

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
:
Hope Lounge, LLC :
t/a Medusa Lounge :
2632 Georgia Avenue NW : Show Cause
Retailer CT - ANC 1B : Hearing (Status)
License No. 118698 :
Case #22-CMP-00048 :
:
(Operating After :
Board Approved Hours) :
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Wednesday
October 26, 2022

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABRA Staff
BETTY ETANA, Applicant
DOUGLAS CROCKER, Applicant Counsel
KEVIN LUTES, DC OAG

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

2 10:56 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on
4 our calendar - so we now move to our show cause
5 hearing status calendar. The first case in our
6 show cause hearing status calendar is Case Number
7 #22-CMP-00048, Medusa Lounge, License Number
8 118698.

9 Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate
10 the rights of the parties in this case including
11 the government?

12 MR. ORELLANA: Access has been
13 elevated. Evan Lutes, your access has been
14 elevated. That is all chairman.

15 (Pause.)

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Etana, do
17 you have a camera?

18 MS. ETANA: Yes, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you have a
20 camera can you turn the camera on? If not - if
21 you do not have a camera that is fine I am just
22 trying to find out.

23 MS. ETANA: Yes, somehow - I'm trying
24 to do that. It is not turned on I guess.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Fine.

1 MS. ETANA: Yes, I got it.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

3 MS. ETANA: It is going off again.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is fine
5 ma'am. That is fine.

6 MS. ETANA: Okay. Yes, sir.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is Douglas
8 Crocker? Is that someone that is supposed to be
9 in this case?

10 MS. ETANA: Yes, he is the one that is
11 present.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
13 Okay. Mr. Crocker.

14 (No audible response.)

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Crocker, do
16 you have a camera to turn on, sir?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see Mr.
19 Crocker, but Mr. Crocker, are you there?

20 MR. CROCKER: Yes, I am.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
22 camera, sir?

23 MR. CROCKER: Yes, can you see my
24 camera?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir, I

1 cannot see you.

2 MR. CROCKER: How about now?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Still no, but -
4 all right, that is fine. I still cannot see you,
5 but - all right. Mr. Lutes, can you identify
6 yourself for the record, please?

7 MR. LUTES: Of course, Mr. Chairperson.
8 Good morning, this is Assistant Attorney General
9 Kevin Lutes, that is K-E-V-I-N, L-U-T-E-S, for
10 the District.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
12 Mr. Crocker, I cannot see you, and I will -- let
13 me wait for you to sit down.

14 MR. CROCKER: Okay. I am going to get
15 off. Just one second.

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. CROCKER: Okay, I am here.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you identify
19 yourself for the record, please?

20 MR. CROCKER: My name is Douglas
21 Crocker. Yes, I am here representing Medusa
22 Lounge.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Spell and state
24 your name for the record.

25 MR. CROCKER: I am -

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Spell your name
2 please, sir.

3 MR. CROCKER: Douglas, D-O-U-G-L-A-S,
4 Crocker, C-R-O-C-K-E-R.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your client, Ms.
6 Etana, can you please spell and state your name
7 for the record, please?

8 MS. ETANA: Yes, B-E-T-T-Y, first name,
9 last name is Etana, E-T-A-N-A.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are the
11 owner of Medusa Lounge, ma'am?

12 MS. ETANA: ***11:00:03, yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
14 you. Mr. Lutes, are there any preliminary
15 matters in this case?

16 MR. LUTES: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. An
17 OIC was communicated to the licensee on October
18 18, 2022. Other than that, no further
19 preliminary matters.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
21 Crocker - well, if there is not - there are no
22 preliminary matters. This matter then is
23 scheduled for a show cause hearing on November
24 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. What I will advise the
25 parties that since this matter is scheduled for a

1 show cause hearing on November 30, 2022 at 10:30
2 a.m., seven days prior to the hearing both sides
3 are required to exchange documents and witnesses,
4 and that needs to be provided to each side and
5 also to ABRA Legal. Failure on either party to
6 exchange - to provide documents or witnesses
7 that they are going to rely on at this hearing
8 that the ABC Board, unless reasonable cause is
9 shown, the ABC Board is empowered to prevent that
10 side from relying on documents and witnesses that
11 have not been disclosed seven days prior to the
12 hearing. Any questions by anyone?

13 MR. CROCKER: Yes, so we only have
14 seven days to review the evidence that Kevin is
15 alleging against our venue, just seven days?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, sir, when
17 you go to a hearing, seven days before the
18 hearing you have to let the other side know what
19 documents that you have, what documents you are
20 going to use at the hearing, and what witnesses
21 you are going to use at the hearing to present
22 your case.

23 MR. CROCKER: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is standard
25 in all cases, I mean, I believe that - that's

1 standard in all cases, sir. It is just to put
2 everyone on notice that these are the documents
3 and witnesses that I am going to utilize at the
4 hearing.

5 MR. CROCKER: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, you can
7 exchange these documents prior to doing that, but
8 at a minimum seven days before the hearing these
9 documents must be exchanged.

10 MR. CROCKER: Okay.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
12 questions, sir?

13 MR. CROCKER: No, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The parties can
15 of course discuss settlement. If the parties
16 decide to settle this matter you can either send
17 it on record, or you can do a paper settlement
18 that we will -- that we can discuss and review on
19 our legal agenda, but that is up to the parties.
20 Anyway, this matter is now scheduled - then as
21 stated before this matter is scheduled for a show
22 cause hearing on November 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
23 Any other questions by anyone?

24 MR. LUTES: No questions from the
25 District, Mr. Chairperson.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Crocker, any
2 questions, sir?

3 MR. CROCKER: That hearing or what not,
4 it will not require live attendance will it,
5 because --

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Everything is
8 virtual, sir.

9 MR. CROCKER: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We are still -
11 so the same - you will be provided the
12 credentials as for this hearing, and then we will
13 do the hearing the same way.

14 MR. CROCKER: Okay, sounds good.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so if
16 you have any questions you can contact our legal
17 office to technically how to do these hearings.
18 You can contact our legal office. I will say to
19 the parties that you can continue to have
20 conversations if this matter can be settled, if
21 not, I will see you on November 30th at 10:30
22 a.m., all right?

23 MR. CROCKER: Thank you much.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a great
25 day, thank you.

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MS. ETANA: Thank you.
MR. LUTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
went off the record at 11:04 a.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: Medusa Lounge

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 10-26-22

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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