

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Seven Seas, Inc., :
t/a Seven Seas Restaurant: :
5915 Georgia Ave NW : Fact Finding
Retailer CT - ANC 4B : Hearing
License No. 654 :
 :
(Request to Extend :
Safekeeping) :

Thursday
November 8, 2018

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board 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, Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member
JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

ROBERT LEE, Interpreter
PO FUNG LIUTSUI, Licensee
ULYSSES ROMERO, Licensee

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

2 11:08 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, we're
4 back on the record. I'm going to call our cases
5 out of order, so our next case is our 11:30 case,
6 Seven Seas Restaurant, license no. 654. That's
7 an old establishment.

8 Will the parties for Seven Seas
9 Restaurant come up here? And give me one minute,
10 please. Who is the translator?

11 MR. LEE: I'm the --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you stand
13 up? Stand up please, sir. What language is
14 this?

15 MR. LEE: Cantonese, sir.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Cantonese
17 Chinese?

18 MR. LEE: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
20 your right hand, please? Do you solemnly affirm
21 that you will faithfully and accurately interpret
22 the proceedings in this matter from English to

1 Mandarin, Cantonese?

2 MR. LEE: Right.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Cantonese and
4 from Cantonese into English to the best of your
5 ability?

6 MR. LEE: Yes, I do.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat.
8 Can you introduce yourself for the record please,
9 sir?

10 MR. LEE: Okay, I'm Robert Lee.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
12 Mr. Lee. The sign in sheet, can you please sign
13 in? Can you ask her to introduce herself for the
14 record, please?

15 MR. LEE: Okay.

16 MS. LIUTSUI: Oh, my name is Po Fung
17 LiuTsui, Seven Seas Restaurant owner.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please ask her
19 to spell her name because I'm not sure if he's
20 able to spell her name.

21 MS. LIUTSUI: Oh, P-O F-U-N-G L-I-U-T-
22 S-U-I.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.
2 LiuTsui. And who's this gentleman?

3 MR. ROMERO: My name is Ulysses
4 Romero, and I'm the manager of the restaurant
5 that she's going to be opening.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
7 We've been asked for an extension to keep this
8 restaurant license in safekeeping. All right, so
9 this has been going on since 1994. So where are
10 we?

11 MR. LEE: Right now, the renovation
12 has been mostly completed as I've written in my
13 letter. We are waiting for the inspection.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What
15 inspection?

16 MR. LEE: Health, from Health
17 Department.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what
19 renovations were completed?

20 MR. LEE: I have pictures here. The
21 pictures before the renovation and the pictures
22 after the renovation. There are also additional

1 --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who are you,
3 sir? Tell us your name again.

4 MR. ROMERO: Yes, I'm the manager --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

6 MR. ROMERO: -- of the construction
7 and also getting permits. We're all the way to,
8 we already have C of O, passed DCRA. She's
9 showing you a copy of her C of O certificate. So
10 the inspections have been completed. We're only
11 waiting for Health Department to come and approve
12 final so we can get our business license.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're
14 saying the certificate of occupancy was issued
15 November 5th --

16 MR. ROMERO: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- which was
18 two days ago. And so, when is it that the Health
19 Department, what is it that the Health
20 Department, when has that been scheduled for?
21 Has that been scheduled?

22 MR. ROMERO: No, we just got the C of

1 O from DCRA. We are about two days away from
2 Health Department to see how it was completed.
3 But they need to come inspect maybe the hood and
4 ceiling, but that's all been done.

5 MEMBER SHORT: You mean the hood and
6 duct?

7 MR. ROMERO: Yes, duct system, you
8 know.

9 MEMBER SHORT: The fire department
10 does that.

11 MR. ROMERO: Oh, fire department but
12 the C of O --

13 MEMBER SHORT: Right.

14 MR. ROMERO: C of O, but it's been
15 issued, but still Health needs to come and do the
16 final approval so they can issue a business
17 license. So within the next two weeks, all this
18 is done.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So after this
20 is done, when do we anticipate that the
21 restaurant would open?

22 MR. ROMERO: We were thinking about

1 Thanksgiving but for sure before Christmas.

2 Everything is just done already.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, ma'am, when
4 is your restaurant going to be open?

5 MR. LEE: Hopefully, we can open it
6 before the Christmas.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now if we were
8 to grant the extension, the extension would be
9 through March of, March 31st, 2019. So what
10 assurances would you argue that will provide to
11 us that you're not going to come back for another
12 extension?

13 MR. LEE: If we pass the inspection
14 there is no problem.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
16 questions?

17 MEMBER SHORT: I'd like to make a
18 statement.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
20 Short.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me, sir, your
22 name again?

1 MR. ROMERO: Ulysses Romero.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Romero, you
3 testified before you were working on this, you
4 were here before with this.

5 MR. ROMERO: Yes.

6 MEMBER SHORT: So now with your C of
7 O completed, you're waiting for your health
8 inspection, by March 31st you should be clear
9 with everything. Correct?

10 MR. ROMERO: Yes, that's why we're
11 bring to ask you. I know that the license is
12 safekeeping, how long will it take?

13 MEMBER SHORT: Let me, let me say
14 this, I think the Chairman just said comments
15 that this safekeeping if granted today will be
16 until March 31st, 2019. And this has been going
17 on for how long?

18 MR. ROMERO: I've been involved two
19 years.

20 MEMBER SHORT: All right, two years is
21 normally the time limit safekeeping is granted.
22 It was in safekeeping before you got involved,

1 and you don't end up doing that, but I'll just
2 say this.

3 What we're saying is, I'm saying as a
4 board member, and I'd hope that the rest of the
5 board members would see it like I see it.

6 By March 31st, 2019, if you aren't
7 operating and your business is going with you
8 having a new certificate of occupancy and you
9 having a bunch of inspections then there'll be no
10 more safekeepings granted.

11 MR. ROMERO: I understand.

12 MEMBER SHORT: I'm only one board
13 member so the other board members have to make up
14 their minds. But I'm thinking that I'm going,
15 I'd think that we're going to, with now you just
16 having your brand new C of O.

17 And your basic business license can't
18 be issued until after you get your health
19 inspection. Correct?

20 MR. ROMERO: Correct.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Well, all that should
22 take place between now and March 31st of 2019.

1 Plenty of time. But we're not looking for you to
2 come back here again.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, so he
4 can translate for her.

5 MEMBER SHORT: I had no more to say,
6 Mr. Chair, I think you can explain the rest now.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. This is
8 the process, once she's ready to open, she comes
9 here, we'll give her her license back.

10 It's a simple process. It's like she
11 will say it's in safekeeping. And she'll come
12 back to the agency to say I'm ready to open on
13 Saturday. I mean, let us know, I'm ready to open
14 on Saturday I want to take my license out of
15 safekeeping.

16 MR. ROMERO: Okay, so it's a simple
17 process.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's a simple
19 process to take it up.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Will that be March
21 31st?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I don't

1 know. I think you'd have question him for how
2 long it's going to take to get it up.

3 It's a very simple process, you come
4 back to the agency and say I'm ready to open, and
5 I want to take my license out of safekeeping.

6 And your license will be --

7 MR. ROMERO: There. On final touches,
8 you know, nothing to be done in the building.
9 Just Health has to come, turn everything on, and
10 there's no more construction going on, that's it.
11 We're done, and that's how we have the C of O, we
12 passed the inspections for the construction.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

14 MR. ROMERO: Now it's Health, but this
15 don't take time, you know, they just come and
16 see. And find the product that we did.

17 And then after that, the license is
18 granted to the system. So March 31st is plenty,
19 plenty of time.

20 And she'll come back; she'll make the
21 request to say she established her opening date
22 to say, "I'm going to be opening on January,"

1 whatever date, "and so I'm ready to take my
2 license out of safekeeping so I can operate."

3 MR. ROMERO: We're there.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
5 questions by board members? Yes, Mr.
6 Silverstein, please hold on.

7 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: All right --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold, hold,
9 hold on one minute. He's not done yet, please.

10 MR. LEE: Oh, she's asking those
11 exhibits, can we get them back?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I thought it
13 was for me. Can I keep this one, the certificate
14 of occupancy? All right, okay, fine. I'll give
15 you back all the documents. No, we'll make
16 copies and give you the original

17 MR. LEE: That's the original, this is
18 the copy.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we'll,
20 she'll get them back. Go ahead, Mr. Silverstein.

21 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I saw the gentle
22 lady sitting there and not being translated to

1 immediately, and I want to make sure that she
2 knows that we hope you can open soon.

3 But before you open and begin serving
4 alcohol, please make sure you come here and
5 remove your license from safekeeping. We wish
6 you good luck and good fortune.

7 MR. LEE: Thank you very much.

8 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anything else
10 you want to say?

11 MR. LEE: No, just wish that I can
12 pass all those inspections and reopen my
13 restaurant.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, this
15 is where we are. I'm going to make a motion that
16 we grant the extension through March 31st, 2019.

17 However, it needs to be clear to you
18 that if another extension is being requested, the
19 Board will not look at that favorable.

20 So you need to do whatever you need to
21 do to make sure that the restaurant is in
22 operation prior to March 31st, 2019. Is that

1 clear to you, ma'am?

2 MR. LEE: Yes, I'm clear, and I'll try
3 my best to make it happen.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't want
5 her to try her best, I want her to make sure that
6 it happens.

7 MR. LEE: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, with
9 that said, motion to grant through March 31st,
10 2019. Is there a second?

11 MEMBER SHORT: Second.

12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short and
14 Mr. Silverstein have seconded the motion. All
15 those in favor say aye.

16 (Chorus of ayes.)

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed?
18 The matter passed fourth to nothing. The
19 extension is granted through March 31st, 2019.

20 MR. LEE: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. All
22 right, bye-bye. All right. So you got your

1 documents back?

2 MS. LIUTSUI: Thank you so much.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, you're
4 welcome.

5 MEMBER SHORT: All these are
6 safekeeping today.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, it's
8 lunchtime. Oh, no, we need to do. Oh, we have
9 an 11:30. Oh, are there two 11:30s? No, so it's
10 lunchtime.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
12 went off the record at 11:26 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Seven Seas, Inc.

Before: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

Date: 11-08-18

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.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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