

IN THE MATTER OF: :  
:  
Balkan Concepts, LLC, :  
t/a Ambar :  
523 8th Street SE :  
Retailer CR - ANC 6B : Protest Hearing  
License No. 90240 : (Status)  
Case #19-PRO-00102 :  
:  
(Substantial Change :  
(Request to Expand to the:  
Third Floor with 56 :  
Additional Seats. :  
Total Occupancy :  
Load 140 to 196)) :

Wednesday  
December 11, 2019

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  
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member  
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member  
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

SIDON YOHANNES, Counsel for Applicant  
CHANDER JAYARAMAN, ANC 6B

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

9:50 a.m.

MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, everyone.

I would like to welcome you to the regular scheduled meeting of the District of Columbia Alcohol and Beverage Control Board. Today is December 11th, 2019 and it is actually our last scheduled hearing for the year. I would like to introduce members of the board with us today. To my far right is Ms. Rafi Crockett. To my far left is Ms. Rema Wahabzadah To her left is -- and to my immediate left is Mr. James Short. My name is Donovan Anderson. I am Chairman of the Board. We have four members in attendance today, so we do have a quorum.

I would like to mention three things before we get started. First, if you have any electronic devices -- pagers, cell phone or such -- please make certain that they're turned off to avoid any interruption of the proceeding.

Secondly, there is a piece of paper at each table. When you come forward as your case is called, please take a seat at the table and please sign in. This is to ensure the correct spelling of your name for the record. Lastly,

1 please note that today's meeting of the Alcoholic  
2 Beverage Control Board is governed by the Open  
3 Meetings Act. Please address any questions or  
4 complaints to the Office of Open Government at  
5 OpenGovOffice@ec.gov.

6 I would note that the approximate time  
7 is 9:40 -- 9:51 a.m. I do apologize for starting  
8 late today. Our first order of business is a  
9 protest hearing status. Case number 19-PRO-00102  
10 Ambar, License No. 90240. Would the parties  
11 please approach and identify themselves on the  
12 record, please?

13 MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes on  
14 behalf of the Applicant.

15 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Ms.  
16 Yohannes.

17 MS. YOHANNES: Good morning.

18 MR. JAYARAMAN: Chander Jayaraman,  
19 Chairman of ANC 6B.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Jayaraman.  
21 All right, are there any preliminary matters to  
22 discuss?

23 MS. YOHANNES: No preliminary matters.  
24 We will likely be settling and submitting an  
25 agreement shortly.

1 MR. ANDERSON: All right, then this  
2 matter is scheduled for a protest hearing on  
3 January 15th, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

4 MR. JAYARAMAN: If I could say one --  
5 one thing for the record.

6 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

7 MR. JAYARAMAN: Last night -- we did  
8 bring this up last night. ANC 6B did vote to  
9 withdraw the protest and support renewal.  
10 However, it was contingent upon the receipt of a  
11 signed settlement agreement, which is what  
12 remains to be received by the Applicant. And  
13 once that happens, we expect to submit that  
14 letter with the -- with a settlement agreement  
15 that's excused by both parties.

16 MR. ANDERSON: Well, I am glad to hear  
17 that. So I am going to be so disappointed that I  
18 don't see you guys in January, but you know --

19 (Laughter.)

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MR. JAYARAMAN: We'll be here in  
22 January.

23 MR. ANDERSON: At least on this case.  
24 But I'll get over it. But I mean, in all  
25 seriousness though, I -- I always support parties

1 settling matters because I have always stated  
2 that this is your neighborhood. You best know  
3 what works in your neighborhood, rather than the  
4 board making a decision. Because at least when  
5 there are agreements, then both sides leave and  
6 they're happy. When the board makes a decision,  
7 folks are -- not everyone is going to be happy.  
8 But I hope -- I continue -- I -- I do wish you  
9 guys good luck in your -- that the settlement  
10 agreement will be signed. And as I stated  
11 before, I do not take it personally if I don't  
12 see you -- if you don't show up for the protest  
13 hearing. But let the board know -- let the  
14 agency know as quickly as possible so we can take  
15 this off our calendar.

16 MR. JAYARAMAN: Yes sir, we will do  
17 that.

18 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Thank you,  
19 have a great day.

20 MS. YOHANNES: Thank you.

21 MR. JAYARAMAN: Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
23 went off the record at 9:52 a.m.)  
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: Ambar

Before: DCABRA

Date: 12-11-19

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.

  
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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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