DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

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Café Europa, : t/a LeDesales : 1725 De Sales Street, NW :

Retailer CR - ANC 2B : Show Cause Hearing

License No. 60754 : Case #19-CMP-00061 :

:

(No ABC Manager on Duty) :

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:

JASON FACCI, OAG
GEORGE GARCIA, Investigator

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

10:47 a.m.

MR. ANDERSON: All right, our next case is -- is show cause hearing. Case number 19-CMP-00061, LeDesales, license number 60754. Will the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record, please?

MR. FACCI: Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the board, Jason Facci on behalf of the District of Columbia.

MR. ANDERSON: Good morning Mr. Facci.

Is -- is -- I see there is no Licensee here. Are
you expecting the Licensee to show up, sir?

MR. FACCI: We have reached out to the Licensee, Chairman, but we have not received any response from them.

MR. ANDERSON: Is -- is the Government ready to move forward, ex parte?

MR. FACCI: Yes, sir.

MR. ANDERSON: Pursuant to D.C.

Official Code, Section 25447, the board has the authority to proceed ex parte, whereas the Licensee waives the hearing or fails to appear unless the hearing is extended for good or sufficient cause. The board record reflects that

Licensee was properly served on August 29th,
2019. Seeing no Licensee here today and having
no good and sufficient cause to extend the
hearing, the board will proceed with a show-cause
hearing.

(Pause.)

MR. ANDERSON: Do you wish to make an opening statement, sir?

MR. FACCI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, a brief opening. Good morning again members of the board. We're here today --

MR. ANDERSON: Can you speak up, please sir? Pull the microphone closer to you.

MR. FACCI: We're here today in the matter of LeDesales who has been charged with having no board-approved ABC manager or owner present during the establishment's licensed business hours, in violation of D.C. Code 25-701. Today you will hear from ABRA investigator George Garcia who will testify that on April 3rd, 2019, Mr. Garcia went to the establishment and observed that no ABC manager or owner was present during the establishment's licensed business hours, while the establishment was open to the public, and while patrons were consuming alcoholic

beverages.

MR. ANDERSON: Does the Government have wish to call witnesses?

MR. FACCI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Government will call Mr. George Garcia.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Garcia, if you'll raise your right hand, please. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

MR. GARCIA: I do.

MR. ANDERSON: Your witness, sir.

MR. FACCI: Mr. Garcia, can you state and spell your name for the record?

MR. GARCIA: George, G-E-O-R-G-E, Garcia, G-A-R-C-I-A.

MR. FACCI: Mr. Garcia, where are you employed?

MR. GARCIA: The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And what is your title there?

MR. GARCIA: I am an investigator.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And how long have you been an investigator for?

MR. GARCIA: For approximately 10

months now.

MR. FACCI: And what are your job duties as an investigator?

MR. GARCIA: I conduct investigations and inspections of ABC establishments within the District of Columbia.

MR. FACCI: Are you familiar with the establishment in this case, LeDesales?

MR. GARCIA: Yes.

MR. FACCI: How are you familiar with them?

MR. GARCIA: I visited the establishment on April 3rd of 2019 to serve the establishment with service forms.

MR. FACCI: Okay. What does that mean?

MR. GARCIA: Service forms is more of a notification. It could be for an audit. It could be for something else that an appointment needs to be made for.

MR. FACCI: Okay. What time did you visit the establishment?

(Pause.)

MR. GARCIA: I cannot recall.

MR. FACCI: Is there anything that

would refresh your recollection?

MR. GARCIA: My report.

MR. FACCI: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to show the Witness what has been marked as Government's Exhibit 1.

MR. ANDERSON: Sure.

MR. FACCI: Mr. Garcia, I am showing you -- has been marked as Exhibit 1. Do you know what that document is?

MR. GARCIA: Yes.

MR. FACCI: What is that document?

MR. GARCIA: It's a report I

submitted.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And who is the report for?

(No audible response.)

MR. GARCIA: I'm sorry?

MR. FACCI: What is the subject of the report?

MR. GARCIA: It's for no ABC managers violation.

MR. FACCI: Okay. Is that a fair and accurate copy of the report that you submitted in the LeDesales matter?

MR. GARCIA: Yes, it is.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And do you see on there -- if you can review the report for a second, do you see what time you may have visited the establishment on that day?

MR. GARCIA: At approximately 1:19.

MR. FACCI: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to just introduce Government's Exhibit 1 into evidence. And I do have copies for the board.

MR. ANDERSON: So moved. We -- the board has. So moved.

(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Government's Exhibit No. 1 for identification.)

(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Government Exhibit No. 1.)

MR. FACCI: Thank you. So Mr. Garcia,
I'd like to discuss what you observed on April
3rd, 2019 when you did enter the establishment.
Did you speak with anybody?

MR. GARCIA: Yes. I originally made contact with a female bar tender and identified myself as an ABRA investigator and asked to speak to the ABC manager or owner.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And what did you hear in response?

MR. GARCIA: She said that she would get someone. And then shortly after, a Zoe -- Zoe Bertrand -- identified herself as the manager. And she stated that she forgot her ABC manager's license.

MR. FACCI: What did you do as a result?

MR. GARCIA: I did call an ABRA investigator, Mikea Nelson, just to confirm that she possessed ABC managers license. And Investigator Nelson did confirm that she did not possess an ABC managers license.

MR. FACCI: What happened after that?

MR. GARCIA: I notified the establishment of the violation. And I told them I would return to serve the service form.

MR. FACCI: And what was the violation that you notified them of?

MR. GARCIA: A no-ABCs managers violation.

MR. FACCI: Okay. Was there an owner present for the establishment?

MR. GARCIA: No.

MR. FACCI: And how do you know that?

MR. GARCIA: The -- Zoe Bertrand stated that she was the only one there.

MR. FACCI: Okay. Did you observe patrons within the establishment during this time?

MR. GARCIA: Yes.

MR. FACCI: All right. And what were these patrons doing?

MR. GARCIA: There were multiple patrons consuming alcoholic beverages.

MR. FACCI: What are the establishment's licensed business hours?

MR. GARCIA: Can I refer to the exhibit?

MR. FACCI: Yes.

(Pause.)

MR. FACCI: Well, Mr. Garcia, actually I will direct your attention, in Government's Exhibit 1, to what's been marked as Exhibit 1 within Government's Exhibit 1. It is the fifth page. What is that document?

MR. GARCIA: The ABC license.

MR. FACCI: And according to the ABC license, what are the establishment's licensed

business hours?

MR. GARCIA: The business hours on the day in question was from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

MR. FACCI: Thank you. Mr. Garcia, can you turn to what's been marked as Exhibit 2 on the next page? What is that document?

MR. GARCIA: That's a patron consuming alcoholic beverages.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And who took your photograph?

MR. GARCIA: I did.

MR. FACCI: Mr. Garcia, turning to the next page, where it's been marked as Exhibit 3 within Government's Exhibit 1 -- what is that photograph of?

MR. GARCIA: That's another set of patrons consuming alcohol.

MR. FACCI: Okay. So after you observed this violation and notified the establishment of the violation, what did you do next?

MR. GARCIA: I did leave the establishment and return to the office. Just confirm that Zoe Bertrand did not indeed have a ABC managers license. But when I did do the

record, she did come up in the system saying that she obtained the ABC managers license at 2:52 p.m.

MR. FACCI: 2:52 p.m. on which day?

MR. GARCIA: On the same day in question -- April 3rd.

MR. FACCI: And what time did you go to the establishment that day?

MR. GARCIA: At 1:19 p.m.

MR. FACCI: Okay. And how did you document all of these findings from April 3rd, 2019?

MR. GARCIA: I do have extra exhibits on the back for the -- no -- for the ABC managers application. I entered that as an exhibit -- four -- exhibit number 4.

MR. FACCI: Can you explain what Exhibit Number 4 is?

MR. GARCIA: Exhibit Number 4 is the application that the -- Zoe Bertrand submitted to ABRA in order to obtain an ABC managers license.

MR. FACCI: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
I have no further questions for this witness.
And the Government rests its case in chief.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Garcia, when is it

that you went to visit the establishment?

MR. GARCIA: April 3rd.

MR. ANDERSON: April when?

MR. GARCIA: April 3rd.

MR. ANDERSON: April 3rd?

MR. GARCIA: Correct.

MR. ANDERSON: And -- and what is exhibit -- what's -- and what is -- what is Exhibit 4?

MR. GARCIA: It's a ABC managers license application.

MR. ANDERSON: By whom?

MR. GARCIA: For Zoe Bertrand.

MR. ANDERSON: And when was this submitted to the agency?

MR. GARCIA: On April 3rd.

MR. ANDERSON: On April 3rd?

MR. GARCIA: Correct.

MR. ANDERSON: So --

(Pause.)

MR. ANDERSON: So -- do you know whether or not this application was submitted prior to your receipt -- prior to your -- your arrival at the establishment? Or after your arrival at the establishment?

MR. GARCIA: It wasn't obtained prior because after me getting to the office I did see

Ms. Bertrand at the -- at the office here.

MR. ANDERSON: What do you mean, you did see her the office here?

MR. GARCIA: I did see her completing her application.

MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry, explain that to me one more time.

MR. GARCIA: Zoe Bertrand, as I came into the office -- Zoe Bertrand was at the front desk completing her ABC managers license application.

MR. ANDERSON: All right, so you left her at the -- so you left the establishment -- about what time did you leave the establishment?

MR. GARCIA: I can't recall, but I

would say near 1:30 to 1:45.

MR. ANDERSON: And did you come direct
-- and you -- you saw her at the -- the
establishment when you were there, is that
correct?

MR. GARCIA: Correct.

MR. ANDERSON: And so you're saying that you came back to the office and when you

came back to the office, you saw her at the front desk?

MR. GARCIA: Completing her ABC managers license application.

MR. ANDERSON: Okay. All right. Any other questions by any of the board members?

(No audible response.)

MR. ANDERSON: Any follow-up

questions, sir?

MR. FACCI: No, sir.

MR. ANDERSON: Does the Government

MR. FACCI: The Government rests its case in chief.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you for your

testimony, sir. You can step down.

MR. GARCIA: Thank you.

MR. ANDERSON: Does the Government

have any other -- any other witnesses?

MR. FACCI: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ANDERSON: Does the Government

rest?

rest?

MR. FACCI: Yes.

MR. ANDERSON: Does the Government wish to make a closing statement?

MR. FACCI: A brief closing statement. The Government has established today by the preponderance of the evidence that the establishment, LeDeSales in this case, violated D.C. Code 25-701 by having no board-approved manager or owner on duty during the licensed hours of sale. You heard from Mr. Garcia, who testified that on April 30, 2019 he visited the establishment. He spoke to the bar tender there. That bar tender did not have an ABC managers license. That bar tender was the only person present working for the establishment. There was no ABC manager -- she could not confirm whether any ABC manager was on duty, or whether an owner was on duty. And in fact, the person that Mr. Garcia spoke with went to ABRA approximately an hour-and-a-half after she was notified of this ABRA violation to complete a ABC managers licensed application. All of this, MR. Chairman, is evidence that the establishment did not have a valid ABC manager or owner on duty during the licensed business hours while patrons were consuming alcohol.

Accordingly, the District has therefore met its burden under -- in this case,

and we ask that the board reach a conclusion and a penalty that is in accordance with Title 25 of the D.C. Code.

MR. ANDERSON: Do you wish to file -the record is now closed. Do you wish to file
proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law,
or waive your right to do that?

MR. FACCI: We waive our right to do that.

MR. ANDERSON: All right. So the board will issue a decision on this in 90 days. As Chairperson of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and in accordance with D.C. Official Code section 2574B of the Open Meetings Act, I move that ABC board hold a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on case number 19-CMP-00061, LeDesales, pursuant to D.C. Official Code section 2574b4 of the Open Meetings Act, and deliberating upon case number 19-CMP-00061, LeDesales, for the reason cited in D.C. Official Code, Section 2574b13 of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a second?

MR. SHORT: Second.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Short has seconded

the motion. I will now take a roll call vote on the motion. Of course, now that has been second -- Ms. Crockett?

MS. CROCKETT: I agree.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Short?

MR. SHORT: I agree.

MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah?

MS. WAHABZADAH: I agree.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson -- I agree. As it appears that the motion has passed, I hereby give notice that ABC Board will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting in the ABC Board conference room, pursuant to Section 2574b of the Open Meetings Act. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:02 a.m.)

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${\color{red} \underline{C} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{E} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{R} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{F} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{C} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{A} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{E}}$

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LeDesales

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.

Court Reporter

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