

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:
:
:
Kezira, Inc.
:
t/a Kezira Lounge
:
3013 Georgia Ave NW
: Show Cause
Retailer CR - ANC 1E
: Hearing (Status)
License No. 117490
:
Case #23-CMP-00014
:
:
(Interfered with an
:
ABCA Investigation,
:
Substantial Change --
:
Increase in Occupancy,
:
Operating After Hours,
:
Expansion to
:
Another Floor)
:
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Wednesday
December 6th, 2023

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
MEKEDES YEHULASHET, Licensee
BISOLA ONI, DC O.G.

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

2 11:06 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The
4 next case on our calendar is Case No. 23-CMP-
5 00014, Kezira Lounge, License No. 117490.

6 Mr. Orellana, are there anyone, is the
7 Licensee online for this case?

8 MR. ORELLANA: Yes. Mekedes
9 Yehulashet, her husband.

10 And that is all, Chairman.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

12 Mekedes Yehulashet, I apologize, can
13 you unmute your phone, and do you have a camera
14 to turn on, please?

15 The Licensee, can you unmute your
16 phone and turn your camera on, please?

17 Yes, ma'am, all right. Good morning.

18 Ms. Oni, can you please spell and
19 state your name for the record?

20 MS. ONI: Yes. Bisola Oni, B-I-S-O-L-A
21 O-N-I, Assistant Attorned General, on behalf of
22 the Government.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.

24 Ms, Yehulashet, can you please unmute
25 your phone? Unmute your line, ma'am. So, you

1 go, you need to unmute it.

2 Yes. Can you spell and state your
3 name for the record, please?

4 MS. YEHULASHET: M E-K-E-D-E-S, Mekedes
5 Yehulashet, Y-E-H-U-L-A-S-H-E-T.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is your
7 relationship to the establishment, ma'am? Are
8 you the owner of the establishment?

9 MS. YEHULASHET: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Good
11 morning.

12 All right. Ms. Oni, are there any
13 preliminary matters in this case?

14 MS. ONI: No. Just that the offer in
15 compromise hasn't been communicated in the
16 response yet.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms, Yehulashet,
18 this matter is scheduled for a, for a show cause
19 hearing on January the 10th, 2023 -- 2024, I'm
20 sorry, at 10:30 a.m.

21 Whose case is this, Ms. Oni, is this
22 your case or is this another?

23 MS. ONI: No. This is Assistant AG
24 Hogenmiller's case, Alycia Hogenmiller.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

1 All right. Ma'am, as you are aware,
2 this matter is scheduled for a hearing on January
3 10th. January 10th.

4 Seven days before the hearing if
5 you're contesting this by calling witnesses, and
6 if you're going to have documents that you're
7 going to rely upon, seven days before this
8 hearing you are required to exchange those
9 documents and witnesses with the Government and
10 also provide our office with a copy of the
11 documents, ma'am.

12 Do you understand what I just stated?

13 MS. YEHULASHET: Uh-huh. Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you
15 a question, ma'am. And I'm not -- I just want to
16 make sure that do you need an interpreter for
17 this hearing, if we go to a hearing, or is
18 English fine with you?

19 MS. YEHULASHET: No, I need interpret.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you need an
21 interpreter in what language, ma'am?

22 MS. YEHULASHET: Amharic.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Amharic?

24 MS. YEHULASHET: Uh-huh.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, I

1 will make sure that the Agency provides you an
2 Amharic interpreter for the hearing, which is
3 scheduled for January 10th, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

4 Any questions? Any further questions,
5 ma'am?

6 MS. YEHULASHET: No.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
8 I will see you then.

9 Again, you are required, I just want
10 to repeat this, ma'am, one more time, since this
11 matter is going to a hearing, seven days before
12 the hearing you are required to exchange your
13 documents and witnesses to the Government and
14 also to the Agency.

15 MS. YEHULASHET: Okay, okay, okay.
16 Yes, okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know we have,
18 we have gone to a hearing before, so I believe
19 that you understand how to do that.

20 And, ma'am, you can also, although we
21 are going to have an interpreter, you can also
22 let the Agency know that if you need someone to
23 speak for you or represent you at that hearing,
24 as long as you can advise the Agency that, yes,
25 I'm the owner but I'm authorizing another person

1 to speak for me at the hearing.

2 So, you can do that, ma'am. Okay?

3 MS. YEHULASHET: Okay. Okay, okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

5 MS. YEHULASHET: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.

7 So, I will ensure that we have an
8 Amharic interpreter available for you at this
9 hearing on January 10th at 10:30 a.m. Okay?

10 MS. YEHULASHET: Okay, okay. I'm done.
11 Okay. I'm done.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
13 You're done? I'm sorry, what were you saying,
14 ma'am?

15 MS. YEHULASHET: I'm done?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Yes,
17 ma'am.

18 MS. YEHULASHET: Okay. Okay, thank
19 you. Okay, thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Have
21 a good day.

22 All right, goodbye. Bye-bye.

23 (Whereupon, at 11:12 a.m., the hearing
24 was concluded.)

25

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|---|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:2 3:20 5:3 6:9,23 ABCA 1:10,22 advise 5:24 AG 3:23 Agency 5:1,14,22,24 Alcoholic 1:2,16 Alycia 3:24 Amharic 4:22,23 5:2 6:8 ANC 1:7 Anderson 1:17,19 2:3 2:11,23 3:6,10,17,25 4:14,20,23,25 5:7,17 6:4,6,12,16,20 apologize 2:12 Assistant 2:21 3:23 Attorned 2:21 authorizing 5:25 available 6:8 Ave 1:7 aware 4:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>B-I-S-O-L-A 2:20 behalf 2:21 believe 5:18 Beverage 1:2,16 Bisola 1:23 2:20 Board 1:2,16 Bye-bye 6:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>calendar 2:4 calling 4:5 camera 2:13,16 Cannabis 1:2,16 case 1:8 2:4,4,7 3:13,21 3:22,24 cause 1:7 3:18 Chairman 2:10 Chairperson 1:16,19 2:3,11,23 3:6,10,17 3:25 4:14,20,23,25 5:7,17 6:4,6,12,16,20 Change 1:10 COLUMBIA 1:1 communicated 3:15 compromise 3:15 concluded 6:24 contesting 4:5 copy 4:10 CR 1:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>day 6:21 days 4:4,7 5:11</p> | <p>DC 1:22,23 December 1:14 DISTRICT 1:1 documents 4:6,9,11 5:13 Donovan 1:17,19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>E-K-E-D-E-S 3:4 English 4:18 ensure 6:7 establishment 3:7,8 exchange 4:8 5:12 Expansion 1:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>fine 4:18 Floor 1:12 further 5:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>General 2:21 Georgia 1:7 go 3:1 4:17 going 4:6,7 5:11,21 good 2:17,23 3:10 6:21 goodbye 6:22 Government 2:22 4:9 5:13 GRANT 1:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>hearing 1:7 3:19 4:2,4,8 4:17,17 5:2,11,12,18 5:23 6:1,9,23 Hogenmiller 3:24 Hogenmiller's 3:24 Hours 1:11 husband 2:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>Increase 1:11 Interfered 1:9 interpret 4:19 interpreter 4:16,21 5:2 5:21 6:8 Investigation 1:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>JAMES 1:20 January 3:19 4:2,3 5:3 6:9 JOSE 1:22 JR 1:20,20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Kezira 1:6,6 2:5 know 5:17,22</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>language 4:21 License 1:8 2:5 Licensee 1:23 2:7,15 line 2:25 long 5:24 Lounge 1:6 2:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M 3:4 ma'am 2:17,25 3:7 4:1 4:11,15,21 5:5,10,20 6:2,14,17 matter 1:5 3:18 4:2 5:11 matters 3:13 MEETING 1:3 Mekedes 1:23 2:8,12 3:4 Member 1:20,20 met 1:16 morning 2:17,23 3:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 2:19 3:3 need 3:1 4:16,19,20 5:22 NW 1:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O-N-I 2:21 O.G 1:23 Occupancy 1:11 offer 3:14 office 4:10 okay 3:25 4:25 5:15,15 5:15,16 6:2,3,3,9,10 6:10,11,18,18,19 Oni 1:23 2:18,20,20 3:12,14,21,23 online 2:7 Operating 1:11 Orellana 1:22 2:6,8 owner 3:8 5:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 person 5:25 phone 2:13,16,25 please 2:14,16,18,24 3:3 preliminary 3:13 PRESENT 1:18,21 presiding 1:17 provide 4:10 provides 5:1</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>question 4:15 questions 5:4,4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>record 2:19 3:3 relationship 3:7 rely 4:7 repeat 5:10 represent 5:23 required 4:8 5:9,12 response 3:16 Retailer 1:7 right 2:3,17 3:12 4:1 5:7 6:4,20,22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>saying 6:13 scheduled 3:18 4:2 5:3 see 5:8 seven 4:4,7 5:11 SHORT 1:20 show 1:7 3:18 SILAS 1:20 sorry 3:20 6:12,13 speak 5:23 6:1 spell 2:18 3:2 Staff 1:22 state 2:19 3:2 stated 4:12 Status 1:7 Substantial 1:10 sure 4:16 5:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>t/a 1:6 thank 2:11 3:10 6:5,18 6:19 time 5:10 turn 2:14,16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>Uh-huh 4:13,24 understand 4:12 5:19 unmute 2:13,15,24,25 3:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>videoconference 1:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>W 1:17,19 want 4:15 5:9 WebEx 1:16 Wednesday 1:14 welcome 6:6 witnesses 4:5,9 5:13</p> |
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X

Y

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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: Kezira Lounge

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 12-06-23

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.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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