

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
+ + + + +
ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
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Aki & Muller Corporation :
t/a Wheeler Market :
4133 Wheeler Road SE :
Retailer B - ANC 8C :
License No. 088835 :
Case #23-PRO-00084 :
 :
(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:

MULUGETA WOLDEABZGHI, Applicant
COMMISSIONER SALIM ADOFO, ANC 8C
COMMISSIONER DOLORES BRYANT, ANC 8E
LESHAWN HUBBARD, Witness

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

2 10:05 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, we're all
4 livestreamed to YouTube. Good morning everyone,
5 my name is Laverne Fletcher. I'll be conducting
6 the roll call hearing as the board's agent.
7 There are five cases on the calendar today.

8 The first case on the calendar is
9 Wheeler Market, Case Number 23-PRO-00084, Aki and
10 Muller Corporation, 4133 Wheeler Road Southeast,
11 License Number ABRA-088835. This is a retailer
12 Class B grocery and it is a license renewal. Is
13 there anyone present on behalf of Wheeler Market?

14 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Yes?

16 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: My name is Mulugeta
17 Woldeabzghi and I'm the owner for Wheeler Market,
18 and then I will be presenting Wheeler Market.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. One second
20 please, I'm going to turn up my volume. Could
21 you please state your name one more time and
22 spell it for the record?

23 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Sure. Mulugeta
24 Woldeabzghi. M-U-L-U-G-E-T-A, Woldeabzghi, W-O-
25 L-D-E-A-B-Z-G-H-I. Mulugeta Woldeabzghi.

1 MS. FLETCHER: You pronounce the last
2 name how again?

3 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Woldeabzghi.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Woldeabzghi?

5 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone present on behalf of ANC 8C?

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good morning,
9 Commissioner Adofo present.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Adofo.
11 If you would spell your name for the record,
12 please?

13 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: First name S-A-L-
14 I-M, last name A-D-O-F-O.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.
16 ANC 8C does have standing as a protestant. We
17 need to set a date for mediation, a status
18 hearing, and a protest hearing. I will give you
19 the dates for the status and protest hearing
20 first.

21 The status hearing is scheduled for
22 February 7, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The protest
23 hearing is scheduled for March 6, 2024 at 1:30
24 p.m. We need to set a date for mediation.

25 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: February 7 at 10:30

1 a.m. and March 6 --

2 MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I'm sorry, I should
3 have told you. Before you speak, if you would
4 state your name for the court reporter? Is the
5 court reporter present? I don't see anybody, but
6 I know you're here somewhere.

7 COURT REPORTER: Yes ma'am, I'm
8 present.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you. I see
10 you now. Thank you very much. So could you --
11 who was just speaking?

12 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Mulugeta Woldeabzghi
13 on behalf of Wheeler Market.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Yes, and what were you
15 saying?

16 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: I was confirming the
17 dates, if you can repeat those dates?

18 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. The status
19 hearing is February 7 at 10:30 a.m. The protest
20 hearing is March 6 at 1:30 p.m. I'm going to
21 give you the next available dates for mediation
22 which will be in the month of January. The next
23 available day for mediation is Thursday, January
24 4, any time between 10:30 and 1:30. That's the
25 next available day.

1 Mr. Woldeabzghi, does that work for
2 you?

3 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes.

4 MS. FLETCHER: That day works for you,
5 January 4?

6 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Do you have a
8 preference in terms of time? Any time between
9 10:30 and 1:30?

10 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Ten thirty will be
11 fine.

12 MS. FLETCHER: What time?

13 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Ten thirty will be
14 fine.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Ten? Mr. Adofo, does
16 10:30 work for you on January 4?

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

19 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Ms. Fletcher, if I
20 may? This is Mulugeta Woldeabzghi.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

22 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: We are represented
23 by ANC 8E and Mr. Adofo is -- represents 8 -- ANC
24 8C, so I'm not sure if there is any ground to
25 bring a protest. And I just want a clarification

1 on that.

2 MS. FLETCHER: So, ANC 8C does have
3 grounds and standing to file a protest, and they
4 have been granted the standing as a protestant,
5 but what are you saying about 8E? Did you say
6 they're representing you?

7 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Eight E is where we
8 are located for Washington Highlands, and we are
9 represented by ANC 8E. And then we have our own
10 commission -- commissioner. And --

11 MS. FLETCHER: And so -- mm-hmm?

12 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes. So, our
13 commissioner is not bringing this up, so Mr.
14 Adofo from ANC 8C is bringing the case. So if
15 there is any ground for him to bring this case?

16 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. ANC -- just a
17 second. Yes, to answer your question.

18 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Okay.

19 MS. FLETCHER: So, you -- do you have
20 a representative on your behalf here today from
21 8E?

22 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes, I do. How are
23 you --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MS. FLETCHER: So, if anyone is

1 present representing the applicant, would you
2 please state your name and spell it for the
3 record, please?

4 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Yes ma'am. My
5 name is Commissioner Dolores Bryant, D-O-L-O-R-E-
6 S B-R-Y-A-NT.

7 MS. FLETCHER: And Ms. Bryant, you're
8 the single member district?

9 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Yes ma'am.

10 MS. FLETCHER: And you're going to be
11 representing the applicant going forward?

12 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Yes ma'am.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Woldeabzghi, I
14 don't see anything in the record with you
15 designating Ms. Bryant as your representative.
16 You'll need to do that if she's going to be your
17 designated representative.

18 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Okay. So how do I
19 do that? Is it I send a formal letter?

20 MS. FLETCHER: You can send an email,
21 you can send it to -- do you have my email
22 address, lavernefletcher --

23 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes. Yes.

24 MS. FLETCHER: You can send it to me
25 and just indicate that Ms. Bryant is going to be

1 your designated representative in this matter.

2 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. FLETCHER: And then we'll include
4 it in the record, and what that means is that
5 going forward she'll receive a copy of any
6 communication that we send to you.

7 MR. WOLDEABZGHI: Okay. Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Ms. Fletcher, if
10 I may?

11 MS. FLETCHER: So is this Ms. Bryant
12 speaking?

13 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Mm-hmm?

15 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: So, coming
16 January the 4, we are -- the hearing is going to
17 be about -- I just need clarification -- I'm
18 sorry -- because I thought this was the hearing
19 today.

20 MS. FLETCHER: No, this -- today is
21 the roll call hearing, today is where the board
22 determines who the parties are and to address any
23 preliminary issues that come up.

24 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: Yes ma'am, thank
25 you.

1 MS. FLETCHER: And so is there
2 anything else, Ms. Bryant?

3 COMMISSIONER BRYANT: No ma'am.

4 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Mediation is
5 scheduled for Thursday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m.
6 If there are no other questions in this matter,
7 this roll call hearing is concluded, and thank
8 you for coming. Mr. Adofo, the next case on the
9 calendar is yours, as well.

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
12 went off the record at 10:15 a.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A-D-O-F-O 3:14 a.m 2:2 3:22 4:1,19 9:5 9:12 ABC 1:16 above-entitled 9:11 ABRA-088835 2:11 address 7:22 8:22 Adofo 1:19 3:8,9,10,13 5:15,17,23 6:14 9:8 9:10 agent 1:14,16 2:6 Aki 1:6 2:9 Alcoholic 1:2,13 ANC 1:7,19,19 3:7,16 5:23,23 6:2,9,14,16 answer 6:17 anybody 4:5 applicant 1:18 7:1,11 available 4:21,23,25</p>	<p>court 4:4,5,7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>D-O-L-O-R-E- 7:5 date 3:17,24 dates 3:19 4:17,17,21 day 4:23,25 5:4 December 1:11 designated 7:17 8:1 designating 7:15 determines 8:22 district 1:1 7:8 Dolores 1:19 7:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>E 6:7 Eight 6:7 email 7:20,21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>January 4:22,23 5:5,16 8:16 9:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>know 4:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>L-D-E-A-B-Z-G-H-I 2:25 LaVerne 1:13,16 2:5 lavernefletcher 7:22 LESHAWN 1:20 letter 7:19 license 1:8,9 2:11,12 livestreamed 2:4 located 6:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M-U-L-U-G-E-T-A 2:24 ma'am 4:7 5:17 7:4,9,12 8:2,7,13,24 9:3 March 3:23 4:1,20 Market 1:6 2:9,13,17,18 4:13 matter 1:5 8:1 9:6,11 means 8:4 mediation 3:17,24 4:21 4:23 9:4 member 7:8 met 1:13 mm-hmm 6:11 8:14 Monday 1:11 month 4:22 morning 2:4 3:8 Muller 1:6 2:10 Mulugeta 1:18 2:16,23 2:25 4:12 5:20</p>	<p>preference 5:8 preliminary 8:23 present 1:15,17 2:13 3:7,9 4:5,8 7:1 presenting 2:18 presiding 1:14 pronounce 3:1 protest 3:18,19,22 4:19 5:25 6:3 protestant 3:16 6:4</p>
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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: Wheeler Market

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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