

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: :
 :
 Dupont Estates, Inc. :
 t/a Sign of the Whale :
 1825 M Street NW : Show Cause
 Retailer CT - ANC 2B : Hearing (Status)
 License No. 116058 :
 Case #24-251-00016 :
 :
 (Sale to Minor Violation):
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Wednesday
 October 2, 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
 RAJ RAVADA, Licensee
 VIKRAM BHALLA, Licensee
 SHANI BROWN, DC OAG

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

2 10:59 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on
4 our calendar is our show cause hearing status,
5 Case Number 24-251-00016, Sign of the Whale,
6 License Number 116058. Mr. Orellana, can you
7 please elevate the parties in this case?

8 MR. ORELLANA: Raj Ravada, your access
9 has been elevated. Shani Brown, Your access has
10 been elevated. That is all Chairman.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Thank you. Hold on.

13 (Pause)

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
15 Ms. Brown, can you please spell and state your
16 name for the record?

17 MS. BROWN: Good morning, Mr.
18 Chairperson, this is Assistant Attorney General
19 Shani Brown. That is spelled S-H-A-N-I, B-R-O-W-
20 N, here on behalf of the District.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
22 ma'am. Sir, I forgot your last name. Can you
23 please spell and state your name for the record?
24 You need to unmute yourself first, sir.

25 (Pause)

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to
2 unmute yourself. Yes, go ahead. Please spell
3 and state your name for the record.

4 MR. RAVADA: Yes. So my name is Raj
5 Ravada. Can you guys hear me?

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, I can
7 hear you. Spell your name for the record.

8 MR. RAVADA: Okay, so my partner Vik is
9 on the other line. He was on the phone, but he
10 needs to be unmuted as well, otherwise he cannot
11 hear. Is there any way anybody --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so he was
13 elevated. Okay. Is that his number, sir, that
14 is on the line, the 707 number, is that your
15 partner?

16 MR. RAVADA: 310-927-7577, if you can
17 --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I do not
19 think that is -- hold on.

20 (Pause)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
22 he can. All right, so please spell and state
23 your name for the record, sir.

24 (Pause)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir?

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MR. RAVADA: Can you hear me now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Hold on, hold on, hold on. One person at a time. Mr. Raj, I need you, sir, to identify yourself for the record, sir, -- yes, sir, you, I need you to -- the person who just raised their right hand I need you -- all right, hold on, hold on. No, no, no, hold on, hold on. Are you two in the same location, sir?

(Audio interference)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you in the same location?

MR. RAVADA: Yes, I disconnected. Actually, I had my partner on the phone. I disconnected him. Let him call back.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. He needs to -- I thought we provided -- Mr. Orellana, can you please provide the login information. So the call in person can come in. He can login himself. I thought he was on the line before.

MR. RAVADA: Yes. I am sorry about that. I think we thought that he would join on the phone and that will be on base.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, that can

1 occur, sir, but he was on the line, I guess, you
2 also had him on the phone so he was connected
3 twice that is why we are getting a feedback.

4 MR. RAVADA: No problem. I just texted
5 him, so he is going to join any moment, so do we
6 continue with this or do we wait for him to join?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is your
8 call, sir. You said your partner so you want him
9 to be here, so I will wait until he joins with
10 the information was sent to him. He was on
11 before so I am not quite sure why he
12 disconnected.

13 MR. RAVADA: Okay. I have taken the
14 conference. I am sorry about that. I think he
15 will join in 30 seconds. Let me just ask him to
16 join, okay? I already him. He is joining right
17 now. Sorry about that.

18 (Pause)

19 MR. RAVADA: Yes, I think he is having
20 some difficulty, but I can represent on his
21 behalf. We can talk about this.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't you
23 spell and state your name for the record and tell
24 me who you are, sir.

25 MR. RAVADA: Yes, I am going to spell

1 my name, and --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I need you
3 to -- no, no, not in the chat, sir. I need you
4 to put on the record to spell your name orally, -
5 -

6 MR. RAVADA: Sure.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- because --
8 hold on, sir. We have a court reporter who is
9 capturing everything that is said, so that is why
10 I need you to spell and state your name for the
11 record.

12 MR. RAVADA: Yes, so my name is Raj
13 Ravada. I am one of the partners for Sign of the
14 Whale.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How do you spell
16 your name, sir? I asked you that question.

17 MR. RAVADA: Yes, it is R-A-J, and last
18 name is R-A-V-A-D-A.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How do you
20 pronounce that, sir?

21 MR. RAVADA: It is Ravada.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ravada. Good
23 morning. So you want us to wait for your
24 partner, or do you -- because -- this is -- all
25 right, let me ask, Ms. Brown, are there any

1 preliminary matters in this case?

2 MS. BROWN: No, there are none.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
4 this is just -- your partner does not necessarily
5 have to be here, sir. You said that you are one
6 of the partners, so you are one of the owners.
7 There are no preliminary matters in this case.
8 This matter is then scheduled for a show cause
9 hearing on November 6th at 1:30 p.m. So what
10 that says, sir, if this matter goes to a hearing,
11 seven days before the hearing you need to
12 disclose the documents and witnesses that you
13 will rely upon at this hearing. So if you are
14 going to have witnesses, if you are going to have
15 documents you are going to rely upon to defend
16 yourself in this case then that is the time that
17 you need to exchange those documents and
18 witnesses with the Government's attorney, and
19 also provide a copy of those documents to the
20 Agency. Do you have any questions, sir?

21 MR. RAVADA: No, I am already on the
22 process. We already been working with the OAG
23 attorney, Mr. Christopher, on that. So we have
24 already provided quite a bit of documents. So we
25 are going to follow up and provide more.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. What I am
2 saying though although you have provided those
3 documents, if these are the documents and
4 witnesses that you are going to rely upon at the
5 hearing you also need to formally provide those
6 documents at least to the Government seven days
7 before the hearing, and you also need to provide
8 a copy of those documents to the Board the same
9 time, okay?

10 MR. RAVADA: Okay, do we mail the
11 documents to the Board?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can email
13 them, sir. You got an email address to schedule
14 this hearing, is that correct?

15 MR. RAVADA: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So use that same
17 email address when you communicate with the
18 Agency. It is in the chat what the email address
19 is.

20 MR. RAVADA: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You will email
22 those documents to -- a copy of the documents to
23 us the same time you email the documents to the
24 Government in preparing for the hearing, okay?

25 MR. RAVADA: Okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
2 questions, sir?

3 MR. RAVADA: No, nothing. I am clear
4 on that. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. If
6 you have any technical issues you can contact us
7 to figure it out to get your partner on, but
8 since you are able to get on, so you have the
9 link, so it is the same link that your partner
10 can also utilize, okay?

11 MR. RAVADA: I will do that. Sorry
12 about that. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, that is
14 fine. Thank you very much, and have a great day.

15 MR. RAVADA: You too. Bye, bye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
18 went off the record at 11:08 a.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:2 9:18 ABCA 1:19 able 9:8 above-entitled 9:17 access 2:8,9 address 8:13,17,18 Agency 7:20 8:18 ahead 3:2 Alcoholic 1:2,13 ANC 1:7 Anderson 1:14,16 2:3 2:11,14,21 3:1,6,12 3:18,21,25 4:3,12,17 4:25 5:7,22 6:2,7,15 6:19,22 7:3 8:1,12,16 8:21 9:1,5,13,16 anybody 3:11 asked 6:16 Assistant 2:18 attorney 2:18 7:18,23 Audio 4:11</p>	<p>connected 5:2 contact 9:6 continue 5:6 copy 7:19 8:8,22 correct 8:14 court 6:8 CT 1:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>day 9:14 days 7:11 8:6 DC 1:19,21 defend 7:15 difficulty 5:20 disclose 7:12 disconnected 4:14,16 5:12 District 1:1 2:20 documents 7:12,15,17 7:19,24 8:3,3,6,8,11 8:22,22,23 Donovan 1:14,16 Dupont 1:6</p>	<p>hear 3:5,7,11 4:2 hearing 1:7 2:4 7:9,10 7:11,13 8:5,7,14,24 hold 2:12 3:19 4:3,4,4,8 4:8,9,9 6:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>identify 4:5 information 4:19 5:10 interference 4:11 issues 9:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>JAMES 1:17 join 4:23 5:5,6,15,16 joining 5:16 joins 5:9 JOSE 1:19 JR 1:17,17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>License 1:8 2:6 Licensee 1:20,20 line 3:9,14 4:21 5:1 link 9:9,9 location 4:10,13 login 4:19,20</p>	<p>OAG 1:21 7:22 occur 5:1 October 1:11 okay 3:8,12,13 4:17 5:13,16 8:1,9,10,20 8:24,25 9:10 orally 6:4 Orellana 1:19 2:6,8 4:18 owners 7:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 p.m 7:9 parties 2:7 partner 3:8,15 4:15 5:8 6:24 7:4 9:7,9 partners 6:13 7:6 Pause 2:13,25 3:20,24 5:18 person 4:4,7,20 phone 3:9 4:15,24 5:2 please 2:7,15,23 3:2,22 4:19 preliminary 7:1,7 preparing 8:24 PRESENT 1:15,18 presiding 1:14 problem 5:4 process 7:22 pronounce 6:20 provide 4:19 7:19,25 8:5,7 provided 4:18 7:24 8:2 put 6:4</p>
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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: Sign of the Whale

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 10-02-24

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

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