

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
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ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:
Addis Incorporated
t/a King Convenience Store:
1535 U Street SE : Roll Call
Retailer B - ANC 8A : Hearing
License No. 089932
Case #23-PRO-00097
(License Renewal)
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Monday
December 18, 2023

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

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABC Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

- SEYOUME WOURKNEH, Applicant
EMANUEL MPRAS, Applicant Representative
PATRICK O'KEEFE, Protestant Representative
DANIEL MCGEE, Protestant
EMILY MCGEE, Protestant
ANDREW SCHISCTEL, Protestant
JULIA ROBERSON, Protestant
TRACI JOHNSON, Protestant

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

2 10:25 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: The next case on the
4 calendar is King Convenience Store. This is Case
5 Number 23-PRO-00097, Addis Incorporated, 1535 U
6 Street Southeast, License Number ABRA 089932.
7 This is a retailer Class B grocery license
8 renewal. The protest issues are adverse impact
9 on peace, order, and quiet. Is anyone present on
10 behalf of King's Convenience Store?

11 MR. MPRAS: Emanuel Mpras representing
12 King's Convenience Store.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, Mr.
14 Mpras.

15 MR. MPRAS: Good morning, Ms.
16 Fletcher.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Spell your name for the
18 record, please.

19 MR. MPRAS: E-M-A-N-U-E-L, last name
20 M-P-R-A-S.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Is the applicant here,
22 as well?

23 MR. MPRAS: Yes.

24 MS. FLETCHER: If you will state your
25 name and spell it for the record, please?

1 The applicant? If you would state
2 your name and spell it for the record? Mr.
3 Mpras, is that going to be Mr. Wourkneh?

4 MR. MPRAS: Yes. I see him here, but
5 maybe he's having technical difficulties.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, that's fine. I
7 will note that he's here. I see his initials.
8 Is that S.W., Mr. Mpras?

9 MR. MPRAS: The initials are S.W.
10 First name, I'll spell that. It's SAY -- S-E-Y-
11 O-U-M-E, last name W-O-U-R-K-N-E-H.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. I see him.
13 Maybe he is having technical difficulties, but
14 I'm documenting the fact that he is present
15 today. Is anyone present on behalf of Group 11?

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Good morning, Ms.
17 Fletcher. My name is Patrick O'Keefe, spelled P-
18 A-T-R-I-C-K, last name O'K-E-E-F-E. I'm the
19 designated representative for this group and I'm
20 joined by five other representatives.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.
22 Would those individuals please state their names
23 and spell them for the record?

24 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Traci Johnson.
25 And that's T-R-A-C-I, last name J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

3 MS. ROBERSON: Hi, this is Julia

4 Roberson. J-U-L-I-A R-O-B-E-R-S-O-N.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

6 MR. SCHISCTEL: Andrew Schichtel, A-N-

7 D-R-E-W. Last name is S-C-H-I-C-H-T-E-L.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. The next
9 person?

10 MS. MCGEE: Emily McGee. E-M-I-L-Y M-
11 -C-G-E-E.

12 MS. FLETCHER: And the next person?

13 MR. MCGEE: Daniel McGee, D-A-N-I-E-L
14 M-C-G-E-E.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. There are
16 a total of six individuals present, which means
17 that the group has standing as a protestant.

18 MR. MPRAS: Ms. Fletcher?

19 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Mpras?

20 MR. MPRAS: I'd like to object to that
21 and I'd like to state the reasons for my
22 objection.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Oh okay.

24 MR. MPRAS: This protest was filed in
25 violation of 231602.4.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. MPRAS: Which specifically
3 requires -- groups of five or more residents
4 protesting must sign their protest. These
5 protests were not signed by the residents. This
6 protest was apparently prepared by one person, as
7 each and every alleged signature on the protest
8 was created by some type of forms automation
9 tool.

10 They're not e-signatures, they're not
11 actual signatures, it is not signed, and thus it
12 must be dismissed. The only provision for each
13 signature is for ANCs and the community register,
14 community or civic associations. This does not
15 qualify.

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Ms. Fletcher, this is
17 Patrick O'Keefe.

18 MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, go ahead,
19 Mr. O'Keefe.

20 MR. O'KEEFE: This is Patrick O'Keefe,
21 spelled P-A-T-R-I-C-K O'K-E-E-F-E. I have
22 written confirmation from the ABCA general
23 counsel that the format that the signatures were
24 collected in was acceptable for this purpose, so
25 if there's any question about that we would

1 request an opportunity for an update to the file.
2 But I did confirm specifically that this type of
3 documentation was appropriate and would be
4 sufficient --

5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6 MR. MPRAS: Oh, this must be done
7 prior to the protest filing date. You cannot
8 amend a supplement, as you all know.

9 Now, also it doesn't matter if they
10 gave some type of other permission, all this has
11 to be done pursuant to Chapter 49 of the D.C.
12 Code, also known as a Uniform Electronic Transfer
13 Act, and the board is bound by that, and the
14 board signs its orders according to that act.
15 This protest is null and void because it was not
16 properly executed prior to the protest filing
17 date.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Just for the court
19 reporter, that was Mr. Mpras speaking. M-P-R-A-
20 S. Mr. O'Keefe, Mr. Mpras as well, the board has
21 been accepting these types of signatures, and so
22 I'm going to accept them today. Mr. Mpras, you
23 intend to file a motion to dismiss?

24 MR. MPRAS: Absolutely.

25 MS. FLETCHER: I will go ahead and

1 give you the dates, and of course if the board
2 decides to dismiss the protest, then all these
3 dates go away. But I will give them to you today
4 as they have been scheduled.

5 The day for the status hearing is
6 February 7, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The day for the
7 protest hearing is March 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. We
8 need to set a date for mediation. I will give
9 you the next available day. The next available
10 day for mediation is Friday, January 5. That's
11 the next available day.

12 MR. MPRAS: Well, Ms. Fletcher, could
13 -- can you give us the week after? I'd like the
14 board to have time to rule on the motion.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. How about
16 Tuesday, January 16 at 10:30 or 11:30?

17 MR. MPRAS: Either works for me,
18 10:30's fine.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. What about you,
20 Mr. O'Keefe?

21 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Either works for
22 me, thank you.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Then let's make it
24 10:30. Excuse me one second. King Convenience
25 mediation is set for Tuesday, January 16 at

1 10:30. And Mr. O'Keefe?

2 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes, ma'am?

3 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Mpras is going to
4 be filing a motion to dismiss your protest. If
5 the board approves that or not, you will be
6 informed. You'll also have an opportunity to
7 respond to Mr. Mpras's motion to dismiss.

8 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay, understood. Thank
9 you, ma'am.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Unless there are
11 any questions, this matter is concluded.

12 MR. MPRAS: Thank you, Ms. Fletcher.
13 Have a good day.

14 MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. Bye.

17 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
19 went off the record at 10:34 a.m.)
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22
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24
25

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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: King Convenience Store

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 12-18-23

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.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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