

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Deset Ethiopian :
Restaurant, LLC, : Roll Call
t/a Deset Ethiopian : Hearing
Restaurant :
6128 Georgia Ave NW :
Retailer CR - ANC 4A :
License No. ABRA-098818 :
Case #19-PRO-00037 :
 :
(License Renewal) :

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, Agent, presiding.

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

10:03 a.m.

AGENT FLETCHER: Would the parties in the matter of Deset Ethiopian Restaurant, please, come forward? Deset Ethiopian Restaurant. This is Case No. 19-PRO-00037, 6128 Georgia Avenue, N.W., License No. ABRA-098818, Retailer Class CR License renewal.

The protest issues are adverse impact on peace, order and quiet; residential parking; and vehicular and pedestrian safety.

My name is LaVerne Fletcher conducting the Roll Call Hearing as the Board's Agent.

Introductions beginning with the applicant, please. If you would just state your name and spell -- the applicant.

Where is the representative for Deset Ethiopian Restaurant?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. My name is Larry Williams, member of the Bar of the District of Columbia. I'll be representing Deset Restaurant.

AGENT FLETCHER: Mr. Williams, okay,

1 Larry Williams?

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Larry Williams.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you very
4 much.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Um-hum.

6 AGENT FLETCHER: And your name, ma'am?
7 If you could spell it and state it?

8 MS. SERBESSA: My name is Emebet, E-M-
9 E-B-E-T.

10 AGENT FLETCHER: I'm sorry, what was
11 that?

12 MS. SERBESSA: E-M-E-B-E-T.

13 AGENT FLETCHER: E-M-E?

14 MS. SERBESSA: B-E-T.

15 AGENT FLETCHER: And is that the last
16 name?

17 MS. SERBESSA: S-E-R-B-E-S-S-A.

18 AGENT FLETCHER: Mr. Williams, oh,
19 you're doing it already, never mind, putting your
20 contact information.

21 MS. SERBESSA: By the way, my husband
22 is coming.

1 AGENT FLETCHER: Pardon me?

2 MS. SERBESSA: My husband is coming.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: Pardon me?

4 MS. SERBESSA: His name is Desta.

5 AGENT FLETCHER: Whose name is what?

6 MS. SERBESSA: My husband.

7 AGENT FLETCHER: So your husband is

8 here?

9 MS. SERBESSA: Yeah, he is parking.

10 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Well, we will
11 just keep moving and maybe he will come in before
12 we are done.

13 You are present on behalf of ANC-4A?

14 MS. NELSON: That's correct.

15 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. And your name?

16 MS. NELSON: Yes, Commissioner for
17 4A06.

18 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay.

19 MS. NELSON: Candace Tiana Nelson, C-
20 A-N-D-A-C-E T-I-A-N-A N-E-L-S-O-N.

21 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you. And just
22 so that you know, I'm going to let this case

1 proceed as is, but the parties would normally be
2 on opposite sides.

3 MS. NELSON: I don't have a problem
4 switching.

5 AGENT FLETCHER: No, you don't have to
6 switch. I'm just saying that for everyone else.
7 It's the applicant on this side.

8 MS. SERBESSA: No problem. It's okay.

9 AGENT FLETCHER: I'm just letting
10 everyone else know.

11 MS. SERBESSA: Oh, okay.

12 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes. Thank you.

13 ANC-4A has standing as a protestant.

14 We need to schedule a date for a
15 mediation, Status Hearing and a Protest Hearing.

16 The date for the Status Hearing is
17 going to be July 10. July 10 at 9:30 a.m. for
18 the Status Hearing.

19 The Protest Hearing is set for August
20 14 at 4:30.

21 And you will receive written notice of
22 the dates as well.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: At what time?

2 MS. NELSON: Is there a way that we
3 could change the Protest Hearing date? I will be
4 out of the country.

5 AGENT FLETCHER: The dates that I have
6 given you today, Ms. Nelson, are the dates that
7 the Board is next available, but if you want to
8 change the date, you would just request a change
9 of the date with a copy to Mr. Williams and you
10 will send that request to our General Counsel,
11 Martha Jenkins.

12 MS. NELSON: Okay.

13 AGENT FLETCHER: That's
14 martha.jenkins@dc.gov.

15 MS. NELSON: At dc.gov?

16 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

17 MS. NELSON: Great.

18 AGENT FLETCHER: And copy Mr. Williams
19 and you can ask her -- you can request a new
20 date.

21 MS. NELSON: And that's the only date
22 that serves as a problem for me currently.

1 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. But I'll make
2 a note of that though, Ms. Nelson. You will be
3 out of the --

4 MS. NELSON: The country.

5 AGENT FLETCHER: -- country on that
6 day.

7 MS. NELSON: Yeah.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: What happens on the
9 July date?

10 AGENT FLETCHER: July 10 is the Status
11 Hearing where you report to the Board and they
12 ask the status of the case. They will want to
13 know if you participated in mediation and what
14 the outcome of mediation was.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Now, you've got
16 to -- but we have the mediation in August, right?

17 AGENT FLETCHER: We're going to set
18 the mediation date now. We have in August the
19 Protest Hearing.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, that's the protest
21 then.

22 AGENT FLETCHER: That's the Protest

1 Hearing on August 14 at 4:30. That's the date
2 that Ms. Nelson is going to request that we
3 change because she is out of the country.

4 We are going to set a date for
5 mediation. Oh, excuse me, sir, if you could just
6 state your name and spell it for the record,
7 please?

8 MR. ARAYA: My name is Desta, D-E-S-T-
9 A.

10 AGENT FLETCHER: B-E-S? I'm sorry, B-
11 E-S?

12 MR. ARAYA: D.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: D as in David.

14 AGENT FLETCHER: D-E-S-T-A?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

16 MR. ARAYA: D-E-S-T-A.

17 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you. That's
18 the first or last name?

19 MR. ARAYA: Araya, A-R-A-Y-A.

20 AGENT FLETCHER: That's the last name.
21 So which one of -- so Mr. Williams is going to be
22 your point of contact, so it doesn't matter.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. NELSON: Got a card? Do you have
3 a card?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have one with
5 me.

6 MS. NELSON: Okay.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: I can give you the
8 address though.

9 AGENT FLETCHER: I'm going to give you
10 the next available date for mediation. The next
11 available day for mediation is Tuesday, June 11
12 at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, any time in the
13 morning or at 1:00 or 2:00 in the afternoon,
14 that's on a Tuesday, June 11.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: We should report here?

16 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: At what time?

18 AGENT FLETCHER: Whatever time you all
19 agree on.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

21 AGENT FLETCHER: Ms. Nelson, do you
22 have a preference in terms of time?

1 MS. NELSON: 10:00 a.m. is fine with
2 me.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: Would that work for
4 you, Mr. Williams?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: That's fine, that's
6 good.

7 AGENT FLETCHER: Mediation is set for
8 Tuesday, June 11 at 10:00.

9 And, Mr. Williams, when you come for
10 the mediation, just report to the front desk
11 first.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Um-hum, okay. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. NELSON: Actually, let me -- I'm
15 double checking my calendar right here. Is there
16 another date? Is the 18th available?

17 AGENT FLETCHER: Let's see.

18 MS. NELSON: Or --

19 AGENT FLETCHER: The 18th is available
20 at 2:00 in the afternoon, but we can move to --

21 MS. NELSON: Is it always on Tuesdays?

22 AGENT FLETCHER: Not always. These

1 just happen to be the next available dates.
2 There is also availability on Thursday, June the
3 20th.

4 MS. NELSON: Do you have any
5 availability on the 14th?

6 AGENT FLETCHER: The 14th of July?

7 MS. NELSON: 14th of June. I thought
8 we were looking at June.

9 AGENT FLETCHER: For the 14th of June.
10 Oh, Fridays are not good days.

11 MS. NELSON: I guess I'll stick with
12 the 11th and see if I can arrange something.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: And that's July?

14 MS. NELSON: The 11th of June. We are
15 talking about June, I believe --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh.

17 MS. NELSON: -- for mediation.

18 AGENT FLETCHER: June 11 at 10:00.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Um-hum.

20 MS. NELSON: Yeah. So it would be
21 June. Tuesday, June 11th at 10:00 a.m.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, um-hum.

1 AGENT FLETCHER: So, Ms. Nelson,
2 you're going to try to work that out? I mean, I
3 can keep moving through the calendar.

4 MS. NELSON: I actually can just try
5 to work it out and if I can't, is it the same
6 thing, contact the General Counsel?

7 AGENT FLETCHER: Contact me.

8 MS. NELSON: I contact you?

9 AGENT FLETCHER: Yeah, so my card is
10 on the table. You are going to receive an
11 official Hearing Notice that will have all of
12 these dates in it and it will tell you to contact
13 me regarding mediation, but that's me right
14 there.

15 MS. NELSON: Okay.

16 AGENT FLETCHER: Um-hum.

17 MS. NELSON: So currently we are
18 looking at June 11th for the mediation?

19 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

20 MS. NELSON: And at 10:00 a.m.

21 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

22 MS. NELSON: In this room.

1 AGENT FLETCHER: Maybe. Just check in
2 the receptionist area first. We use this room a
3 lot of times, but there is a possibility that it
4 may be in use on the 11th, in which case we will
5 go some place in the back.

6 MS. NELSON: Okay. Just trying to get
7 all the dates clear. Then we are looking at July
8 10th as the Status Hearing. Is that correct?

9 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes, July 10 at 9:30
10 for the status.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: July 10.

12 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes, July 10 at 9:30
13 for the status.

14 MS. NELSON: And then August 14th?

15 AGENT FLETCHER: At 4:30 for the
16 Protest Hearing.

17 MS. NELSON: Which I'll need to
18 change.

19 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes. Any questions?

20 MS. NELSON: And that's if we cannot
21 come to some type of a settlement agreement
22 within the time frame, correct?

1 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

2 MS. NELSON: Okay.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: If you reach an
4 agreement prior to mediation, then you can just
5 let me know and we will cancel the mediation.

6 MS. NELSON: Okay. I will see what my
7 constituents say.

8 AGENT FLETCHER: See what you can do.

9 MS. NELSON: That's all I can say
10 about that.

11 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Well, I'll be
12 on the lookout.

13 MS. NELSON: All right. I appreciate
14 it.

15 AGENT FLETCHER: Otherwise, I'll see
16 you on the 11th at 10:00.

17 Any questions, Mr. Williams, at all?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I have none. Thank
19 you.

20 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Well, thank
21 you for coming. The Roll Call Hearing is
22 concluded.

1 MS. NELSON: Awesome. Thank you.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the Roll Call Hearing was
4 concluded at 10:14 a.m.)

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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: Deset Ethiopian Restaurant

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-03-19

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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