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    DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
                                    + + + + +
                                    MEETING
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| IN THE MATTER OF: | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Po Boy Jim 2, LLC, | $:$ |
| t/a Po Boy Jim 2 NW, | $:$ Protest |
| 1934 9th Street NW, |  |
| Retailer CR - ANC 1B | : Hearing (Status) |
| License No. 105468 | $:$ |
| Case \#19-PRO-00064 | $:$ |
| (Application to Renew |  |
| the License) |  |

Wednesday August 14, 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
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

## REBECCA ANTOINE, APPLICANT

DANNY DELANEY, PROTESTANT, ANC 1B
DAN ORLASKEY, PROTESTANT, ANC 1B
EVAN SCHLOM, PROTESTANT
JAMES TURNER, PROTESTANT, ANC 1B
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning, everyone. I would like to welcome you to our regular scheduled meeting for District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Please know that today's hearings will be conducted in accordance with DC Official Code, Section 2574 of the Open Meetings Act. Today is August 14th, 2019.

I would like to introduce members of the board with us today. To my far right is Ms. Rafi Crockett, to my immediate right is Mr. Bobby Cato, to my far left is Ms. Rema Wahabzadah. To her right is Mr. Mike Silverstein, and to my immediate left is Mr. James Short.

My name is Donovan Anderson; I'm Chairman of the Board. We do have six members in attendance today for the conduct of business and we do have a quorum. I would like to mention two things before we get started; first
of all, if you have electronic devices, pagers, cell phones or such, please make certain that they're turned off to avoid any interruption of the proceeding. Secondly, there's a piece of paper on the table; when you come for it as the case is called, please take a seat at a table and please listen to ensure that your name is spelled correctly for the court reporter. I will note that the approximate time is 9:35 a.m. This is our last session before we're going to celebrate after today, and so the board will come back for after Labor Day. And this is the first time in a long time that we have had six members. The board is supposed to have seven members, but now we have six members sitting here, and we also have two women. And I've been on the board for four years and this is the first time we've ever had two women on the board, so I'm happy for that.

Although I said all those wonderful things about the positive things that have occurred with the board, but on a sad note,
however, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and to thank Board Member Silverstein for over nine years of service to the board. Today is Mr. Silverstein's last day on the board. Since his initial appointment to the board on November 2010, Board Member Silverstein has excelled at balancing the needs of the business community with the concerns of the residents and other members of the public. Board Member Silverstein has been a leader and at the forefront of many of the agency's accomplishments and policy initiatives. For example, Board Member Silverstein was proactive in pushing for strong sales to minors enforcement, recognizing the importance of keeping alcohol away from the hands of minors. This included Board Member Silverstein highlighting that some of the agency's minors were being sold, to have been as young as 13 or 14 years old. Board Member Silverstein was also a leader in working with the board and agents and staff in developing best practices in Pub

Crawl regulations and procedures. The majority of the District's Pub Crawl events occurred and Board Member Silverstein's awarding to Dupont Circle, and Board Member Silverstein was an advocate for ensuring that Pub Crawl operators have a plan in place and operate responsible in those neighborhoods where events are held.

Board Member Silverstein also played a significant role on the board in its review of moratorium of requests from the public. Board Member Silverstein excelled at the difficult task of evaluating the need to maintain or make changes to existing moratoriums, as well as to whether to implement a moratorium in the neighborhood for the first time.

Board Member Silverstein played an instrumental role on the board in ensuring that the public safety of its residents and the public, he proactively ensured that licensed establishments closed by the chief of police or the board place significant safety and security measures in place.

Board Member Silverstein also made the well-being and safety of ABRA staff a priority and board tenure. Whether it be by the safety of ABRA investigator who's visiting establishments or ensuring that the agency's legal or license division for being treated professionally, Board Member Silverstein went out of his way to support agency staff.

I've been on the board for four years, I think I started at the end of my first term, first four-year term as Board Chair, and I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Silverstein for the past four years. And he's been a valuable asset to the board, and I wish him great speed in his future life. And if Board Member Silverstein wishes to make a statement, if he so chooses.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. And I thank you for your kind words. I'm very proud of our agency and the work that we do, and I want to share a story that will make you proud and another one that
means a lot to me on a very personal matter.
The first deals with a gentleman who's sitting in here, one of the attorney's who's told me once a wonderful little event; a major well-known iconic establishment in another city wanted to open an office here, a restaurant here. And came to him and said, "How much does it cost to get a license in DC?" And I'm hoping that I'm not breaking confidence here. But he said, "Well, here's the schedule of fees. And if you this big, it costs you that much. And if you have more than 199 people, it costs you more." And he went through that, the guy says, "No, that's not what I mean. How much do you really have to pay?" And he said, "You don't. DC is clean, you don't have to pay anybody under the table." And the reality and sad truth is that in places as close as right across the border from here, and New York where this comes from and other major cities, that's not always the case that licenses get slow-locked or other things are. We don't have that here, and I
cannot tell you how proud I am to have an agency that represents the second largest industry in the city, hospitality with -- as another attorney here will tell you -- 60,000 jobs, \$3 billion in revenue, which is $\$ 300$ million to our city coffers that that industry operates responsibly because the agency that oversees it does so as well. And that means a lot to me because of another event that occurred which was probably the most uncomfortable in my life, at least professionally. And that began here in 2011 when a board member resigned claiming questionable practices by the chair. And several weeks later $I$ received a call at home from a major nightlife operator who used words like "shakedown" and made some serious allegations and said other major operators would back up what he was saying, and I must tell you I have no way of proving any of this was true. But my initial response wasn't so much outrage as it was fear that if this was true, I could be implicated as a board member in what would be a
criminal event -- and other major operators would back up what he was saying -- that people often believe the worst when it comes to government, that we are not honest that we're in it for ourselves, and that I could become implicated in that even though I knew nothing about what was going on. I knew a lot about law enforcement types from my 30 years in the news business and also from my time as an ANC commissioner, so I went to someone I knew who was outside of this, and he said, "Hey, you can talk to the people who are running your agency there." Good, and I did. And I talked to Fred Moosally and informed him of what I had been told, that $I$ could not confirm it, and that began an uncomfortable period while the allegations were being investigated. This was in March of 2011. And in April I went to Palm Desert, California to escape the pollen and allergy season. And I was out there playing golf on the fourth hole at Marriot Desert Springs. And the phone rang and it was a member
of our legal staff telling me $I$ would be soon receiving a phone call from someone with an investigative agency, that it would be legit, that I could talk to them, and that I could do whatever I wanted. This was on a Friday, it was my last day, and they asked me if I could come in to be interviewed, and I said, "Yeah, 9 o'clock Monday morning." And I arrived on time, spent more than half an hour answering questions, and then the investigator said to me, "This interview is over." I kind of looked like, huh. And I said, okay, and then the interviewer then said, "I'd like to say something to you."

> "Okay."
> "You're serving as an ANC

Commissioner?"
"Yes."
"And you're serving open to gay?"
I said yes.
And the investigator said, "I want
to thank you for coming forward on this and
putting yourself out there. It means a lot to me personally, not just that you were serving openly, but that you're serving with integrity." And I didn't know what to say and I still don't. As one who had spent half my life up to that point in the closet, those words meant the world to me. Because being called to serve is an honor that is far more important that those of us up here and all of us in public service do so with integrity, because we represent our families, our neighborhoods, our faiths, our races, our communities. And our actions, whether we like it or not, reflect upon them. Some of us have been called to pave the way for others, and it is my hope as I tell you this today that my service will make it easier for those in my community to follow. I understood that at that moment, and it's not been easy for the past seven years of always being on the board. There were times I felt like an outsider, and perhaps because of what I did. But the words I heard that day have
informed me and have given me the strength to go on.

It took about five weeks after that interview to clear up the ethical matter, and Mr. Chairman, I can say with pride that since then there have been no issues and that our reputation as a board is strong as is our agency. Fred, when I was confirmed nine years ago, I told Jim Graham at that hearing that he could wake up every morning knowing that whatever his other worries might be, he didn't have to worry about the stewardship of ABRA, that he knew it was in good hands, and that is still true.

To our legal staff -- Martha, April, John -- you are our rock, you are as perfect as can be, and it's been that way from the beginning as symbols of integrity and outstanding work. If I had to put together a Mount Rushmore of my heroes here, it would be you three and absolutely Theo Davis. As to the ABRA staff, from the folks at the front desk to
the people in the back offices, you're the kindest, finest and most capable people that I could ever hope to work with and to be my friends. To the investigators who run this agency and make it happen, you are the ones that make everything occur, that $I$ don't know -- and I really mean this -- I don't know how Fred is able to keep the staff this good. And the reason I say this -- and those of you who this is new to -- they work until 4 o'clock in the morning on some weeks and they work regular schedules on others. It is an agency of high integrity and high reputation and other people want them, and we have seen people from this agency who are among our best, and for health reasons they've gone elsewhere because they can't handle the 4 o'clock as they get older. They get opportunities and they're able to go and get great opportunities at the FBI or other city agencies where they get higher positions, and yet somehow Fred is able to find others to replace them and keep going.

And those of you who do work and maintain the integrity and the competence, $I$ take my hat off to you and I am in awe of you. To my board members, I thank you for your kind for your kindness, I thank you -- especially I want to thank and pay tribute to my friend on my right, Jim Short, who spent 33 years as a Deputy Fire Chief, fireperson in the city, and who can be the biggest pain in the neck you have ever met in your life. If you were to tell him, I'd like you to come to my birthday party, he'd probably say what are the means of ingress and egress. And can we get in and out of there safety if a meteor strikes. And the truth of this matter is that, as one who was in the news business discovered, too many tragedies involving night places. Jim has, I'm sure, saved lives in ways that we can never know and never prove, and there have been things that he has caught and stopped that most assuredly would have resulted in tragedy. And there are, again, so many things that have occurred in that back
room that I'm not really privileged to talk about, that have made life better and safer for all of us.

And I guess I want to finish by saying that it's been a difficult nine years, that at times it has been the most difficult time that I've had to spend here in my life. But it has been worth it because of the friendships that I've made, and because our job is not just to serve, but to fulfill the trust that you and the public place in us. And that we serve with integrity. And I wish you well.
(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does any
other board member wish to -- I guess, Mr. Short -- I can always tell when Mr. Short has something to say. Go ahead.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Silverstein, for your service to the city and this agency and to your community. It's been a pleasure working with you over these six years that I've been on the
board, and you have been a wealth of information to this board and invaluable, some of the issues you have been in and some of the knowledge you have of our nightlife, and especially your community. And with that I'd like to say to you, Mike, well, well wishes and God speed to you. Thank you very much for your service. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I have
a letter here from the mayor. It says, "Thank you, Mike Silverstein. On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, thank you for participating as a dedicated member of the ABC Board where you have faithfully served since April of 2010. Boards and commissions play a critical role in regulating industry, advising different agencies and shaping policies in the best interest of District residents. I'm grateful for your service and commitment as a member of ABC Board and its effort to create a business climate responsive to resident needs. I recognize the sacrifices you have made to doing your tenure for residents of all eight
wards of our great city. The best of luck in all your future endeavors. Thank you for your service, Muriel Bowser, Mayor of District of Columbia."
(Applause.)
And I'm going to do something a little bit out of order, but $I$ see some faces in the audience. If anyone wants to say anything public today, they are free to say that if they want to. If not, we'll move onto our schedule.

All right. I guess -- go ahead, sir.

MR. O'BRIEN: I'm Steve O'Brien, I represent licensees before the board and I've done so for more decades that $I$ care to admit. I'm sad, Mr. Chair, and members of the board are sad to see Mr. Silverstein go, but I'm also happy, happy to admit it, the chair mentioned balance, balancing the interests and the needs of the residential community with the business community. And that's really what the work of this board is, and it takes some balance going
back and forth. I've known Mr. Silverstein for a long time, before he was on the board, when he was an ANC Commissioner at Dupont Circle, and even then you could see his ability to balance, to recognize what's important, to recognize what's not important. And he's carried that forth up to his board service. And I particularly noted on a number of occasions -not very often -- on a number of occasions when Mike Silverstein would write dissenting opinions, disagreeing with what the board had done in a particular case. And those opinions were always reasoned and principled. One could agree or disagree, but you understood why he was saying it and what his motivation was. And Mike referred to a dark time in the board's history, there were a number of things going on that should not have been going on. The -- I remember one particular episode -- I'm not going to get into too much detail about it -- but this one particular episode the board came out to read its daily agenda results, which usually
sounds like an auction. There's no one here to listen to it; it's just to get everything on the record. But Mike Silverstein insisted on, from the dais, even though the room was pretty much empty, delivering a very principle reason of why an action the board had taken was not appropriate.

I think he knows what I'm talking about, $I$ don't see any reason to go any farther. I'm happy to see Mike Silverstein leave because we can resume our friendship.
(Laughter.)
Mike, integrity is important, and
Mike has been enormously circumspect in our dealings over the last ten years. So now we can resume going out having a drink once in a while.
(Laughter.)
Because we couldn't do that over the last ten years. So that's why I'm happy.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
Mr. O'Brien.
(Applause.)
Yes, Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: Good morning, I'm Andrew Kline with a law firm and general counsel for the Restaurant Association. Mike, thank you for your service. Thank you most of all for putting the interest of public safety above everything else. As Steve said, it's the balancing, but outside the balancing is public safety, and you've always put that first. And then beyond that it was a question of balancing the interests of communities and businesses which you've struggled with and made intelligent, reasoned decisions. Your dissents we did appreciate because they shed some light in terms of the board's thinking, and also let us know that somebody's paying attention. When I started in this business, I think when Steve started there was only one board member, when I started there were three. He's older than I am.
(Laughter.)
MR. O'BRIEN: I'm catching up.

MR. KLINE: So now we have seven. Now we have seven, but in your role as a board member, certainly you were no less important as one-sevenths, one-third used to be. I mean, you always carry your weight, you were always engaged, and I know at times you struggled in terms of being able to hear me or hear some -MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: By the witnesses.

MR. KLINE: You always made sure that you made the extra effort to make sure that you heard what the witnesses were saying regardless of that, and we appreciate that. I know that over the years, not only have I seen you here, but also as members of the presidents and Vice President's cabinet -- unfortunately the Vice President is no longer with us -- we're talking about a mythical Vice President on television. Mike is also a member of the Actor's Guild and has been on "Veep" and other television --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: "House of

Cards."
MR. KLINE: "House of Cards," thank you. So I hope that we will continue to see there, even though we won't see here, and I know that personally I will still see you. I welcome you back in the room at ANC $2 B$ when we have ABC discussions because you have -- as you've always done, operated completely ethically and you stepped out of the room whenever there was an ABC discussion at ANC 2B. And I look forward to seeing you back in the room at the appropriate time. I wish you well, we're going to miss you here. We're going to miss your contribution. As I said, you've always been engaged and you've always furthered the discussions of this board and contributed to intelligent reason, decisionmaking with public safety first. Thank you for your service, we appreciate it.
(Applause.)
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr.
Kline. I look forward to seeing you at the ballpark almost as much as I look forward to
seeing the Nats get a decent bullpen.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Thank you, everyone.
All right, let's go on with our agenda for the day. Our first case on our calendar is a protest hearing status, and it's Case No. 19-PRO-00064, Po Boy Jim 2, License No. 105468. Would all parties present for this matter please appear and identify yourself for the record, please?

MR. SCHLOM: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman. Evan Schlom, I'm a protestant appearing on behalf of myself.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Schlom. All right, who else is here?

MR. ORLASKEY: David Orlaskey, I'm appearing on behalf of the Group of 5.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Orlaskey. Who else is here with you?

MR. TURNER: James Turner, Party of 5.

MR. DELANEY: Danny Delaney, Party
of 5 .
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your name, sir?

MR. DELANEY: Danny Delaney.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, and you ma'am?

MS. ANTOINE: I'm Rebecca Antoine with Po Boy Jim 2.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning, Ms. Antoine. All right, we need -- all right, at the roll call hearing the Group of 5 was given conditional stand-in and so therefore we need three members who were not at -- so who's a member of the Group of 5 ?

So who are the three?
You're the representative, Mr.
Orlons --?
MR. ORLASKEY: Orlaskey.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Orlaskey. So we have Mr. Orlaskey and we have Mr. Turner and we have Mr. --?

MR. DELANEY: Delaney.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Delaney. So Mr. Orlaskey, you were at the roll call hearing, is that correct?

MR. ORLASKEY: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so therefore in order for stand-in needs to be granted, we need three members today who was not there. And we do not have --

MR. ORLASKEY: So Anita Norman was present at the --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I need three new members, three people today.

MR. ORLASKEY: Yes, I'm aware of that. I have one person that's supposed to be here that's not here, unfortunately.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because the person is not here, stand-in cannot be granted, so I make a motion that the Group of 5 or more be dismissed. Is there a second?

MEMBER SHORT: Second.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
seconded the motion. All those in favor say aye.
(Chorus of aye.)
Those opposed?
The matter passes 6-0-0. So
therefore, the only person who has stand-in to move forward is Mr. Evan Schlom who is the abutting property owner. And so basically what that means is that you can still participate with him because he has stand-in, but you as a Group of 5 or more, you do not have your standin. You do not have stand-in to participate as a party, but if he wants to rely on your expertise and present in this case, you have that option, okay?

Are there any other preliminary matter that needs to be addressed today?

MS. ANTOINE: Well, I only have two things. I mean, my nephew was here the last time, but I know it was still the trash and the parking situation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.
That's more so going -- and you have appeared in
front of me a couple of times.
MS. ANTOINE: Yes, I have.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's going into the substantive nature of case.

MS. ANTOINE: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it's more dealing with the schedule. Now, the only person that you have to negotiate with is the abutting property owner, so I don't know if that will make your life easier to negotiate. I don't know, but this matter is scheduled for protest hearing on September 25th at 4:30. And you have an opportunity, I've always said to parties you can negotiate settlements because this is your neighborhood, you can determine what goes on in your neighborhood. If you're unable to settle it, then we'll have a hearing on September 25th at 4:30. But $I$ said before, the only protesting that's now in this case is Mr. Evan Schlom, okay. So let me read the instructions.

> Are you -- well, let me read the instructions for a protest hearing, okay. Now
that we have set this matter for a protest hearing, there are some additional information I need to provide. I want to make sure that if we have a protest hearing, that you only focus on the issue that needs to be protested at the hearing. The board does not intend to hear testimony in matters that are not relevant to this case. You should have received by electronic or regular mail a letter explaining the protest process, a copy of the protest information form, and a copy of the exhibit form. If you do not have these documents, please contact Assistant General Counsel, April Randall, following this hearing. It is imperative that you review the rules closely and adhere to them before and during the protest hearing. You're also required to complete and submit a protest information form and exhibit form seven days before the hearing. These two forms and accompanying documents need to be submitted to ABRA's legal division and to all opposing parties in this matter. If we do not
receive a copy of your PIP, your application, or your protest, whichever side you're representing may be subject to dismissal. Likewise, if we do not receive a copy of the exhibit form and the exhibits themselves, your exhibits may be excluded from the record upon a finding that the opposing party has been prejudice or no good cause for failure to submit has been shown. Likewise, witnesses other than a party may be subject to exclusion if not identified in the PIP. Accordingly, these forms are very important; the greatly assist the board in narrowing the protest issues to facilitate the process and keeping the parties on board during the hearing. They likewise provide notice to opposing parties, enabling them to better prepare for the hearing.

We thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions today or anytime leading up to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant General Counsel Randall at (202) 442-4353. Again, the legal staff is here
to help you if you don't understand this process, both sides you can meet with me, with them and they will explain to you what's going on. I would also just let the parties know that negotiate, if you do settlements, you decide what happens in your neighborhood. But if you can't decide, then we will make the decision for you.

So if I don't see you on September
25th, it will say that you guys reach an agreement. But if not, I will see you September 25th at 9:30. Have a great day.

Yes, sir?
PARTICIPANT: Mr. Chairman, my
understanding is that the hearing is at 4:30.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, 4:30.
September 25th at 4:30.
PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a great day. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:04 a.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Po Boy Jim 2

Before: DCABRA

Date: 08-14-19

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.

> Hae $R$ Gurs P Court Reporter

