DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF: :

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Roundabout, LLC, : t/a Bar Elena DC : 414 H Street NE :

License #86320 : Protest Hearing

Retailer CT - ANC 6C : (Status)

Case # 20-PRO-00040

:

(Substantial Change - : Games of Skill : Endorsement) :

Thursday
December 10, 2020

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 JENI HANSEN, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff

JOEL KELTY, ANC 6C

BRYAN WESSON, Applicant's Representative

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	11:18 a.m.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4	on our calendar is Case No. 20-PRO-00040, Bar
5	Elena DC, License No. 86320. Ms. Andrews, can
6	you please elevate the rights to the Licensee and
7	the Protestant, please.
8	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. I'll take a
9	moment to remove the rights of the parties from
10	the last case.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
12	MS. ANDREWS: That's all, Mr. Chair.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I will ask
14	is for the Licensee to introduce him or herself,
15	or the Licensee's representative to introduce him
16	or herself for the record.
17	MR. WESSON: Yes, sir, my name is
18	Bryan Wesson, spelled B-R-Y-A-N, last name W-E-S-
19	S-O-N, and I am the non-attorney agent for Bar
20	Elena.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do we have
22	the ANC representative on the line?
23	MS. ANDREWS: He is not on the line.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you elevate

1 MS. ANDREWS: I'm sorry. I just 2 received the message in the chat. I'll elevate 3 their rights right now. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 4 5 MR. KELTY: Good morning. This is Joel Kelty again, Commissioner, for ANC 6C. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 8 apologize for that, Mr. Kelty. Are there any 9 preliminary matters? Mr. Wesson, are there any 10 preliminary matters in the case? I'm asking you 11 first to find out are there any preliminary 12 matters in this case? 13 MR. WESSON: Yes, sir. As of last 14 night at 7:38 p.m., it came to my attention that 15 Bar Elena will be going out of business. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are they going 17 out of business permanently? 18 MR. WESSON: I understand, I haven't 19 been able to get full details at this point. 20 It's my understanding that they are permanently 21 going out of business. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you want to 23 -- I'm not going to give you legal advice, 24 although I'm a lawyer and you're not a lawyer. 25 Do you want to withdraw the application?

want to suspend the application? What is it that you want the Board to do in this case?

MR. WESSON: If it's acceptable to the Board, I would like to suspend the application until I can get further details. Then I can reach out to the Board if that's acceptable with what is going on in regards to the location.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty, there's a motion being made by Mr. Wesson to suspend the application for the substantial change, game of skill application and then further determination from the ownership whether or not this place will be permanently closed or whether or not this Licensee will have a temporary pause in its operation.

MR. KELTY: ANC's preference would be that the application be withdrawn and resubmitted if they feel they need to in the future.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And why does the -- I'm just asking you, why is that the position of the ANC?

MR. KELTY: We're all volunteers and we've got plenty of work tracking all of the other ABRA business in our ANC. To be able to mark this one as off for the time being would be

helpful. I think that's also past practice, but I'm not sure.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm going to suggest to the Board, as a courtesy I did ask your opinion, but what I'm going to suggest to the Board, unless you formally file a motion for the Agency to dismiss this matter, I'm going to make a motion to the Board for us to suspend this game of skill endorsement application until Mr. Wesson is able to provide further clarity to the Board whether or not they will withdraw it or it will remain in suspension.

One of the only reasons I'm suggesting that we do that, Mr. Wesson, is that COVID is -unfortunately because of our new reality of
COVID, there are businesses that are either going
out of business, there has some temporary
closure. We don't know what tomorrow holds.
Because this is not what was considered regular
time, I'm going to have a little bit more
flexibility in dealing with businesses so we can
find out what are their long-term plans are.

I'm not sure, at least for this business, its long-term plan. Mr. Wesson, he's not the owner and he says it is my understanding,

and he hasn't said to me that the owner has specifically stated to me that he is closing and he does not want to pursue this matter anymore, I believe that given COVID, that the better route to take this morning is to suspend this matter and they will let us know.

Of course, if this matter moves forward you will be given notice of what is occurring. The Agency would not just say to you -- so we'll give you proper notice to move forward. As I said before, Mr. Wesson, he is just the rep and he has stated that it was just his understanding without giving us some direct information. So my motion then to the Board is that the Agency suspend the substantial change game of skill application in Case No. 20-PRO-00040 Bar Elena DC, License No. 86320. Is there a second?

MEMBER CROCKETT: Ms. Crockett seconds.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett has seconded the motion. We will now have a roll call vote on the motion that has been properly second by Ms. Crockett. Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?			
2	MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.			
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?			
4	MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I			
5	agree.			
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?			
7	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.			
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?			
9	MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis, I agree.			
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson,			
11	I agree. The matter passes 6-0-0. The ABC Board			
12	then has moved to suspend the substantial change			
13	game of skill application for the Bar Elena DC			
14	matter. I want to thank both parties for their			
15	presentation today. If there are no other			
16	questions, this case is concluded.			
17	MR. KELTY: Thank you, bye-bye.			
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very			
19	much.			
20	MR. WESSON: Thank you to the Board.			
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. And			
22	with this, we have now concluded our morning			
23	agenda. The Board will now go into executive			
24	session. We will reconvene at 1:30 p.m. Thank			
25	you very much. The Board will now go into			

1	executive session. Thank you.
2	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
3	went off the record at 11:27 a.m.)
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Bar Elena

Before: DCABRA

Date: 12-10-20

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

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