#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

:

1336 U Street, LLC, t/a Hawthorne :

1336 U Street NW : Fact Finding

Retailer CR - ANC 1B : Hearing

License No. 99603 : Case #19-251-00068 :

(Simple Assault, : Violation of Settlement : Agreement) :

Wednesday
June, 26, 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 BOBBY CATO, JR., Member

MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

FRANCIS BROGAN, COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT
STEFAN VASILIS, COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT
INVESTIGATOR MARK RUIZ, ABRA
INVESTIGATOR MARK BRASHEARS, ABRA

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	3:32 p.m.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on
4	the record.
5	Our next case is another fact finding
6	hearing, Case Number 19-251-00068, Hawthorne,
7	License Number 99603.
8	Would all parties please appear and
9	identify themselves for the record, please.
10	MR. BROGAN: Mr. Chairman, Francis
11	Brogan and Stefan Vasilis on behalf of the
12	licensee.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your last
14	name?
15	MR. BROGAN: Brogan, Francis Brogan.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, what did you
17	say after that?
18	MR. BROGAN: I'm sorry. I gave his
19	name.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh. Oh, okay,
21	that's why. Okay, good afternoon.
22	MR. VASILIS: I'm Stefan Vasilis.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon. 1 2 I apologize. MR. RUIZ: ABRA Investigator Mark Ruiz. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon, 4 Ruiz. 5 Mr. All right. We're here today because 6 7 of an incident that occurred at the 8 establishment. And as a result of ABRA's 9 investigation of the event there's some 10 determination that maybe the establishment did 11 not act appropriately. 12 The purpose of this fact finding 13 hearing today is basically to gather the facts. 14 The Board has not made any determination what further action, if any, will be made. At the end 15 16 of this hearing the Board will determine whether or not we will NFA this or whether or not we will 17 18 make a request to the Office of Attorney General 19 for further investigation. 20 So that's basically where we are. So, 21 a fact finding hearing is just gathering facts.

The Board can't ask legally, order you to do

anything. We can ask -- you can volunteer to do 1 2 certain things here but the Board cannot order And if requests are made to you to do 3 you. 4 something, if you don't think it's necessarily in 5 your best interests you don't have to agree because we can't order you. 6 And the Board should not take, take 7 8 your refusal to do something if it's asked as any 9 I'm just saying we can't order you to do anything at a fact finding hearing. At the show 10 11 cause we can order you, as I explained. 12 But I just wanted to explain to you 13 this is the process of how we are today. 14 So, Supervisory Investigator Brashears, if you can identify yourself for the 15 16 record, lease. 17 MR. BRASHEARS: Supervisory 18 Investigator Mark Brashears with ABRA. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon, sir. 20 21 Mr. Ruiz, are you familiar with this 22 establishment?

MR. RUIZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how are you familiar with this establishment, sir?

MR. RUIZ: I was assigned the case on April 5th for an MPD-251 investigation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, can you please explain to us what, what it is that -- can you just explain the events and what conclusions, if any, did you formulate as a result of your investigation?

MR. RUIZ: I was sent to an MPD-251 on April 5th, Friday, 2019. MPD-251 states that a subject, identified RP 1, flagged down MPD officers in a car for disorderly inside an establishment.

Upon the police review of video footage RP 1, the subject, was seen exchanging words with an unknown citizen inside, which resulted in the subject pushing the other unknown citizen with both hands.

RP 1 sustained a small laceration above the left eye and head pain, and result

public disorderly. Security and other personnel were able to split and send all parties away from the establishment off the PD-251.

During the investigation I was able to visit the establishment, Hawthorne, on Saturday, April 13th, 2019, where I met with ABC Manager Mike Jones in regard to the incident and to conduct regulatory inspection.

Mr. Jones recalled the incident, stated that it involved a -- the subject that was extremely bloody but was being uncooperative and refused, well, he refused medical treatment.

He said that both parties were separated, went to opposite directions, and escorted out of the establishment. The one individual that caused the injuries to the subject was unable to be located after that.

Also during that, Mr. Jones was able to also provide us with video surveillance of the incident and as well as their incident report from their Gmail where they keep their electronic incident reports.

I talked with Mr. Jones, discussed some security procedures for the night of the incident. They say that there were 9 security personnel in attendance, provided by a third party, a security company known as NNB Security Agency. Security personnel were identified by being uniformed with a black polo with security company's logo on the left chest area with NNB letters.

Some security employees may also have "crowd control" or "Security" on the back of their polo.

The establishment had 49 security cameras in operation that had footage available for 11 days before being deleted. And in-house employees conduct I.D. checks upon entering the establishment through the front door and conducts bag checks. Security does not conduct pat-downs of patrons.

I was also able to speak with Justin More, who is the head of security for the security company NNB, which stated that none of

his security staff were involved in diffusing the altercation. The altercation was diffused by two patrons at the bar nearby who were able to separate both parties, at which time management, Mr. Jones and another individual, was able to tend to the injured person in a back bathroom who was the only person left in the establishment.

The other subject was escorted away from the scene, unknown, was able to leave the establishment without being identified.

During, during the -- that's all, that's all the information I was able to get for then.

April 17th I was able to speak with the injured, injured patron who was identified by police as Mr. Sentisi(phonetic). He stated he believed the incident to be racially motivated. He was conversing with other friends in his native language when this other patron walked by and stated to him, Get out of here, you don't belong here.

At which time Mr. Sentisi stated that

he felt uncomfortable. He did state he pushed the other patron back because he was too close to him. And then that's when the other patron threw five punches into his face, knocking him down.

Mr. Sentisi stated that he was told by management that he was scaring the other patrons and that he had to leave immediately. At which time they led him down the rear steps through a kitchen. He said he was concerned with the establishment's lack of medical assistance and urgency to remove him from the premises.

Mr. Sentisi stated, while walking down the steps he received a band-aid and napkins from someone who he identified as a busboy.

Mr. Sentisi also stated once he reached the sidewalk he saw an MPD patrol vehicle across the street and waved them over at this time. He also spoke to them. They had an ambulance respond. Mr. Sentisi refused to go with the ambulance, and drive himself to Howard Hospital at 12:30 a.m.

Mr. Sentisi stated he was diagnosed

with a minor concussion and contusions.

During the investigation I conducted a regulatory inspection. There was a settlement agreement and a security plan involved. There was a settlement agreement which also stated that they were supposed to submit a security plan, but the time of the ABRA's records reflect at that time there was not one in the file.

And then the settlement agreement was not available at the time of the inspection, nor did Mr. Jones know what the settlement agreement was.

So, going back to the office, checking out the records, I was able to locate the settlement agreement and find that they were supposed to have a security plan as well.

I did recently check the ABRA records, and a security plan has since been submitted.

I'm not sure exactly what date or that time.

That's my findings.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So as a result of the incident investigation did you -- was

there any determination made whether or not the 1 2 establishment had violated, had committed any infraction as a result of this incident? 3 4 MR. RUIZ: I determined they violated 5 25-711 DC Official Code, person carrying a 6 license for not having the settlement agreement 7 available at the time for review during the 8 inspection, and failing to follow settlement 9 agreement by not submitting a security plan to 10 ABRA. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And those are 12 the only two violations that you --13 MR. RUIZ: Yes, that we saw. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Brogan, what is it, if anything, you want to provide? 15 16 Brogan, what, if anything, do you want to provide 17 to the Board regarding this incident and your 18 establishment's response? 19 MR. BROGAN: Sure, Mr. Chairman. Well, 20 first, on the security plan, our records show 21 that we did submit this plan to ABRA. But we went ahead and filed it again. 22

confirmation from Ms. Randall from last week that it's been received and approved by the ABRA Board. We went ahead and refiled it. That is on record.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you recall when was that?

MR. BROGAN: Ms. Randall approved it last Friday. We got the letter from ABRA last week and we refiled it as soon as we received the letter.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MR. BROGAN: Secondly, when it comes to the settlement agreement, our settlement agreement's kind of a confusing document. It's consisting of a voluntary agreement, a settlement agreement, and two Board orders. So it is hanging in our establishment. I think there was some confusion on when the investigator asked our manager because, frankly, it's a complicated document but we do have it hanging on the premises.

We've now moved it up to where it's

next to our liquor license. So, in the future if any city officials ask for it, it's directly next to our liquor license.

But I brought with us our director of operations Stefan Vasilis. And every time we hire a manager of our company Stefan goes through that document with them, so they are aware of the items in that document.

Our voluntary agreement primarily

deals with the noise on our rooftop. We

previously were the New Town licensee which

before we took over I think received 75 ABRA

complaints in one year, which at the time was a

record. Since we took it over we've had no noise

complaints.

We have a great relationship with our neighbors. I think that shows that, you know, we understand what's in the agreement and we abide by it every day. That's why we don't have issues with our neighbors, unlike the previous licensee in the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what was

MR. BROGAN: Sure. So to the best of our knowledge -- by the way, I've spoken to Mr. Investigator Ruiz that morning. I sent an email. I coordinated with him to make sure that he received the footage. So we wanted, of course, to make sure that ABRA quickly got the information.

I also explained the confusion about the settlement agreement versus voluntary agreement since our managers use different language. But I quickly within a few hours of the incident spoke with Investigator Ruiz.

But to the best of our knowledge it looks like two patrons got into it. We quickly separated them. One left. Because of our location, where right outside this building at 14th and U there's MPD outside our front door every single Friday and Saturday night. So police were quickly notified. But, you know, the first person had already taken off at that point.

So, again, you know, we have a

security plan we've reinforced with our staff.

We want to make sure that everyone is kept safe while on the premises. But it looks like two customers just engaged in an agree -- disagreement.

As the investigator said, we had 9 security officers on hand. We staffed basically twice what ABRA's recommendation guidelines are for a building of our size. We take security very seriously. It's a big cost, but we also want to make sure there's plenty of security both to prevent fights and also to prevent overcrowding.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there, based on the incident is there anything that you believe that your establishment could have done better?

MR. BROGAN: Yeah. I'm a little concerned with the customer went out through the kitchen. I think our, our internal report shows he walked out the front door, that's how he was able to speak with the police outside the door.

But we reinforced, as well as our security plan 1 2 filed, that, you know, 911 have to be called. can't just wait for the police even though 3 4 they're outside, to call. And also to preserve a 5 crime scene. You know, we did ask this individual 6 7 if he wanted medical attention. You know, he 8 declined. But, you know, we probably should have 9 called 911 regardless. And we make sure to train our staff with that. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other? Any questions by any other board members? 12 13 Yes, Mr. Short. 14 MEMBER SHORT: What was the injury to the person? And how did you deal with it? 15 16 MR. BROGAN: So, I believe he had -- he was hit in the face, so I think it was a bloody 17 18 I believe Mr. Ruiz's report says that I nose. 19 think he had contusions and a minor concussion. 20 MEMBER SHORT: So if he had went

outside and, although he refused when you wanted

to treat him, did the EMS people look at him?

21

1	MR. BROGAN: No.
2	MEMBER SHORT: He refused or did you
3	call EMS?
4	MR. BROGAN: He said he wanted to go to
5	the hospital himself. We're pretty close to
6	Howard Hospital, so he took himself to the
7	hospital.
8	MEMBER SHORT: I understand that.
9	Supposing he walked to the next
10	intersection and fallen and died, would you have
11	had any culpability for that?
12	MR. BROGAN: Yes, sir. Yeah.
13	MEMBER SHORT: So the next time will
14	you call EMS before you do that?
15	MR. BROGAN: Yes, sir.
16	MEMBER SHORT: If he still want to
17	leave, that's on him, but at least you've done
18	your part and you cover yourself in case you're
19	doing anything.
20	How many, how many, how many
21	what's your occupancy on the rooftop?
22	MR. BROGAN: On our rooftop, I believe

55. 1 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You mentioned something about a little crowding on the rooftop 3 4 a minute ago? 5 MR. BROGAN: Just we're a very vertical building. We have five stories. So we have 6 7 security on all the staircases to ensure that 8 there's not overcrowding on any of the floors. 9 MEMBER SHORT: How do you know how many 10 occupants you have in your restaurant at any one time? 11 12 MR. BROGAN: So, we have clickers at 13 the front door and we also have clickers on the 14 rooftop to track all who's coming in. 15 MEMBER SHORT: Great answer. 16 No further questions, Mr. Chair. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other 18 questions by any other board members? 19 (No response.) 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ruiz, any 21 final comments that you want to make regarding 22 the establishment?

1	MR. RUIZ: No, sir.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Brogan, any
3	final comments you want to make?
4	MR. BROGAN: No, sir.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You were saying
6	that your security plan is now I'm sorry, that
7	your settlement agreement is that it's posted
8	next to your license up front?
9	MR. BROGAN: Yes.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, and I guess
11	you said your staff is familiar with the
12	terminology utilized, so therefore everyone's
13	speaking the same language?
14	MR. BROGAN: Yes.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you have now
16	stated, you stated that we had informed you that
17	you didn't have a security plan on file, but you
18	have now provided ABRA with, with the security
19	plan, and the legal staff has accepted that?
20	MR. BROGAN: Yes. I have a copy of
21	that. Ms. Randall approved it last week.
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1	don't really have any other questions.			
2	So I will, based on the presentation			
3	today I will make a motion that we take no			
4	further action.			
5	Is there a second?			
6	MEMBER SHORT: Second.			
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has			
8	seconded the motion.			
9	All those in favor, say aye.			
10	(Chorus of ayes.)			
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed?			
12	(No response.)			
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The matter is			
14	passed 5-0-0.			
15	Thank you for being here today. And			
16	thank you for your responses, sir. Have a great			
17	day.			
18	MR. BROGAN: Thank you.			
19	(Whereupon, at 3:48 p.m., the above-			
20	entitled matter was concluded.)			
21				
22				

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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: Hawthorne

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-26-19

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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