DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Only Paradise Restaurant,: Inc.,

t/a Golden Paradise Restaurant

3903 14th Street, N.W. : Show Cause Retailer CR - ANC 4C : Hearing (Status)

License No. 98205 Case #17-251-00160

(Violation of Settlement: Agreement)

Wednesday March 7, 2018

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 NICK ALBERTI, Member BOBBY CATO, JR., Member MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

ANA DE LEON, Representative for Licensee

ROSA MUNOZ, Licensee

SONIA RINCON, Translator

FERNANDO RIVERO, OAG

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	10:15 a.m.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We now move to
4	our Show Cause Hearing (Status) Calendar. The
5	first case on our Show Cause Hearing (Status)
6	Calendar is Case No. 17-251-00160, Golden
7	Paradise Restaurant, License No. 98205.
8	Would the parties, please, approach
9	and identify themselves for the record, please?
10	Do we have a translator in this case? Is there a
11	translator here?
12	INTERPRETER RINCON: Yes.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Would you raise
14	your right hand, please?
15	Do you swear or affirm to translate
16	these proceedings from English to Spanish and
17	from Spanish to English?
18	INTERPRETER RINCON: I do.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
20	Thank you.
21	MR. RIVERO: Good morning, Board
22	Members. Fernando Rivero for the District of

1	Columbia.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
3	Mr. Rivero.
4	MS. DE LEON: In behalf of Golden
5	Paradise and president, Rosa Munoz and Ana De
6	Leon. A-N-A D-E L-E-O-N.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, you are
8	the representative, ma'am? Are you an attorney?
9	I'm just
10	MS. DE LEON: No, no.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But
12	MS. DE LEON: I just I'm their
13	consultant and I have helped them in the past
14	with their licensing and other business, also
15	licensing and certain things.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
17	MS. DE LEON: And so I also am
18	bilingual, so when they received their notices
19	and everything, I had helped them.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
21	MS. DE LEON: I believe I also gave
22	one of those the last time we were here, the

1	notices.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I forgot.
3	Thank you, Mr. Rivero, for reminding me, but I
4	always try to make sure as far as the record is
5	concerned, I clarify things on the record.
6	Can you identify yourself for the
7	record, please, ma'am?
8	MS. DE LEON: Yes. Ana De Leon. A-N-
9	A D-E L-E-O-N, in behalf of Golden Paradise,
10	and the president Rosa Munoz.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
12	MS. DE LEON: Good morning.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, introduce
14	yourself, please, ma'am.
15	INTERPRETER RINCON: In Spanish?
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Whichever way
17	she can identify herself.
18	MS. MUNOZ: Good morning. My name is
19	Rosa Munoz. I'm the president of Golden
20	Paradise.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
22	Thank you.

1 Mr. Rivero, are there any preliminary 2 matters in this case? 3 MR. RIVERO: Yes. The parties have an 4 Offer in Compromise to present to the Board, at 5 this time. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's the 6 Offer in Compromise? 7 The offer consists of a 8 MR. RIVERO: 9 fine of \$2,000 payable in 90 days and if the fine 10 is not paid in 90 days, the license will be suspended until the payment is received. 11 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Mr. 13 Rivero, can you just give us an explanation why 14 is it that the Government is recommending an OIC 15 to the Board? 16 MR. RIVERO: Certainly. First of all, 17 the fine is the actual statutory mandated fine. 18 Being the fifth secondary tier violation within 19 four years, the first thing to note. 20 The second thing to note, this is a 21 case about a video system not operating 22 correctly, but the video system came into play as

a result of a complaint about a violent incident that was not actually an incident that took place inside the establishment. It took place outside of the establishment.

So the real issue or concern in this case was the inability of the video system to produce images. So we discovered or the Investigator discovered that the system was not working properly, which was technically a violation of an agreement that they had.

And so we indicated that, to the licensee, they needed to repair that situation.

I have received the letter indicating that the issue appears to be resolved, so there shouldn't be any more problems.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Rivero, could you speak up and into the microphone? I'm sorry, I can't hear you. It's a critical point you are making.

MR. RIVERO: So we received a letter indicating that the issue was resolved, because we met in the run-up to this hearing so that I

can present what the concerns exactly were. I asked some questions about how the video operated, who was responsible for maintaining it, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

I spoke through Ms. De Leon, who is the representative for the establishment. And I received a letter dated March 2nd that basically addresses the Government's concerns. So I think this fine is appropriate. Going forward, I don't expect to have this issue again.

It appears that there is someone -that there are no issues with the camera system
recording now and there is someone assigned to
come in and inspect, fix the system if there are
some issues involved with it. And the person is
identified in my letter. I can give a copy to
the Board. I don't have a problem with that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you are also stating, Mr. Rivero, that the incident did not occur -- it had -- it was not related to the operation of this establishment?

MR. RIVERO: That is correct. I mean,

	there may have been some mention in the
2	investigative report, possibly, and it's not the
3	strongest evidence that the individual, one at
4	least one of the individuals identified in this
5	incident may have been inside the establishment,
6	at one point, but we don't really think that
7	that's sufficient to move forward on anything
8	concerning any action by the establishment.
9	There is just simply a settlement
10	agreement that required them to maintain their
11	cameras in operation. And the facts speak to
12	that in this case.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And
14	MR. RIVERO: I hope that answered your
15	question.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: you believe
17	that this is the most efficient way to dispose of
18	this case?

MR. RIVERO:

evidence goes to the only charge that the

been evidence of other charges that the

Government brought in this case. If there had

Absolutely. The, again,

19

20

21

Government could bring, that would have been included in the notice. And it was not, as a result of my review of the evidence.

The problem was a poorly operating camera system. I'm hoping that I took prophylactic measures by meeting with the licensee and I have representations in the letter that indicate the issue has been resolved.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I just want to

-- I know that the Board might have questions,

but I just want to let my Board Members know, we

are not asking questions about the case itself.

The questions that I want the Board Members to

ask is that is to just get some clarification of

why that they believe that this -- that the Board

should accept this OIC. That's what I'm -- this

is not for you, Mr. Rivero.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Well, the point I'm making here is that --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I agree with you. I'm instructing my Board Members when they ask questions, what the questions should go

towards.

MR. RIVERO: That's fine. This is statutorily an adequate fine, which is governed by, you know, Chapter 800 of Title 23. It is a fifth secondary tier violation in four years. It has been fined as such.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Silverstein?

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rivero.

Because this is not the first case involving either directly or tangentially this licensed establishment and violence, we are concerned with the steps that have been taken.

And I thank you for moving forward on that. And if you could address with a little more specificity what they have assured you or what has been done, so that that can be on the record?

MR. RIVERO: Sure. One of the issues had to do with the system not recording after, I guess, the hard drive was full or however you

technically describe that. Technology is not my forte. I'm just a lawyer.

But I did receive a letter indicating that there is an individual who is the maintenance person, who also installed the camera. His name is Jose Machado, who is the person who would be called in the event of a need for repair.

The system now records for 31 days and then it's reset to start recording over 31 days.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay.

MR. RIVERO: That means that there is video retained for 30 days. In theory, that should be sufficient time for an ABRA

Investigator that --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

MR. RIVERO: -- gets a complaint to go back and request the video, you know, within a week or so. It's typically what happens. If it takes the Agency longer than 30 days, that's really not the standard practice and so the establishment should not be obligated to maintain

video longer than that. I felt 30 days was a 1 2 sufficient period of time. The system is now currently operating 3 4 and there are no issues. My understanding is 5 that the owner, managers and staff are, basically, inspecting on a daily basis, so that 6 7 if they inspect it tomorrow and there is an issue with it, they will call Mr. Jose Machado to 8 9 repair the system, which would mean that the 10 establishment is in keeping with its obligations 11 under the settlement agreement. 12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you. You 13 have answered my question. 14 MR. RIVERO: Okay. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other 16 questions on -- yes, Mr. Alberti? 17 MEMBER ALBERTI: So thank you, Mr. 18 Rivero, for that. I'm going to make a statement 19 and then I have a question for you, because of 20 your last one or two sentences of your -- what

Okay.

MR. RIVERO:

you just said.

21

MEMBER ALBERTI: First of all, eight months prior to this incident that brought us here today, there was another incident at which we would have liked and it would have been extremely useful to have video footage. That was in December of 2016.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.

MEMBER ALBERTI: The licensee admitted liability for not having video at that time.

Now, we come eight months down the road and they still don't have video. So I have to wonder why during that eight months they didn't fix the problem? And it -- I will tell you, it makes me a little doubtful of their earnestness in this, what appears to be, non-binding promise to make video available.

You said something about this being part of the settlement agreement, that's not my understanding. Am I correct? This is -- having this video in the future is not part of this settlement agreement?

MR. RIVERO: I'm not sure what the

Board Member is indicating by the phrase 1 2 "settlement agreement." There is a settlement 3 agreement. 4 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I'm sorry. This 5 -- I'm sorry. I'll rephrase that, because I Let me repeat myself. 6 misstated. 7 This having video in the future is not part of this OIC? 8 9 MR. RIVERO: No. 10 That's what I MEMBER ALBERTI: thought. So the commitment to have video is non-11 12 binding, except as part of the settlement 13 agreement, and they have proven that they have violated it back in December of 2016 and eight 14 15 months later, they violated it again and made no, 16 apparently, effort to guarantee that it would be 17 done. 18 So I don't know if I can rely on their 19 word this time, is my problem. 20 MR. RIVERO: Okay. That would be the 21 Board Member's position, which I would respect. From the point of view of a 22

prosecutor, I have a statute that I can use.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Um-hum.

MR. RIVERO: So that if there is a further violation, my job is to use the available law to amend or address the violation of the law. And to the extent that I take any prophylactic measures as a prosecutor, I have to be careful not to exceed anything that, you know, I don't think is appropriate.

So that's -- we have different responsibilities.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Absolutely. And I appreciate all your work on this and I understand exactly where you are coming from and I'm not faulting you in any way. I'm just explaining why I have unease with this Offer in Compromise.

MR. RIVERO: Now, what I can say is that this time around, I had much more detailed conversations about the operation of the video system than last time, which I thought was going to get resolved. But apparently, what I understand is there was not regular checkup of

the video system and so that probably led to the situation that we have here today.

So based on my conversation with the licensee, they understand that they have to check the video system regularly. And based on this letter, my understanding is, they will check it once a day to make sure that it is recording.

I don't believe that that was a practice in place after the matter that you have mentioned and so I made it very clear now that that should be the practice. If there is a violation in the future, they understand that it will be a violation of the current settlement agreement. It will be a violation that will subject the license to suspension, revocation or a larger fine than the we are presenting today, which is within keeping of the law.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Again, I thank you for your efforts.

MR. RIVERO: You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board Members? All right.

1 Ms. De Leon? 2 MS. DE LEON: Yes. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 3 Ιt 4 has been so long, I didn't write your name and I 5 forgot your name, so I apologize. No problem. 6 MS. DE LEON: 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's my understanding that there is an Offer in 8 9 Compromise. And the Offer in Compromise is that 10 there is a fine of \$2,000 payable in 90 days. 11 the fine is not payable in 90 days, the license 12 will be suspended indefinitely until it has been 13 paid. 14 Is this your understanding of the 15 Offer in Compromise? 16 MS. DE LEON: Yes. Mr. Anderson, I 17 have had a chance to speak to Ms. Rosa Munoz and 18 we are well-aware of what we spoke with Mr. 19 Rivero and understand his, Mr. Alberti's, 20 concerns, too, sir. As far as us moving forward 21 since this last incident, everything has been

looked over, checked and we are doing that on a

daily basis as Mr. Rivero did mention. 1 2 And Ms. Munoz is aware of the \$2,000 3 fine and the 90 day period for her to pay and 4 they will do that. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And is your client aware that by accepting an Offer in 6 7 Compromise, that -- is she aware that by accepting an Offer in Compromise, that she is 8 9 giving up her right to have a hearing? 10 MS. DE LEON: Yes, she does understand. I did speak to her about that and 11 12 also explained to her. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And does she 13 14 also understand by accepting this Offer in 15 Compromise, then she is giving up her right to appeal this matter? 16 17 MS. DE LEON: Yes, she does, Mr. 18 Anderson. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All 20 right. The Board is going to take this matter 21 under advisement, so but we are going to vote on 22 it.

	So as Chairperson of the Alcoholic
2	Beverage Control Board for the District of
3	Columbia and in accordance with Section 405 of
4	the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, I move
5	that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the
6	purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel
7	on Case No. 17-251-00160, Golden Paradise
8	Restaurant, per Section 405(b)(4) of the Open
9	Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, and deliberating
10	upon Case No. 17-251-00160, Golden Paradise
11	Restaurant, for the reasons cited in Section
12	405(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of
13	2010. Is there a second?
14	MEMBER SHORT: Second.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
16	seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
17	vote on the motion before now that it has been
18	seconded.
19	Mr. Silverstein?
20	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
22	MEMBER SHORT: I agree.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
4	MEMBER CATO: I agree.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson?
6	I agree.
7	As it appears that the motion has
8	passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board
9	will hold a closed meeting in the ABC Board
10	conference room pursuant to the Open Meetings
11	Amendment Act of 2010.
12	We are in recess. We will be back
13	shortly. Thank you.
14	MS. DE LEON: Thank you, everyone.
15	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16	went off the record at 10:32 a.m. and resumed at
17	10:37 a.m.)
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
19	We're back on the record regarding the OIC for
20	Case No. 17-251-00160, Golden Paradise
21	Restaurant.
22	The Government presented an OIC. The

1	OIC was a fine of \$2,000 payable in 90 days. If
2	the fine is not payable within 90 days, the
3	license will be suspended until the fine has been
4	paid.
5	With that said, I make a motion that
6	the Offer in Compromise of a fine of \$2,000
7	payable in 90 days be accepted. If the fine is
8	not paid, the license will be suspended.
9	Is there a second?
10	MEMBER SHORT: Second.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
12	seconded the motion. I'll take a roll call vote
13	on the motion.
14	Mr. Cato?
15	MEMBER CATO: I agree.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?
17	MEMBER ALBERTI: I disagree.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
19	MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
21	Silverstein?
22	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I disagree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson? 1 2 The motion passes 3-2-0. Thank you. I agree. 3 MR. RIVERO: Thank you. 4 MS. DE LEON: Thank you to everyone. 5 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Chairman? 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. 7 Silverstein? 8 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: If I may for just 9 a moment? 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. 11 Silverstein. 12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I would like to 13 thank Mr. Rivero personally for the work that he 14 has done and inform the licensee that my concern 15 is for the safety of those who frequent your 16 establishment and who are outside your 17 establishment. And my concern that there have 18 been repeated acts of violence and that I value 19 greatly the lives and safety of those people and 20 that is why I voted no, not to turn this down, 21 but to send a message to you that their lives 22 matter greatly.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 2 Silverstein. MEMBER SHORT: I would also like to 3 4 make a comment. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short. MEMBER SHORT: And this is to the 6 7 licensee, the record that you have been maintaining with the business there is troubling 8 9 to myself, as a Board Member. I voted to accept 10 this OIC based on the work that the Government 11 did on this case. We will be watching very 12 closely and I expect those cameras to be 13 operating appropriately. 14 And this is the second time for the 15 Hopefully we will have no more 16 incidents with the cameras, because the next time 17 it might not be as well as this one. Thank you, 18 Mr. Chair. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 20 Short. I want to thank the parties for being 21 here today. You are free to go. You have some

Thank you.

paperwork to sign.

1	MS. DE LEON: Thank you.
2	MS. MUNOZ: Thank you.
3	(Whereupon, the Show Cause (Status)
4	Hearing was concluded at 10:40 a.m.)
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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Only Paradise Restaurant, Inc.

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-07-18

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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