

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
 + + + + +
 ROLL CALL HEARING

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 IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
 Hope Lounge, LLC :
 t/a Medusa Lounge :
 2632 Georgia Avenue, NW : Roll Call
 License #118698 : Hearing
 Retailer CT - ANC 1B :
 Case #21-PRO-00073 :
 :
 (New Application) :
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Monday
 October 25, 2021

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 met via WebEx videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher,
 Board's Agent, presiding.

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

ALINE AYLO, Protestant
 ROLA AYLO, Protestant
 RANA AYLO, Protestant
 ERIC BEHNA, ANC 1B
 DOUGLAS CROCKER, Protestant
 BETTY ETANA, Protestant
 LILLIAN GASKIN, Observer
 SEBASTIEN GUILMARD, Protestant
 JEFF JACKSON, Applicant's Counsel
 GEORGE NEHMETALLAH, Protestant

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

2 10:00 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: So Good morning,
4 everyone. I'd like to thank you for calling
5 ABRA's roll call hearing being provided via the
6 WebEx platform through the Office of Open -- DC
7 Open Government. My name is LaVerne Fletcher.
8 I'll be conducting the roll call hearings as the
9 Board's agent. The first case on the calendar is
10 Medusa Lounge. That is Case Number 21-PRO-00073,
11 Hope Lounge, LLC, 2632 Georgia Avenue, NW,
12 License Number ABRA-1118698. This is a Retailer
13 Class CT New Application. The protest issues are
14 adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet,
15 residential parking, and vehicular and pedestrian
16 safety.

17 Is there anyone present on behalf of
18 Medusa?

19 MR. JACKSON: Yes. This is Jeff
20 Jackson representing the applicant.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mr. Jackson, is
22 the applicant present as well?

23 MS. GASKIN: Yes, I'm here.

24 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mr. Jackson,

1 would you spell your name for the record?

2 MR. JACKSON: J-E-F-F, J-A-C-K-S-O-N.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. And the
4 applicant, if you would state your name and spell
5 it for the record, please?

6 MS. ETANA: Yes. My name is Betty
7 Etana.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Can you spell it?

9 MS. ETANA: B-E-T-T-Y. My last name
10 is Etana, E-T-A-N-A.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you very
12 much. And present on behalf of NAC 1B?

13 MR. BEHNA: This is Commissioner Eric
14 Behna on behalf of ANC 1B.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Behna.
16 Could you spell your name for the record, please?

17 MR. BEHNA: First name, Eric, E-R-I-C;
18 last name Behna, B-E-H-N-A.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

20 And is anyone else present from ANC 1B
21 today?

22 MR. BEHNA: I believe it's just me
23 here.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, thank you
25 very much. ANC 1B does have standing as a

1 protestant. So we need to set a date for
2 mediation, a status hearing and a protest
3 hearing. I'll give you the day for the status
4 and protest hearing first. The status hearing is
5 scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
6 It's November 17 at 10:30 for the status hearing.
7 The protest hearing is set for December 15, 2021
8 at 4:30, December 15 at 4:30 for the protest
9 hearing.

10 MS. GASKIN: Hi. I don't see your
11 name on here?

12 MS. FLETCHER: Is someone speaking to
13 me?

14 MS. GASKIN: Oh, good luck. Well,
15 they're not on us yet. Just try. Only had four
16 people that I know. I don't know the --

17 MS. FLETCHER: Excuse me, Ms. Gaskin.

18 MS. GASKIN: Sorry.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Are you speaking to me?

20 MS. GASKIN: No. I am so sorry.
21 Sorry, I didn't mean to --

22 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, okay. Thank you.
23 I'm going to give you the next available day for
24 mediation. The next available day is Tuesday,
25 November 2nd, anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00.

1 That's next Tuesday, November 2nd, anytime
2 between 9:00 and 2:00. If that's not a good day,
3 I'll just keep moving through the calendar.

4 MR. BEHNA: And that would work for me
5 more the afternoon side, but I just had a quick
6 question, Ms. Fletcher. There was, I believe, a
7 Group of 5 protesting this as well, so I just
8 want to make sure that they were recognized and
9 involved. You know, I want to note it's being --
10 you know, we all go to mediation together, the
11 ANC, the Group of 5, and the establishment or
12 what is the situation.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. Just
14 a second.

15 MR. JACKSON: Tuesday does present
16 somewhat of a conflict. Is there another day you
17 can choose that we can have?

18 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, sure can. One
19 second. Is Mr. Nehmetallah present?

20 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Yes. I am here, and
21 if I may, Ms. Fletcher, if you can do it like
22 Mondays, because like it looks like everybody can
23 make it, they can --

24 MS. FLETCHER: It looks like everybody
25 can or can't?

1 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Can, because we are
2 here.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, thank you.
4 Could you spell your name for the record, please?

5 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Okay. First name,
6 George, G-E-O-R-G-E, and family is N-E-H-M-E-T-A-
7 L-L-A-H.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. And what
9 other members from your group are present? If
10 you could state your name and spell it for the
11 record, please?

12 MS. ROLA AYLO: Okay. My name is Rola
13 Aylo, R-O-L-A, A-Y-L-O.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

15 MS. RANA AYLO: Rana Aylo, R-A-N-A, A-
16 Y-L-O.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

18 MR. GUILMARD: Sebastien Guilmard, S-
19 E-B-A-S-T-I-E-N; last name Guilmard, G-U-I-L-M-A-
20 R-D.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone
22 else?

23 MR. CROCKER: I'm one of the engineers
24 here with Medusa Lounge, and my name is Douglas
25 Crocker, D-O-U-G-L-A-S, C-R-O-C-K-E-R.

1 MS. FLETCHER: So Mr. Crocker, you're
2 here with Medusa Lounge?

3 MR. CROCKER: Yes. I am here with
4 Medusa Lounge working on the technical write-up
5 to mitigate some of the issues that they've
6 brought up so.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Let me get your
8 name one more time?

9 MR. CROCKER: It's Douglas, D-O-U-G-L-
10 A-S, Crocker, C-R-O-C-K-E-R, like Betty Crocker.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Okay.
12 Thank you, Mr. Crocker. Mr. Nehmetallah, you're
13 representing Group of 18?

14 MR. NEHMETALLAH: I'm representing the
15 Group who's protesting (telephonic interference)
16 --

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Your Group is
18 granted full standing today as protestants
19 because at least five of you are present.

20 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Thank you.

21 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. So Mr.
22 Nehmetallah, you have the dates for the status
23 and protest hearing?

24 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Yes. I have the
25 dates that you just mentioned and all the things

1 on Mondays, if I'm not mistaken?

2 MS. FLETCHER: Say that again?

3 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Are these days
4 Mondays?

5 MS. FLETCHER: No, they're Wednesdays.

6 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Wednesdays are fine.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. The roll call
8 hearings are on Mondays, but the other Board
9 hearings are on Wednesdays.

10 MR. GUILMARD: When was the -- I'm
11 sorry, when is the mediation? I didn't -- did we
12 set it Tuesday?

13 MS. FLETCHER: Not yet.

14 MR. GUILMARD: Okay, sorry.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. And I'm just
16 noting for the record that Mr. Behna just asked
17 that question, but to the court reporter, can you
18 see Mr. Behna's name?

19 COURT REPORTER: That was Mr. Guilnard
20 that asked that question. That was not Behna.

21 MS. FLETCHER: That wasn't you, Mr.
22 Behna?

23 MR. BEHNA: No -- no, it was not.

24 MR. GUILMARD: Mr. Guilnard, sorry.

25 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So we haven't

1 set the date for the mediation. Someone said
2 that November 2nd may not be a good date; who was
3 that?

4 MR. CROCKER: Yes. That was me, Doug
5 Crocker, and I'll probably be doing part of a
6 presentation or be asked to speak regarding some
7 of the proposed mitigations that we have planned.
8 So that Tuesday is a bad day.

9 MS. FLETCHER: So Mr. Crocker -- Mr.
10 Jackson, are you still on the line?

11 MR. JACKSON: Yes, I am. And --

12 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So if you --

13 MR. JACKSON: -- so I would be
14 available but I don't be available until 12:00
15 noon.

16 MS. FLETCHER: So Mr. Jackson, you are
17 available on November 2nd in the afternoon?

18 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. FLETCHER: And Mr. Crocker as
20 well?

21 MR. CROCKER: No. I have a conflict
22 with November the 2nd. That's what I'm saying.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Let me leave this up to
24 Mr. -- Mr. Jackson, you're the designated
25 representative. What are we going to do? You

1 want to move to another day?

2 MR. JACKSON: Well, are the other
3 protestants available at that 12:00 noon?

4 MR. NEHMETALLAH: No -- no.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Behna?

6 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Tuesday is not good
7 too, sorry.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mr. Nehmetallah,
9 okay. So we're going to move to another day.
10 Okay.

11 MR. BEHNA: I believe Mr. Nehmetallah
12 indicated earlier that Mondays tend to be a good
13 day for his Group, so I don't know if there's a
14 Monday that we can do a mediation. That works
15 for me.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So Mr. Behna,
17 that is you speaking. So what happens, because
18 the hearing is being recorded, if you could state
19 your name before you speak so that the court
20 reporter knows who's speaking? Mr. Nehmetallah,
21 are you available on Monday, November 8?

22 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Any particular
24 time of day?

25 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Any time you like.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Does that work for you,
2 Mr. Behna, November 8?

3 MR. BEHNA: Yes, it does.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Jackson, what about
5 you?

6 MR. JACKSON: Yes, that'll work, 9:00
7 a.m.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Crocker?

9 MR. CROCKER: Yes. This is Douglas
10 Crocker. That works for me.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So on a Monday,
12 the mediation will need to be at 11:00. So if
13 the mediation is going to be on a Monday, it'll
14 have to be at 11:00 or 11:30.

15 MR. JACKSON: Eleven is fine with me.

16 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Eleven is fine.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. So
19 I have scheduled mediation for Medusa Lounge for
20 Monday, November 8 at 11:00. Any questions at
21 all?

22 MR. CROCKER: No, ma'am.

23 MR. BEHNA: This is Eric Behna. Just
24 for everyone's awareness so they know, how long
25 is mediation expected to last on the 8th?

1 MS. FLETCHER: Well, there's no set
2 time but I would say you can expect it to last at
3 least an hour-and-a-half We don't know. It
4 depends on -- it just depends but let's just --
5 do you have any time restrictions that we need to
6 know about, Mr. Behna?

7 MR. BEHNA: No. I just wanted folks
8 to know what to expect.

9 MS. FLETCHER: To have some idea?
10 Okay. So I would say you should expect at least
11 an hour-and-a-half.

12 MR. BEHNA: Thank you.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Okay.
14 Well, thank you for coming. I'll see you on
15 Monday, November at 11:00.

16 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Thank you.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. The roll call
18 hearing in the matter of Medusa Lounge is
19 concluded.

20 MR. NEHMETALLAH: This is George.
21 Just one thing. Is it on WebEx, too?

22 MS. FLETCHER: Who's speaking, please?

23 MR. NEHMETALLAH: George Nehmetallah.

24 MS. FLETCHER: What's the question?

25 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Is it also online,

1 on --

2 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, it is. You'll
3 receive a WebEx invitation from me to attend the
4 meeting as well.

5 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Thank you so much.

6 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome.

7 MR. NEHMETALLAH: Thank you.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 went off the record at 10:14 a.m.)
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20
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22
23
24
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A

A- 6:15
A-S 7:10
A-Y-L-O 6:13
a.m 2:2 4:5,25 11:7
 13:10
above-entitled 13:9
ABRA 1:16
ABRA's 2:5
ABRA-1118698 2:12
adverse 2:14
afternoon 5:5 9:17
agent 1:14,16 2:9
Alcoholic 1:2,13
ALINE 1:18
ANC 1:8,20 3:14,20,25
 5:11
anytime 4:25 5:1
applicant 2:20,22 3:4
Applicant's 1:22
Application 1:9 2:13
asked 8:16,20 9:6
attend 13:3
available 4:23,24 9:14
 9:14,17 10:3,21
Avenue 1:7 2:11
awareness 11:24
Aylo 1:18,19,19 6:12,13
 6:15,15

B

B-E-H-N-A 3:18
B-E-T-T-Y 3:9
bad 9:8
behalf 2:17 3:12,14
Behna 1:20 3:13,14,15
 3:17,18,22 5:4 8:16
 8:20,22,23 10:5,11,16
 11:2,3,23,23 12:6,7
 12:12
Behna's 8:18
believe 3:22 5:6 10:11
Betty 1:21 3:6 7:10
Beverage 1:2,13
Board 1:2,13 8:8
Board's 1:14,16 2:9
brought 7:6

C

C-R-O-C-K-E-R 6:25
 7:10
calendar 2:9 5:3
call 1:3,7 2:5,8 8:7
 12:17
calling 2:4
case 1:8 2:9,10
choose 5:17
Class 2:13

COLUMBIA 1:1
coming 12:14
Commissioner 3:13
concluded 12:19
conducting 2:8
conflict 5:16 9:21
Control 1:2,13
Counsel 1:22
court 8:17,19 10:19
Crocker 1:20 6:23,25
 7:1,3,9,10,10,12 9:4,5
 9:9,19,21 11:8,9,10
 11:22
CT 1:8 2:13

D

D-O-U-G-L- 7:9
D-O-U-G-L-A-S 6:25
date 4:1 9:1,2
dates 7:22,25
day 4:3,23,24 5:2,16 9:8
 10:1,9,13,24
days 8:3
DC 2:6
December 4:7,8
depends 12:4,4
designated 9:24
DISTRICT 1:1
doing 9:5
Doug 9:4
Douglas 1:20 6:24 7:9
 11:9

E

E-B-A-S-T-I-E-N 6:19
E-R-I-C 3:17
E-T-A-N-A 3:10
earlier 10:12
Eleven 11:15,16
engineers 6:23
Eric 1:20 3:13,17 11:23
establishment 5:11
Etana 1:21 3:6,7,9,10
everybody 5:22,24
everyone's 11:24
Excuse 4:17
expect 12:2,8,10
expected 11:25

F

family 6:6
fine 8:6 11:15,16
first 2:9 3:17 4:4 6:5
five 7:19
Fletcher 1:13,16 2:3,7
 2:21,25 3:3,8,11,15
 3:19,24 4:12,17,19,22
 5:6,13,18,21,24 6:3,8

6:14,17,21 7:1,7,11
 7:17,21 8:2,5,7,13,15
 8:21,25 9:9,12,16,19
 9:23 10:5,8,16,23
 11:1,4,8,11,18 12:1,9
 12:13,17,22,24 13:2,6
 13:8
folks 12:7
four 4:15
full 7:18

G

G-E-O-R-G-E 6:6
G-U-I-L-M-A- 6:19
Gaskin 1:21 2:23 4:10
 4:14,17,18,20
George 1:23 6:6 12:20
 12:23
Georgia 1:7 2:11
give 4:3,23
Government 2:7
granted 7:18
group 5:7,11 6:9 7:13
 7:15,17 10:13
Guilmard 1:22 6:18,18
 6:19 8:10,14,19,24,24

H

happens 10:17
hearing 1:3,7 2:5 4:2,3
 4:4,4,6,7,9 7:23 10:18
 12:18
hearings 2:8 8:8,9
Hi 4:10
Hope 1:6 2:11
hour-and-a-half 12:3
 12:11

I

idea 12:9
impact 2:14
indicated 10:12
interference 7:15
invitation 13:3
involved 5:9
issues 2:13 7:5
it'll 11:13

J

J-A-C-K-S-O-N 3:2
J-E-F-F 3:2
Jackson 1:22 2:19,20
 2:21,24,25 3:2 5:15
 9:10,11,13,16,18,24
 10:2 11:4,6,15
Jeff 1:22 2:19

K

keep 5:3
knows 10:20

L

L-L-A-H 6:7
LaVerne 1:13,16 2:7
leave 9:23
let's 12:4
License 1:7 2:12
LILLIAN 1:21
line 9:10
LLC 1:6 2:11
long 11:24
looks 5:22,24
Lounge 1:6,6 2:10,11
 6:24 7:2,4 11:19
 12:18
luck 4:14

M

ma'am 9:18 10:22 11:22
matter 1:5 12:18 13:9
mean 4:21
mediation 4:2,24 5:10
 8:11 9:1 10:14 11:12
 11:13,19,25
Medusa 1:6 2:10,18
 6:24 7:2,4 11:19
 12:18
meeting 13:4
members 6:9
mentioned 7:25
met 1:13
mistaken 8:1
mitigate 7:5
mitigations 9:7
Monday 1:11 10:14,21
 11:11,13,20 12:15
Mondays 5:22 8:1,4,8
 10:12
morning 2:3
move 10:1,9
moving 5:3

N

N-E-H-M-E-T-A- 6:6
NAC 3:12
name 2:7 3:1,4,6,9,16
 3:17,18 4:11 6:4,5,10
 6:12,19,24 7:8 8:18
 10:19
need 4:1 11:12 12:5
Nehmetallah 1:23 5:19
 5:20 6:1,5 7:12,14,20
 7:22,24 8:3,6 10:4,6,8
 10:11,20,22,25 11:16
 12:16,20,23,23,25
 13:5,7

New 1:9 2:13 noon 9:15 10:3 note 5:9 noting 8:16 November 4:5,6,25 5:1 9:2,17,22 10:21 11:2 11:20 12:15 Number 2:10,12 NW 1:7 2:11	receive 13:3 recognized 5:8 record 3:1,5,16 6:4,11 8:16 13:10 recorded 10:18 regarding 9:6 reporter 8:17,19 10:20 representative 9:25 representing 2:20 7:13 7:14 residential 2:15 restrictions 12:5 Retailer 1:8 2:12 Rola 1:19 6:12,12 roll 1:3,7 2:5,8 8:7 12:17	videoconference 1:13	<hr/> 8 <hr/> 8 10:21 11:2,20 8th 11:25 <hr/> 9 <hr/> 9:00 4:25 5:2 11:6
<hr/> O <hr/> Observer 1:21 October 1:11 Office 2:6 online 12:25 Open 2:6,7 order 2:14	<hr/> S <hr/> S- 6:18 safety 2:16 saying 9:22 scheduled 4:5 11:19 Sebastien 1:22 6:18 second 5:14,19 set 4:1,7 8:12 9:1 12:1 side 5:5 situation 5:12 somewhat 5:16 sorry 4:18,20,21 8:11 8:14,24 10:7 speak 9:6 10:19 speaking 4:12,19 10:17 10:20 12:22 spell 3:1,4,8,16 6:4,10 standing 3:25 7:18 state 3:4 6:10 10:18 status 4:2,3,4,6 7:22	<hr/> X <hr/> <hr/> Y <hr/> Y-L-O 6:16 <hr/> <hr/> Z <hr/> <hr/> 0 <hr/> <hr/> 1 <hr/> 10:00 2:2 10:14 13:10 10:30 4:5,6 11:00 11:12,14,20 12:15 11:30 11:14 118698 1:7 12:00 9:14 10:3 15 4:7,8 17 4:5,6 18 7:13 1B 1:8,20 3:12,14,20,25	<hr/> 2 <hr/> 2:00 4:25 5:2 2021 1:11 4:5,7 21-PRO-00073 1:8 2:10 25 1:11 2632 1:7 2:11 2nd 4:25 5:1 9:2,17,22
<hr/> P <hr/> P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 parking 2:15 part 9:5 particular 10:23 peace 2:14 pedestrian 2:15 people 4:16 planned 9:7 platform 2:6 please 3:5,16 6:4,11 12:22 present 1:15,17 2:17,22 3:12,20 5:15,19 6:9 7:19 presentation 9:6 presiding 1:14 probably 9:5 proposed 9:7 protest 2:13 4:2,4,7,8 7:23 protestant 1:18,19,19 1:20,21,22,23 4:1 protestants 7:18 10:3 protesting 5:7 7:15 provided 2:5	<hr/> T <hr/> t/a 1:6 technical 7:4 telephonic 7:15 tend 10:12 thank 2:4 3:3,11,15,19 3:24 4:22 5:13 6:3,8 6:14,17,21 7:11,12,20 11:17,18 12:12,14,16 13:5,7 things 7:25 today 3:21 7:18 try 4:15 Tuesday 4:24 5:1,15 8:12 9:8 10:6	<hr/> 3 <hr/> <hr/> 4 <hr/> 4:30 4:8,8 <hr/> <hr/> 5 <hr/> 5 5:7,11 <hr/> <hr/> 6 <hr/> <hr/> 7 <hr/>	
<hr/> Q <hr/> question 5:6 8:17,20 12:24 questions 11:20 quick 5:5 quiet 2:14	<hr/> U <hr/> <hr/> V <hr/> vehicular 2:15		
<hr/> R <hr/> R-A-N-A 6:15 R-D 6:20 R-O-L-A 6:13 Rana 1:19 6:15,15			

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Medusa Lounge

Before: DCABRA

Date: 10-25-21

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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