DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

:

Hard Rock Café
International (STP),
Inc.,

t/a Hard Rock Café

999 E Street NW : Show Cause

Retailer CR - ANC 2C : Hearing (Status)

License No. 14130 Case #19-CC-00087

:

(Sale to Minor Violation,: Failed to Take Steps : Necessary to Ascertain : Legal Drinking Age) :

Wednesday
December 4, 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 BOBBY CATO, JR., Member RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

STEPHEN ORTIZ, DC OAG MATTHEW MINORA, Counsel for Applicant SETH WILLIAMS, Applicant

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S		
2	9:51 a.m.		
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The		
4	next case in our calendar is Case Number 19-CC-		
5	00087, Hard Rock Café, License Number 14130.		
6	Will the parties please approach and identify		
7	themselves for the record, please.		
8	MR. ORTIZ: Steven Ortiz on behalf of		
9	the District of Columbia.		
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ortiz.		
11	MR. MINORA: Matt Minora, counsel for		
12	the licensee.		
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Minora.		
14	MR. WILLIAMS: Seth Williams, Director		
15	of Operations for Hard Rock Café.		
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Williams.		
17	Good morning.		
18	MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.		
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any		
20	preliminary matters in this case?		
21	MR. ORTIZ: Yes, there are. As to		
22	Charge 1, which is sale to a minor, the offer in		
23	compromise is that the establishment shall pay		
24	\$3500 within 30 days or its license shall be		
25	suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.		

Additionally, this license shall be suspended for ten days, with four days to be served, and six days stayed for one year. Also, all employees who serve alcoholic beverages in the licensed establishment shall complete an alcohol training program within three months from the offer in compromise date, and the Respondent, or the establishment, shall serve five days, which is activated from a previous case.

So that brings us to nine days total of having to -- the license being suspended, which will take place on January 6th through January 14th.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Minora, it's my understanding that there's an offer in compromise and the offer in compromise is that, for Charge 1, there is a fine of \$3500, with a ten-day suspension, for it to be served, that all employees who sell or serve alcohol will go --will undergo a mandatory training within 90 days, and that also, that five days will be activated from Case Number 18-CC-00058, meaning that there will be a nine-day suspension and the suspension will be -- take place January 6, 2020 until January 14, 2020.

And that Charge 2 will be dismissed.

Is this your understanding of the offer in compromise?

MR. MINORA: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is your client aware that by accepting an offer in compromise, that they're giving up their right to a hearing?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And is your client aware that by accepting an offer in

Yes, that's correct.

compromise, that they're giving up their right to appeal this matter?

MR. MINORA:

MR. MINORA: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: With that said,
I make a motion that the offer in compromise of a
fine for Charge 1 of \$3500 with a ten-day
suspension, six days will be suspended for one
year, four days will be served, that all
employees who sell or serve alcohol will undergo
a training within the next 90 days, and that five
days are activated from Case Number 18-CC-00058,
meaning that the establishment will not be able
to sell or serve alcohol from January 6, 2020
until January 14, 2020.

And that Charge 2 will be dismissed.

Is there a second? 1 2 MEMBER SHORT: Second. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has 4 seconded the motion. All those in favor, say 5 aye. (Chorus of Ayes) 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed. 8 The matter passes 4-0-0. The Board will issue a 9 Board order before you leave. Well, the only 10 thing I'll say, Mr. -- and neither of the cases 11 are dismissed, I'm glad you're here Mr. Williams. 12 I know it's going to be difficult on 13 the Hard Rock Café to be closed from January 6, 14 2020, in a sense, closed, cannot serve alcohol, I 15 mean, we take this very seriously, and you have 16 to make sure that the employees in your 17 establishment -- our job is not necessarily to 18 fine you. 19 That's not that. But there's really 20 no reason where everyone who buys alcohol in your 21 establishment where they cannot -- the servers 22 don't do a mandatory training, no matter who they look like. 23

Right.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You should do

MR. WILLIAMS:

24

25

1	checking I.D.		
2	MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.		
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so that's		
4	all I can say.		
5	MR. WILLIAMS: Agreed.		
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.		
7	Have a good day, sir.		
8	MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.		
9	(Whereupon, the hearing in the above-		
10	entitled matter was concluded at 9:56 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: Hard Rock Cafe

Before: DCABRA

Date: 12-04-19

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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