## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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# ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF:

:

Salma, LLC, t/a Red Lounge Hookah

2013 14th Street NW : Protest

Retailer CT - ANC 1B : Hearing (Status)

License No. 76011 : Case #19-PRO-00133 :

(Application to Renew : the License)

Wednesday
February 26, 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 JENI HANSEN, Member BOBBY CATO, JR., Member RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

#### ALSO PRESENT:

ANDREW KLINE, Counsel for Applicant DAN ORLASKEY, Protestant, ANC 1B

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

9:52 a.m.

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ANC 1B.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on our calendar is Case No. 19-PRO-00133, Red Lounge Hookah, License No. 76011. Would the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record, please?

MR. ORLASKEY: I am Dan Orlaskey from

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr. Orlaskey, thank you. I see that the Licensee is not here for Red Lounge Hookah, so I will recall this case, okay?

MR. ORLASKEY: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 9:52:46 a.m. and resumed at 10:09:32 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case is Case No. 19-PRO-00133, Red Lounge Hookah, License No. 76011. Will the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record, please? I'm recalling Case No. 19-PRO-00133, Red Lounge Hookah, License No. 76011. Will the parties approach and identify themselves for the record?

MR. ORLASKEY: Dan Orlaskey, ANC 1B.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning, 1 2 Mr. Orlaskey. This matter was scheduled for a 3 9:30 protest hearing status. The ANC was here. The Licensee was not here. I have recalled the 4 5 case and the Licensee is still not here. I then make a motion that we dismiss their renewal 6 7 application. Is there a second? 8 MR. SHORT: Second. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has 10 second the motion. All those in favor say aye. 11 (CHORUS OF AYE.) 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed? The matter passes 6-0-0. What this means is that 13 14 we will issue an order dismissing their protest, 15 I'm sorry, their renewal application. They will be given 10 days to give the Board reasonable 16 17 notice why they were not here today, and if not, the Board will dismiss their renewal. 18 Mr. Orlaskey, now that we have 19 scheduled and dismissed those ANC 1B matters, I 20 21 would like to take this opportunity to talk to 22 the ANC commissioners from 1B. Is there any 23 other --24 MR. ORLASKEY: All of us?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

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If there

are any other ANC 1B commissioners in the room, I would like them to move forward. Ms. Norman?

All right.

As you know, this is a issue. This first started going back as far as February 5th, where we had four protest hearings scheduled regarding ANC 1B, and the week before February 5th. I think today we had several cases for 1B. I appreciate the fact that 1B was here today for this hearing. However, the ABRA staff and the Board, as well, has been experiencing in some cases less than full and active participation by ANC 1B once the protest is filed.

What I mean by that is that not every assigned ANC single-member district is attending their roll-call hearings or their mediation sessions, or even the status hearings. Just last week prior to -- This was as of February 5, 2020, one ANC commissioner -- I called the case. Ms. Norman is always here. I'm going to call her out by name. She's always here. Anytime there is a protest filed by an establishment where she is the ANC commissioner, she is here.

I called a case, and because she was not the ANC commissioner covering it, I had to

call her Ms. Norman, and so she represented the ANC. It's my understanding she also does that at roll call in the sense that she's not the designated representative from the ANC for that case, but because she's there, the ANC is granted status because it's there.

This has to change. I mean, some of the greatest difficulties that this Board is having is that the Board's agent is scheduling mediation. Mediations are always scheduled at the time of the roll-call hearing when all parties are present, and everyone has their phones or calendars with them. Rarely are mediations rescheduled because consensus is reached on a mutually agreeable date at the time of roll-call hearing.

Of late, however, ANC 1B has had some commissioners present at roll-call hearings or has not provided the Board's agent with the name of the single-member district commissioner, or has had to engage the Board's agent as a party after roll-call to find a new date and time, or has failed to appear at the mediation when scheduled.

I just want to say to ANC is that if

you're going to file the protest hearing, you have to come to the roll-call hearing. You have to come to the status hearing, because it doesn't make sense to have this process if you're not following through. I'm not sure, I mean, we have a litany of cases where routinely the status hearing, the ANC 1B is not here so we dismiss it. So it is just if you're going to -- We need you, if you're protesting these matters, to be present at either the status or the roll call, or if an ANC commissioner is at the roll call, that that ANC commissioner informs either the Chair or the designated representative when a mediation is scheduled so therefore we can have mediation.

I know a couple of weeks ago, the Board dismissed a protest because of the failure of the ANC to participate in the mediation. So that's something that I need to bring to your attention. So there have been numerous cases where ANC 1B has failed to appear at roll-call hearings over the summer of 2019, the spring renewals, including for Provision 14, Cortez, Sugar Shack Doughnuts, Habesha Market and Kiss Tavern. Please understand the Board cannot compel your attendance at the hearings and

mediation. What we can do, however, is dismiss your protest for failure to prosecute if it is filed.

Listen, we do not want to have to do that,
because as I said earlier, we appreciate the
ANC's participation in the process. However,
until ANC 1B starts attending mediations and
hearings, the Board will dismiss your protests as
we did in Pure and Wet Dog Tavern a couple of
weeks ago. Thank you for allowing me to address
this issue. It is a major concern to the Board,
and I'm glad you're here as Chair, Mr. Orlaskey,
to ensure that -- I'm sorry, who is the Chair of
the ANC?

MR. TURNER: I think you just elected him, so I guess this is my way of saying -CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Turner, I apologize.

MR. TURNER: He will be solving the problem going forward.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's an issue that needs to be addressed. I'm glad that -This is the most ANC commissioners that are from 1B I've seen that have appeared in front of the

Board since I've been here. So I'm glad that I see all these 1B cases and there's representation here today.

MR. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, as you know, from I believe you were an ANC commissioner?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I was an ANC commissioner.

MR. TURNER: As Chair, I cannot compel people to represent their case and their district. We have one of the largest number of cases that come with the renewals. We have an over-concentration of cases in certain singlemember districts, one being Mr. Orlaskey's.

MR. ORLASKEY: That's why you see me here.

MR. TURNER: You see Commissioner
Norman. She has a large number, and Commissioner
Winston, which is primarily the U Street
Corridor. With ANC commissioners, they have
daytime jobs. We have delegated or issued
delegation to our ABR committee members, who was
an attempt to help solve part of the problem.
That has not solved the problem. I believe that
this was unique during the renewal period, but it
is, in addition to being an attendance issue, it

is a process issue that needs to be addressed. 1 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, thank you, 3 sir. As I said, as a former ANC commissioner, I 4 know that it is a voluntary job. It's a 5 thankless job. MR. TURNER: Not voluntary, non-6 7 compensated. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry? 9 MR. TURNER: It is not a compensated 10 position. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. 12 sometimes even if people are compensated, people 13 don't necessarily show up. But it's a lot of 14 work and you're not compensated for it, and folks 15 have high expectations. But however, in order 16 for this Board to function is that if you start a 17 process, then it has to be followed through 18 because it takes a lot to get our staff to be 19 ready for these protest hearings. Then we call 20 all these cases and the ANC is not here, and then 21 what ends up occurring is that we dismiss the 22 protest.

So therefore whatever issue or concern, and I'm not saying that the Board favors protests. I'm not saying that. But I'm just

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saying whatever issue or concern there was for the neighbors cannot be addressed because it has not been -- the ANC has failed to prosecute whatever issue they have had with that establishment.

MR. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, if you will indulge me a couple more minutes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

MR. TURNER: The community, our community, our community, our constituents in certain areas feel that the only way they can address a business is through a protest to have a conversation. We know that that isn't true, that you can have a conversation as a community member or as the commissioner with that establishment at any time. If there is a series of issues and findings, we can ask the board to review the case for their license.

That requires additional effort and work by the commissioner and by the community members. Again, during this renewal period, we have a number of new community members who feel that the way to -- that is their only venue, is to demand that the ANC be proactive in protesting. Mr. Orlaskey, you may want to talk

about you have a very vocal constituency.

MR. ORLASKEY: Right. The fact that

I'm here a lot is not because I want to be here a

lot. It's because I have a lot of residents in

my area that have specific issues with specific

establishments or specific areas, and they take

those concerns to me and to our ABR committee.

The ABR committee votes on those protests, and

then that's how we end up here. I have something

like, I don't know the exact number, but in my

SMB alone, around 200 licenses.

So because three or four or five at a time, maybe as much as 10, come before you guys, it's not a lot. It's a small percentage of what we have in the area. Most of them get, you know, renewed without any kind of protest. Some of them I have conversations with and we come to our agreements on our own. It's just the times when there is no communication or the communication breaks down for one reason or another that we sometimes end up here.

I don't want to have to go to protest hearings any more than anyone else. This is a lot of my time that I should be at work, but I'm not. I'm here, I'm doing this. So while I

understand the concerns, a lot of what we've been trying to do lately is make sure that coverage is consistent amongst our side, so that we have either ANC commissioners or members of our ABR committee representing the ANC at all of our hearings, because there simply are quite a lot of them. I agree with that.

But it's a little bit overwhelming for one commissioner to have to handle all of them.

It's a full-time job at that point, for this period of time when we're doing renewals.

what the answer is, but the only thing I can say is that if you're going to protest, we need to make sure that there's someone at roll call. And if a mediation is scheduled, that there's follow-through, because the Board has no choice but to dismiss a protest if the ANC fails to follow through in the sense that it doesn't come to roll call, doesn't do mediation, or the ANC does not show up at the status hearing.

I'm not saying that I support
protests. I'm just saying that if you're going
to protest it, this is what you have to do.
Well, thank you for being here this morning, and

I hope that --

MR. ORLASKEY: I just want to add something you asked before about mentioning to you when we're representing another commissioner's business or representing ourselves on behalf of a protest with a business in another commissioner's district. Right now I'm representing Dan Winston, it's not me.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As a courtesy, it says ANC 1B. I call 1B, and if there's 1B here, and that's part of the problem. So therefore --

MR. ORLASKEY: I'm just saying, just so you have it for your records, so going forward we'll do this every time we come here.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know who -- the way that the law says, Mr. Turner is supposed to designate to us who can represent the ANC for that matter. So that's what the law says, because it's not ANC 1B, Al or 1B1 protesting the matter.

MR. ORLASKEY: I understand, but you asked us to make sure you know who the commissioner for the district is.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't really

care. No, listen. I don't really care, because
the way the statute says, it says that the Chair
designate whoever within the ANC. So it's not
necessarily this is your ANC. I know Ms. Norman
because she's always here. But the statute says
that the Chair designate who represents ANC. So
as a courtesy, because I know it's ANC 1B, Ms.
Norman is here, and if there's another 1B case, I
will just call her to say so because if I don't
call her to come up to say ANC 1B is here, then I
am going to dismiss the protest because ANC is
not here.
MR. ORLASKEY: I understand that. Do
you want us to tell you if it's a different
commissioner when we're appearing, or do you not
want to know that?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, that's not

MR. ORLASKEY: That's what I heard. I guess I misheard that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, that's unimportant because the letter that comes in from the Chair to our Agency saying that you are protesting the matter, that letter designate who it is that should represent the ANC at these

hearings. It can be that commissioner or another commissioner from another ANC. So if someone is available, it just says Commissioner John Doe is authorized to represent the ANC. So I don't really care who the John Doe is, as long as there is a John Doe here. Okay? MR. ORLASKEY: Okay. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a good day. Thank you for being here. (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:26:06 a.m.) 

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# <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Red Lounge Hookah

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-26-20

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.

Court Reporter

near Nous &