter was ANC 7C.

25                  MR. LEE: So, Mr. Holmes, do you agree

1 with that, that Northeastern Boundary Civil  
2 Association representative is not a protestant?

3 MS. FLETCHER: Well, they didn't file  
4 a protest, I can tell you that. I can confirm  
5 that they did not file a protest.

6 MR. LEE: Yes. So, I'm not sure.  
7 It's on the settlement agreement. Anybody can  
8 sign on that, including protestant?

9 MS. FLETCHER: That is a question, Mr.  
10 Lee, that I will let the general counsel respond  
11 to, and someone will review the settlement  
12 agreement. And if that's a concern of your  
13 client, Mr. Lee.

14 Mr. Holmes, if you're speaking, I  
15 can't hear you.

16 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm  
17 sorry, but I'm outside. That's why you can't  
18 hear me.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I can hear you now.

20 MR. HOLMES: Okay, you can? Okay.  
21 Oh, no, like I said, again, what we usually do,  
22 as we've done in every case before, is that we  
23 have all of the applicants work with the most  
24 affected local civic association or citizens  
25 association to be able to work out all of the

1 issues that citizens, civic and citizens  
2 associations most times do not file as a  
3 protestant. They try to work through the agency  
4 to do it.

5 We also want the citizens and civic  
6 associations to work on the specific settlement  
7 agreement issues through a settlement agreement  
8 or some type of arrangement with the applicant  
9 and then come back and present to us as a  
10 community. That way we know that we know that  
11 the applicant has talked with the community about  
12 set issues.

13 Again, that occurred on the meeting  
14 last Thursday. And that the community came, but  
15 the applicant nor the lawyer came so we did we  
16 did it off that boat. And again, we were able to  
17 agree with both parties with that with the  
18 settlement agreement being done. And that's why  
19 we had already we submitted it after we had made  
20 an official vote on it as the ANC.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Well, Mr. Holmes, I'll  
22 just say this. Generally, the ANCs represent  
23 their constituents, not other civic associations  
24 who have the ability to file protests on their  
25 own. But based on what you're saying, ANC 7C,



1 you consult with the civic associations in the  
2 area and then you bring them in as parties to the  
3 settlement agreement. Is that is that what  
4 you're saying?

5 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry, I missed that  
6 last part.

7 MS. FLETCHER: So generally, ANCs  
8 represent their constituents when they file a  
9 protest, not other associations when they file a  
10 protest.

11 MR. HOLMES: But I'm saying the  
12 constituents, the constituents make up the civic  
13 association. So, again, we do not try to  
14 delineate one from the other because it's mostly  
15 you.

16 You get your best bang for your buck  
17 working through the majority of the constituents  
18 through a civic or citizens organization.  
19 And so that's how we have been working or working  
20 that process throughout the years.

21 MS. FLETCHER: So when ANC 7C filed  
22 its protest, it was not -- you weren't  
23 representing the residents near -- located near  
24 Skip's Liquors?

25 MR. HOLMES: Yes, we are. That's the

1 northeast boundary. Skip's is within the  
2 northeast boundaries.

3 MS. FLETCHER: So why didn't they file  
4 a protest? They have standing as a protestant --  
5 maybe. I don't know why they don't file their  
6 own protest. I'm just curious.

7 MR. HOLMES: Well, that's probably  
8 something we need to do in terms of a community  
9 education process. We can do it that way.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Just trying to  
11 get some clarity. Okay, well, thank you for  
12 that. Well, ANC 7C has standing as a protestant,  
13 so we know that for sure and that the Boundary  
14 Association didn't file a protest. And so it'll  
15 all get sorted out on this end.

16 MR. LEE: Yeah. I want to add on one  
17 thing. The reason why I'm just mentioning about  
18 the why Northeast Boundary Civic Association has  
19 a signature on it.

20 That means, you know, executing the  
21 settlement agreement is okay but, in the future  
22 if a licensee wanted to revise or amend this  
23 settlement agreement, they have to follow up with  
24 the civic association representative and ANC  
25 separately. So it's a lot of work.

1           After five or six years or seven years  
2 later, that's a lot of work to do because a  
3 signature is only ANC. We just deal with ANC  
4 again to amend or revise if there are any issues.  
5 But now like this and then we have to deal with  
6 both associations separately to revise it.

7           MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, sir. We tend  
8 to have most people -- we tend to have those  
9 meetings at our executive meetings and we usually  
10 have both parties there at that point. So it's  
11 not two meetings you have to go to. Usually it's  
12 at that meeting we have discussion.

13           If there's anything further the  
14 community could ask for you all to attend, you  
15 don't have to per ABCA, but we tend to get most  
16 of that done at the one meeting, which is the  
17 executive meeting, which you need to attend to so  
18 that we can put you on the agenda for the general  
19 meeting.

20           MS. FLETCHER: Well, the Board will  
21 determine whether or not the ANC can include on  
22 its as a signatory on its agreement the signature  
23 of the Northeast Boundary Civic Association that  
24 did not file a protest. The Board will sort that  
25 out. I just wanted to discuss it to give you an

1 opportunity to say whatever you wanted to say on  
2 the record.

3 MR. LEE: Yeah. I want to take a  
4 note. I want to take a note to Jonathan about  
5 it. So he will review that.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Jonathan is spelled  
7 J-O-N-A-T-H-A-N. That's for the court reporter.  
8 Okay. Anything else you'd like to add, Mr. Lee?

9 MR. LEE: Details and the materials on  
10 the settlement agreement, we agree on it. It's  
11 okay. But just a formality like that, I just  
12 raised some of that. That's it.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Anything else to  
14 add, Mr. Holmes?

15 MR. HOLMES: No. Thank you.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, thank you  
17 for coming. We have the settlement agreement and  
18 the Board will review it and get back to you.

19 MR. LEE: So we don't need any set up  
20 status hearing or mediation for this, right?  
21 Because it's already done there, right?

22 MS. FLETCHER: Exactly. No mediation,  
23 no status hearing, no protest hearing since the  
24 settlement agreement was submitted.

25 MR. LEE: Okay. Well, we're just a

1 follow-up, right?

2 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

3 MR. LEE: Thank you very much.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

5 Thank you, Mr. Holmes. Thank you for coming and  
6 we'll be in touch.

7 MR. LEE: All right. Thank you. All  
8 right.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Bye, everyone.

10 MR. LEE: Take care. Bye-bye.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Bye-bye. I see someone  
12 whose name is A-L --

13 MR. MENGISTEAB: Ms. Fletcher, this is  
14 Tewolde Mengisteab. I'm the owner of Skip's  
15 Liquor.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Excuse me. Excuse me  
17 one second. Give me one minute. Okay.

18 So you were present. I concluded the hearing in  
19 that case, but you were present on the line?

20 MR. MENGISTEAB: Well, after a few  
21 minutes passed, yes.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So your attorney  
23 is Mr. Lee?

24 MR. MENGISTEAB: Mr. Lee, yes. I just  
25 want to make sure everything is okay. That's why

1 I attended, but he was representing me.

2 MS. FLETCHER: So let me reopen the  
3 case of Skip's Liquors to allow the owner to  
4 introduce himself. Would you please state your  
5 name and spell it for the record, please?

6 MR. MENGISTEAB: Tewolde,  
7 T-E-W-O-L-D-E, last name --

8 MS. FLETCHER: Can you slow down for  
9 me for a minute? What's the first name again?

10 MR. MENGISTEAB: T-E-E-W-O-L-D-E.

11 MS. FLETCHER: You broke up a little  
12 bit. The first letter was E?

13 MR. MENGISTEAB: No. The first letter  
14 is T like Tom.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

16 MR. MENGISTEAB: E like Edward, W-O-L  
17 like Luna, D-David, E-Edward.

18 MS. FLETCHER: And what's the last  
19 name?

20 MR. MENGISTEAB: M-E-N, M like Mary,  
21 E-N-G-I-S-T, T-Tom.

22 MS. FLETCHER: I-S what, T?

23 MR. MENGISTEAB: T-Tom, E-Edward,  
24 A-Apple, B-Boy.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. And so you're

1 the owner of Skip's Liquors?

2 MR. MENGISTEAB: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Were you present  
4 for any part of that hearing at all?

5 MR. MENGISTEAB: About this hearing?

6 MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh.

7 MR. MENGISTEAB: Yes, yes.

8 MS. FLETCHER: So do you have a  
9 question?

10 MR. MENGISTEAB: No, no, I don't.  
11 No, I don't have any question. Just want to make  
12 sure that how the process works.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Yeah. And so we  
14 received the settlement agreement which will go  
15 forward for the Board to review. Mr. Lee had a  
16 question about why the Northeast Boundary Civic  
17 Association was a signatory. But that's a  
18 question that he's going to present to our legal  
19 office.

20 MR. MENGISTEAB: Okay.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Did you hear that?

22 MR. MENGISTEAB: Yeah, I heard that  
23 one.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, you know,  
25 thanks for coming.

1 MR. MENGISTEAB: Thank you.

2 MS. FLETCHER: I reopened the record  
3 so you could introduce yourself. And if there's  
4 nothing more, then I will close the record again.

5 MR. MENGISTEAB: All right. Thank you  
6 very much and have a good day.

7 MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.

8 The roll call hearing in the matter of  
9 Skip's Liquors is concluded. There are no other  
10 cases on the calendar today. I don't see anyone  
11 else that I need to speak with. Okay. So the  
12 roll call hearings for today are concluded.

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

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**A**

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In the matter of: Skip's Liquors

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 09-16-24

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.



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