

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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## ROLL CALL HEARING

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## IN THE MATTER OF:

Betty's Gojo Restaurant  
and Lounge, LLC  
t/a Betty's Gojo  
7616 Georgia Avenue NW  
License #ABRA-102500  
Retailer CR - License  
Renewal  
Case #19-PRO-00050

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

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The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
met in Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room,  
Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W.,  
Washington, D.C., Ms. LaVerne Fletcher, Board  
Agent, presiding.

ALSO PRESENT:

ABEBA WELDEGEBRIL, Licensee

KIBIREAB EMBAYE, Licensee

RICHARD BIANCO, Licensee's Counsel

RITIKA MALKANI

NAIMA JEFFERSON, Shepherd Park Citizens Assoc.

PAULA EDWARDS

SAMUEL WASHINGTON

CARL BERGMAN

GALE BLACK, ANC4A

KEN GILES

GEORGE MUSGROVE

MARK KOTLAREWSKY

DAVID HAYES

CHRISTIE HOYTE HAYES

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

2 10:40 a.m.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Would the parties in the  
4 matter of Betty's Gojo please come forward? The  
5 parties in the matter of Betty's Gojo. The  
6 establishment is on this side, the protestants  
7 are on this side. This is case number  
8 19-PRO-00050, Betty's Gojo Restaurant and  
9 Lounge, 7616 Georgia Avenue. License #ABRA-102500.

10 This is a Retailer Class CR license  
11 renewal. The protest issues are adverse impact on  
12 peace, order and quiet, residential parking and  
13 vehicular and pedestrian safety, and real  
14 property values.

15 My name is LaVerne Fletcher,  
16 conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's  
17 agent. Introductions beginning with the  
18 Applicant, please?

19 MS. WELDGEBRIL: Good morning.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Will you state your name  
21 and spell it for the record?

22 MS. WELDGEBRIL: My name is Abeba

1 Weldegebril.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Can you spell the first  
3 name?

4 MS. WELDGEBRIL: A-B-E-B-A.

5 MS. FLETCHER: And the last name?

6 MS. WELDGEBRIL: W-E-L-D-E-G-E-B-R-I-L.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you very  
8 much. And your name, ma'am?

9 MS. MALKANI: Ritika Malkani. I'm Mr.  
10 Bianco's paralegal.

11 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you very  
12 much. And could you state your name and spell it  
13 for the record, please?

14 MS. MALKANI: Ritika, R-I-T-I-K-A. Last  
15 name Malkani, M-A-L-K-A-N-I.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Could you say where  
17 you're from again?

18 MS. MALKANI: RJB Law. I am Mr.  
19 Bianco's paralegal.

20 MS. FLETCHER: And could you spell  
21 Bianco for me?

22 MS. MALKANI: B-I-A-N-C-O.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. And  
2 your name, sir?

3 MR. EMBAYE: Kibreab Embamye.

4 MS. FLETCHER: How do you spell the  
5 first name?

6 MR. EMBAYE: K-I-B-R-E-A-B.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. And  
8 the last name?

9 MR. EMBAYE: E-M-B-A-Y-E.

10 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.  
11 Present on behalf of the Shepherd Park Citizens  
12 Association?

13 MS. JEFFERSON: My name is Naima  
14 Jefferson. First name spelled N-A-I-M-A, I am the  
15 president, and I'm accompanied here with three  
16 other board members.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. One second. If  
18 those board members would state their names and  
19 spell them for the record, please.

20 MS. EDWARDS: Paula, P-A-U-L-A,  
21 Edwards, E-D-W-A-R-D-S.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Edwards.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: Samuel Washington. S-  
2 A-M-U-E-L.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
4 Washington.

5 MR. BERGMAN: Carl, C-A-R-L, Bergman,  
6 B-E-R-G-M-A-N.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. The  
8 Shepherd Park Citizens Association has standing  
9 as a protestant. Present on behalf of ANC 4A?

10 MS. BLACK: Yes. I'm Gale Black, I'm  
11 the chair of AMC4A, representing 4A today.

12 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Black.  
13 AMC 4A has standing as a protestant. Is Ken Giles  
14 here?

15 MR. GILES: Yes.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Giles, could you  
17 state your name and spell it for the record,  
18 please?

19 MR. GILES: Ken Giles. K-E-N G-I-L-E-S.

20 MS. FLETCHER: The Board's agent was  
21 able to determine that your property does abut  
22 the property of Betty's Gojo, so therefore you

1 have standing as an abutting property owner.

2 Is there a designated representative  
3 for a group of individuals? There are a group of  
4 15 individuals filing a protest. Are you the  
5 designated representatives for that group? Thank  
6 you. And your name, please?

7 MR. MUSGROVE: My name is George  
8 Derrick Musgrove.

9 MS. FLETCHER: The first name George?

10 MR. MUSGROVE: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. FLETCHER: What's the last name,  
12 George?

13 MR. MUSGROVE: Musgrove, spelled M-U-S-  
14 G-R-O-V-E.

15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. Mr.  
16 Musgrove, are there any other individuals present  
17 from your group today?

18 MR. MUSGROVE: Yes, ma'am. Three of the  
19 other signatories are present.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Okay, if those three  
21 individuals would come forward, and you can stand  
22 right beside Mr. Musgrove. You just need to speak

1 into that microphone, state your name and spell  
2 it for the record.

3 MR. KOTLAREWSKY: Name's Mark  
4 Kotlarewsky, M A-R-K K-O-T-L-A-R-E-W-S-K-Y.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

6 MR. HAYES: Hi, I'm David Hayes, with  
7 standard spelling, D-A-V-I-D H-A-Y-E-S.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

9 MS. HAYES: Christie Hoyte Hayes, C-H-  
10 R-I-S-T-I-E, Hoyte, H-O-Y-T-E, and Hayes, H-A-Y-  
11 E-S.

12 MS. FLETCHER: H-A-Y-E-S?

13 MS. HAYES: Yes.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Did everyone sign  
15 the protest letter? Mr. Musgrove, did you also  
16 sign the protest letter?

17 MR. MUSGROVE: I did.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. So Mr.  
19 Musgrove, if you could just stay right there.  
20 Thank you.

21 Mr. Musgrove, the group that you  
22 represent is going to be granted conditional



1 standing today. What that means is that four of  
2 you were present today, so I can grant you  
3 conditional standing. At least five individuals  
4 from a group have to be present to be granted  
5 full standing. So I'm granting you conditional  
6 standing today.

7 What that means is that at the  
8 upcoming status hearing, I'll give you a date for  
9 that, one more person that's not present today  
10 needs to come to that hearing, come along with  
11 you, but just one more person not here today. The  
12 Board needs to see at least five faces in order  
13 to grant full standing, but I'm granting you  
14 conditional standing today.

15 So we'll just proceed through the  
16 process. You still come to the mediation, because  
17 you do get standing, it's just conditional. Just  
18 if the matter goes forth from the status hearing,  
19 it is not resolved by the form of the status  
20 hearing, then bring one more person with you from  
21 your group that's not present today, that signed  
22 the protest letter.

1                   Just to summarize, Shepherd Park  
2 Citizens Association has standing as a  
3 protestant, ANC 4A has standing as a protestant,  
4 Ken Giles has standing as a protestant, the group  
5 of 15 is granted conditional standing as a  
6 protestant. Any questions at all? Yes, Ms.  
7 Jefferson?

8                   MS. JEFFERSON: Naima Jefferson,  
9 Shepherd Park Citizens Association.

10                  MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

11                  MS. JEFFERSON: Our membership does not  
12 believe that mediation will be fruitful, so we  
13 would like to proceed on to the protest hearing.

14                  MS. FLETCHER: So you may ask, you may  
15 petition the ABC Board for that. Mediation is a  
16 requirement. If you want to not participate in  
17 mediation, you may ask the ABC Board to not  
18 participate. But it's a requirement, I'm going to  
19 set the date, if you, if the Board will approve  
20 your request to not participate, of course they  
21 can do that if they want to.

22                  MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.

1 MS. FLETCHER: So I'll set the date,  
2 Ms. Jefferson. If the Board says you don't have  
3 to come, I'll give you the date for the status,  
4 protest hearing first, and then we'll set a date  
5 for mediation.

6 The status hearing is set for August  
7 14 at 9:30 a.m. That's August 14 at 9:30 a.m. for  
8 the status hearing.

9 The protest hearing is set for  
10 September 11, September 11 at 1:30 p.m.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: I have a conflict at  
12 that time.

13 MS. FLETCHER: And so, what you can do,  
14 Ms. Jefferson, for the date that you have a  
15 conflict, you can ask the Board to change the  
16 date. The dates that I've given you today are the  
17 dates next available on the Board's calendar. If  
18 you want to change the date, it's okay, but if  
19 you request to change the date, for which  
20 hearing, Ms. Jefferson?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: September 11.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Provide a copy of your

1 request to the Applicant.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: We never even knew they  
3 had legal counsel. They've come to ANC and other  
4 meetings with no legal counsel. This is the first  
5 time we've heard of it.

6 MS. FLETCHER: That's okay for us. Mr.  
7 Bianco is actually going to be representing  
8 Betty's Gojo. Mr. Bianco, Richard Bianco, is not  
9 here today. I understand that you're here on his  
10 behalf today, Ms. How do you pronounce your  
11 last name?

12 MS. MALKANI: Malkani.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Malkani. Do you by any  
14 chance have one Mr. Bianco's cards on you?

15 MS. MALKANI: I do.

16 MS. FLETCHER: If you can give that to  
17 Ms. Jefferson. So Ms. Jefferson, when you  
18 petition the ABC Board to change the date for the  
19 protest hearing and to not participate in  
20 mediation, send a copy to Mr. Bianco so that they  
21 have an opportunity to respond to you.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: I have one other

1 concern. I'm curious as to whether they are  
2 waiving their rights to a translator?

3 MS. FLETCHER: A translator, that's an  
4 issue for them. But just so that you know, a  
5 translator was requested. Is that correct?

6 MS. MALKANI: Yes.

7 MS. FLETCHER: A translator's not  
8 available today because we just found out this  
9 morning. But a translator will be available for  
10 upcoming proceedings. I did get the email from  
11 Mr. Bianco asking for a translator this morning,  
12 so he knows also that the request has to be at  
13 least 48, at least two business days prior to  
14 hearing. That's why there's not one present  
15 today.

16 MS. BLACK: Gale Black, ANC 4A. Our  
17 next scheduled meeting is not until the first  
18 Tuesday in September. To allow us more time, I  
19 would ask that the hearing date be later than  
20 September 11.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Same thing, Ms. Black.  
22 You may request the ABC Board to change that

1 date. You can make a joint request with Ms.  
2 Jefferson if you like. The other thing, send the  
3 request to our general counsel. I'll give you her  
4 email address. Her name is Martha Jenkins, her  
5 email is martha, M A-R-T-H-A, martha.jenkins, J-  
6 E-N-K-I-N-S, that's martha.jenkins @dc.gov. Those  
7 requests, Ms. Jefferson and Ms. Black, you can  
8 send them through Martha and she'll get them to  
9 the ABC Board.

10 I'll give you the next available date  
11 for mediation. The next available day for  
12 mediation is Thursday, July 11, at 2:00 in the  
13 afternoon, if that's good for anybody. Is that  
14 okay for you, Ms. Jefferson, Ms. Black, or

15 MR. GILES: Trying to find out.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: If you'll just give us  
18 a minute.

19 MS. FLETCHER: That's okay.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Is that good? Mr. Giles,  
22 Mr. Giles? 2:00 for mediation on

1 MR. GILES: I might have to change.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Then what I'll do  
3 is, we'll just, would that be okay with you, Mr.  
4 Musgrove, it's all before I comment.

5 MR. MUSGROVE: Yes, it is okay with me.  
6 I cannot speak for my neighbors, however.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Well, you're the  
8 designated representative so we need you here. If  
9 that's good for you, that's good for us.

10 MR. MUSGROVE: May I make one question  
11 about that?

12 MS. FLETCHER: Yes?

13 MR. MUSGROVE: To change my status as  
14 regards standing, when do I need the five people  
15 to be with me, which next meeting?

16 MS. FLETCHER: The status hearing is  
17 scheduled for August 14. It's at that hearing  
18 that one more person needs to show up with you,  
19 that was not here today.

20 MR. MUSGROVE: Thank you. Speaking for  
21 myself only, I can have somebody be here on the  
22 11th.

1 MS. FLETCHER: Yes. We look to the  
2 designated representative. If you can come, we're  
3 good with that. If you have anyone else you want  
4 to come along, that's fine. We only need the  
5 designated representatives and that's generally  
6 our preference.

7 MR. MUSGROVE: Thank you.

8 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. The  
9 mediation is set for 2:00 on Thursday, July 11.  
10 Any questions at all? Okay. Thank you very much  
11 for coming. The roll call hearing is concluded.

12 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 10:57 a.m.)

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<b>A</b>	<b>bring</b> 9:20 <b>Building</b> 1:17 <b>business</b> 13:13	<b>E-M-B-A-Y-E</b> 5:9 <b>E-N-K-I-N-S</b> 14:6 <b>E-S</b> 8:11 <b>Edwards</b> 2:10 5:20,21 5:22 <b>email</b> 13:10 14:4,5 <b>Embanye</b> 5:3 <b>EMBAYE</b> 2:6 5:3,6,9 <b>establishment</b> 3:6	<b>H-A-Y-</b> 8:10 <b>H-A-Y-E-S</b> 8:7,12 <b>H-O-Y-T-E</b> 8:10 <b>Hayes</b> 2:17,18 8:6,6,9,9 8:10,13 <b>heard</b> 12:5 <b>hearing</b> 1:5,17 3:16 9:8 9:10,18,20 10:13 11:4 11:6,8,9,20 12:19 13:14,19 15:16,17 16:11 <b>Hi</b> 8:6 <b>Hoyte</b> 2:18 8:9,10
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In the matter of: Betty's Gojo

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-10-19

Place: Washington, DC

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*Neal R Gross*

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