

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:
Union Hospitality Group,
LLC,
t/a Union Oyster Bar &
Lounge
501 Morse Street NE
Retailer CR - ANC 5D
License #110747
Case # 23-PRO-00012
(Application to Renew the
License)
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Wednesday
September 20, 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
URANIA JACKSON, ABC Manager
ANTOINI JONES, Licensee's Counsel
INVESTIGATOR JASON PERU, DC ABRA
RUSSELL WEBSTER, Licensee

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

2 1:37 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is a protest hearing. Case
5 Number 23-PRO-00012, Union Oyster Bar & Lounge,
6 License Number 110747. It's an application to
7 renew a license.

8 Good afternoon, Mr. Orellana. Can you
9 please elevate the rights of the licensee, the
10 protestant and the investigator?

11 MR. ORELLANA: Antoini Jones, your
12 access has been elevated. Investigator Jason
13 Peru, your access has been elevated. Russell,
14 your access has been elevated. That appears to
15 be all, sir.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
17 thank you. Mr. Russell, Mister or Ms. Jones, can
18 you please turn your camera on? Who is Antoini
19 Jones?

20 MR. JONES: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, good
22 afternoon, everyone. This is a protest hearing.
23 It doesn't appear that the protestants is online.
24 Mr. Orellana just, is there anyone else online
25 for this case?

1 MR. ORELLANA: There's a Urania
2 Jackson. I'll elevate to check.

3 MS. JACKSON: How are you? Are you
4 ready? Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Urania Jackson,
6 who is Urania? All right, let me have everyone
7 identify. Can everyone, if you have a camera,
8 please turn your camera on please. All right.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
11 this is Case 23-PRO-00012. Protest hearing.
12 Let's start with the Licensee to spell and state
13 their name for the record please. Who is the
14 Licensee?

15 MR. JONES: Antoini Jones representing
16 the Licensee.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, sir,
18 can you spell, spell your name, Mr. Jones, for
19 the record.

20 MR. JONES: A-N (audio interference)
21 A-N-T-O-I-N-I, J-O-N-E-S.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, hold
23 on, Mr. Jones. All right, Mr. Jones?

24 MR. JONES: I'm (audio interference)

25 --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones? Are
2 you in a --

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- moving
5 vehicle, sir?

6 MR. JONES: I am, but I'm not driving.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, I mean, if
8 you're going to speak your connection is poor. I
9 need you to be someplace because I'm not hearing
10 you clear, and you're the representative. So I
11 can't do a hearing and you're in a moving vehicle
12 sir. Even if you're not driving.

13 MR. JONES: Okay. I understand.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.

15 MR. JONES: I'll take care of that
16 immediately.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who is the
18 Licensee? Who is the Licensee? Who's your
19 Client?

20 MR. JONES: Russell is the Licensee.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, can that
22 person identify themselves for the record please?

23 MR. WEBSTER: Hi, this --

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I need --

25 MR. WEBSTER: -- is Mr. Russell --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Russell,
2 and I need you to be sit, I need you to sit down,
3 sir. I mean, remember, this is a, we're on
4 camera. And --

5 MR. WEBSTER: You want me --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- I can't have
7 any moving parts. He is moving --

8 MR. WEBSTER: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you're
10 moving, and it's going to make me dizzy.

11 MR. WEBSTER: I'll stop --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- okay?

14 MR. WEBSTER: I understand. You want
15 me to sit down?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you,
17 sir, to be in a stationary place, sir.

18 MR. WEBSTER: Okay. I'm going to walk
19 back inside my office.

20 (Off record comments.)

21 MR. WEBSTER: Yes, hello.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
23 Russell, can you please spell and state your name
24 for the record please?

25 MR. WEBSTER: Mr. Russell Webster, R-

1 U-S-S-E-L-L, Webster, W-E-B-S-T-E-R.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's your
3 relationship to this establishment, sir?

4 MR. WEBSTER: I'm the Licensee. The
5 Owner. One of the Owners.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
7 see there is a, I see there is a Ms. Jackson.
8 Who is Ms. Jackson?

9 MS. JACKSON: I am the ABRA manager.
10 The license holder.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you
12 please spell and state your name for the record
13 please?

14 MS. JACKSON: Yes. My name is Urania
15 Jackson. My first name is spelled, U-R-A-N-I-A.
16 Last name Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Peru, can
18 you please spell and state your name for the
19 record?

20 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes, sir.
21 Supervisor and Investigator Jason Peru with ABCA.
22 J-A-S-O-N, P-E-R-U.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
24 This matter is scheduled for a protest hearing
25 and it's, I don't see the protestor in this

1 matter and --

2 (Off record comment.)

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- this matter
4 was scheduled for a protest hearing at 1:30, and
5 I don't see the protestant here. And so, it's
6 now 1:42. Let me ask again, Mr. Orellana, is
7 there anyone else online for this protest
8 hearing?

9 MR. ORELLANA: No.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
11 thank you, sir. With that said, I'm going to
12 make a motion that this matter, that this protest
13 be dismissed on the failure of the protestant to
14 prosecute this case.

15 We have a protest hearing if, this is
16 an application to renew a license. And the
17 license would be, would have gone through the
18 process to be renewed but not for a protest.
19 That protest was filed.

20 I know that we had a, this matter was
21 postponed a couple of times, and however, this
22 matter was scheduled for a protest hearing today.
23 The protestant is not here, so I will then make a
24 motion that the protest be dismissed and that the
25 ABCA Administration be provided information that

1 they should move towards renewing this license.

2 Is there a second?

3 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen will
4 second.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen has
6 seconded the motion. I'm going to have a roll
7 call vote. Mr. Short?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Member Short, I agree.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

10 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

12 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

14 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
15 agree.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson,
17 I agree. The matter passes 5-0-0. What the vote
18 is today, is that the ABC Board has voted to
19 dismiss the protest of this renewal based on the
20 failure of the protestant to be here today to
21 litigate this matter. We would not have had, a
22 hearing would not have been scheduled today but
23 not for the protest that was filed. And because
24 the protestant is not here, we're going to
25 dismiss the matter.

1 Once the Board has issued the order
2 dismissing the protest, the protestant will be
3 given ten days to provide us with reasonable
4 notice why they were not here today. Failure of
5 the protestant to respond within ten days, or
6 failure of the Board to find that the failure of
7 the protestant was not reasonable for them to not
8 appear today, the Board will advise the agency to
9 move towards renewing the license. Any
10 questions?

11 MR. JONES: We would have an
12 opportunity, Antoini Jones, I'm sorry. In the
13 event that the protestants do respond, will we
14 have an opportunity to respond in opposition to
15 whatever their request is?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, you
17 will. The protestant, the Licensee will also
18 have an opportunity to respond. As I stated
19 before, we will issue a Board order dismissing
20 the protestant. Dismissing the protest.

21 However, it's our policies and
22 procedures that the protestant will have ten days
23 to respond. And then the Board will make a
24 determination, if a response is provided whether
25 or not their failure to be here today was

1 reasonable. But as I stated before, if that is
2 not done, the Agency will be advised to move
3 towards renewing the license as per what was
4 advertised on the placard notice. Okay?

5 MR. JONES: All right, thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

7 MR. JONES: You have a pleasant day.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a great
9 day. Thank you very much. This matter is
10 adjourned.

11 That was actually the end of our
12 agenda for this afternoon. And so I will now
13 close our hearing for the day.

14 As Chairperson of the Alcohol Beverage
15 and Cannabis Board for the District of Columbia,
16 in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 4(5) Office
17 of Open Government, I move that the ABC Board
18 hold a closed meeting on September 27th for the
19 purpose of discussing and hearing reports
20 concerning ongoing or planned investigations of
21 allegedly criminal or civil misconduct or
22 violations of law or regulations in seeking legal
23 advice from our legal counsel on the Board's
24 investigative agenda, legal agenda and licensing
25 agenda for September 27th, as published in the

1 D.C. Register on September 22nd. Is there a
2 second?

3 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
5 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll vote
6 on the motion before us that has been properly
7 seconded. I'm sorry. Mr. Short?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Member Short, I agree.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

10 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

12 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

14 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
15 agree.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
17 Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion
18 has passed 5-0-0, I hereby give notice that the
19 ABC Board will hold this closed meeting pursuant
20 to the Open Meetings Act. Notice will also be
21 posted on the ABC Board Hearing Room bullet,
22 excuse me, bulletin board, placed on the
23 electronic calendar on ABCA's website, and
24 published in the D.C. Register in as timely a
25 manner as practical.

1 The ABC Board has concluded its
2 business for the day. And we are now adjourned
3 for the day. I would like to thank our members
4 of the public who participated in this, in our
5 hearings today. And I would also like to thank
6 our ABC Board Members who participated here
7 today.

8 Having no further business, we are
9 adjourned for the day. And I would direct all
10 Board Members to return to executive session for
11 further action. Thank you. Good afternoon.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record at 1:49 p.m.)

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| A | C | | |
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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: Union Oyster Bar

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 09-20-23

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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