# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + + ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD + + + + + ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :

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Nunez Property
Management, LLC
t/a Buho's Restaurant

t/a Buho's Restaurant : 3521 14th Street NW : Roll Call Retailer CT : Hearing

License No. 115711 : Case #22-PRO-00137 :

(License Renewal) :

Monday
December 12, 2022

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher, Board's Agent, presiding.

#### PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

#### ALSO PRESENT:

JESSICA MAI, Protestant
DAN DEGAGNE, Protestant
JESSICA McCLURE, Protestant
MARK RUSSELL, Protestant
KYLASH RAMESH, Protestant
BRANDON CYPRESS, Protestant
TIMOTHY BROOKINS, Protestant
SARINAH SAMSUDIN, Protestant
LIN LAWSON, Protestant

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	10:18 a.m.
3	MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the
4	calendar is Buho's Restaurant, case number 22-
5	PRO-00137. This is Nunez Property Management,
6	LLC, 3521 14th Street NW, license number ABRA
7	115711. This is a Retailer Class CT. It's a
8	license renewal.
9	The protest issues are adverse impact
10	on peace, order and quiet and residential parking
11	and vehicular and pedestrian safety.
12	Is anyone present on behalf of the
13	establishment? Is anyone present on behalf of
14	the establishment? Is anyone present on behalf
15	of the group of 12?
16	MS. MAI: Yes, ma'am. This morning,
17	present on behalf of the group of 12 is myself,
18	Jessica Mai.
19	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai, would you
20	spell your name, please?
21	MS. MAI: Sure, it's J-E-S-S-I-C-A
22	last name is Mai A-I. In addition to myself, we
23	have several of the other signatory residents as
24	well, who will also identify themselves.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, we're ready.

1	MR. DEGAGNE: Yes, Dan Degagne here.
2	Last name D-E-G-A-G-N-E.
3	MS. FLETCHER: And what's the first
4	name?
5	MR. DEGAGNE: Dan D-A-N.
6	MS. FLETCHER: Oh, Dan is the first
7	name?
8	MR. DEGAGNE: Yes.
9	MS. FLETCHER: So, Dan, what's the
10	last name?
11	MR. DEGAGNE: Degagne D-E-G-A-G-N-E.
12	MS. FLETCHER: Okay and the next
13	person?
14	MS. McCLURE: This is Jessica McClure.
15	First name J-E-S-S-I-C-A last name M-C-C-L-U-R-E.
16	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. McClure.
17	Next person, please?
18	MR. RUSSELL: My name is Mark Russell
19	M-A-R-K R-U-S-S-E-L-L.
20	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone
21	else?
22	MR. RAMESH: Hey, my name is Kylash
23	Ramesh. First name Kylash K-Y-L-A-S-H last name
24	Ramesh R-A-M-E-S-H.
25	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone
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else? 1 MR. CYPRESS: I'm Brandon Cypress B-R-2 A-N-D-O-N C-Y-P-R-E-S-S. 3 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. 4 Anyone 5 else? MR. BROOKINS: Hi, this is Timothy 6 First name T-I-M-O-T-H-Y last name B-7 Brookins. R-O-O-K-I-N-S. 8 9 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Brookins. Anyone else? 10 MS. SAMSUDIN: This is Sarinah 11 12 Samsudin. First name S-A-R-I-N-A-H last name S-A-M-S-U-D-I-N, Samsudin. 13 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. 14 15 else? Okay, so I count the presence of eight. Is that right? I count the presence of eight, at 16 17 least five of you are present from the group which means that the group is granted full 18 19 standing as protestants. So, you have four designated 20 21 representatives in this case. Could you pick one 22 designated representative to represent the other 23 designated representatives and then if that person can't come to a proceeding, one of the 24 25 three other designated representatives can come?

So, I have Jessica Mai, Mark Russell, Sarinah 1 Samsudin and Brandon Cypress as designated 2 representatives for this group. You can pick 3 We normally send invitations to one 4 designated representative, but because you have 5 four, we can send one to two. 6 7 MS. MAI: Ms. Fletcher, one administrative question. This is Jessica Mai 8 9 speaking at the moment. The meetings moving forward after this roll call session, are they 10 going to be held virtually as well? 11 12 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, until further notice all of our hearings are being held 13 virtually, including the mediation. 14 15 MS. MAI: Okay, great in that 16 instance, the two primaries for the primaries 17 that you can designate are going to myself, Jessica Mai, and Mark Russell. You can go ahead 18 and send those invitations to us and then we will 19 coordinate accordingly to make sure that we have 20 attendance at each meeting moving forward. 21 22 MS. FLETCHER: Thanks and you may 23 forward the invitation to the others if you like. Okay, perfect. Can we, if 24 MS. MAI:

for some reason the four people that we've

identified, if one of the four cannot attend, can we designate another person? One out of the eight that are here this morning?

MS. FLETCHER: Yes, you can designate any member from your -- well, anyone actually from your group of 12 or anyone, whoever you decide is going to be your designated representative is fine.

MS. MAI: Okay, perfect. We just want to make sure that we have a cohesive message so that we coordinate for the meetings and make sure that enough people are in attendance.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, well thank you,
Ms. Mai. Any questions from anyone else?

MS. MAI: Yes, I also have another administrative question. We send in a Freedom of Information Act request on 13 September for the volume of online and phone-in calls to the ABRA regarding Buho's Restaurant. As of this morning, the request is still in process. We just want to urge the ABRA's FOIA officer, we understand that his name is Austin Hill, to provide us that information as soon as possible.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, although that's not a roll call issue, I will pass that message

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1	along.
2	MS. MAI: Perfect. Thank you.
3	MS. FLETCHER: One second. Is anyone
4	present on behalf of the establishment?
5	MS. LAWSON: Excuse me. I just joined
6	by audio. I was not able to download Webex. My
7	name is Lin Lawson, so I'm a little late.
8	MS. FLETCHER: And, Ms. Lawson, which
9	case are you here for?
10	MS. LAWSON: For the petition against
11	Buho's.
12	MS. FLETCHER: Okay, you're
13	representing the establishment?
14	MS. LAWSON: I am not. I'm a
15	resident.
16	MS. FLETCHER: Oh, you're a resident?
17	Okay. Can you spell your name, please?
18	MS. LAWSON: My first name is L-I-N
19	last name L-A-W-S-O-N.
20	MS. FLETCHER: Okay, so you're a
21	member of the group, so that means that nine
22	individuals from the group are present today.
23	Thank you.
24	There is no one present on behalf of
25	the establishment. The time is approximately

10:27, which means that the application for license renewal is dismissed.

What happens next is the Applicant will receive a Board order dismissing the application because they're not present today. You'll receive a copy of that order, the protestants, Ms. Mai and Mr. Russell, you'll receive a copy of that Board order. The Applicant will have 10 days to seek reinstatement of the protest upon receipt of the order and if they do, then you'll be informed and you'll have an opportunity to respond to their request to reinstate the application and then we go from there.

Any questions about that?

MS. MAI: Yes, Ms. Fletcher, this is Jessica Mai speaking again. So, what is the operational impact of this to Buho's itself? Are they going to continue to operate (Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. FLETCHER: (Simultaneous speaking.) Right now, the impact on the operation, there is no impact on the operation at this point. We need to first dismiss the application, get a response, give you an

opportunity to respond to a response and then beyond that, the Board will decide what happens next, but at this point, there is no impact to the operation of the establishment.

MS. MAI: Okay, I just want to make sure that, you know, on the residents' side, we have done everything. We have been very proactive in communication. I just want to make sure that the ABC Board is holding Buho's Restaurant accountable as well in this process because they have been non-responsive to us historically in informal communication.

Now that we are in formal communications, and technically what is considered a legal process to consider their alcohol license renewal, we need to make sure that they are on the same page as well and that they are not intentionally slow rolling us in this process, because this impacts our day-to-day lives. Their continued negligence on this issue is continuing to disrupt the health and safety issues in our neighborhood. The longer they do not respond, the longer these issues are exacerbated.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, so Ms. Mai, we

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sent the Webex invitation to the e-mail address that we have. We will reach out to the Applicant again. We'll keep you posted along the way. If the Applicant does not respond, the Board will decide what happens next.

MS. MAI: Okay, perfect and so for the purposes of moving forward, I also wanted to note that we understand, per the e-mail correspondence previously as well, there is the substantive change protest.

We understand that those are separate. We have already finalized and plan to send to you the Letter of Opposition, specifically against the substantive change to add the Games of Skill endorsement.

MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai, let me just interrupt you for just a second. For the purpose of the roll call, we've got to stick with the license renewal, but I heard you. There's an upcoming application that you're also going to protest.

MS. MAI: Yes, (Simultaneous speaking.) so administratively, the date on the placard for that roll call meeting is (Simultaneous speaking.) not in January.

1	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai, we can't talk
2	about that application during the license renewal
3	process.
4	MS. MAI: Okay (Simultaneous
5	speaking.) overarchingly, it's the same issue
6	so
7	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai
8	MS. MAI: We just want to make sure
9	that (Simultaneous speaking.) we are
10	(Simultaneous speaking.) our intent to submit
11	that letter.
12	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai, we are not
13	talking about that application during the license
14	renewal process, but feel free to mail or e-mail
15	the licensing division beyond that or you can
16	even e-mail me, but today we can only deal with
17	the license renewal matters.
18	MS. MAI: Yeah, that's fine, but while
19	we are all here collectively, I just want to go
20	ahead and make that note for the record
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Mai, I need you to
23	listen to what
24	MS. MAI: That we intend to submit
25	that

MS. FLETCHER: I need you to listen to 1 what I'm saying. We are not going to discuss 2 that application during the license renewal 3 process, but you have gotten some information on 4 5 the record related to that, but we deal with one application at a time. 6 7 MS. MAI: Okay, I'm going to go ahead and state that we plan to submit another letter. 8 9 Thank you --10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. 11 MS. MAI: For allowing me to speak. Okay, thank you. 12 MS. FLETCHER: 13 so the application for the license renewal is dismissed because the Applicant is not present 14 15 today and I've already explained what happens Ms. Mai, if you have any questions or 16 17 concerns at any later point, feel free to send me an e-mail. 18 I just want to make sure 19 MS. MAI: that everyone is holding the Buho's Restaurant 20 applicants accountable for their actions. 21 22 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, anything else? 23 MS. MAI: And inaction. That's it. Okay, well then I will 24 MS. FLETCHER: 25 go ahead and conclude the roll call hearing in

this matter. Thank you for coming. We'll keep you informed. The roll call hearing in the matter of Buho's Restaurant is concluded. Thank you. (Whereupon, the proceeding went off the record at 10:32 a.m.) 

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Buho's Restaurant

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 12-12-22

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

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