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    DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
    + + + + +
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
                                    + + + + +
                                    MEETING
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| IN THE MATTER OF: | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | $:$ |
| 9th Street Lounge, LLC, | $:$ |
| t/a Mirror Lounge | : Protest |
| 1920 9th Street NW | : Proaring (Status) |
| Retailer CT - ANC 1B | : Hear |
| License No. 111950 | $:$ |
| Case \#19-PRO-00113 | $:$ |
| (Application to Renew the: |  |
| License) |  |

Wednesday
January 8, 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, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson, presiding.

PRESENT:
DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson BOBBY CATO, JR., Member RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member REMA WAHABZADAH, Member
ALSO PRESENT:
EVAN SCHLOM, Protestant MEGAN HOWARD, Protestant
SIDON YOHANNES, Counsel for Applicant
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
9:43 a.m.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good morning, everyone. This is the meeting of the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Today is January 8, 2020 and I would like to introduce to you the members of the board with us today.

To my far right is Ms. Rafi Crockett, and to my immediate right is Mr. Bobby Cato.

To my far left is Ms. Rema Wahabzadah. To her and to Ms. Wahabzadah's immediate -- and to my immediate left is Mr. James Short.

It's a new year. It's the first meeting fod the year so $I$ apologize.

My name is Donovan Anderson. I'm the chairman of the board. We have five members in attendance today to conduct business. So with the five members we do have a quorum to conduct business.

I would like to mention three things before we get started.

First of all, if you have any electronic devices, pagers, cell phones, or such please make certain that they're turned off to
avoid any interruption of the proceeding.
Secondly, there is a piece of paper on each table. When you come forward as your case is called please take a seat at the table and please sign in. This is to ensure the correct spelling of your name for the record.

Lastly, please know that today's meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is governed by the Open Meetings Act.

Please address any questions or complaints to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

I would note that the approximate time is 9:43 and our first order of business, purchase hearing status, case no. 19-PRO-00113, Mirror Lounge, license number 111950.

Will all parties here for Mirror Lounge please appear.

MS. YOHANNES: Good morning and happy new year.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Happy new year.
MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes here on behalf of the applicant.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good morning, Ms. Yohannes.

MR. SCHLOM: Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of the board. Happy new year. Evan Schlom on behalf of both groups of five or more. There's a group of five and a group of eight. I'm here on behalf of both groups.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, Mr. Schlom. All right. It's my understanding that the group of five or more of the Espinoza Group was provided standing.

And your group was given conditional standing. And we need two additional people. Are they here today?

MR. SCHLOM: Yes. We have one --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Who are the two additional people? They need to come up.

MS. YOHANNES: Sure. So the first one is Megan Elise Howard.

MS. HOWARD: Do you need me to state my name for the record?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.
MS. HOWARD: Yes. I'm Megan Elise
Howard. And the spelling is M-E-G-A-N E-L-I-S-E H-O-W-A-R-D.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And who is the second person?

MR. SCHLOM: The second one, Mr. Chairman, is Dan Orlaski who should be on his way. If there's a way to recall this later in the docket my understanding is that he's on his way. But he would be the fifth person.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What I normally do, I give both parties -- I recall a case. I will recall this case at 10 o'clock. If he's not here at 10 o'clock I'm going to dismiss. So I'll recall this case at 10 o'clock.

MR. SCHLOM: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's routine what I do for all cases. We're supposed to start at 9:30. I call the case. If not, then I recall the case at 10. If they're not here then I'll dismiss it.

All right, you can step back. I'll recall the case.

MR. SCHLOM: Thank you very much.
MS. HOWARD: Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 9:45 a.m. and resumed at 10:00 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, I'm recalling case no. 19-PRO-00113, Mirror Lounge,
license number 111950. Will the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record, please?

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

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes.
MR. SCHLOM: Mr. Evan Schlom on behalf of both groups of protestants, the group of five and the group of eight.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, Mr. Schlom. It's my understanding that the Espinoza Group was granted standing and conditional standing was granted to the Schlom Group with the exception of that for the Schlom Group two individuals were -- two new people were supposed to appear this morning. Do we have those two individuals here this morning, sir?

MR. SCHLOM: We have one additional individual here this morning, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, then because we did a group of five and this matter was scheduled for a protest hearing status at 9:30. The parties were not prepared at 9:30. I recalled this case as a courtesy to provide a 30minute grace period.

Recalled the case, the persons are still not here, so therefore I'm making a motion that the Schlom Group of Five be dismissed.

MS. CROCKETT: Second.
MR. SCHLOM: Mr. Chairman, if I may.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
MR. SCHLOM: Just for the record I want to make sure that there is on the record that a fourth person is here in case Mr. Orlaski does in fact have good cause for failing to appear and we file a motion within the necessary time that we have on the record that we only gave one additional person who may have had good cause for failing to appear.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm not going to say good cause. I mean, the bottom line is that you have -- the parties are given two chances for five people to show up.

So ideally the person needs to be at roll call. If there are five people not at roll call we give you another opportunity to show up.

And so I don't really see how one can provide good cause when you have had two opportunities to show up and you have not shown up in two opportunities. There is really no good
cause.
I'm not even sure if that's part of the regulations. But I'm not quite even sure what good cause. Yes, I know good cause.

So the motion to dismiss has been seconded by Ms. Crockett. All those in favor say aye.
(Chorus of ayes)
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Those opposed. The matter passed 5-0-0. So therefore the Schlom Group has been dismissed. So therefore this matter, the only party that has standing is the Espinoza Group. Okay? All right.

So do $I$ need to -- this matter then is scheduled for a protest hearing on February 12 at 1:30 p.m. Do $I$ need to read the instructions, or does everyone understand the instructions for a protest hearing?

MR. SCHLOM: You don't need to read them on our account, Mr. Chairman, but I will say because the applicant failed to appear at the roll call hearing and was subsequently reinstated we do not have a date for the mandatory mediation session which I understand per the regulations we must have prior to the protest hearing.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, I believe that the agency, if there was no -- but you want to make a -- Ms. Yohannes.

MS. YOHANNES: No, I don't.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't know what's going on. I'm just asking if you have a comment you want to make. I just want to give you an opportunity to speak.

MS. YOHANNES: I just want to say I'll contact Ms. Fletcher and we will set a mediation date. I think that we need to do that. If I'm correct, through Ms. Fletcher.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes. I'm just saying $I$ don't know the minutiae of what's going on, but $I$ see that you wanted to say something so I'm giving you an opportunity.

Remember, this is just a status. I don't get involved in the minutiae. I don't know what's going on. I just -- go ahead. But you want to say -- I will give you the opportunity to say something.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: This matter then is scheduled for a protest hearing on February 12
at 1:30 p.m.
And I'll remind both parties that seven days before the hearing we need to exchange our documents and witnesses with each side and provide the board with a copy of the documents and witnesses. Okay?

Happy new year to everyone. Hopefully I won't see you on the 20th, but if $I$ do then we realize that we'll do the protest hearing -- I'm sorry, on the 12 th at 1:30 p.m. All right, thank you.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Have a good day. (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:04 a.m.)

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Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.

## C ERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Mirror Lounge

Before: DCABRA

Date: 01-08-20

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

