

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
BL 1701 14th DC, LLC :
t/a Bluestone Lane :
1701 14th Street NW :
Retailer CR - ANC 2F :
License No. 114952 :
Case #23-CMP-00056 :
 :
(Failed to Obtain a :
Summer Garden :
Endorsement, Substantial :
Change in Operation :
Without Board Approval) :
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Wednesday
November 1, 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

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

2 1:33 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: We're on the
4 record. Good afternoon. As Chairperson of the
5 Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the
6 District of Columbia, and in accordance with D.C.
7 Code Section 2571 of the Open Meetings Act, I am
8 welcoming you to the regularly scheduled meeting
9 of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

10 This meeting is being conducted
11 pursuant to guidance made available by the
12 District of Columbia's Office of Open Government
13 regarding electronic meetings held by public
14 bodies. Electronic meetings by the ABC Board are
15 authorized pursuant to Section 2577A of the D.C.
16 Code.

17 Pursuant to the OMA requirements,
18 notice of today's meeting was provided 48 hours
19 in advance of the meeting on ABCA's website and
20 on the District's central meeting calendar. The
21 notice includes the time, date, agenda, and call-
22 in or log-in information for public
23 participation.

24 This electronic meeting is being
25 hosted by a Webex account provided by the

1 District of Columbia government. Please address
2 any questions or complaints to the OOG@
3 opengovoffice@dc.gov.

4 My name is Donovan Anderson and I'm
5 Chairperson of the Board. I would like to
6 introduce the other members of the ABC Board who
7 are also participating electronically. Please
8 respond when I announce your name.

9 Mr. James Short.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. James Short,
11 present.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bobby Cato.

13 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, present.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jeni
15 Hansen.

16 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, present.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Edward
18 Grandis.

19 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis,
20 present.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board has
22 five members in attendance for the conduct of
23 business today and that constitutes a quorum.

24 Before we get underway with today's
25 hearing calendar, I need to make a few

1 instructions very clear so that the conduct of
2 these hearings is understood by everyone. There
3 are six cases on this morning's calendar.

4 Once your case is called, I will take
5 a moment for our IT specialist to elevate the
6 right for each party to enable their camera and
7 microphone. Then, and only then, will you have
8 the ability to enable your equipment. If your
9 case has not been heard, you will remain mute and
10 your camera will be disabled.

11 At the conclusion of each case, the
12 parties will have the option to leave. If the
13 parties wish to stay, all cameras and microphones
14 for the concluded case will be disabled. Should
15 you have any questions or require technical
16 assistance during the hearing, please submit them
17 using the question and answer feature.

18 Before we get started this afternoon,
19 I would like to take a moment to say a few words
20 about our fellow Board members Bobby Cato, Jeni
21 Hansen, and Edward Grandis and thank them for
22 their service on the Board. Today is their last
23 day on the ABCA Board so this afternoon is
24 bittersweet for me and for the members of the
25 Board.

1
2 Bobby has been an important member of
3 the Board over the last five years since joining
4 the Board in January of 2018. As a Ward 5
5 resident with a background in real estate, Bobby
6 has brought a beneficial perspective to the Board
7 in rendering its decisions.

8 Jeni and Ed deserve credit for being
9 able to succeed after having had the difficult
10 task of joining the Board in the first quarter of
11 2020 during the start of the life-changing COVID-
12 19 pandemic.

13 Ed, Jeni, and Bobby played a
14 significant role in balancing public health and
15 safety during the pandemic while finding
16 innovative ways for alcoholic establishments to
17 operate safely. The District owes them a debt of
18 gratitude for helping the Board navigate the
19 pandemic.

20 Despite being in the middle of a
21 pandemic, Bobby, Ed, and Jeni embraced the
22 Board's new role in October of 2020 of being
23 responsible for the District's medical cannabis
24 program. Bobby, Ed, and Jeni took this new
25 responsibility seriously immediately listening to

1 stakeholders and licensees regarding changes
2 needed to the program.

3 Bobby, Ed, and Jeni work with the
4 Board to make significant necessary changes to
5 improve the program. Throughout their time on
6 the Board, Bobby, Ed, and Jeni have brought a
7 balanced approach to the role of a Board member
8 taking into account the needs of both businesses,
9 ANCs, and residents.

10 The efforts have helped the Board
11 represent the best interest of the District of
12 Columbia. The Board and ABCA cannot thank you
13 enough for your contributions as Board members.
14 We will miss all three of you. Please stay in
15 touch.

16 If each member would like to say
17 something, I'll give you an opportunity to speak.
18 I'm going to go on seniority in the sense that
19 Edward goes first in seniority in the sense of
20 the first person who joined the Board. Then
21 we'll move to -- it will be Ed, then Jeni, and
22 then Bobby.

23 So if you want to say something, Ed,
24 please.

25 MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman, I want

1 to thank you for the wonderful words that you
2 spoke about the role. Not just Bobby and Jeni
3 and myself, but the whole Board together
4 collectively to fill that role and I want to
5 thank you very much for putting that in the
6 record.

7 I also want to admonish you because
8 age I think is a privacy matter. I may be senior
9 in one way but I think Mr. Short is senior in
10 other ways being a lifer on the Board.

11 What I really would like to say to the
12 public is that our work is a challenge because we
13 have to balance, as the Chairman mentioned. Our
14 work is made a lot easier and understandable for
15 the public because of the hardworking staff and
16 legal office.

17 The director provides the Board almost
18 every day on matters that come before us on
19 typical Wednesdays. I want to make sure the
20 record shows that we as Board members appreciate
21 the very hard work, many hours, some weekend I'm
22 sure, that our staff has to perform so that we do
23 a good job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Grandis.

1 Ms. Hansen.

2

3 MEMBER HANSEN: Thank you. I want to
4 thank everyone here, my fellow Board members, and
5 also the Mayor for the opportunity to serve the
6 city. It's been a great pleasure and honor to
7 work with you all. I just want to say thanks
8 also to the agency staff who's been wonderful.
9 You all will be missed. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Thank you, Ms.
11 Hansen.

12 Mr. Cato.

13 MEMBER CATO: Yes. I want to take
14 this opportunity to thank the agency for having
15 placed me to serve on this Board and serve the
16 city of Washington, D.C. over the last five-and-
17 a-half years. Thank you for this opportunity. I
18 appreciate it.

19 CHAIRPERSON DONOVAN: Thank you, Mr.
20 Cato.

21 One thing that we have done today that
22 we have not done since the onset of COVID is that
23 the Board, four of us, are meeting here in
24 person. That's one of the reasons why you might
25 see that we are all wearing headphones because

1 we're actually in the Board room sitting at the
2 desk to do this hearing today.

3 As I stated before, the last time the
4 Board met in person was in, I believe, March of
5 2020 so today is the first time that we're
6 meeting in person since that time.

7 All right. Let's move on to our
8 calendar. The first matter on our calendar today
9 is a show-cause hearing, Case No. 23-CMP-00056,
10 Bluestone Lane, License No. 114952. This case
11 has been canceled due to the approval of an offer
12 in compromise. See Board Order No. 2023-529.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
14 off the record at 1:41 p.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: Bluestone Lane

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 11-01-23

Place: videoconference

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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