DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF:

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Etete Ethiopian Cuisine, :
Inc., :

t/a 1942 DC

1942 9th Street NW : Protest

Retailer CT - ANC 1B : Hearing (Status)

License No. 70728 Case #19-PRO-00136

:

(Application to Renew the: License) :

Wednesday February 26, 2020

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson, presiding.

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
JENI HANSEN, Member
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member
ALSO PRESENT:
ANDREW KLINE, Counsel for Applicant

DAN ORLASKEY, Protestant, ANC 1B

9:53 a.m.

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

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on our calendar is Case No. 19-PRO-00136, 1942 DC,
License No. 70728. Will the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record,

please?

MR. KLINE: Good morning, Andrew Kline on behalf of the Applicant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
Mr. Kline.

MR. ORLASKEY: Dan Orlaskey, ANC 1B.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
Mr. Orlaskey. This matter is scheduled for -Are there preliminary matters in this case?

MR. KLINE: Namely that, Mr. Chairman, that we will be filing a similar motion in this case that we referenced in one of the earlier cases, to dismiss the protest on the ground that the protest letter on its face does not say why it is under one or more of the appropriateness grounds the application of the premises is appropriate for issuance.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This matter then is scheduled for a protest hearing on April 1st

at 4:30. All right, now that we have dispensed with the preliminary matters, there is a preliminary matter that the Board has that we would like to raise with the parties. I'm well aware that our general counsel has already raised this issue with you in the hopes that you would cooperate with the calendar need of the agents of the Board.

Specifically, this case, Case No. 19-PRO-00136, is an application to renew the license and the protest hearing is scheduled for April 1st at 4:30. There is also another protest case pending for 1942 DC, Case No. 19-PRO-00165, and that concerns an application for substantial change. That protest is scheduled for April 22, 2020 at 4:30, and the status hearing is actually scheduled for April 18, 2020.

Given that both protests involve the same parties, the Applicant and the ANC, and that the protest issues are the same, the Board is inclined to consolidate the two protests into one hearing as we have done several times in the past where more than one protest is pending against an Applicant involving the same parties. To that end, we will keep the protest status hearing for

Case No. 19-PRO-00165 on March 18th at 9:30, and then I will leave on the parties whether they want to schedule the consolidated protest hearings for April 1, 2020 at 4:30 for Case No. 19-PRO-00136 or April 22nd at 4:30 for Case No. 19-PRO-00165. You get to choose.

We want to settle this matter, and we prefer that the cases be consolidated, and you can let us know whether or not April 1st or April 22nd would work for both parties.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, this is the first I'm hearing of this. I can't say that my associate, Ms. Yohannes, may not have heard about this, but this is the first I'm hearing of it. I would want to confer with our client before making any decisions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, one is a renewal, one is a substantial change. It's the same parties. Why are we going to have two hearings, one on April 1st and one on April 22nd with the same parties? What harm will there be to each party to consolidate the matter into one hearing?

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I don't know because I don't know what the issues are.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline.	
2	MR. KLINE: I'm being quite serious.	
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know, but	
4	you're	
5	MR. KLINE: I have a protest letter	
6	that says we protest on the grounds of peace,	
7	order and quiet. We don't have a why, so I don't	
8	know whether the issues are the same or not.	
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But one is for	
10	substantial change and one is for renewal of the	
11	license. That's what it is.	
12	MR. KLINE: I understand.	
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A substantial	
14	change and a renewal of the license. Now the	
15	case that we just called, is that the renewal or	
16	is that the substantial change?	
17	MR. KLINE: The one before you?	
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The one that's	
19	for renewal of the application.	
20	MR. KLINE: Renewal.	
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what harm is	
22	there to either side not to have one hearing, one	
23	consolidated hearing?	
24	MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, if I don't	
25	know what the issues are, I don't know how I even	

make that decision. I mean, at this point, we have been told nothing as to what their concerns are with respect to this establishment by the Protestant. So how is it I would know whether the issues are the same or the issues are different? I don't know. I mean, my suspicion is they can probably be heard together, but I'm a bit uncomfortable making the decision on the spot without conferring with the party affected, which is our client.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, if --

MR. KLINE: I mean, I don't mean to be difficult, but I mean, I think that, you know, had I had some advance warning that this was going to be an issue, then I would have conferred with the client and been prepared to address it with you today.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can only go with what our general counsel has informed us, that they have been in contact with your office regarding these two cases.

MR. ORLASKEY: I was notified of that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm not sure how is it that your office has not been aware that this has been an issue for the Board.

MR. KLINE: I'm not saying that we're not. As I said at the outset, I wasn't aware of it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board is inclined to consolidate both matters.

MR. KLINE: Understood. And all other things being equal, I think that makes sense, but as I said, I'm not sure that I have complete information to make the decision.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When is it that you believe that you can get back to the Board whether or not you will agree to consolidate both matters?

MR. KLINE: By the end of the day.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: By the end of the day, and then we can -- And if the matters are consolidated, would it be preferable to have it on April 1st or April 22nd?

MR. KLINE: I would like to get back, with all due respect, to the Board on that issue, as well, because I'm not sure whether the witnesses would be the same, given that one is a renewal. I mean, I think the issues are slightly different on a substantial change than a renewal. We don't see the issues as being identical,

1	because obviously if we've applied for a	
2	substantial change, we want to make a change. We	
3	want to do something different, and we think	
4	that's a different level of proof than if we want	
5	to just continue what we've been doing and have	
6	the license renewed. So, you know, I want to	
7	look at those issues, but we'll do it quickly. I	
8	mean, I'm not here to be an obstacle or to delay	
9	the Board's calendar. We'll respond quickly, but	
10	we just need to ask to be given until the end of	
11	the day. Given that both dates should be open at	
12	this point, I would suspect that it shouldn't be	
13	an issue as to which would be preferable, you	
14	know, unless the ANC has an issue with one date	
15	or the other.	
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Fine. Mr.	
17	Orlaskey?	
18	MR. ORLASKEY: We have no issue with	
19	combining the protests. We prefer the late date	
20	because we already have one on the 1st.	
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank	
22	you.	
23	MR. KLINE: Thank you.	
24	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter	
25	went off the record at 10:01:08 a.m.)	

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: 1942 DC

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-26-20

Place: Washington, DC

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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