

IN THE MATTER OF: :  
 :  
TMI International, Inc. :  
t/a Sip (1812 Lounge) :  
1812 Hamlin Street NE : Protest Hearing  
Retailer CT - ANC 5C : (Status)  
License No. 95164 :  
Case # 19-PRO-00148 :  
 :  
(Application to Renew :  
the License) :

Thursday  
November 5, 2020

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson  
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member  
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member  
JENI HANSEN, Member  
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff  
TEMI IJITI, Applicant  
JEREMIAH MONTAGUE, ANC 5C  
FRED MOOSALLY, Director, DC ABRA

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

1:57 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The next case on our calendar is Case No. 19-PRO-00148, formerly -- I'm sorry, Sip, now 1812 Lounge, License No. 95164. And Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of the -- excuse me, of the ANC along with the licensee for the establishment.

MS. ANDREWS: That's all, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you. Mr. Ijiti, do you have the ability -- do you have a video? You can open your video? Are you able to do that? If not, it's fine. I'm just saying if you do, you can. Yes, thank you, sir. I can see you.

MR. IJITI: Can you see me now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we can see you now. All right. So good afternoon, everyone. I will ask everyone to introduce themselves for the record. Also, please say and spell your name starting with the licensee.

MR. IJITI: My name is Temi Tope Ijiti, T-E-M-I T-O-P-E I-J-I-T-I. All right. Thank you, sir. The ANC?

1 MR. MONTAGUE: Commissioner, Vice  
2 President, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, ANC 5C,  
3 Jeremiah Montague, Jr. First name, Jeremiah, J-  
4 E-R-E-M-I-A-H. Last name, Montague, M-O-N-T-A-G-  
5 U-E, Jr.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
7 Thank you, Mr. Montague. Thank you, Mr. Ijiti.  
8 This is an application to renew the license of  
9 the establishment. Are there any preliminary  
10 matters that needs to be brought to the Board's  
11 attention by either side?

12 MR. MONTAGUE: There was a question --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes?

14 MR. MONTAGUE: -- by a potential  
15 witness. If this moves forward, as I expect it  
16 will, we can call witnesses at that time, right?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is  
18 correct, sir.

19 MR. MONTAGUE: Okay. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any  
21 questions, Mr. Ijiti?

22 MR. IJITI: No.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And  
24 normally we would set -- you would be given a  
25 date and time for the protest hearing. However,

1 I'm not able to give you a date and time at this  
2 juncture. However, the Agency will provide both  
3 parties with a date and time of the protest  
4 hearing. Okay? All right.

5 Now that we have scheduled this matter  
6 for a protest hearing, there are a few things  
7 that I would like to instruct you about so that  
8 the protest hearing is focused and addresses only  
9 those issues that are being protested. You  
10 either have already received or will soon be  
11 receiving an email from Imani Moreland that  
12 contains a copy of a protest information form and  
13 a copy of an exhibit form. Both parties are  
14 required to complete and submit the protest  
15 information form and the exhibit form at least  
16 seven days before the date of the hearings.

17 If we do not receive a copy of your  
18 form seven days before the hearing, your  
19 application or your protest may be subject to  
20 dismissal. These documents not only need to be  
21 submitted to ABRA but to the opposing party as  
22 well. Please know that these documents greatly  
23 assist the Board in narrowing the protest issues,  
24 facilitating the process and keeping the parties  
25 on point during the hearing.

1                   Each side will have 90 minutes to  
2                   present their case. This includes all direct and  
3                   cross examination of witnesses. The Board does  
4                   not intend to hear testimony on matters that are  
5                   not relevant to the issues that are being  
6                   protested nor will the Board tolerate repetitive  
7                   testimony. Are there any questions?

8                   MR. IJITI: No.

9                   MR. MONTAGUE: No.

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We thank you  
11                  for your cooperation. If at any point you have  
12                  any questions at any time leading up to the  
13                  hearing, please do not hesitate to contact  
14                  Assistant General Counsel April Randall at 202-  
15                  442-4353. I know you'd asked a question earlier,  
16                  Mr. Montague, regarding witnesses. Any questions  
17                  you have, you can address them to Mr. Randall.

18                  Mr. Ijiti, you also have the right.  
19                  If you have any questions and/or concerns, please  
20                  contact Ms. Randall about the process. So if  
21                  either side have any questions about the process  
22                  or documents, how to submit documents to the  
23                  Agency, you are free -- both sides are free to  
24                  reach out to Ms. Randall and she'll provide you  
25                  the guidance that's required. Okay?

1 MR. IJITI: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I  
3 always say to all parties, if you're able to  
4 settle this through a settlement agreement, the  
5 Board appreciates that. I'm not telling you that  
6 this is what you need to do. This is just a  
7 suggestion on my part. If the parties are unable  
8 to settle this matter, I will see you in the new  
9 year for a protest hearing. So have a great day,  
10 and thanks for your participation.

11 MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 2:03 p.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: Sip

Before: DCABRA

Date: 11-05-20

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.

  
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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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