



**ALSO PRESENT:****RUTH GRESSER, APPLICANT****ELIZABETH TRANG****THOMAS SMITH****WILLIAM KREBS****ALMA GATES****ANN VLCEK****RICHARD GREGORY****MARY BRESNAHAN****TRUNG TRANG**

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (10:27 a.m.)

3 MS. FLETCHER: Would the parties in the  
4 matter of Pizzeria Paradiso please come forward? The  
5 parties in the matter of Pizzeria Paradiso.

6 This is case number 19-PRO-00029, Paradise  
7 SV, LLC, 4850 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Suite  
8 100, license number ABRA-109295. This is a retail  
9 class CR license renewal. The protest issues are  
10 adverse impact on peace, order and parking and  
11 residential property values. My name is La Verne  
12 Fletcher, conducting the Roll Call.

13 The microphone, I don't know where the  
14 sound is coming from, but just don't move it, too loud  
15 for the court reporter. Thank you.

16 Introductions beginning with the  
17 applicant, please. If you -- you're the applicant for  
18 Pizzeria Paradiso? If you could please state your  
19 name and spell it for the record, please?

20 MS. GRESSER: Sure. Sure. It's Ruth  
21 Gresser. R-U-T-H, last name is G-R-E-S-S-E-R.

22 MS. FLETCHER: G-R-E-S-S-E-R?

1 MS. GRESSER: Yes.

2 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. And Ms.  
3 Gresser, did you fill out the information on the  
4 contact sheet already?

5 MS. GRESSER: I did.

6 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. And  
7 present on behalf of the group of 37, 27.

8 MS. TRANG: Elizabeth Trang.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Trang, could you spell  
10 your name for the record, please?

11 MS. TRANG: Sure. E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H, T-R-  
12 A-N-G

13 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Hi. And your  
14 name, sir?

15 MR. SMITH: Thomas Smith, T-H-O-M-A-S S-M-  
16 I-T-H

17 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Are  
18 there any other members from your protest group  
19 present today?

20 MR. SMITH: Yes.

21 MS. FLETCHER: There's a microphone right  
22 in the middle. If you would just stand right between

1 Mr. Smith and Ms. Trang and state your name and spell  
2 it for the record?

3 MR. SMITH: We also have some proxies as  
4 well.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you very much.

6 MR. KREBS: William Krebs, K-R-E-B, as in  
7 boy, S as in Sam.

8 MS. FLETCHER: William, did you say K-R-E-  
9 B?

10 MR. KREBS: S. One B.

11 MS. FLETCHER: That's it? Okay. Thank  
12 you. Anyone else?

13 MS. GATES: Alma Gates, A-L-M-A G-A-T-E-S.

14 MS. FLETCHER: G-A-T-E-S? Gates?

15 MS. GATES: Gates.

16 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

17 MS. VLCEK: Hi. Ann Vleck. And it's A-N-  
18 N. Vleck is V as in Victor, L-C-E-K.

19 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

20 MR. GREGORY: Richard Gregory, R-I-C-H-A-  
21 R-D G-R-E-G-O-R-Y.

22 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Gregory.

1 MS. BRESNAHAN: Mary Bresnahan, M-A-R-Y B-  
2 R-E-S --

3 MS. FLETCHER: B like boy? I'm sorry.

4 MS. BRESNAHAN: Yes.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

6 MS. BRESNAHAN: B-R-E-S-N-A-H-A-N.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

8 MR. TRANG: Trung Trang, T-R-U-N-G T-R-A-  
9 N-G.

10 MS. FLETCHER: T-R-A?

11 MR. TRANG: N-G.

12 MS. FLETCHER: N-G?

13 MR. TRANG: Yes.

14 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you --

15 MR. TRANG: Yes.

16 MS. FLETCHER: -- very much. Everyone  
17 that just introduced themselves, signed the protest  
18 letter?

19 MR. SMITH: Yes.

20 MS. FLETCHER: Everybody signed the  
21 protest letter? Thank you. And, Mr. Smith, you  
22 mentioned that you have proxies?

1 MR. SMITH: Yes.

2 MS. FLETCHER: I'll take those.

3 MR. SMITH: And we also have two by email  
4 here, digitally. Can we email those to you or what --

5 MS. FLETCHER: No. No. That's -- no.  
6 That won't be necessary because what's going to  
7 happen, just so you know, because at least five of you  
8 are present today, the entire group is going to be  
9 granted standing.

10 So, Mr. Smith, you'll be representing the  
11 group beyond today?

12 MR. SMITH: Yes.

13 MS. FLETCHER: You'll be the designated  
14 representative? I'll take the proxies still. So the  
15 group is granted standing already just by the fact  
16 that at least five of you are present today. Thank  
17 you. I'll include these in the record.

18 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Gresser, these are  
19 statements from other members of the protest group  
20 designating Mr. Smith to represent them in this  
21 matter.

22 You're welcome to take a look at these,

1 but that's -- for us, it's just for the record and  
2 I'll include these in the record. Thank you. Mr.  
3 Smith, your contact information is on that sheet?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. FLETCHER: There's something I want to  
6 mention to you, Mr. Smith. There are two signatures  
7 on your protest letter that are not legible.

8 It may not make that much of a difference  
9 at this stage since the entire group is granted  
10 standing, but let me take a crack at it. Give me one  
11 second.

12 MR. SMITH: Sure.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Let me get the letter, get  
14 the protest letter. So the -- one of them looks like  
15 maybe the last name is Lahey, it's on --

16 MR. SMITH: David Lahey.

17 MS. FLETCHER: Is that David? Okay. And  
18 the other one is William something.

19 MR. KREBS: Krebs.

20 MR. SMITH: That's Krebs.

21 MS. FLETCHER: Is that you?

22 MR. KREBS: Yes.



1 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. And  
2 it's David. Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.  
3 The group of 27 has been granted standing.

4 I'm going to give you the date for a  
5 status hearing and a protest hearing and then we'll  
6 set a date for mediation. The status hearing is set  
7 for June 26th at 9:30. That's June 26th at 9:30.

8 At the status hearing, you'll just report  
9 to ABC Board the status, whether or not they had  
10 mediation and whether or not they settled their  
11 mediation. That's what happens at a status hearing.

12 The protest hearing is set for August 7.  
13 August 7, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., for the protest hearing.  
14 I will give you the next available day for a  
15 mediation.

16 MS. GRESSER: Can I ask a question?

17 MS. FLETCHER: Yes.

18 MS. GRESSER: Are either of those dates  
19 flexible or no set period?

20 MS. FLETCHER: Those are the dates that  
21 the Board -- on which the Board is available at this  
22 point.

1 MS. GRESSER: Yes.

2 MS. FLETCHER: If you need to change the  
3 date, you can petition our office to change --

4 MS. GRESSER: Okay.

5 MS. FLETCHER: -- the date, but if you do  
6 that, copy Mr. Smith --

7 MS. GRESSER: Yes.

8 MS. FLETCHER: -- on the request.

9 MR. SMITH: And we'd be happy to  
10 accommodate in any way.

11 MS. FLETCHER: So then you can make it a  
12 joint request. Just, Mr. Smith, were you just saying  
13 you agree? And so yes. It can be changed under those  
14 circumstances.

15 But just for the purpose of the Roll Call  
16 Hearing, those'll be the dates but you can make a  
17 request to change them.

18 The next available date for mediation, the  
19 next available date for mediation is Monday, June 10,  
20 at 11:30 or 1:00.

21 But if you prefer something in the  
22 morning, I can move to another date, something earlier

1 in the morning, I should say.

2 MS. GRESSER: I can do a 1:00.

3 MR. SMITH: I would prefer if we could do  
4 something earlier in the morning.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Well, let's see. How about  
6 -- we can do something on Wednesday or -- well, let me  
7 just -- let me give you two dates.

8 We can do something on Wednesday, June 12  
9 or Tuesday, June 18, at 9:00, 10:00, 10:30, either one  
10 of those days.

11 MR. SMITH: The June 18th works fine for  
12 me.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Does that work for you, Ms.  
14 Gresser?

15 MS. GRESSER: It does. Can we do the  
16 10:30?

17 MR. SMITH: Yes. That would --  
18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. SMITH: -- be great. Yes. 10:30 would  
20 be great. And that doesn't mean that we can't talk  
21 before then. Correct?

22 MS. FLETCHER: Exactly. And then, if you

1 work something out before then, you reach a settlement  
2 agreement, you can let us know and we'll cancel the  
3 other proceedings, including the mediation.

4 Any questions at all? Okay. Well, if the  
5 matter's not resolved, we'll see you in mediation on  
6 the 18th at 10:30.

7 MS. GRESSER: Thank you very much.

8 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you for  
10 coming. The Roll Call Hearing is concluded. Thank  
11 you.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
13 off the record at 10:38 a.m.)  
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<b>A</b>	<b>change</b> 10:2,3,17 <b>changed</b> 10:13 <b>circumstances</b> 10:14 <b>class</b> 3:9 <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1 <b>come</b> 3:4 <b>coming</b> 3:14 12:10 <b>concluded</b> 12:10 <b>conducting</b> 3:12 <b>contact</b> 4:4 8:3 <b>Control</b> 1:2,13,13 <b>copy</b> 10:6 <b>Correct</b> 11:21 <b>court</b> 3:15 <b>CR</b> 1:8 3:9 <b>crack</b> 8:10	<b>Fletcher</b> 1:15,20 3:3,12,22 4:2,6,9 4:13,17,21 5:5,8 5:11,14,16,19,22 6:3,5,7,10,12,14 6:16,20 7:2,5,13 7:18 8:5,13,17,21 9:1,17,20 10:2,5,8 10:11 11:5,13,22 12:9 <b>flexible</b> 9:19 <b>forward</b> 3:4	<b>including</b> 12:3 <b>information</b> 4:3 8:3 <b>introduced</b> 6:17 <b>Introductions</b> 3:16 <b>issues</b> 3:9
<b>A-L-M-A</b> 5:13 <b>A-N-</b> 5:17 <b>A-N-G</b> 4:12 <b>a.m</b> 3:2 12:13 <b>ABC</b> 9:9 <b>above-entitled</b> 12:12 <b>ABRA-109295</b> 1:8 3:8 <b>accommodate</b> 10:10 <b>adverse</b> 3:10 <b>Agent</b> 1:15,20 <b>agree</b> 10:13 <b>agreement</b> 12:2 <b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,13,13 <b>Alma</b> 2:4 5:13 <b>Ann</b> 2:4 5:17 <b>applicant</b> 2:2 3:17 3:17 <b>August</b> 9:12,13 <b>available</b> 9:14,21 10:18,19 <b>Ave</b> 1:7 <b>Avenue</b> 3:7	<b>D</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>D.C</b> 1:15 <b>date</b> 9:4,6 10:3,5,18 10:19,22 <b>dates</b> 9:18,20 10:16 11:7 <b>David</b> 8:16,17 9:2 <b>day</b> 9:14 <b>days</b> 11:10 <b>designated</b> 7:13 <b>designating</b> 7:20 <b>difference</b> 8:8 <b>digitally</b> 7:4 <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1	<b>G-A-T-E-S</b> 5:13,14 <b>G-R-E-G-O-R-Y</b> 5:21 <b>G-R-E-S-S-E-R</b> 3:21,22 <b>Gates</b> 2:4 5:13,13 5:14,15,15 <b>give</b> 8:10 9:4,14 11:7 <b>going</b> 7:6,8 9:4 <b>granted</b> 7:9,15 8:9 9:3 <b>great</b> 11:19,20 <b>Gregory</b> 2:5 5:20 5:20,22 <b>Gresser</b> 2:2 3:20,21 4:1,3,5 7:18 9:16 9:18 10:1,4,7 11:2 11:14,15 12:7 <b>group</b> 4:7,18 7:8,11 7:15,19 8:9 9:3	<b>joint</b> 10:12 <b>June</b> 9:7,7 10:19 11:8,9,11
<b>B</b> 5:9,10 6:3 <b>B-</b> 6:1 <b>B-R-E-S-N-A-H-A...</b> 6:6 <b>beginning</b> 3:16 <b>behalf</b> 4:7 <b>Beverage</b> 1:2,13,13 <b>beyond</b> 7:11 <b>Board</b> 1:2,13,15,20 9:9,21,21 <b>boy</b> 5:7 6:3 <b>Bresnahan</b> 2:5 6:1 6:1,4,6 <b>Building</b> 1:14	<b>E</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>K</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H</b> 4:11 <b>earlier</b> 10:22 11:4 <b>either</b> 9:18 11:9 <b>Elizabeth</b> 2:2 4:8 <b>email</b> 7:3,4 <b>entire</b> 7:8 8:9 <b>Everybody</b> 6:20 <b>Exactly</b> 11:22	<b>K-R-E-</b> 5:8 <b>K-R-E-B</b> 5:6 <b>know</b> 3:13 7:7 12:2 <b>Krebs</b> 2:3 5:6,6,10 8:19,19,20,22	<b>L</b>
<b>Call</b> 1:7 3:12 10:15 12:10 <b>cancel</b> 12:2 <b>case</b> 1:9 3:6	<b>F</b>	<b>L-C-E-K</b> 5:18 <b>La</b> 3:11 <b>Lahey</b> 8:15,16 <b>LaVerne</b> 1:15,20 <b>legible</b> 8:7 <b>let's</b> 11:5 <b>letter</b> 6:18,21 8:7 8:13,14 <b>license</b> 1:8 3:8,9 <b>LLC</b> 1:6 3:7 <b>look</b> 7:22 <b>looks</b> 8:14 <b>loud</b> 3:14	<b>M</b>
	<b>fact</b> 7:15 <b>fill</b> 4:3 <b>fine</b> 11:11 <b>five</b> 7:7,16	<b>H</b>	<b>M-A-R-Y</b> 6:1 <b>ma'am</b> 8:4 <b>Mary</b> 2:5 6:1 <b>Massachusetts</b> 1:7 3:7 <b>matter</b> 1:5 3:4,5 7:21 12:12 <b>matter's</b> 12:5 <b>mean</b> 11:20 <b>mediation</b> 9:6,10 9:11,15 10:18,19 12:3,5 <b>MEETING</b> 1:3 <b>members</b> 4:18 7:19 <b>mention</b> 8:6
		<b>I</b>	
		<b>I-T-H</b> 4:16 <b>impact</b> 3:10 <b>include</b> 7:17 8:2	

mentioned 6:22  
 met 1:13  
 microphone 3:13  
 4:21  
 middle 4:22  
 Monday 1:11 10:19  
 morning 10:22 11:1  
 11:4  
 move 3:14 10:22

---

**N**

N 5:18  
 N-G 6:9, 11, 12  
 name 3:11, 19, 21  
 4:10, 14 5:1 8:15  
 necessary 7:6  
 need 10:2  
 Northwest 3:7  
 number 3:6, 8  
 NW 1:7, 14

---

**O**

office 10:3  
 Okay 5:5, 11 6:14  
 8:17 9:2 10:4 12:4  
 12:9  
 order 3:10

---

**P**

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-...  
 3:1  
 p.m 9:13  
 Paradise 1:6 3:6  
 Paradiso 1:6 3:4, 5  
 3:18  
 parking 3:10  
 parties 3:3, 5  
 peace 3:10  
 period 9:19  
 petition 10:3  
 Pizzeria 1:6 3:4, 5  
 3:18  
 please 3:4, 17, 18, 19  
 4:10  
 point 9:22  
 prefer 10:21 11:3  
 present 1:18 2:1  
 4:7, 19 7:8, 16  
 presiding 1:16

proceedings 12:3  
 property 3:11  
 protest 3:9 4:18  
 6:17, 21 7:19 8:7  
 8:14 9:5, 12, 13  
 proxies 5:3 6:22  
 7:14  
 purpose 10:15

---

**Q**

question 9:16  
 questions 12:4

---

**R**

R-D 5:21  
 R-E-S 6:2  
 R-I-C-H-A- 5:20  
 R-U-T-H 3:21  
 reach 12:1  
 record 3:19 4:10  
 5:2 7:17 8:1, 2  
 12:13  
 Reeves 1:13  
 renewal 3:9  
 report 9:8  
 reporter 3:15  
 represent 7:20  
 representative 7:14  
 representing 7:10  
 request 10:8, 12, 17  
 residential 3:11  
 resolved 12:5  
 retail 3:8  
 Retailer 1:8  
 Richard 2:5 5:20  
 right 4:21, 22  
 Roll 1:7 3:12 10:15  
 12:10  
 Room 1:13  
 Ruth 2:2 3:20

---

**S**

S 5:7, 10  
 S-M- 4:15  
 Sam 5:7  
 saying 10:12  
 second 8:11  
 see 11:5 12:5  
 set 9:6, 6, 12, 19

settled 9:10  
 settlement 12:1  
 sheet 4:4 8:3  
 signatures 8:6  
 signed 6:17, 20  
 Simultaneous  
 11:18  
 sir 4:14  
 Smith 2:3 4:15, 15  
 4:17, 20 5:1, 3 6:19  
 6:21 7:1, 3, 10, 12  
 7:20 8:3, 4, 6, 12, 16  
 8:20 10:6, 9, 12  
 11:3, 11, 17, 19  
 12:8  
 sorry 6:3  
 sound 3:14  
 speaking 11:18  
 spell 3:19 4:9 5:1  
 stage 8:9  
 stand 4:22  
 standing 7:9, 15  
 8:10 9:3  
 state 3:18 5:1  
 statements 7:19  
 status 9:5, 6, 8, 9, 11  
 Street 1:14  
 Suite 1:7, 14 3:7  
 Sure 3:20, 20 4:11  
 8:12  
 SV 1:6 3:7

---

**T**

T-H-O-M-A-S 4:15  
 T-R- 4:11  
 T-R-A 6:10  
 T-R-A- 6:8  
 T-R-U-N-G 6:8  
 t/a 1:6  
 take 7:2, 14, 22 8:10  
 talk 11:20  
 Thank 3:15 4:2, 6, 13  
 4:17 5:5, 11, 16, 19  
 5:22 6:7, 14, 21  
 7:16 8:2 9:1, 2, 2  
 12:7, 8, 9, 10  
 Thomas 2:3 4:15  
 those'll 10:16

today 4:19 7:8, 11  
 7:16  
 Trang 2:2, 6 4:8, 8, 9  
 4:11 5:1 6:8, 8, 11  
 6:13, 15  
 Trung 2:6 6:8  
 Tuesday 11:9  
 two 7:3 8:6 11:7

---

**U**

---

**V**

V 5:18  
 values 3:11  
 Verne 3:11  
 Victor 5:18  
 VLCEK 2:4 5:17  
 Vleck 5:17, 18

---

**W**

want 8:5  
 Washington 1:15  
 way 10:10  
 we'll 9:5 12:2, 5  
 Wednesday 11:6, 8  
 welcome 7:22  
 went 12:12  
 William 2:3 5:6, 8  
 8:18  
 work 11:13 12:1  
 works 11:11

---

**X**

---

**Y**

---

**Z**

---

**0**

---

**1**

1:00 10:20 11:2  
 10 10:19  
 10:00 11:9  
 10:27 3:2  
 10:30 11:9, 16, 19  
 12:6  
 10:38 12:13  
 100 1:7 3:8

**11:30** 10:20  
**12** 11:8  
**14th** 1:14  
**18** 11:9  
**18th** 11:11 12:6  
**19-PRO-00029** 1:9  
3:6

---

**2**

---

**20** 1:11  
**2000** 1:14  
**20009** 1:15  
**2019** 1:11 9:13  
**26th** 9:7,7  
**27** 4:7 9:3

---

**3**

---

**37** 4:7

---

**4**

---

**4:30** 9:13  
**400S** 1:14  
**4850** 1:7 3:7

---

**5**

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---

**6**

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---

**7**

---

**7** 9:12,13

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**8**

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**9**

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**9:00** 11:9  
**9:30** 9:7,7

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Paradise SV, LLC, t/a Pizzeria  
Paradiso

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 05-22-19

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

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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