## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA <br> + + + + +

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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ROLL CALL HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:
MAHK Meetings, LLC, t/a TBD
1807 Florida Ave NW : Roll Call
Retailer CT - ANC 1C : Hearing
License No. ABRA-115363 :
Case \#20-PRO-00009
(New Application)
Tuesday
February 18, 2020

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, La Verne Fletcher, Board's Agent, presiding.

## PRESENT:

LA VERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent
ALSO PRESENT:
SIDON YOHANNES, Applicant Counsel
TED GUTHRIE, ANC 1C DENNIS JAMES, Kalorama Citizens Association SUZANNE FARMER, Protestant PIPER HENDRICKS, Protestant
ALAN ROTH, Protestant
ANDREW SCHUMAN, Protestant
LEIGH CARTER, Protestant
GEORGE BOWMAN, Protestant
FELICIA MEIER, Protestant
SELMA THOMAS, Protestant
ALLAN COMP, Protestant
LAURIE CLARKE, Protestant

JUDITH CARLSSON, Protestant MICHAEL RODGERS, Protestant DAVID BLUMENTHAL, Protestant TORBJORN CARLSSON, Protestant GEOFF MERRILL, Protestant KYLIE HIEMSTRA, Protestant<br>SAM HART, Protestant<br>CASSANDRA JONES, Protestant

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
10:02 a.m.

MS. FLETCHER: Would the parties in the matter of MAHK please come forward, would the parties in the matter -- would the parties in the matter of MAHK Meetings, LLC, please come forward.

This is Case No. 20-PRO-00009, 1807 Florida Ave., NW, License No. ABRA-115363. This is a Retailer Class CT new application. The protest issues are adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet; residential parking and vehicular and pedestrian safety; real property values; and overconcentration.

My name is La Verne Fletcher conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's agent. Introductions beginning with the Applicant, please.

MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes on behalf of the Applicant.

MS. FLETCHER: Yohannes, would you spell your name for the Reporter, please.

MS. YOHANNES: S-I-D-O-N Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, and present
on behalf of ANC 1C.
MR. GUTHRIE: Ted Guthrie, T-E-D G-U-T-H-R-I-E.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. And on behalf of the Kalorama Citizens Association.

MR. JAMES: Good morning, Denis James, D-E-N-I-S J-A-M-E-S.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. James. Is Suzanne Farmer present?

MS. FARMER: Right here.
MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Farmer, would you spell your name for the record, please.

MS. FARMER: S-U-Z-A-N-N-E, last name is $F-A-R-M-E-R$.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you, Ms. Farmer. You filed your protest as an abutting property owner, and it was determined that your property does abut the establishment, and so you're granted standing as an abutting property owner.

Is Piper Hendricks here? Hi, Ms. Hendricks, would you spell your name.

MS. HENDRICKS: It's P-I-P-E-R H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. You also filed your protest as an abutting property owner and it has been determined that your property does abut as well. Thank you. And there's a group of 23. Is Mr. Roth present?

MR. ROTH: Yes, ma'am.
MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, Mr. Roth. Could you spell your name for the record.

MR. ROTH: Yes, A-L-A-N R-O-T-H.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Mr. Roth, are there any other individuals from your group present today?

MR. ROTH: There are several.
MS. FLETCHER: There's a microphone -oh, it's right, actually beside Mr. Roth. If you could stand between Mr. Roth and Mr. James, whoever is present, and state your name for the record. State your name and spell it for the record, please.

MR. SCHUMAN: Andrew Schuman, A-N-D-R-E-W, last name Schuman, S-C-H-U-M-A-N.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MS. CARTER: Leigh Carter, L-E-I-G-H, Carter, C-A-R-T-E-R.

MR. BOWMAN: Hi, I'm George Bowman, G-

E-O-R-G-E B-O-W-M-A-N.
MS. MEIER: Hi, Felicia Meier, F-E-L-I-C-I-A M-E-I-E-R.

MS. FLETCHER: M-E-I?
MS. MEIER: E-R.
MS. FLETCHER: E-R?
MS. MEIER: Mm hm.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MS. THOMAS: Good morning.
MS. FLETCHER: Morning.
MS. THOMAS: Selma Thomas, S-E-L-M-A T-H-O-M-A-S.

MR. COMP: Good morning, Allan Comp, A-L-L-A-N C-O-M-P.

MS. FLETCHER: What was the first name again?

MR. COMP: Allan, A-L-L-A-N.
MS. FLETCHER: Oh, A double L A-N. And spell the last name one more time.

MR. COMP: Comp, C-O-M-P, like comp in competition.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MS. CLARKE: Laurie Clarke, L-A-U-R-IE, Clarke, C-L-A-R-K-E.

MS. CARLSSON: Judith Carlsson, C-A-R-

L-S-S-O-N.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MR. RODGERS: Michael Rodgers, M-I-C-H-A-E-L R-O-D-G-E-R-S.

MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, what's the last name again?

MR. RODGERS: Rodgers, R-O-D-G-E-R-S.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MR. BLUMENTHAL: David Blumenthal, D-A-V-I-D B-L-U-M-E-N-T-H-A-L.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MR. CARLSSON: Torbjorn Carlsson, T-0-R-B-J-O-R-N, Carlsson is C-A-R-L-S-S-O-N.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MR. MERRILL: Geoff Merrill, G-E-0-F-F M-E-R-R-I-L-L.

MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, what did you say your last name is again?

MR. MERRILL: Merrill like Merrill Lynch.
(Laughter.)
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
MS. HIEMSTRA: Kylie Hiemstra, K-Y-L-I-E H-I-E-M-S-T-R-A.

MR. HART: Sam Hart, S-A-M H-A-R-T.

MS. JONES: Cassandra Jones, that's C-A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A.

MS. FLETCHER: And the last name is Jones?

MS. JONES: Jones.
MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you, thank you very much.

MS. FLETCHER: And, Mr. Roth, you signed the protest letter also?

MR. ROTH: Yes, I did.
MS. FLETCHER: Okay. If you cannot move the microphone, I'm sorry. So I count 16 individuals present from the group of 23, which means that the group of 23 has standing as a protestant.

And so as protestants we have ANC 1C -- oh, Mr. James, I meant to ask you --

MR. ROTH: You said you count 16 ?
MS. FLETCHER: Sixteen present.
MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you.
MS. FLETCHER: Is that good? Mr. James, I did not ask you if you invited the applicant to your meeting concerning the protest, the seven-day notice?

MR. ROTH: Right. We did actually
invite. That's actually not a requirement in the law. It's to notify seven days in advance, but we always do say that the applicant's welcome to attend, applicant or their representative.

MS. FLETCHER: Well, they're saying the same thing. Okay, thank you.

MR. ROTH: Good deal.
MS. FLETCHER: The protestants are ANC 1C, the Kalorama Citizens Association, Suzanne Farmer, Piper Hendricks, and a group of 23. We need to set a date for mediation, a status hearing, and a protest hearing. I'll give you the dates for the status and protest hearing --

MR. ROTH: Ms. Fletcher?
MS. FLETCHER: Yes, Mr. Roth?
MR. ROTH: Before we get to that point, the protestants, ANC 1C, Kalorama Citizens Association, Ms. Farmer, and the group of Vernon Street protestants have a motion that they'd like to serve on you and on the applicant. If I could approach you?

MS. FLETCHER: Mm-hmm, thank you.
(Off-mic comments.)
MR. ROTH: Excuse me, serve a copy to Ms. Yohannes. It's a motion to dismiss the
application or request summary denial of the application.

The motion alleges that the Board committed several areas in placarding -- in allowing the placarding of this application in the first instance. And it's our view that before we even get to the point of mediation and status hearing, that the Board should hear this motion and decide it.

MS. FLETCHER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: And so I think we're willing to set a date for mediation and status hearing, but our suggestion would be that that mediation and status hearing take place perhaps later in the month of March so that the Board have the opportunity to hear and decide this motion.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Roth. Any comment, Ms. Yohannes, any response?

MS. YOHANNES: Being that I just received this motion, I'll respond accordingly in writing. Regarding the status hearing, I believe that date is already set. So we can just take that date regarding mediation, happy to respond to motions and have a hearing on motions and then
move to a mediation hearing.
MS. FLETCHER: So what I'll do, I agree with you, Mr. Roth that the dates -- the mediation date in particular will be held in abeyance. But since $I$ was already given the status hearing date, $I$ 'm going to give you that date. And the Board may rule on your motion before then, or they could choose to rule on it at the status hearing.

So I'll give you the date for the status hearing. The date of the status hearing in this case is March 18. It's March 18 at 9:30 a.m.

MR. ROTH: Unfortunately, ma'am, I'm going to be in Mexico that day.

MS. FLETCHER: You're going to be in Mexico, Mr. Roth. Is there anybody else in your group that could represent you, or no?

MR. ROTH: Can we push it to the 25th?
MS. FLETCHER: The dates for the status hearing are provided to me as the Board's next available date. I actually don't set the Board's date on its calendar. So what I'm going to do, I'm just going to give you that date, Mr. Roth, but can you ask Martha Jenkins to
reschedule that date?
That request will go through Martha Jenkins. You have Martha Jenkins's email address?

MR. ROTH: Yeah, I do.
MS. FLETCHER: Okay, and so she can change the date on the Board's calendar. But I'll let her know that it's coming.

And then Ms. Yohannes, would you be opposed to changing the date of the status hearing?

MS. YOHANNES: No.
MS. FLETCHER: So you can make it a joint request if everybody's in agreement and just send it to Martha.

MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you.
MR. JAMES: Doesn't the possibility also exist that the Board might set a different time for a motions hearing?

MS. FLETCHER: It's possible, or they may do it at the status hearing. But yes, it's possible, it is a possibility.

And then I may as well give you the date for the protest hearing as well. If it's cancelled, then it'll just be cancelled. The
date on the Board's calendar for this protest hearing is April 8, that's April 8, 2020 at 1:30.

MR. ROTH: One-thirty.
MS. FLETCHER: At 1:30, uh huh.
MR. ROTH: Can I raise another issue, scheduling issue then?

MS. FLETCHER: Yeah.
MR. ROTH: I know the Board probably didn't have this in mind when they set that date.

MS. FLETCHER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: But that evening is the beginning of Passover, which for me is a religious holiday.

MS. FLETCHER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: And throughout the next two days.

MS. FLETCHER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: So I'm perfectly happy to proceed at 1:30. I don't know whether there are other hearings scheduled that day, but at sundown that evening, I plan to be gone. And for the next two days --

MS. FLETCHER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: I plan to be gone as well.
So I would appreciate a religious accommodation
by the Board.
MS. FLETCHER: Yes. And Mr. Roth, in that motion to, in that motion related to the status hearing, can you include that in the same, in the same request? And I'll let Martha Jenkins know it's coming.

MR. ROTH: I appreciate that, thank you.

MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Okay, so the status hearing is set for March 18 at 9:30, and the protest hearing April 8 at 1:30. Mr. Roth, you're going to be submitting motions to change those dates, but just stating them for the record.

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
MS. FLETCHER: Any questions?
MS. YOHANNES: No questions, thank you.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, well, thank you for coming. Your hearing is concluded.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:17 a.m.)

| A | $35: 25,25$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| A-L-A-N 5:9 |  |
| A-L-L-A-N 6:14,17 | C |
| A-N-D-R-5:20 | C- 8:1 |
| A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A 8:2 | C-A-R-6:25 |
| A-V-I-D 7:10 | C-A-R-L-S-S-O-N 7:13 |
| a.m 3:2 11:13 14:22 | C-A-R-T-E-R 5:2 |
| abeyance 11:5 | C-L |
| above-entitled 14:21 | C |
| ABRA 1:17 | calendar 11:23 12:7 |
| ABRA-115363 1:8 3:9 | $\begin{gathered} 13: 1 \\ \text { call 1:3,7 3:16 } \end{gathered}$ |
| abut 4:19 5:4 | call 1:3,7 3:16 <br> cancelled 12:25,2 |
| abutting 4:17,20 5:2 | Carlsson 2:6,9 6:25,25 |
| address 12:4 | 7:12,12,13 |
| advance 9:2 | Carter 1:23 5:23,23,24 |
| adverse 3:11 | case 1:8 3:8 11: |
| agent 1:15,17 3:17 | Cassandra 2:13 8 |
| agree 11:3 | change 12:7 14:13 |
| agreement 12 | changing 12:10 |
| ALAN 1:22 | choose 11:8 |
| Alcoholic 1:2,13,13 | Citizens 1:20 4:5 9:9,17 |
| Allan 1:25 6:13,17 | Clarke 1:25 6:23,23,24 |
| alleges 10:3 | Class 3:10 |
| allowing 10:5 | COLUMBIA 1:1 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ANC 1:7,20 4:1 8:16 9:8 } \\ & 9: 17 \end{aligned}$ | come 3:4,6 |
|  | coming 12:8 14:6,20 |
| Andrew 1:22 5:20 | comment 10:19 |
| anybody 11:17 | comments 9:23 |
| applicant 1:19 3:18,208:23 9:4,20 | committed 10:4 |
|  | comp 1:25 6:13,13,17 |
| applicant's 9:3 | 6:20,20,20 |
| application 1:9 3:1010:1,2,5 | competition 6:21 |
|  | concerning 8:23 |
| appreciate 13:25 14:7 | concluded 14:20 |
|  | conducting 3:16 |
| April 13:2,2 1 | Control 1:2,13,13 |
|  | copy 9:24 |
| tio | Counsel 1:19 |
|  | count 8:12,18 |
| attend 9:4 | CT 1:7 3:10 |
| available 11:22 |  |
| ve 1:7 | D-7:9 |
| B | D-E-N-I-S |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { B-L-U-M-E-N-T-H-A-L } \\ & 7: 10 \end{aligned}$ | D-R-I-C-K-S 4: |
|  | D.C 1:14 |
| B-O-W-M-A-N 6:1 | date 9:11 10:12, |
| eginning 3:17 13:12 | 11:4,6,7,10,11,22,23 |
| behalf 3:20 4:1,5 | 11:24 12:1,7,10,24 |
| believe 10:22 | 13:1,9 |
| Beverage 1:2,13,13 | dates 9:13 11:3,20 |
| Blumenthal 2:8 7:9,9 | 14:13 |
| Board 1:2,13 10:3,8,15 | David 2:8 7:9 |
| 11:7 12:18 13:8 14:1 | day 11:15 13:20 |
| oard's 1:15,17 3:16 | days 9:2 13:16,22 |
| 11:21,23 12:7 13:1 | deal 9:7 |

decide 10:9,16
denial 10:1
Denis 4:7
DENNIS 1:20
determined 4:18 5:3
different 12:18
dismiss 9:25
DISTRICT 1:1
double 6:18

| E |
| :--- |
| E 6:24 |
| E-O-R-G-E 6:1 |
| E-R 6:5,6 |
| E-S 3:24 |
| E-W 5:21 |
| email 12:3 |
| establishment 4:19 |
| evening 13:11,21 |
| everybody's 12:14 |
| Excuse 9:24 |
| exist 12:18 |
| F |

F-A-R-M-E-R 4:15
F-E-L-6:2
Farmer 1:21 4:10,11,12 4:14,17 9:10,18
February 1:11
Felicia 1:24 6:2
filed 4:17 5:2
first 6:15 10:6
Fletcher 1:15,17 3:3,15 3:21,25 4:4,9,12,16 5:1,7,10,14,22 6:4,6,8 6:10,15,18,22 7:2,5,8 7:11,14,17,22 8:3,6,8 8:11,19,21 9:5,8,14 9:15,22 10:10,18 11:2 11:16,20 12:6,13,20 13:4,7,10,14,17,23 14:2,9,16,19
Florida 1:7 3:9
forward 3:4,7
G

## G- 5:25

G-E-O-F-F 7:15
G-U-4:2
Geoff 2:10 7:15
George 1:23 5:25
give 9:12 11:6,10,24 12:23
given 11:5
granted 4:20
group 5:5,11 8:13,14 9:10,18 11:18
Guthrie 1:20 4:2,2,4

H-A-E-L 7:4
H-A-R-T 7:25
H-E-N- 4:24
H-I-E-M-S-T-R-A 7:24
happy 10:24 13:18
Hart 2:12 7:25,25
hear 10:8,16
hearing 1:3,7,13 3:16 9:12,12,13 10:8,13,14 10:22,25 11:1,6,9,11 11:11,21 12:11,19,21 12:24 13:2 14:4,10,11 14:20
hearings 13:20
held 11:4
Hendricks 1:21 4:22,23
4:24 9:10
Hi 4:22 5:25 6:2
Hiemstra 2:11 7:23,23
hm 6:7
holiday 13:13
huh 13:4
I
I-C-I-A 6:3
I-E 7:24
impact 3:11
include 14:4
individuals 5:11 8:13
instance 10:6
Introductions 3:17
invite 9:1
invited 8:22
issue 13:5,6
issues 3:11
it'll 12:25

| J |
| :--- |
| J-A-M-E-S 4:8 |
| James 1:20 4:7,7,9 5:16 |
| 8:17,22 12:17 |
| Jenkins 11:25 12:3 |
| 14:5 |
| Jenkins's 12:3 |
| joint 12:14 |
| Jones 2:13 8:1,1,4,5,5 |
| Judith 2:6 6:25 |

K

K-Y-L- 7:23
Kalorama 1:20 4:5 9:9 9:17
Kylie 2:11 7:23
$\bar{L} \bar{L}$

L-A-U-R-I- 6:23
L-E-I-G-H 5:23
L-S-S-O-N 7:1
La 1:14,17 3:15
Laughter 7:21
Laurie 1:25 6:23
law 9:2
Leigh 1:23 5:23
letter 8:9
License 1:8 3:9
LLC 1:6 3:6
Lynch 7:20

## M

M-E-I 6:4
M-E-I-E-R 6:3
M-E-R-R-I-L-L 7:16
M-I-C- 7:3
ma'am 5:6 11:14
MAHK 1:6 3:4,6
March 10:15 11:12,12
14:10
Martha 11:25 12:2,3,15 14:5
matter 1:5 3:4,5,6 14:21
means 8:14
meant 8:17
mediation 9:11 10:7,12
10:14,24 11:1,4
meeting 8:23
Meetings 1:6 3:6
Meier 1:24 6:2,2,5,7
Merrill 2:10 7:15,15,19
7:19,19
met 1:13
Mexico 11:15,17
Michael 2:7 7:3
microphone 5:14 8:12
mind 13:9
Mm 6:7
month 10:15
morning 4:7 5:7 6:9,10 6:13
motion 9:19,25 10:3,9
10:17,21 11:7 14:3,3
motions 10:25,25 12:19 14:12
move 8:12 11:1
N
N.W 1:14
name 3:15,22 4:13,14
4:23 5:8,17,18,21
6:15,19 7:6,18 8:3
need 9:11
new 1:9 3:10
notice 8:24
notify 9:2

NW 1:7 3:9
0

Off-mic 9:23
One-thirty 13:3
opportunity 10:16
opposed 12:10
order 3:12
overconcentration 3:14
owner 4:18,21 5:2

P
P-I-P-E-R 4:24
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 3:1
parking 3:12
particular 11:4
parties 3:3,5,5
Passover 13:12
peace 3:11
pedestrian 3:13
perfectly 13:18
Piper 1:21 4:22 9:10 placarding 10:4,5
place 10:14
plan 13:21,24
please 3:4,6,18,22 4:13 5:19
point 9:17 10:7
possibility 12:17,22
possible 12:20,22
present 1:16,18 3:25
4:10 5:5,12,17 8:13 8:19
presiding 1:15
probably 13:8
proceed 13:19
property 3:13 4:18,19 4:20 5:2,3
protest 3:11 4:17 5:2 8:9,23 9:12,13 12:24 13:1 14:11
protestant 1:21,21,22 1:22,23,23,24,24,25 1:25 2:6,7,8,9,10,11 2:12,13 8:15
protestants 8:16 9:8,17 9:19
provided 11:21
push 11:19
$\frac{\mathrm{Q}}{\frac{\text { questions 14:16,17 }}{\text { quiet 3:12 }}}$
$\frac{\mathrm{R}}{\text { R-B-J-O-R-N 7:13 }}$

R-O-D-G-E-R-S 7:4,7
R-O-T-H 5:9
raise 13:5
real 3:13
received 10:21
record 4:13 5:8,18,19
14:14,22
Reeves 1:14
regarding 10:22,24
related 14:3
religious 13:13,25
Reporter 3:22
represent 11:18
representative 9:4
request 10:1 12:2,14 14:5
requirement 9:1
reschedule 12:1
residential 3:12
respond 10:21,24
response 10:19
Retailer 1:7 3:10
Rodgers 2:7 7:3,3,7,7
roll 1:3,7 3:16
Room 1:14
Roth 1:22 5:5,6,7,9,10
5:13,15,16 8:8,10,18 8:20,25 9:7,14,15,16
9:24 10:11,19 11:3,14
11:17,19,25 12:5,16
13:3,5,8,11,15,18,24
14:2,7,12,15
rule 11:7,8
$\frac{S}{\text { S-A-M } 7.25}$

S-A-M 7:25
S-C-H-U-M-A-N 5:21
S-E-L-M-A 6:11
S-I-D-O-N 3:23
S-U-Z-A-N-N-E 4:14
safety 3:13
Sam 2:12 7:25
saying 9:5
scheduled 13:20
scheduling 13:6
Schuman 1:22 5:20,20 5:21
Selma 1:24 6:11
send 12:15
serve 9:20,24
set 9:11 10:12,23 11:22
12:18 13:9 14:10
seven 9:2
seven-day 8:24
Sidon 1:19 3:19
signed 8:9
Sixteen 8:19
sorry 7:5,17 8:12
spell 3:22 4:13,23 5:8 5:18 6:19
stand 5:16
standing 4:20 8:14
state $5: 17,18$
stating 14:13
status 9:11,13 10:8,12
10:14,22 11:6,9,11,11
11:21 12:10,21 14:4 14:10
Street 1:14 9:19
submitting 14:12
suggestion 10:13
Suite 1:14
summary 10:1
sundown 13:20
Suzanne 1:21 4:10 9:9

## T

T-E-D 4:2
T-H-O-M-A-S 6:12
T-H-R-I-E 4:3
T-O-7:12
t/a 1:6
TBD 1:6
Ted 1:20 4:2
thank 3:25 4:4,9,16 5:1
5:4,10,22 6:8,22 7:2,8
7:11,14,22 8:6,6,20
9:6,22 10:18 12:16
14:7,15,17,19
they'd 9:19
Thomas 1:24 6:9,11,11
today 5:12
Torbjorn 2:9 7:12
Tuesday 1:11
two 13:15,22
$\frac{\mathbf{U}}{\text { Unfortunately 11:14 }}$

## V

values 3:14
vehicular 3:13
Verne 1:14,17 3:15
Vernon 9:18
view 10:6
$\frac{1}{\text { Washington 1:14 }}$
welcome 9:3 14:9
went 14:22
willing 10:12
writing 10:22
$\frac{\mathbf{X}}{\mathbf{Y}}$

Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.
www.nealrgross.com



Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc. Washington DC

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: MAHK Meetings

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-18-20

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.

> Neae $\operatorname{lors} \rho$ ------------------Court Reporter

