

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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MEETING

-----:
 IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
 Samantha M. Cole :
 : Fact Finding
 : Hearing
 :
 Application for a Manager's:
 License :
 -----:

APRIL 29, 2015

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing
 Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W.,
 Washington, D.C., Chairperson Ruthanne Miller,
 presiding.

PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson

DONALD BROOKS, Member

NICK ALBERTI, Member

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member

MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

HERMAN JONES, Member

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

2 3:15 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, are you Ms.
4 Cole?

5 MS. COLE: I am.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, come on
7 forward and take a seat.

8 MS. COLE: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so, this is
10 a fact finding hearing regarding Samantha Cole,
11 application for a manager's license, and there is
12 a piece of paper for you to sign in.

13 Okay, so, we called you in, as we do
14 call in some individuals who apply for a
15 manager's license, who have a criminal record of
16 some sort, okay.

17 So, in your case, to begin with, our
18 first concern was that on the first page of the
19 application, I don't know if you have it with
20 you, but I think you checked that you hadn't been
21 convicted of a misdemeanor during the last five
22 years, or a felony during the last 10 years, and

1 you checked 'no', and then I believe we have a
2 record of you being convicted of a misdemeanor.

3 MS. COLE: That was my mistake.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, why don't
5 you address that?

6 MS. COLE: Okay, that was in Oregon.
7 Let's see, it's 2015 now.

8 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Can you speak
9 louder, please?

10 MS. COLE: Yes, that was in Oregon in
11 2010, I believe or 2011.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: We have 2012.

13 MS. COLE: Two-thousand-twelve?

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: In our records, yes.

15 MS. COLE: Okay, sorry.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's okay. I know
17 you didn't -- usually don't want to revisit, I
18 got it.

19 MS. COLE: Yes.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Blacked it out.

21 MS. COLE: I knew it wasn't a felony
22 and I think maybe I read the question wrong, or I

1 misunderstood.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

3 MS. COLE: But yes, I wasn't sure if
4 it was convicted as a misdemeanor, because I had
5 gone to treatment for it, and they said that it
6 wouldn't be counted as -- I guess I didn't fully
7 understand it.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

9 MS. COLE: They said it was a first
10 offense, it would be counted as something else,
11 or something lesser.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

13 MS. COLE: But I guess it does count
14 as a misdemeanor, but I'd be more than happy to
15 talk about and talk about what happened and that.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so, I guess
17 you should do that as well, since you're here.

18 MS. COLE: Sure.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

20 MS. COLE: So, I went to a concert and
21 I had been drinking, and I drove to it, and while
22 I was leaving, I was pulled over and I got a DUI,

1 and I went to treatment for it, and it was my
2 first offense, and then I moved out here, about
3 two years later, I think.

4 So, I've been here for a year and a
5 half, and I mean, I don't drive out here. I
6 certainly would never drive impaired again. It
7 was such a huge, awful thing that happened, and
8 I'm so far away from that now, that it just -- it
9 was what it was. It was really bad choices that
10 I made.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how old were
12 you?

13 MS. COLE: I was 21.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, and what
15 kind of treatment did you have?

16 MS. COLE: I went to an alcohol and
17 drug rehabilitation. I think they call it
18 diversion, like alcohol diversion.

19 So, it was a lot like therapy, in a
20 way, and then I went to Alcohol Anonymous
21 meetings for, I think it was six months.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, did you have

1 a drinking problem then?

2 MS. COLE: No, I really don't think I
3 did. I was going to -- I mean, driving impaired
4 is a problem, but drinking was new to me. All my
5 friends were in college. I was going to
6 community college. I think that's -- I was with
7 friends at the concert, you kind of drink a lot,
8 when you first start doing it.

9 I don't know, for me, I don't think it
10 was like an alcohol addiction or a real like
11 addition problem or anything like that, but it
12 was just bad choices on my part.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, did you learn
14 something from all of that, that you think might
15 be helpful --

16 MS. COLE: From the treatment?

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- to be a
18 manager? Yes.

19 MS. COLE: Absolutely, yes. Just, you
20 know, being responsible, making the right
21 choices, not -- you know, I mean, I put myself in
22 danger. I put other people in danger. That could

1 have been completely avoided. So, it's just --
2 you see, you know, what affect that has on you
3 and other people, the choices you make, but it
4 was just -- it was pretty bad choice. It could
5 have been a lot worse.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, I don't
7 remember, are you working at a certain
8 establishment right now?

9 MS. COLE: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Where are you?

11 MS. COLE: Barrel D.C. on Capitol
12 Hill.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, and what is
14 your position there?

15 MS. COLE: I am a bartender and then
16 I -- they want me to close, manage, every Sunday
17 night.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how long have
19 you been there?

20 MS. COLE: Since January of last year,
21 when we opened. We opened in April.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, okay, other

1 questions?

2 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Have you made any
3 promises then?

4 MS. COLE: Like legally? No.

5 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: You know, we're
6 here because alcohol is a dangerous substance if
7 it's abused, right?

8 MS. COLE: Absolutely.

9 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And there are other
10 substances that are also dangerous, so when one
11 is managing an operation, one has to think about
12 that.

13 MS. COLE: Absolutely.

14 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: If you know what
15 I'm saying.

16 MS. COLE: Yes.

17 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

18 MS. COLE: No, no substances, nothing.

19 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: All right.

20 MS. COLE: I do nothing.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay?

22 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: That's all I have,

1 Madam Chair.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I just have --
3 Barrel, it's a nice establishment.

4 MS. COLE: It's wonderful. I love it
5 very much.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right there on
7 Pennsylvania Avenue, yes.

8 MS. COLE: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Short?

10 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, well, could you
11 say that you -- or could you elaborate to us, if
12 you would like to, what did you learn from that
13 experience of being arrested?

14 MS. COLE: It was horrifying. I mean,
15 my dad's a police officer, as well. It was
16 awful. I felt terrible.

17 I mean, yes, I learned a lot. It was
18 one of -- it was a really big building block in
19 my growing up, as well, because before that, you
20 know, it was -- I was drinking a lot, partying,
21 you would say, you know, friends, and it was
22 like, okay, I really need to take a look at what

1 I'm doing and realize that there is kind of a
2 problem, especially if I'm feeling comfortable to
3 drive, when I'm intoxicated. It's like, well,
4 that's -- you know, that's not something that you
5 should feel comfortable doing, especially if you
6 have other people in the car.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, now, also, I'd
8 like to ask, you'll be serving alcohol.

9 MS. COLE: Yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: You know what the term
11 over-service means?

12 MS. COLE: Yes.

13 MEMBER SHORT: How will you handle?

14 MS. COLE: I have had to cut people
15 off before, as well.

16 So, I've been bartending there.
17 started as a server and I've been bartending
18 there for about four months, and I did the whole
19 TIPS, the TIPS program, and yes, I mean, if you
20 can tell, you know, someone swaying or slurring
21 their speech, they're being disruptive.

22 I've had to say, "Sir, I'm so sorry.

1 I can no longer serve you. I can grab you some
2 water. We have food, but I'm afraid that --

3 MEMBER SHORT: You answered that one
4 pretty correctly.

5 Now, what about someone comes in
6 underage or you suspect that they're underage?

7 MS. COLE: I check ID's, absolutely.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Have you run across any
9 false ID's since you've been --

10 MS. COLE: I haven't, personally. But
11 we also -- we also have a doorman and -- but we -
12 - yes, we check all ID's. If anyone looks under
13 the age of 30, I think it is, and then yes, just
14 being up to date on that.

15 Our doorman has a book too, of what
16 ID's in all states look like, since D.C. is such
17 a tourist area, as well. You get ID's from all
18 over the place. But just being able to kind of
19 see the red flags, and then if there is one, I
20 call the general manger over or whoever is there,
21 to kind of have a second opinion on it.

22 But I personally haven't had to deny

1 anyone, based on a false ID.

2 MEMBER SHORT: And lastly, is your
3 father still law enforcement?

4 MS. COLE: Yes.

5 MEMBER SHORT: Is he proud of you now?

6 MS. COLE: He is, yes.

7 MEMBER SHORT: All right. I have two
8 daughters too, and I feel that, okay.

9 MS. COLE: Yes, yes, he's a great
10 father. He helped me through it.

11 MEMBER SHORT: You're getting a second
12 chance at life. Some people don't get a second
13 chance.

14 MS. COLE: Absolutely.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, any other
17 questions? Anything else you want to say?

18 MS. COLE: No.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, all right.
20 Well, you know, it's important sometimes to have
21 a person come in, because we look at, you know, a
22 piece of paper and we're like, you know, what is

1 this?

2 So, and in any event, I think that
3 you've done a good job and you know, in
4 presenting your case.

5 MS. COLE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And I'm going to
7 move that we approve Samantha Cole's manager's
8 application. Do I have a second?

9 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, Mr.
11 Rodriguez has seconded the motion. All those in
12 favor say aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes)

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those
15 opposed?

16 (No audible response)

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those
18 abstaining?

19 (No audible response)

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The motion passes
21 6-0-0. So, we're going to sign off now.

22 MS. COLE: Okay.

1 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Let your dad know
2 we're trusting in you.

3 MS. COLE: I will.

4 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Is he still up in
5 Oregon or he's in --

6 MS. COLE: No.

7 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Where is he?

8 MS. COLE: He lives out here, and it
9 was also very huge. It was very costly having a
10 DUI, as well. He helped me out a lot with that,
11 and he basically moved me out here, to really
12 help me get back on track, and it really --

13 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: What were you
14 doing out in, was it Tualatin?

15 MS. COLE: Yes, Tualatin. I grew up
16 there. I was working a bunch of jobs, trying to
17 go to community college, just kind of hard. My
18 dad moved out here for a job. My parents, they
19 separated when I was a senior in high school, and
20 then they both kind of moved away, and then I was
21 sort of left to figure it out, where I was. It
22 was kind of hard.

1 But my dad ended up moving me out here
2 to get me back on my feet, and that really helped
3 a lot.

4 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Help you get a
5 direction as to where you're --

6 MS. COLE: Yes, definitely.

7 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: One of the
8 problems is, if you don't know where you're
9 going, any road will take you there.

10 MS. COLE: Absolutely, yes.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Words of wisdom.

12 MS. COLE: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It didn't go all
14 the way. Did it?

15 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: It has to go to
16 the left.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did everybody
18 sign?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: I think we have it.

20 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I think you're a
21 heck of a lot better off with your dad here,
22 rather than in Washington County, Oregon.

1 MS. COLE: Yes, yes, yes.

2 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Good luck to you.

3 MS. COLE: Thank you so much, you

4 guys.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitle matter

7 went off the record at 3:25 p.m.)

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