

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Zewdie, Inc. t/a	
Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant	Fact-
1114 U Street, NW	Finding
Retailer CR - ANC-1B	Hearing
License No. 72469	

(One Day Substantial Change
Application, Ethiopian Soccer
Tournament, Dates of Event:
July 2-5, 2015)

June 17, 2015

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
Ruthanne Miller, presiding.

PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson
NICK ALBERTI, Member
DONALD BROOKS, Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member
HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member
JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JASON PERU, ABRA Investigator

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

10:43 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Then the next establishment seeking to take advantage of this Ethiopian Soccer Tournament is Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant. Okay. Thank you. Good morning.

MR. MESFIA: Good morning. My name is Ghehelm Mesfia, the manager of Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Could you spell your last name, please?

MR. MESFIA: Last name M-E-S-F-I-A.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And our Investigator is?

INVESTIGATOR PERU: Investigator Jason Peru with ABRA.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you are seeking a one day substantial change application for July 2 through 5th?

MR. MESFIA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Now, I guess the question arises whether you are

1 seeking, it doesn't look like it on your
2 application, but, an extended hour on July 4th?

3 MR. MESFIA: I will not be seeking.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You're not?

5 MR. MESFIA: No.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

7 MR. MESFIA: Just regular hours, you
8 know.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Just the regular
10 hours. Okay. And have you done this before?

11 MR. MESFIA: Yes. We do the -- this
12 before and the permit, obtaining the paper, you
13 know.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Wait. I'm having
15 trouble hearing. Could you speak up?

16 MR. MESFIA: The last three years, you
17 know, we making the same thing, you know, we open
18 seven days.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You did this last
20 year?

21 MR. MESFIA: Previous year.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Three years?

1 MR. MESFIA: Two.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Two, okay. Any
3 problems?

4 MR. MESFIA: I don't have any.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Anything
6 different this year that you are applying for?

7 MR. MESFIA: Nothing. The same.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Or doing, any
9 changes? No. Okay.

10 MR. MESFIA: Within operating hours
11 the same thing, you know.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any Board
13 questions? Mr. Peru, any questions?

14 INVESTIGATOR PERU: I just wanted to
15 make you aware just in their settlement agreement
16 with reference to a -- they cannot -- the
17 settlement agreement is saying that on special
18 event days, the applicant will not serve alcohol
19 after normal operating hours, so it couldn't get
20 the extension.

21 Applicant will not conduct live
22 entertainment after normal operating hours and

1 applicant will not serve food outdoors on the
2 patio after normal hours. Just so he is aware
3 and that the Board is aware of those changes.

4 And I saw on your application, a
5 second application, he lists a DJ. A DJ is
6 considered entertainment, so just -- live music
7 and a DJ is considered entertainment.

8 MR. MESFIA: Just during regular hours
9 now.

10 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Just your regular
11 hours for that as well.

12 MEMBER SHORT: So on the record he has
13 agreed to that? You are saying yes to that?

14 MR. MESFIA: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You won't have a
16 DJ?

17 MR. MESFIA: Just regular hours, you
18 know, we have license documents and a DJ just
19 regular hours.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You want a DJ
21 during your regular hours?

22 MR. MESFIA: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, Mr. Peru, is
2 that allowed under the --

3 INVESTIGATOR PERU: It is. He wrote
4 only DJ, no live band. I wanted to just make it
5 clear that a DJ is considered entertainment as
6 well, so he still has to follow his hours of
7 entertainment.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay.

9 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But you do have
11 permission to have it.

12 MR. MESFIA: Yes.

13 INVESTIGATOR PERU: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you
15 will be basically following your same settlement
16 agreement and order. Okay. Any questions by
17 Board Members? All right.

18 Okay. Then I --

19 MEMBER SHORT: One question, Madam
20 Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Short?

22 MEMBER SHORT: His title, is he the

1 owner or he is?

2 MR. MESFIA: I'm the manager.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Manager, okay. All
4 right. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have --

6 INVESTIGATOR PERU: So do we need
7 any --

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Do you
9 have authorization to represent the owner?

10 MR. MESFIA: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: How is that?

12 MR. MESFIA: I'm the licensed, you
13 know, for ABRA license.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You have a letter
15 to ABRA?

16 MR. MESFIA: I am licensee for ABRA.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You have a
18 license? You have a manager's license?

19 MR. MESFIA: I have a manager license.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. But do
21 you have a written authorization from the owner
22 to represent the owner on this application?

1 MR. MESFIA: I'll tell you I don't
2 have a letter with me, but I'm the manager.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I understand
4 that. Who signed the application?

5 MR. MESFIA: It my -- she signed it
6 all.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: What?

8 MR. MESFIA: She is the owner.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The owner signed
10 it? Okay. All right. So if the owner signed
11 it, then we are not making any changes. I think
12 we can vote on it. Does somebody have a problem
13 with that?

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: No.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Just curious why
17 can't the owner make it today?

18 MR. MESFIA: Huh?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Could you tell us why
20 was the owner not able to be here today?

21 MR. MESFIA: The owner he oversee.
22 His wife had a doctor appointment.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Okay. Yes, I
2 mean, we often have people handle applications
3 like this. I'm okay with it.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

7 So all those in favor of the
8 application as presented say aye.

9 ALL: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those
11 opposed? All those abstaining? The motion
12 passes 6-0-0. And it is being passed around for
13 signature.

14 Okay. You will get this application
15 back if you wait, signed-off. Thank you very
16 much.

17 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing
18 in the above-entitled matter was concluded at
19 10:49 a.m.)
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