

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
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 MEETING

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 IN THE MATTER OF: \*  
 \*  
 Downtown 1522, Inc. \*  
 t/a Downtown Spirits \* Fact Finding  
 1522 K Street, NW \* Hearing  
 Retailer A \*  
 License No. 84123 \*  
 ANC 2B \*  
 Request to Extend Safekeeping \*  
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September 17, 2015

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

PRESENT:  
 RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson  
 NICK ALBERTI, Member  
 MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member  
 HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member  
 JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:  
 Puneeta Singh  
 Amarjit Singh  
 Jagir Bathla

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

2 (3:04 p.m.)

3 CHAIR MILLER: Are you here for  
4 Downtown Spirits?

5 MS. SINGH: Yes.

6 CHAIR MILLER: All right, come forward  
7 and take a seat at the table. I am calling the  
8 fact finding hearing for Downtown Spirits located  
9 at 1522 K Street, N.W., License Number 84123, and  
10 ANC 2B, and this is a request to extend  
11 safekeeping.

12 When you have a chance -- Yes, is  
13 there a piece of paper on that table? Yes, if  
14 you --

15 MS. SINGH: A sign in sheet. Yes, we  
16 signed in.

17 CHAIR MILLER: You did, okay, good.  
18 So if you could identify yourself then for the  
19 record.

20 MS. SINGH: I am Puneeta Singh, owner  
21 of Downtown Spirits, 1522 K Street, N.W.

22 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And you, sir?

1 MR. BATHLA: Hi.

2 MS. SINGH: He is my father, Jagir  
3 Bathla.

4 CHAIR MILLER: Oh, okay, all right.  
5 Okay, I am not sure how long you have been in the  
6 hearing room, but I want to say that these are  
7 called fact finding hearings as opposed to, you  
8 know, prosecution hearings or protest hearings.

9 You are not under oath, we're not  
10 taking evidence. We are just engaging in a  
11 dialogue with you about the status of your  
12 license in safekeeping.

13 We are looking at licenses primarily  
14 that have been in safekeeping for a good length  
15 of time and I think you may have heard the Board  
16 say that it's the policy of the Board that the  
17 licenses not just be kept in safekeeping without  
18 us knowing what's going on and that licenses need  
19 to be used and now there are many fees associated  
20 with safekeeping as well and you can think about  
21 that.

22 But so the purpose of this particular

1 hearing is to find out why this license has been  
2 in safekeeping since June 2011, which is what our  
3 records say, so that would be over four years.

4 MS. SINGH: Yes. We have been on the  
5 lookout for a location and actually as of August  
6 7, 2015, so earlier this year --

7 CHAIR MILLER: Yes.

8 MS. SINGH: -- we had already put in  
9 the application for a transfer, like just  
10 transfer to a different --

11 CHAIR MILLER: Transfer of location?

12 MS. SINGH: Yes.

13 CHAIR MILLER: Great. You've put it  
14 in?

15 MS. SINGH: Yes, on August 7th.

16 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

17 MS. SINGH: And I have the signed copy  
18 of the lease for the relocation.

19 CHAIR MILLER: Great.

20 MS. SINGH: Actually the placards are  
21 posted, so it's already in the process and I have  
22 the hearing on November 3rd, I believe --

1 November 2nd, thank you, for the transfer of the  
2 application, transfer of the license.

3 CHAIR MILLER: You are scheduled for  
4 a hearing?

5 MS. SINGH: On November 2nd, yes.

6 CHAIR MILLER: 2015?

7 MS. SINGH: For the license transfer.

8 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

9 MALE PARTICIPANT: Hmm?

10 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Questions by  
11 Board Members?

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: I just want to say  
13 congratulations on your new location.

14 CHAIR MILLER: Sir, come forward, and  
15 you want to speak?

16 MR. SINGH: Yes. I am her husband,  
17 Amarjit Singh.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes?

19 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, so have a seat  
20 and identify yourself for the record.

21 MR. SINGH: Amarjit Singh and I am her  
22 husband. I do most of the leg work, so I'll be

1 able to work clearly and quickly.

2 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, great.

3 MR. SINGH: We are in the process of  
4 taking the license out, putting in a new  
5 location. We have a signed copy of the lease so  
6 the Board is aware and the placard is on.

7 CHAIR MILLER: Great.

8 MR. SINGH: We have a picture that we  
9 have submitted, and for that placard hearing is  
10 November 2nd and I think if everything goes well  
11 we will be able to take the license out and get  
12 in business back.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

14 CHAIR MILLER: Fantastic, okay.

15 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: That is good news.

16 MR. SINGH: Thank you.

17 CHAIR MILLER: Any questions by Board  
18 Members?

19 MALE PARTICIPANT: No.

20 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, so --

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I just want to  
22 apologize. You know, sometimes we get a little

1 bit, the process gets a little bit ahead of us  
2 and so, and this is one of those cases where we  
3 had talked about bringing people in for  
4 safekeeping and you were moving ahead faster than  
5 we were here, and so thank you for coming in.

6 MR. SINGH: It's always a pleasure  
7 coming in.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: I appreciate that.

9 MALE PARTICIPANT: Yes, that's good.

10 CHAIR MILLER: So you still, you do  
11 need to extend safekeeping though, correct?

12 MS. SINGH: It's already paid for.

13 CHAIR MILLER: Already paid for.

14 (Simultaneous speaking)

15 MALE PARTICIPANT: Until March 31st,  
16 yes.

17 MS. SINGH: For the next six months.

18 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, good. So do we  
19 not need to approve it?

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes. We'll just  
21 extend it, yes.

22 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: No problem.

2 CHAIR MILLER: So I would move that we  
3 approve this request to extend safekeeping until  
4 March 31, 2016.

5 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Seconded.

6 CHAIR MILLER: It's been seconded by  
7 Mr. Rodriguez. All those in favor say aye.

8 (Multiple ayes)

9 CHAIR MILLER: All those opposed?

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR MILLER: All those abstaining?

12 (No audible response)

13 MALE PARTICIPANT: Good luck.

14 CHAIR MILLER: Motion passes, 5-0-0.

15 Okay, thank you.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Out of curiosity,  
17 where is the new location?

18 MR. SINGH: It's right in front of  
19 Macy's on 12th and G Street.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, very good.

21 CHAIR MILLER: Oh, good.

22 MALE PARTICIPANT: Nice.

1                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: As you can see we  
2 are very happy when your business succeeds.

3                   MR. SINGH: Yes. I was in Mr.  
4 Silverstein's neighborhood in Dupont a little  
5 while ago.

6                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yes.

7                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Right, right, right.  
8 Well that's a great location. I wish you well.

9                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yes.

10                  MR. SINGH: Thank you.

11                  CHAIR MILLER: Same name? Is it the  
12 same name?

13                  MS. SINGH: No.

14                  MR. SINGH: No, ma'am, this is a  
15 different name.

16                  CHAIR MILLER: What was the one in  
17 Dupont Circle?

18                  MR. SINGH: That one was Dupont Fine  
19 Wine and Spirits, we sold it after --

20                  CHAIR MILLER: Oh, okay.

21                  MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Oh, great. On  
22 Connecticut Avenue?

1 MR. SINGH: Yes, sir.

2 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Connecticut and

3 Q?

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, right across  
5 from where I get my hair cut.

6 (Simultaneous speaking)

7 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, well thank you  
8 very much.

9 MS. SINGH: Thank you.

10 MR. SINGH: Thank you.

11 CHAIR MILLER: We'll see you in  
12 November I guess.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: And good luck.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 3:10 p.m.)

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<b>A</b>	7:22 8:2,6,9,11,14 8:21 9:11,16,20 10:7,11 <b>Chairperson</b> 1:13 1:15 <b>chance</b> 2:12 <b>Circle</b> 9:17 <b>clearly</b> 6:1 <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1 <b>come</b> 2:6 5:14 <b>coming</b> 7:5,7 <b>congratulations</b> 5:13 <b>Connecticut</b> 9:22 10:2 <b>Control</b> 1:2,11,12 <b>copy</b> 4:17 6:5 <b>correct</b> 7:11 <b>curiosity</b> 8:16 <b>cut</b> 10:5	<b>four</b> 4:3 <b>front</b> 8:18	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b> 8:19 <b>goes</b> 6:10 <b>going</b> 3:18 <b>good</b> 2:17 3:14 6:15 7:9,18 8:13 8:20,21 10:13 <b>great</b> 4:13,19 6:2,7 9:8,21 <b>guess</b> 10:12	<b>location</b> 4:5,11 5:13 6:5 8:17 9:8 <b>long</b> 3:5 <b>looking</b> 3:13 <b>lookout</b> 4:5 <b>luck</b> 8:13 10:13
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