

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Sane, Inc., :
t/a Sane Wine & Spirits :
1201 5th Street NW :
Retailer A - ANC 6E : Show Cause Hearing
License No. 107464 : (Status)
Case #19-CC-00137 :
 :
(Sale to Minor Violation, :
Failed to Take Steps :
Necessary to Ascertain :
Legal Drinking Age) :

Wednesday
December 9, 2020

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

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

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff
WALTER ADAMS, DC OAG
SELAWIT MENGESHA, Owner

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

2 10:35 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is Case No. 19-CC-00137, Sane
5 Wine & Spirits, License No. 107464. I will ask
6 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of
7 the parties in this case? I believe it's the
8 rights of the Government and I believe it's --
9 no, yeah, the rights of the parties in this case.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
12 and members of the Board. I'm Walter Adams
13 representing the District of Columbia.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
15 Mr. Adams. Can you please spell your name for
16 the record, please?

17 MR. ADAMS: Yes, it's Walter, W-A-L-T-
18 E-R, and Adams, A-D-A-M-S.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
20 Adams. I see Mr. Mengesha. If you have a
21 camera, please turn your camera on. And if not,
22 can you please unmute your microphone, please?
23 Do you have a camera, sir?

24 MS. MENGESHA: Hello. I do, but I'm
25 not sure if it's working. But my name is

1 Selamawit Mengesha.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. I
3 apologize, ma'am.

4 MS. MENGESHA: That's okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you
6 please spell your name for the record and please
7 identify what the name of -- what's your
8 relationship to the establishment.

9 MS. MENGESHA: My name is Selamawit,
10 S-E-L-A-M-A-W-I-T. Last name, M-E-N-G-E-S-H-A.
11 I am the owner for Sane Wine & Spirits.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you
13 please pronounce your name for me, ma'am, just to
14 help me moving forward?

15 MS. MENGESHA: Sure. Selamawit
16 Mengesha.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mengesha. Good
18 morning, Ms. Mengesha.

19 MS. MENGESHA: Good morning.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any
21 preliminary matters in this case?

22 MR. ADAMS: There's a preliminary
23 matter, Mr. Chairman. The parties have discussed
24 this case, and we are able to propose an Offer in
25 Compromise to the Board.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is
2 that, please?

3 MR. ADAMS: Yes, the Offer in
4 Compromise in this case, there are two charges in
5 this matter involving a sale to a minor
6 violation. The proposal is that for Charge 1
7 that the establishment be issued a warning and
8 that for Charge 2 that the Charge 2 be dismissed.
9 And that is the complete Offer in Compromise.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
11 -- just a question. I don't remember the facts
12 of this case. I know it's a sale to a minor
13 violation. Is this the establishment's first?
14 Just can you just factually explain to the Board
15 factually what happened in this case, please.

16 MR. ADAMS: Right. Yes, Mr. Chairman.
17 This is a case involving an underage minor
18 operation with the use of an undercover minor.
19 This is -- and of course, in this case, we're
20 alleging that the establishment sold it to the
21 undercover minor in this case.

22 This would be the establishment's
23 first violation of this kind. They have not had
24 a prior warning for sales to a minor. So under
25 the circumstances of this case, we believe that

1 the establishment is eligible to receive a
2 warning for a first circumstance.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
4 Thank you, Mr. Adams. Are there any questions by
5 the Board members for Mr. Adams?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
8 Mengesha --

9 MS. MENGESHA: Yes, Mengesha.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- it's my
11 understanding that there is an Offer in
12 Compromise, and the Offer in Compromise is that
13 for Charge 1, there is a warning, and that Charge
14 2 will just be dismissed. Is this your
15 understanding of the Offer in Compromise, ma'am?

16 MS. MENGESHA: Yes, it is.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you aware
18 that by accepting an Offer in Compromise that
19 you're giving up your right to a hearing?

20 MS. MENGESHA: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you also
22 aware that by accepting an Offer in Compromise
23 that you give up your right to appeal this
24 matter?

25 MS. MENGESHA: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. With
2 that said, I make a motion that the Offer in
3 Compromise for Charge 1 of a warning be accepted
4 and that Charge 2 will be dismissed. I make a
5 motion that the Offer in Compromise be accepted.
6 Is there a second?

7 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
9 second the motion. I will now take a roll call
10 vote on the motion that has been properly second
11 by Mr. Short. Mr. Short?

12 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

14 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?

16 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I
17 agree.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

19 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis, I agree.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

23 Anderson, I agree. The matter therefore passes
24 6-0-0. Thank you, Ms. Mengesha, thank you, Mr.
25 Adams, for coming to a solution to this issue.

1 And thank you very much, and have a great day.

2 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

3 MS. MENGESHA: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

5 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
6 went off the record at 10:40 a.m.)
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Sane Wine and Spirits

Before: DCABRA

Date: 12-09-20

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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