

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

-----=
IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Kidy Lounge, LLC :
t/a Kidst Lounge :
5503 Georgia Ave NW : Show Cause
Retailer CR - ANC 4D : Hearing (Status)
License No. 119361 :
Case #23-CMP-00083 :
 :
(Operating After Hours, :
Expansion to Another :
Floor, Provided :
Entertainment Without :
an Entertainment :
Endorsement, No ABC :
Manager on Duty) :
-----=

Wednesday
September 25, 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:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
KIDIST SHAY, Licensee
AYELE BELETE, Licensee Representative
ANTHONY CELO, DC OAG
MESKEREM BALKEW, Interpreter

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

2 11:13 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Our
4 next case is Case No. 23-CMP-00083, Kidst Lounge,
5 License No. 119361.

6 It's my understanding that there is an
7 interpreter here, and so please elevate the
8 interpreter and the licensee, please.

9 MR. ORELLANA: Sure thing. Kidist
10 Shay, your access has been elevated.

11 And, Meskerem Balkew, your access has
12 been elevated.

13 That is all, Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
15 Kidist Shay, can you turn your camera on if you
16 have a camera to turn on, please? No, you need
17 to have a camera to turn on.

18 Oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Balkew, you are
19 the interpreter, is that correct?

20 MS. BALKEW: (No audible response.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. All
22 right. Please un-mute your line, Ms. Balkew.
23 Can you please spell and state your name for the
24 record and identify yourself and your role today,
25 ma'am?

1 THE INTERPRETER: -- Balkew, M-E-S-K-
2 E-R-E-M, first name. Last name, B-A-L-K-E-W.
3 I'm the Amharic interpreter.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
5 ma'am. Okay. Raise your right hand, ma'am. Do
6 you swear or affirm to faithfully interpret these
7 proceedings from English into Amharic and from
8 Amharic into English to the best of your
9 abilities?

10 THE INTERPRETER: I do.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Thank you. You can (audio interference).

13 Miss, I'm not sure if you need to ask
14 Ms. Shay for her to spell and state her name for
15 the record.

16 WHEREUPON,

17 KIDIST SHAY
18 was called for examination by Counsel for the
19 Government and, having first been duly sworn,
20 assumed the witness stand, was examined and
21 testified as follows. NOTE: UNLESS OTHERWISE
22 NOTED, ALL ANSWERS ARE GIVEN THROUGH THE
23 TRANSLATOR, MESKEREM BALKEW, WHO WAS ALSO FIRST
24 DULY SWORN.

25 MS. SHAY: Kidist, K-I-D-I-S-T. Last

1 name, S-H-A-Y.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
3 I'm sorry, Mr. Celo, I got -- can you please
4 identify yourself for the record?

5 MR. CELO: Yes. No translation? Okay.
6 Assistant Attorney General Anthony Celo on behalf
7 of the District. A-N-T-H-O-N-Y, C-E-L-O.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
9 Celo, are there any preliminary matters?

10 MR. CELO: The district has extended
11 an Offer in Compromise to the licensee. We have
12 not heard back yet.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Shay, do
14 you have any preliminary matters, meaning that --
15 not substantive, but just any preliminary matters
16 you want to bring to the attention of the Board?

17 MS. SHAY: I have someone to represent
18 me and present my case.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is that
20 person that she has to -- who is that person to
21 represent her?

22 MS. SHAY: Mr. Ayele Belete.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where is
24 that person today?

25 MS. SHAY: He's right here.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you put him
2 on camera and he needs to spell and state his
3 name for the record.

4 MR. BELETE: Ayele Belete, A-Y-E-L-E,
5 B-E-L-E-T-E.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're
7 representing her this morning as a -- and are you
8 an attorney, sir?

9 MR. BELETE: No, I'm not.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So you
11 are the non-attorney representative. That's
12 fine.

13 I'm sorry, what's your name again,
14 sir?

15 MR. BELETE: First name Ayele, A-Y-E-
16 L-E. Last name Belete, B-E-L-E-T-E.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Pronounce it
18 for me because I want to refer to you. That's
19 why I want you just to tell me what your last
20 name is.

21 MR. BELETE: Call me Belete.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Belete. Mr.
23 Belete. All right. Do you have any preliminary
24 issues? Not substantive, just any preliminary
25 issues you want to bring to the attention of the

1 Board?

2 MR. BELETE: No, we didn't receive
3 anything from the District and we didn't prepare
4 anything today.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
6 That's fine.

7 Mr. Celo, whose case is this?

8 MR. CELO: Mine. The Offer in
9 Compromise was sent on Monday. I would ask for a
10 valid email so that I can make sure that it does
11 get to them.

12 MR. BELETE: We didn't receive any
13 email on Monday, but my email address is my first
14 name and last name @yahoo.com. I'll spell it for
15 you. ayelebelete@yahoo.com.

16 MR. CELO: I did send an email to that
17 email address as well as another contact address
18 the Applicant had on file. The
19 12ayelebelete@yahoo.com kicked back to me as
20 undeliverable.

21 MR. BELETE: This is the email we used
22 to receive correspondence from the District, or
23 the Government. It is working. You can check
24 the file from the office.

25 MR. CELO: I have put my email in the

1 chat. I would ask that you please send me and
2 mail and I can respond. Maybe that will work
3 better.

4 MR. BELETE: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
6 the email address. All right. If this matter is
7 not settled, it's now scheduled for a show cause
8 hearing on October 30th at 10:30 a.m. Thirtieth.
9 Three-zero. Three-zero.

10 THE INTERPRETER: What time, sir?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 10:30 a.m.

12 MR. BELETE: Ms. Shay is -- delivery
13 date is in three weeks, due date. So she's
14 asking to extend the date. She might not be able
15 to attend the meeting, so to extend the date.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
17 how much time is she asking for?

18 MS. BELETE: End of November.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
20 cannot do that, but as an oral motion was made to
21 extend the time line based on the licensee's
22 delivery date. And so I'll have the Agency reach
23 out to both the licensee and the Government to
24 see if a reasonable time can be -- if we can come
25 up to another date to reschedule this hearing.

1 All right. I think that's reasonable good cause
2 if the licensee is saying that her -- she's due
3 to deliver a baby in three weeks. And so she's
4 asking for more time to schedule -- yes, sir?

5 MR. CELO: Obviously the District does
6 not oppose that request.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8 Thank you, Mr. Celso.

9 So I'll have the agency reach out to
10 both parties with another date to schedule this
11 hearing. And in the interim the Government --
12 it's my understanding the Government made an
13 Offer in Compromise so that this matter can be
14 settled. Then the matter can -- then the parties
15 should review the Offer in Compromise to see if
16 it's acceptable.

17 MR. BELETE: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
19 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

20 MR. BELETE: Well, if he said he have
21 -- they have another case today.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, that's the
23 only case that's on our calendar today. There is
24 no other --

25 MR. BELETE: I think we have a Case

1 No. 0004.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not on
3 my calendar.

4 Mr. Celo, are you aware of another
5 case that's scheduled for -- that's on the
6 calendar? I don't have that case.

7 MR. CELO: I am not, Mr. Chair. I am
8 looking to see if I have any record of a 0004
9 involving Kidst Lounge that's on my calendar.
10 I'm not aware of it. I see no record of it
11 today.

12 MR. BELETE: Okay. Thank you very
13 much. Have a good day.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15 Thank you. Have a great day.

16 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Bye-bye.

18 All right. And I believe that's the
19 end of your day, Mr. -- unless you -- I don't
20 have any other cases with you, sir.

21 MR. CELO: I don't see anything on my
22 calendar.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
24 Thank you, sir. You have a great day.

25 MR. CELO: Thank you.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
went off the record at 11:28 a.m.)

A	Board 1:2,16 4:16 6:1 bring 4:16 5:25 Bye-bye 9:17	Endorsement 1:12 English 3:7,8 Entertainment 1:11,11 examination 3:18 examined 3:20 Expansion 1:10 extend 7:14,15,21 extended 4:10	L-E 5:16 License 1:8 2:5 licensee 1:23,23 2:8 4:11 7:23 8:2 licensee's 7:21 line 2:22 7:21 LLC 1:6 looking 9:8 Lounge 1:6,6 2:4 9:9
A-N-T-H-O-N-Y 4:7 A-Y-E- 5:15 A-Y-E-L-E 5:4 a.m 2:2 7:8,11 10:2 ABC 1:12 ABCA 1:22 abilities 3:9 able 7:14 above-entitled 10:1 acceptable 8:16 access 2:10,11 address 6:13,17,17 7:6 affirm 3:6 agency 7:22 8:9 Alcoholic 1:2,16 Amharic 3:3,7,8 ANC 1:7 Anderson 1:17,19 2:3 2:14,21 3:4,11 4:2,8 4:13,19,23 5:1,6,10 5:17,22 6:5 7:5,11,16 7:19 8:7,18,22 9:2,14 9:17,23 ANSWERS 3:22 Anthony 1:24 4:6 Applicant 6:18 asking 7:14,17 8:4 Assistant 4:6 assumed 3:20 attend 7:15 attention 4:16 5:25 attorney 4:6 5:8 audible 2:20 audio 3:12 Ave 1:7 aware 9:4,10 Ayele 1:23 4:22 5:4,15 ayelebelete@yahoo.... 6:15	C	F	M
B	D	G	N
B-A-L-K-E-W 3:2 B-E-L-E-T-E 5:5,16 baby 8:3 back 4:12 6:19 Balkew 1:24 2:11,18,20 2:22 3:1,23 based 7:21 behalf 4:6 Belete 1:23 4:22 5:4,4,9 5:15,16,21,21,22,23 6:2,12,21 7:4,12,18 8:17,20,25 9:12 believe 9:18 best 3:8 better 7:3 Beverage 1:2,16	Chair 2:13 9:7 Chairperson 1:16,19 2:3,14,21 3:4,11 4:2,8 4:13,19,23 5:1,6,10 5:17,22 6:5 7:5,11,16 7:19 8:7,18,22 9:2,14 9:17,23 chat 7:1 check 6:23 COLUMBIA 1:1 come 7:24 Compromise 4:11 6:9 8:13,15 contact 6:17 correct 2:19 correspondence 6:22 Counsel 3:18 CR 1:7	faithfully 3:6 file 6:18,24 fine 5:12 6:6 first 3:2,19,23 5:15 6:13 Floor 1:10 follows 3:21	M-E-S-K- 3:1 ma'am 2:25 3:5,5 mail 7:2 Manager 1:12 matter 1:5 7:6 8:13,14 10:1 matters 4:9,14,15 meaning 4:14 meeting 1:3 7:15 Member 1:20,20 Meskerem 1:24 2:11 3:23 met 1:16 Mine 6:8 Monday 6:9,13 morning 3:4 4:2 5:7 motion 7:20
E	H	I	O
E-R-E-M 3:2 elevate 2:7 elevated 2:10,12 email 6:10,13,13,16,17 6:21,25 7:6	date 7:13,13,14,15,22 7:25 8:10 day 8:19 9:13,15,19,24 DC 1:22,24 deliver 8:3 delivery 7:12,22 district 1:1 4:7,10 6:3 6:22 8:5 Donovan 1:17,19 due 7:13 8:2 duly 3:19,24 Duty 1:12	General 4:6 Georgia 1:7 GIVEN 3:22 good 3:4 4:2 8:1 9:13 Government 3:19 6:23 7:23 8:11,12 GRANT 1:20 great 8:19 9:15,24	name 2:23 3:2,2,14 4:1 5:3,13,15,16,20 6:14 6:14 need 2:16 3:13 needs 5:2 non-attorney 5:11 NOTE 3:21 NOTED 3:22 November 7:18 NW 1:7
L	J	K	P
	hand 3:5 heard 4:12 hearing 1:7 7:8,25 8:11 Hours 1:9	identify 2:24 4:4 interference 3:12 interim 8:11 interpret 3:6 interpreter 1:24 2:7,8 2:19 3:1,3,10 7:10 9:16 involving 9:9 issues 5:24,25	OAG 1:24 Obviously 8:5 October 7:8 Offer 4:11 6:8 8:13,15 office 6:24 Oh 2:18 Okay 3:5 4:5 5:10 7:4 8:17 9:12 Operating 1:9 oppose 8:6 oral 7:20 ORELLANA 1:22 2:9
	K	L	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1

parties 8:10,14
person 4:20,20,24
please 2:7,8,16,22,23
 4:3 7:1
preliminary 4:9,14,15
 5:23,24
prepare 6:3
present 1:18,21 4:18
presiding 1:17
proceedings 3:7
Pronounce 5:17
Provided 1:10
put 5:1 6:25

Q

R

Raise 3:5
reach 7:22 8:9
reasonable 7:24 8:1
receive 6:2,12,22
record 2:24 3:15 4:4 5:3
 9:8,10 10:2
refer 5:18
represent 4:17,21
representative 1:23
 5:11
representing 5:7
request 8:6
reschedule 7:25
respond 7:2
response 2:20
Retailer 1:7
review 8:15
right 2:3,22 3:5,11 4:8
 4:25 5:23 6:5 7:5,6,16
 7:19 8:1,7,18 9:14,18
 9:23
role 2:24

S

S-H-A-Y 4:1
saying 8:2
schedule 8:4,10
scheduled 7:7 9:5
see 7:24 8:15 9:8,10,21
send 6:16 7:1
sent 6:9
September 1:14
settled 7:7 8:14
Shay 1:23 2:10,15 3:14
 3:17,25 4:13,17,22,25
 7:12
SHORT 1:20
show 1:7 7:7
SILAS 1:20
sir 5:8,14 7:10 8:4 9:20
 9:24

sorry 2:18 4:3 5:13
spell 2:23 3:14 5:2 6:14
Staff 1:22
stand 3:20
state 2:23 3:14 5:2
Status 1:7
substantive 4:15 5:24
sure 2:9 3:13 6:10
swear 3:6
sworn 3:19,24

T

t/a 1:6
tell 5:19
testified 3:21
Thank 2:14 3:12 8:8,19
 9:12,15,16,24,25
thing 2:9
think 8:1,25
Thirtieth 7:8
three 7:13 8:3
Three-zero 7:9,9
time 7:10,17,21,24 8:4
today 2:24 4:24 6:4
 8:21,23 9:11
translation 4:5
TRANSLATOR 3:23
turn 2:15,16,17

U

un-mute 2:22
undeliverable 6:20
understanding 2:6 8:12

V

valid 6:10
videoconference 1:16

W

W 1:17,19
want 4:16 5:18,19,25
WebEx 1:16
Wednesday 1:14
weeks 7:13 8:3
went 10:2
witness 3:20
work 7:2
working 6:23

X

Y

yahoo.com 6:14

Z

0

0004 9:1,8

1

10:30 7:8,11
11:13 2:2
11:28 10:2
119361 1:8 2:5
12ayebelete@yahoo...
 6:19

2

2024 1:14
23-CMP-00083 1:8 2:4
25 1:14

3

30th 7:8

4

4D 1:7

5

5503 1:7

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Kidst Lounge

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 09-25-24

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.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1716 14TH ST., N.W., STE. 200

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831