

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :  
 :  
G'House Loynad, LLC, :  
t/a District Tobacco and :  
Cigars :  
3236 Prospect Street NW : Cease and Desist  
ANC 2E : Hearing  
Case #24-ULC-00020 :  
 :  
(Request for Expedited :  
Hearing on Board Order :  
No. 2024-619) :  
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Thursday  
September 19, 2024

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson  
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member  
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JAMESON CHARLES, DC ABCA Staff  
INVESTIGATOR JASON PERU, DC ABCA  
YUTONG ZHOU, Counsel for Business

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

2 12:44 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,  
4 if you are ready, we'll call the other case. All  
5 right. Okay. So, we will call the other case.

6 So, our next case on our calendar,  
7 it's another cease and desist, Case Number 24-  
8 ULC-00020, District Tobacco and Cigars. This is  
9 a request for an expedited hearing on Board Order  
10 Number 2024-619.

11 Is there a witness, Mr. Zhou, for us  
12 to, that's available?

13 MR. ZHOU: No.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.

15 MR. ZHOU: No. No, there's no witness  
16 for this.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, you  
18 the -- all right. Hold on one minute please.  
19 All right. And, all right. So, hold on a  
20 minute.

21 So, Mr. Zhou, who do you represent in  
22 this case, sir?

23 MR. ZHOU: Let me, give me one second,  
24 all right?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking, do

1 you represent the licensed -- the unlicensed --  
2 the unlicensed individual?

3 Do you represent the landlord? I'm  
4 just trying to clarify that, so.

5 MR. ZHOU: Yes. I represent G'House  
6 Loynad, LLC, trading as District Tobacco and  
7 Cigars.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you -- so,  
9 you represent the person who owns the lease, --

10 MR. ZHOU: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Not the  
12 landlord.

13 MR. ZHOU: Yeah. We can -- we can say  
14 that for now.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no.  
16 No. I just -- this is what I need to find out,  
17 sir. I find out this.

18 I want to make sure, are you  
19 representing the landlord or are you representing  
20 the business owner?

21 And, I need to clarify that.

22 MR. ZHOU: I'm representing the  
23 business owner. So, you can say that, yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, that's,  
25 that's all I need. Okay.

1 MR. ZHOU: Yeah.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's all I  
3 need. Because, as you're aware, we serve a cease  
4 and desist on both the business owner and the  
5 landlord.

6 And so, I just need to clarify for the  
7 record, who is the person who is making, who is  
8 requesting this hearing today.

9 All right. So, in this particular  
10 case, what is your -- what representation do you  
11 have to provide for why the Board should lift its  
12 cease and desist order sir?

13 MR. ZHOU: Yes. So, the cease and  
14 desist in this case is actually moot, because I  
15 submitted two documented evidence yesterday.

16 One is the lease assignment and the  
17 other is a landlord consent to lease. So, back  
18 on May 23, 2024, District Tobacco and Cigars, we  
19 actually assigned our lease to another business  
20 in the name of Malik Express, it's a Maryland  
21 corporation.

22 So, we are actually not operating on  
23 the premise anymore.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're  
25 saying as -- so, as of what date is District

1 Tobacco --

2 MR. ZHOU: As of May 23.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, May 20  
4 what?

5 MR. ZHOU: May 23, 2024.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, as of May  
7 23, 2024, you're saying District Tobacco and  
8 Cigars is no longer operating at this, at 3236  
9 Prospect Street Northwest, is that correct?

10 MR. ZHOU: That's correct.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, you  
12 represent G'House Loynad, LLC, that's who you  
13 represent, sir?

14 MR. ZHOU: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any  
16 other representation you need to, you want to  
17 make regarding District Tobacco and Cigar, sir?

18 MR. ZHOU: No, that's all.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
20 right. Mr. -- all right. Hold on, hold on, hold  
21 on, hold on, hold on.

22 I know that Mr. Peru, that you have  
23 something to say. So, but I need to make sure  
24 that I have my paperwork.

25 Mr. Zhou has to make his presentation

1 first. And then, I need to pull my paperwork so  
2 I can make some semblance of what, where we are.  
3 Okay.

4 Okay. Before I call -- okay now. No,  
5 let me, before I, before I move on, Mr. Zhou,  
6 before, who is, who is the owner of -- okay, The  
7 Intel line.

8 I have too many papers, so, I guess,  
9 so, hold on one minute please.

10 MR. ZHOU: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is the  
12 owner of District Tobacco and Cigars?

13 MR. ZHOU: It is, it's actually wrong  
14 on the cease and desist order. It is actually an  
15 entity by -- oh no, it's actually, it's actually  
16 an individual by the name of Ahmad Ghouse Loynab.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell  
18 that for the record? Come on, Mr. Zhou, you know  
19 you got to spell that for the record for the  
20 court reporter?

21 MR. ZHOU: Yeah, I'm sorry. I'm  
22 sorry. I was just lost. It's A-H-M-A-D G-H-O-  
23 U-S-E L-O-Y-N-A-B.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.  
25 All right. So, you are saying that is the, that

1 is the owner of the, of District Tobacco and  
2 Cigars?

3 MR. ZHOU: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You provided us  
5 this morning -- all right, well, I saw that you  
6 provided us a lease.

7 So, you want us to, you want us to  
8 move that into evidence?

9 MR. ZHOU: I think, I provided this  
10 last night, actually.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I just  
12 saw today. So, that's what I was just saying.

13 MR. ZHOU: Yes, yes, yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 Hold on. All right.

16 MR. ZHOU: Yes. It's a lease  
17 assignment and the consent form by the landlord  
18 to consent to the assignment.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, hold  
20 on a minute. Okay, hold on. Let me try to find  
21 it to see when this -- okay. So, you present  
22 this.

23 Let's see, so, this -- this is at  
24 March 23, --

25 MR. ZHOU: I think, May 23.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, I'm  
2                   sorry, May 23. So, Mr. Zhou, do you know whether  
3                   or not there is an illegal relationship between  
4                   Mr. Loynab, L-O-Y-N-A-B, and Mr. Hashim Zia, H-A-  
5                   S-H-I-M Z-I-A?

6                   Do you know if there's an illegal  
7                   relationship between the two and -- those two  
8                   individuals, sir?

9                   MR. ZHOU: You mean, there's a legal  
10                  relationship?

11                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking if  
12                  you know if there's, if there's an illegal  
13                  relationship between District Tobacco, LLC, who  
14                  was the, who was the original tenant and Mr.  
15                  Hashim Zia, who is --

16                  (Simultaneous speaking.)

17                  MR. ZHOU: No. The only --

18                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The name on the  
19                  current tenant?

20                  MR. ZHOU: No. The only relationship  
21                  or privity we have, is this lease assignment.  
22                  Other than that, the two entities, the two  
23                  persons don't have any other business  
24                  transaction.

25                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, it's your,



1 so your representation is that there's, there is  
2 no legal relationship. To the best of your  
3 knowledge, there is no legal relationship between  
4 the two entities?

5 MR. ZHOU: Zero, except the, except  
6 this lease assignment.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Now do  
8 you rep -- do you represent the new Mr. Zia?

9 MR. ZHOU: No, I don't.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, do you  
11 have any familiarity with the business model of  
12 this new entity?

13 MR. ZHOU: I have no idea. When they  
14 took over the lease from us, they told us that he  
15 would make it into a taco stand.

16 But, that's all I know.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And  
18 again, as an attorney, your own -- you are an  
19 attorney who is only making representation. And,  
20 I'm putting that for the record.

21 So, I give that to you, Mr. Zhou.  
22 Okay?

23 MR. ZHOU: Yes. Yes, like I said, I  
24 thought this should be easy, this one, because we  
25 are literally not there anymore. So, yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I think,  
2 when the Board saw both cases, the Board, at  
3 least we thought, the first case would be short  
4 and this case would be long.

5 So, both cases, you've made that. All  
6 right. Okay. Let me see if I have any other  
7 questions regarding that to ask. Okay.

8 Hold on. Let me see. Hold on.

9 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Mr. Chair, I just  
10 wanted to quickly say that Mr. Porter's  
11 (phonetic) rights are still elevated.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am -- I am,  
13 I'm about to talk to Mr. Jameson. I'm sorry, I  
14 meant Mr. Charles. I'm waiting on you, Mr.  
15 Charles.

16 All right. Okay. Let me see. Does  
17 that, all right. Mr. Peru, can you raise your  
18 right hand please?

19 Mr. Peru, can you raise your right  
20 hand? Do you state or affirm to tell the truth  
21 and nothing but the truth?

22 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I do.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you state  
24 your name for the record please? And spell your  
25 name.

1 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Supervisory  
2 Investigator Jason Peru, J-A-S-O-N P-E-R-U.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, where are  
4 you currently employed, sir?

5 INVESTIGATOR PERU: With the Alcoholic  
6 Beverage and Cannabis Administration in  
7 Washington, D.C., where I conduct inspections of  
8 licensed and unlicensed cannabis shops in the  
9 District.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How are you  
11 familiar with this establishment, sir, District  
12 Taco? I'm sorry, District Tobacco and Cigars.

13 INVESTIGATOR PERU: So, once again,  
14 they are on a list of locations to be visited in  
15 the District.

16 I guess, based on what -- I just  
17 wanted to confirm that me and the attorney do  
18 agree on this, that I am aware that the original  
19 owner, during my first visits, has sold the  
20 property, sold the business.

21 When I went to serve the cease and  
22 desist order from the Board, a new owner was  
23 present with his family. And, he told me that he  
24 had purchased the business from Mr. Ghouse.

25 And, stated that he purchased what he

1 thought was a licensed cannabis business and  
2 tobacco shop, is what he told me. But, so I  
3 served him the cease and desist order.

4 And, I informed him of the progressive  
5 actions against that address and that business.  
6 And, he provided me no documentation besides his  
7 verbal statement that in fact, he had purchased  
8 the business from Mr. Ghouse.

9 So, I do have knowledge of that  
10 business being transferred or sold.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, when was  
12 the last time, when -- sorry. So, when was the  
13 last time you were at this location?

14 When was the last time were you at the  
15 location at 3236 Prospect Street Northwest?

16 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I was last there  
17 when I served, at 3236 Prospect Street, when I  
18 served, the Board-issued cease and desist order.  
19 Which was on Wednesday, or the Board was issued,  
20 it was issued on Wednesday, August 14.

21 I served it on August 15, is when I  
22 went back to the establishment. And, when I went  
23 there to serve it, at that point in time, there  
24 was a new face, a new owner, a new repre -- a new  
25 individual, representing himself as the new owner

1 of the business.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right --

3 INVESTIGATOR PERU: But, they still  
4 just, I'm sorry. But, he still had, he had  
5 cannabis products, because and he said he was not  
6 aware of the prior actions, because how could he  
7 be if I didn't issue them directly to him?

8 He wasn't aware that he could not sell  
9 any of the products. So, he did have edibles and  
10 flower on display when I serve the cease and  
11 desist to that location and that address.

12 It's just, he informed me that he  
13 wasn't aware of any of that stuff, because he  
14 thought he bought a business that had a license  
15 to sell all that.

16 So, that's all I got from him. I  
17 served him the cease and desist. And, I exited  
18 the establishment.

19 He took everything out of the  
20 cabinets, off the shelves, when I was there.  
21 And, that was my last transaction there.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to --  
23 I'm going to go into executive session for a  
24 minute. Hold on a minute please.

25 All right. As Chairperson of the

1 Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the  
2 District of Columbia, and in accordance with D.C.  
3 Official Code Section 2-575 of the Open Meetings  
4 Act, I move that ABC Board hold a closed meeting  
5 for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our  
6 counsel on Case Number 24-ULC-00020, District  
7 Tobacco and Cigars, pursuant to D.C. Official  
8 Code Section 2575(B)(4)(a) of the Open Meetings  
9 Act.

10 Is there a second?

11 MEMBER GRANT: Motion.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has  
13 seconded the motion. I'll have a roll call vote.  
14 Mr. Short?

15 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

17 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant, I agree.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson,  
19 I agree.

20 We're going to go into executive  
21 session. So, we are going to log off. You stay  
22 there Mr. Zhou.

23 And, I'll ask all Board Members to log  
24 into executive session. We'll be right back,  
25 okay?

1 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 1:01 p.m. and  
5 resumed at 1:12 p.m.)

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

7 Yes. We're back on the record. The Board went  
8 into executive session, because I had some legal  
9 concerns that I needed to address with our legal  
10 attorney.

11 So, now we are back on the record.  
12 Where's Mr. Peru?

13 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I am here, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Let me  
15 ask you, Mr. Peru, you stated that when you went  
16 to serve the cease and desist, you saw a new  
17 owner of the facility. Is that correct?

18 INVESTIGATOR PERU: An individual who  
19 identified himself as the new owner, yes. He was  
20 very reluctant at first. I thought he was a  
21 worker.

22 But, he said that he had purchased, he  
23 had purchased the business and what he thought to  
24 be a licensed business from Mr. Ghouse.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, who was

1 that, who was the individual that you -- do you  
2 recall the name of the individi -- of this new  
3 owner?

4 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I would have to,  
5 I believe, I have the hard copy in my -- I have a  
6 hard copy of the signed cease who -- the signed,  
7 the -- the signed the paperwork --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, that's  
10 fine. You don't need to --

11 INVESTIGATOR PERU: In my file.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
13 What conversations, if any, did you have with  
14 this new owner regarding the business?

15 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I explained to him  
16 the cease and desist, and why it was being  
17 issued. I explained to him the past actions  
18 taken, the warning that occurred.

19 A revisit that showed that they  
20 continued to sell product. And then, which led  
21 to now this action of a cease and desist.

22 I explained to him that he could no  
23 longer sell any kind of cannabis or unlicensed  
24 product, mushrooms, gummies, or anything else.  
25 He said he understood.



1                   And, as I was there, he removed  
2 everything from the cabinets. I have not been  
3 back since that visit.

4                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
5 right. That's fine. Any questions of Mr. Peru  
6 by any Board Members?

7                   Go ahead Mr. Short.

8                   MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Investigator  
9 Peru, at any time have you had any contact with  
10 the owner of this business, Prospect Street, or  
11 on Prospect?

12                  INVESTIGATOR PERU: Which owner, sir?  
13 The owner that was served the paperwork?

14                  MEMBER SHORT: With -- did we serve  
15 paperwork on the owner of the Prospect Street  
16 property?

17                  INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes, sir. That's  
18 what I -- when I served the cease and desist, the  
19 individual, different than the individual that  
20 was the owner of my first two visits, identified  
21 himself as the owner.

22                  He received the cease and desist order  
23 from me. And, I explained, and he signed for the  
24 cease and desist order.

25                  And, I explained to him what, why I

1 was serving that cease and desist against that  
2 property and that business.

3 MEMBER SHORT: My question is, was  
4 this new person the owner of the building? Is he  
5 the landlord?

6 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Oh, I'm sorry sir.  
7 No. No, he was not. He did not own the  
8 building.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Do you think  
10 that if we serve the landlord, we can make sure  
11 that nobody else comes in there thinking that  
12 they have a legal business?

13 Because the landlord is going to try  
14 to keep leasing because he wants money.

15 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I believe that --

16 MEMBER SHORT: The landlord, the  
17 landlord needs to know that there has been an  
18 illegal business there. It was transferred to  
19 another illegal business.

20 And, that the landlord needs to know  
21 he needs to do something about those tenants,  
22 because we don't want illegal substances sold out  
23 of there anymore.

24 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes, sir. A  
25 warning letter was sent to the landlord of the

1 building, sir, following the cease and desist.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
3 Chair. That's all I have.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
5 Thank you. Any other questions by any other  
6 Board Members?

7 Mr. Zhou, do you have any questions of  
8 Mr. Peru?

9 MR. ZHOU: Yes. Mr. Peru, do you  
10 remember his name, Hashim Zia?

11 INVESTIGATOR PERU: You know, when you  
12 said it, I tried to pull it from my mind. But, I  
13 have to look at the documents, because I cannot  
14 recall.

15 I cannot -- and that may be him. But,  
16 I cannot recall 100 percent.

17 MR. ZHOU: Okay. That's okay. I'll  
18 just go with the documents then. That's it.  
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that the  
21 only question that you have, Mr. Zhou?

22 MR. ZHOU: Yeah.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
24 right, Mr. Zhou, I guess, prior to you closing, I  
25 guess, I -- because you represent the previous

1 owner of the property, are you contesting the  
2 facts of the case as listed in the cease and  
3 desist order as a -- in the cease and desist  
4 order, are you contesting?

5 Is your client contesting the facts?

6 MR. ZHOU: No. No. I mean, we have  
7 no knowledge of this. So, there's no way for us  
8 to contest.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm talking  
10 about the facts that were presented that might --  
11 the Agency issued a cease and desist based on  
12 what Mr. Peru had previously seen.

13 And so, I guess, what I'm asking you,  
14 are you contesting the facts? Is your client  
15 contesting the facts in the cease and desist  
16 order?

17 MR. ZHOU: No, we don't.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
19 Now, if it's your representation that they are --  
20 that your client is no longer the owner of the  
21 business at 3236 Prospect Street Northwest, is  
22 that correct?

23 MR. ZHOU: Correct. We're no longer  
24 there.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, is it your

1 representation that, to the best of your  
2 knowledge, there is no legal relationship between  
3 District Tobacco and Cigars and the current owner  
4 of the, the occupant of 3236 Prospect Street  
5 Northwest.

6 Is that correct?

7 MR. ZHOU: That's correct. We have no  
8 legal relationship between us, except for the  
9 lease assignment.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, is it your  
11 representation that, that your client has  
12 abandoned this location?

13 And, that to the best of your  
14 knowledge, that they don't have any intent to  
15 come back to run this business?

16 MR. ZHOU: Correct. We are no longer  
17 there, and we'll not come back.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. As  
19 I said earlier, as an attorney I'm asking you  
20 for, you can only represent what it is that you  
21 are aware.

22 And, that's one of the reasons why I  
23 asked the questions that way. All right. So,  
24 all right.

25 Any other representation that you need

1 to make, sir, before we bring this matter to  
2 closure?

3 MR. ZHOU: No. But, I just want to  
4 ask a question. So, like, for future reference  
5 for this type of case, can I just email someone  
6 and say, like oh, you sent it to the wrong  
7 person, instead of doing all this?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, I think,  
9 I -- well, you sent in a lease assignment, Mr.  
10 Zhou.

11 MR. ZHOU: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't think  
13 that anyone in the Agency, or at least our legal  
14 office was not aware of -- there was no context  
15 provided.

16 So, maybe if you had provided any  
17 context, maybe if your -- maybe if you had  
18 written something to say this is the state, maybe  
19 I would have had more guidance.

20 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because, prior  
22 to your representation at the beginning of this  
23 hearing, at least the Board, maybe Mr. Peru was  
24 aware, but, I know as Board Chair, and I can only  
25 speak to myself, as Board Chair in preparing for

1 this hearing, I had no knowledge that District  
2 Tobacco and Cigars was no longer in business at  
3 3236 Prospect Street Northwest.

4 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can only  
6 speak for myself. So, prior to your  
7 representation, I was not aware of that fact.

8 I had seen the documents that you  
9 provided. However, they were not provided with  
10 any memorandum to state --

11 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That this is  
13 where we are today. That District, that as of  
14 May 23, District Taco, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,  
15 District Tobacco and Cigars had abandoned the  
16 business, I think, and they had negotiated with  
17 the landlord to assign the lease to someone else  
18 and to a separate entity.

19 And so, therefore, they are no longer  
20 in business at -- that District Tobacco and  
21 Cigars is no longer in business operating this  
22 entity at 3236 Prospect Street Northwest.

23 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay?

25 MR. ZHOU: Got it. Next time I'll

1 send an email with my memo. Because, yeah.

2 Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That would be,  
4 that would be helpful, sir. So, therefore, the -  
5 - maybe we would have not have had this hearing  
6 today.

7 But, I don't know what it is. So, we  
8 will, the documents you provided, you could have  
9 basically filed a motion to have told us, to say,  
10 you ask us to dismiss the cease and desist,  
11 because your client is not, is -- has abandoned  
12 the business.

13 And, that they're no longer the owner  
14 of the business. And, that there is no legal  
15 relationship between the new owner and the new  
16 business and the current occupant of the space.

17 So, that in the future that will, that  
18 would help.

19 MR. ZHOU: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board will  
21 --

22 MR. ZHOU: Thank you for your  
23 guidance.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. I  
25 mean, the Board will take -- so, I guess, well,



1 let me ask you a question.

2 Would you, would you consent to a stay  
3 of the decision if the Board wants to investigate  
4 this further, like the ownership?

5 Is that -- would you consent to some  
6 -- would you consent to a stay off this decision  
7 if the Board wants to investigate little bit  
8 further, the ownership, before we vote to lift  
9 the, to lift or maintain the cease and desist?

10 MR. ZHOU: Yes, absolutely. Please  
11 send me any requests for any document that we may  
12 have to help your decision.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
14 Okay. Okay. Thank you. Well, as Chairperson of  
15 the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the  
16 District --

17 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.  
19 Yes, Mr. Short?

20 MEMBER SHORT: Sorry. I'd just like  
21 to ask Investigator Peru, if he would kind of  
22 just keep an eye on that property?

23 That is Georgetown, and it's right  
24 there at K Street, at the bridge under there for  
25 that property. And, I would venture to say

1 there's probably not a lot of cannabis stores in  
2 that area. And, it's probably a hot spot.

3 And, also in light of the new person  
4 who got duped, or allegedly got duped, walked  
5 away with all their illegal product. Is that  
6 right, Mr. Peru?

7 INVESTIGATOR PERU: The --

8 MEMBER SHORT: The new own -- that the  
9 alleged new owner who went in at 3236 Prospect  
10 took all of their product off of the shelf while  
11 you were there?

12 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Correct. He  
13 removed it, yes.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, who's to  
15 say what he's going to do with that product?

16 I mean, he's going to lose a lot of  
17 money unless he can find somebody else to sell it  
18 to or try to. But, at any rate, as long as I  
19 know you are monitoring the situation, Mr. Peru,  
20 I'll feel a lot better.

21 That's all I really had to say, Mr.  
22 Chair.

23 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes, sir. Mr.  
24 Short, let me just tell you that, every location  
25 that's been issued a cease and desist will be

1 revisited at some point to see if they continued  
2 operations.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you.

4 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

5 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Thank  
7 you. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage  
8 and Cann --

9 MR. ZHOU: I just --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is  
11 speaking? Mr. -- do you want to say something,  
12 Mr. Zhou?

13 MR. ZHOU: Yes. I just want to, I  
14 have one thing on the record before we all go. I  
15 just want to protest the characterization that  
16 the new owner was duped.

17 I want to say on this record that the  
18 new owner told us they will open up a taco shop.  
19 And, in the lease it clearly said, the new owner  
20 will be responsible for getting the licensing and  
21 everything. He knew, he knew everything.

22 And, I just want to protest that  
23 characterization.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for  
25 the representation that you had made Mr. Zhou.

1 All right. All right.

2 All right. As Chairperson of the  
3 Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the  
4 District of Columbia, in accordance with D.C.  
5 Official Code Section 2575 of the Open Meeting  
6 Act, I move that ABC Board hold a closed meeting  
7 for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our  
8 counsel on Case Number 24-ULC-00020, District  
9 Tobacco and Cigars, pursuant to D.C. Official  
10 Code Section 2575(B) (f) (a) of the Open Meetings  
11 Act, and deliberating upon Case Number 24-ULC-  
12 00020, District Tobacco and Cigars, for the  
13 reasons cited in D.C. Official Code Section  
14 2575(B) (13) of the Open Meetings Act.

15 Is there a second?

16 MEMBER GRANT: Motion.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has  
18 seconded the motion. We will not have a roll  
19 call vote.

20 Mr. Short?

21 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

23 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant, I agree.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Mr.

25 Anderson, I agree.

1                   As it appears that the motion has  
2 passed, I hereby give notice that ABC Board will  
3 recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting  
4 pursuant to Section 2575 of the Open Meetings  
5 Act.

6                   Mr. Zhou, thank you very much for your  
7 participation today. And, we will advise you of  
8 the decision that the Board makes once a decision  
9 is made. Okay sir?

10                   Thank you very much.

11                   MR. ZHOU: Thank you very much. And,  
12 thank you for that, Board Members. And, thank  
13 you, Mr. Peru.

14                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 Thank you very much. All right, have a great  
16 day.

17                   MR. ZHOU: Thank you.

18                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I want the  
19 Board to hold on -- one minute, sir. The Board,  
20 I guess, I need to close the hearing for the day.

21                   As Chairperson of the Alcoholic  
22 Beverage and Cannabis Board for the District of  
23 Columbia and in accordance with Title Three,  
24 Chapter Four or Five, Office of Open Government,  
25 I move that ABC Board hold a closed meeting on

1 September 25, for the purpose of discussing and  
2 hearing reports concerning ongoing or planned  
3 investigations of alleged criminal or civil  
4 misconduct, or violations of law or regulations,  
5 and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel  
6 on the Board's investigative agenda, legal agenda  
7 and licensing agenda for September 25, as  
8 published in the D.C. Register on September 20.

9 Is there a second?

10 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has  
12 seconded the motion. As it appears that a motion  
13 -- I'm sorry, Mr. Short?

14 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

16 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant, I agree.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson,  
18 I agree.

19 As it appears that the motion has  
20 passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board  
21 will hold this closed meeting pursuant to the  
22 Open Meetings Act.

23 Notice will also be posted on the ABC  
24 Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on  
25 electronic calendar, ABCA's website, and

1 publishing in the D.C. Register in as timely a  
2 manner as practical.

3 We are adjourned for the day. I would  
4 like to thank all members of the public who  
5 participate in our hearings today, and also the  
6 Members of the Board who participate in our  
7 hearings today.

8 We are now adjourned. And, I ask all  
9 Board Members to return to executive session.  
10 Thank you. Have a great day. Bye-Bye.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record at 1:28 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: District Tobacco and Cigars

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 09-19-24

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.

*Neal R Gross*

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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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