

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD**

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<b>In the Matter of:</b>	)	
	)	
	)	
Play DC Restaurant & Lounge, LLC	)	
t/a PlayDC Restaurant & Lounge	)	Case No.: 24-CMP-00043
	)	License No.: ABRA-112274
Holder of a	)	Order No.: 2025-131
Retailer’s Class CT License	)	
	)	
at premises	)	
1541 7th Street, NW	)	
Washington, D.C. 20001	)	

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**BEFORE:** Donovan Anderson, Chairperson  
Silas Grant, Jr., Member  
Teri Janine Quinn, Member  
Ryan Jones, Member  
David Meadows, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Play DC Restaurant & Lounge, LLC, t/a PlayDC Restaurant & Lounge  
Respondent

Anthony P. Celo, Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

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**ORDER APPROVING THE OFFER-IN-COMPROMISE**

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The above-mentioned parties have petitioned the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board (Board) to approve an offer-in-compromise (OIC) to settle one or more violations of Title 25 of the D.C. Official Code (Title 25) and Title 23 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations (Title 23) in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 2-509(a).

## ORDER

Therefore, on this 12th day of March 2025, the Board **APPROVES** the OIC appended to this Order. The terms of the OIC are as follows:

1. The Respondent admits to violations of the statutes or regulations listed in the OIC attached to this Order.
2. The Respondent shall follow and abide by the terms and conditions of the attached OIC in accordance with D.C. Official Code §§ 2-509(a), 25-447(f), and 25-823(a)(6).
3. The Respondent waives all rights to notice or appearance before the Board.
4. The Respondent waives the right to a hearing, call witnesses, present evidence, and otherwise contest the charges as provided in Title 25 and Title 23.
5. The Respondent waives the right to judicial review or appeal of this Order. The Respondent further agrees not to collaterally attack the disposition imposed by this Order.
6. The parties agree that the attached OIC constitutes the entire agreement of the parties.

The Show Cause Hearing in this matter is cancelled. The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) shall deliver copies of this Order to the Government and the Respondent.

District of Columbia  
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Donovan Anderson*  
Key: ac430b96c9d5f0e4b730093d1dccc8

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Donovan Anderson, Chairperson



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Silas Grant, Jr., Member

*Teri Janine Quinn*

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Teri Janine Quinn, Member



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Ryan Jones, Member



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David Meadows, Member

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-433(d)(1) (applicable to alcohol matters) or 22-C DCMR § 9720 (applicable to medical cannabis matters), any party adversely affected may file a Motion for Reconsideration of this decision within ten (10) days of service of this Order with the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration, 899 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 4200 B (Alcohol Division), Suite 4200 A (Medical Cannabis Division), Washington, DC 20002.

Also, pursuant to section II of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, Pub. L. 90-614, 82 Stat. 1209, D.C. Official Code § 2-510 (2001), and Rule 15 of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, any party adversely affected has the right to appeal this Order by filing a petition for review, within thirty days of the date of service of this Order, with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 (202/879- 1010). However, the timely filing of a Motion for Reconsideration stays the time for filing a petition for review in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals until the Board rules on the motion. *See* D.C. App. Rule 15(b) (2004).

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS ADMINISTRATION  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD**



IN THE MATTER OF:  PLAY DC RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, LLC t/a PLAY DC RESTAURANT & LOUNGE  Respondent.	Case No. 24–CMP–00043 License No. 112274 Retailer Class CT
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**OFFER IN COMPROMISE FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

The District of Columbia, jointly with the licensee (Respondent), submits this Offer in Compromise (OIC) to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board (Board), as authorized by 23 DCMR § 1611.5, for approval by the Board.

The Parties understand that if the Board approves the OIC, this case (24–CMP–00043) will conclude. Respondent will be obligated to abide by the terms of the OIC shown below. If the Board does not approve the OIC, this matter will proceed to a Show Cause Hearing.

Respondent has been advised that there is no obligation to accept an OIC. Respondent has been advised, through service of the Notice of Show Cause Hearing, that at any Show Cause Hearing or other proceeding, Respondent may be represented by legal counsel, have subpoenas issued to require the production of witnesses and evidence, produce witnesses and evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and apply to the Board for a qualified interpreter.

The OIC terms are as follows.

Charge I: Permitted the illegal sale or use of cannabis at the establishment.

Statutory Authority: D.C. Code § 25–823(a)(1)

Outcome:

- \$4,000 within thirty (30) days or its license shall be suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.
- The license shall be suspended for ten days, with five days served consecutively, beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending at noon on April 6, 2025, and five days stayed for one year.

Charge II: Allowed the establishment to be used for unlawful purposes.

Statutory Authority: D.C. Code § 25–823(a)(2)

Fine: \$4,000 within thirty (30) days or its license shall be suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.

Charge III: Failed to comply with Board Order 2023-437.

Statutory Authority: D.C. Code § 25–823(a)(6)

Fine: \$4,000 within thirty (30) days or its license shall be suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.

Charge IV: Failed to provide video footage within 48 hours upon request.

Statutory Authority: D.C. Code §§ 25–823(a)(5)(E), (6)

Fine: \$4,000 within thirty (30) days or its license shall be suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.

Charge V: Failed to follow Security Plan.

Statutory Authority: D.C. Code § 25–823(a)(6)

Fine: \$4,000 within thirty (30) days or its license shall be suspended indefinitely until this fine is paid.

Dated: March 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN L. SCHWALB  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

CHAD COPELAND  
Deputy Attorney General  
Civil Litigation Division

/s/ Kimberly M. Johnson  
KIMBERLY M. JOHNSON [435163]  
Chief, Civil Enforcement Section

/s/ Kerslyn D. Featherstone  
KERSLYN D. FEATHERSTONE [478758]  
Assistant Chief, Civil Enforcement Section

/s/ Anthony P. Celo  
ANTHONY P. CELO [90000653]  
Assistant Attorney General  
400 6th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 735-7559  
(202) 741-8936 (fax)  
Anthony.Celo@dc.gov

ATTORNEYS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**CONSENT OF RESPONDENT**

By this Offer in Compromise, I agree to accept and perform its terms. I acknowledge the validity of the OIC and waive further litigation including the motion of reconsideration to which I would have a right under 23 DCMR § 1719.1. I also recognize that I am waiving any right to appeal an adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing. By this settlement, I waive all such rights. I sign this OIC without reservation, and I fully understand its meaning and my rights.

*Leuel Mengestie*  
/s/Leuel Mengestie (Mar 12, 2025 08:09 EDT)  
Leuel Mengestie, Managing Member  
Play DC Restaurant and Lounge, LLC t/a  
Play DC Restaurant and Lounge  
Respondent

Mar 12, 2025

DATE

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

On March 11, 2025, I served the foregoing Offer in Compromise for Board Approval by

email to:

Leuel Mengestie, Managing Member  
154 7th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Princejunioryk@gmail.com  
*Respondent*

Jonathan Berman  
Assistant General Counsel, ABCA  
2000 14th Street, N.W.  
Suite 400 South  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Jonathan.Berman@dc.gov

*/s/ Anthony P. Celso* \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony P. Celso  
Assistant Attorney General