



**ALSO PRESENT:**

**DAVID ROUNDTREE, APPLICANT**

**CHANDER JAYARAMAN, ANC 6B**

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

2 9:51 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next matter  
4 on our schedule is Case No. 19-PRO-00078,  
5 District Soul Food & Lounge, License No. 112072.

6 Is there anyone here today for  
7 District Soul Food & Lounge? All right. This  
8 matter was scheduled for -- what case are you  
9 here for?

10 MR. JAYARAMAN: District Soul Food.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please identify  
12 yourself for the record, please.

13 MR. JAYARAMAN: Certainly. My name is  
14 Chander Jayaraman. I'm Chairman of ANC-6B.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
16 Mr. Jayaraman.

17 I see that the licensee is not here.  
18 This matter -- all right. All right. I will  
19 recall this case in 15 minutes. If the licensee  
20 is not here in 15 minutes, I'm going to make a  
21 Motion to Dismiss the application.

22 So I'm not sure if you have had any

1 conversation, Mr. Jayaraman, with the licensee.  
2 Do you know whether or not the licensee was  
3 planning to be here today? Were they aware of  
4 it?

5 MR. JAYARAMAN: They were notified by  
6 ABRA, by Ms. Randall, asking for a status  
7 element, that it was still scheduled for today.  
8 It's my understanding that they were aware of it,  
9 although I did not have a chance to remind them.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MR. JAYARAMAN: Which I sometimes do.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

13 MR. JAYARAMAN: We believe that we  
14 will be able to -- there is only one really main  
15 issue and that's noise and we believe that they  
16 can have it resolved by the time of the Protest  
17 Hearing.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, if you  
19 are able to contact them to find out why they are  
20 not here, we will recall this case in 15 minutes.  
21 If -- and I normally give half an hour between  
22 9:30 and 10:00, but so if you can contact them,

1 I'm going to recall the case in 15 minutes.

2 MR. JAYARAMAN: Will do that, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And if they are  
4 not here, so if you are able to contact them to  
5 find out where they are, so be it, but I'll  
6 recall this case. Thank you.

7 MR. JAYARAMAN: Appreciate it, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
10 went off the record at 9:53 a.m. and resumed at  
11 10:07 a.m.)

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
13 let me recall Case No. 19-PRO-00078, District  
14 Soul Food and Lounge, License No. 112072.

15 Please identify yourself for the  
16 record, sir.

17 MR. JAYARAMAN: My name is Chander  
18 Jayaraman. I am Chairman of ANC-6B and also  
19 Chair of the ABC Committee for 6B.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.  
21 Jayaraman.

22 Any -- it's now 10:09 and the licensee

1 is not here.

2 MR. JAYARAMAN: I have spoken with the  
3 licensee. He had failed to put it in his  
4 calendar. He said he was on his way. He would  
5 be here, at the time I spoke to him, within 15 to  
6 20 minutes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
8 if you --

9 MR. JAYARAMAN: I ask your indulgence  
10 to permit the applicant to arrive.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you are  
12 willing to wait, we are here all day. So fine, I  
13 will -- you can alert me when he is here. You  
14 can step back. Thank you, sir.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
16 went off the record at 10:09 a.m. and resumed at  
17 10:32 a.m.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let  
19 me recall a case, Case No. 19-PRO-00078, District  
20 Soul Food and Lounge, License No. 112072.

21 Will the parties, please, approach and  
22 identify themselves for the record, please?

1 MR. JAYARAMAN: My name is Chander  
2 Jayaraman. I'm the Chairman of ANC-6B, but as  
3 well as the Chairman of the ABC Committee in 6B.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
5 Mr. Jayaraman.

6 MR. ROUNDTREE: I'm David Roundtree,  
7 owner and CEO of District Soul Food.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roundtree?

9 MR. ROUNDTREE: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roundtree,  
11 this matter was scheduled for a Protest Hearing  
12 (Status) at 9:30.

13 Were you aware that this matter was  
14 scheduled for a Protest Hearing (Status) at 9:30,  
15 sir?

16 MR. ROUNDTREE: I was aware of the  
17 original one. It was moved and did not add this  
18 to my calendar. I apologize to the Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And normally  
20 how this works is that I called the case at 9:30.

21 MR. ROUNDTREE: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I recalled the

1 case at 10:00, because, you know, I give people  
2 half an hour to show up.

3 MR. ROUNDTREE: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I would  
5 make a Motion to Dismiss this matter. And what  
6 that would have meant is that you would have to--  
7 we would not renew your license and you would  
8 have to start this process over again.

9 But Mr. Jayaraman from the ANC, he  
10 decided that he would wait on you and so  
11 therefore, he did you the courtesy of not  
12 allowing the Board to dismiss your application,  
13 so your license would not be renewed and you  
14 would have to start this process over again, sir.

15 MR. ROUNDTREE: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: These matters  
17 are very serious. We start on time and as my  
18 practice, I give everyone a half an hour  
19 courtesy, but this is like an hour and a half  
20 that we were waiting for you, sir.

21 MR. ROUNDTREE: All right.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any



1 preliminary matters in this case?

2 MR. JAYARAMAN: Well, we do. Well,  
3 there was one, which is that we did not actually  
4 have a mediation. The staff person at ABRA took  
5 it upon themselves and decided to cancel the  
6 Mediation Hearing. We did not object to it, at  
7 the time, although we found it to be curious  
8 since neither the applicant nor the ANC requested  
9 a deferment or a cancellation of that.

10 But we moved forward with that and we  
11 continue to work with the applicant and believe  
12 that they will be able to address the issues by  
13 the protest date, Protest Hearing date.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 This matter is scheduled for a Protest Hearing on  
16 October 30th at 1:30.

17 And if this matter is not settled,  
18 then we will have the Protest Hearing on October  
19 30th at 1:30.

20 And let me read the instructions. Now  
21 that we have scheduled this matter for a Protest  
22 Hearing, there are a few things that I would like

1 to instruct you about so that the Protest Hearing  
2 is focused and addresses only those issues that  
3 are being protested.

4 You either have already received or  
5 will soon be receiving an email from Imani  
6 Moreland that contains a copy of the Protest  
7 Information Form (PIF) and a copy of the Exhibit  
8 Form.

9 Both parties are required to complete  
10 and submit the Protest Information Form (PIF) and  
11 the Exhibit Form at least seven days before the  
12 date of the hearing.

13 If we do not receive a copy of your  
14 forms seven days before the hearing, your  
15 application or your protest may be subject to  
16 dismissal. These documents not only need to be  
17 submitted to ABRA, but to the opposing parties as  
18 well.

19 Please know that these documents  
20 greatly assist the Board in narrowing the protest  
21 issues, facilitating the process and keeping the  
22 parties on point during the hearing.

1           Each side will have 90 minutes to  
2 present their case. This includes all direct and  
3 cross-examination of witnesses.

4           The Board does not intend to hear  
5 testimony on matters that are not relevant to  
6 these issues that are being protested nor will  
7 the Board tolerate repetitive testimony.

8           Are there any questions? Yes, Mr.  
9 Jayaraman?

10           MR. JAYARAMAN: How would we submit  
11 evidence that may be an audio file?

12           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to  
13 give you --

14           MR. JAYARAMAN: Which is not --

15           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- what I'll  
16 ask you to do if you have any questions call,  
17 please call, Ms. April Randall at (202) 442 --  
18 sir, you need to write this number down.

19           MR. ROUNDTREE: I have Ms. Randall's  
20 number.

21           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: (202) 442-4353.  
22 If this matter goes to a Protest Hearing, sir, it

1 is -- it will be scheduled for October 30th at  
2 1:30. And I will not be waiting until 1:40 to  
3 start it if you are not here.

4 MR. ROUNDTREE: I understand.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so we have  
6 a Protest Hearing and if you are not on time, we  
7 are moving forward with the Protest Hearing with  
8 the ANC and we will listen. The Board will  
9 listen and make a decision if this matter is not  
10 settled.

11 MR. ROUNDTREE: I understand.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
13 if anyone has any questions, give a call to Ms.  
14 Randall. If not, I will see you on October 30th  
15 at 1:30.

16 MR. ROUNDTREE: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

18 MR. JAYARAMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.

20 (Whereupon, the Protest (Status)

21 Hearing was concluded at 10:38 a.m.)

22

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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: Hearing

Before: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Date: 09-18-19

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.

*Neal R Gross*

-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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