DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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ROLL CALL HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:
Beirut Nights, LLC
t/a Beirut Nights
1025-1027 31st Street, NW
License #120090
Case #22-PRO-00019
Retailer CR - ANC 2E

(New Application)

Monday
March 28, 2022

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher, Board's Agent, presiding.

PRESENT:
LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:
JOHN BUCHOVECKY, Protestant
SUSAN CROWN, Protestant
KAREN CRUSE, Citizens Association of Georgetown
JOHN HOPKINS, Protestant
ZAKARIA IBRAHIM, Applicant
JEANNE JORDAN, Protestant
HARRISON LINSEY, Protestant
LISA PALMER, ANC 2E
ELIZABETH STARRELS, Protestant
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:24 a.m.

MS. FLETCHER: The last case on the calendar is Beirut Nights. This is Case No. 22-PRO-00019, Beirut Nights LLC, 1025-1027 31st Street, NW, license number ABRA-120090.

This is a Retailer Class CR, a new application. The protest issues are adverse impact on peace order and quiet.

My name is LaVerne Fletcher, conducting the roll call hearing as the Board's agent. Is anyone present on behalf of the applicant?

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, Zakaria Ibrahim.

MS. FLETCHER: Oh, thank you. Mr. Ibrahim, would you spell your name, please?


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Is anyone present on behalf of the Citizens Association of Georgetown?

MS. CRUSE: Yes, can you hear me?

MS. FLETCHER: I sure can.

MS. CRUSE: Oh, good. I cannot get on the video again. Yes, Karen Cruse, for the
Citizens Association of Georgetown.

MS. FLETCHER: And, Ms. Cruse, would you spell your name for the record, please?


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. The Citizens Association of Georgetown has standing as a protestant. Is anyone present on behalf of ANC2E?

MS. PALMER: Yes, ma'am, Lisa Palmer.

MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Palmer, would you spell that for the record, please?


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. ANC2E has standing as a protestant. And we have a group of five or more. Is Mr. Hopkins present?

MS. CROWN: Yes, I am.

MS. FLETCHER: Good morning, Mr. Hopkins.

MR. HOPKINS: Good morning.

MS. FLETCHER: Mr. Hopkins, you're the designated representative for the group?

MR. HOPKINS: Yes, I am.

MS. FLETCHER: Would you please spell
your name for the record?

MR. HOPKINS: First name is John, J-O-H-N. Last name is Hopkins, H-O-P-K-I-N-S.

MS. FLETCHER: And I see other individuals from your group that are present, so you can start wherever you want. If you would just state your name and spell it for the record, please.


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Crown.

MS. JORDAN: Jeanne Jordan.


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Jordan.


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anybody else?


MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Starrels. And I see one more person.

MR. BUCHOVECKY: John Buchovecky. And last name's spelled B like Bravo, U-C-H-O-V like Victor, E like Echo, C-K-Y.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Anyone else? There are at least six individuals present from your group today, which means that your group is granted full standing as a protestant today.

What that means is that at the upcoming status hearing, Mr. Hopkins, only you will need to appear for that because the group has already been granted standing. Anyone can come, but only you need to be present for that.

MR. HOPKINS: I understand.

MS. FLETCHER: We need to set a date for mediation, a status hearing, and a protest hearing. I'm going to give you the date for the status and protest hearing first.

The status hearing is scheduled for May 4, 2022 at 10:30. The protest hearing is set for May 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. PALMER: Ms. Fletcher?

MS. FLETCHER: Yes, Ms. Palmer?

MS. PALMER: I'm sorry, May 25th at what time?

MS. FLETCHER: 1:30.

MS. PALMER: And that's the status?
MS. FLETCHER: That's for the protest hearing.

MS. PALMER: They're always in the afternoon, is that correct?

MS. FLETCHER: They're any time the Board wants to set them. This was the time available on the calendar. Do you have a problem with that time?

MS. PALMER: Yeah. That would be a difficult time for me to make. I could do mornings, but Wednesday afternoons are, generally I'm not available.

MS. FLETCHER: That was a time available on the calendar at the time these dates were provided to me. It's a new application, so I know the Board doesn't like to change the date of the protest hearing. But you may contact Martha Jenkins --

MS. PALMER: Okay.

MS. FLETCHER: -- regarding the time.

MS. PALMER: Okay. And in the meantime, I'm sorry, it's 1:25? Is that what you said?

MS. FLETCHER: The protest hearing is May 25th at 1:30.
MS. PALMER: Okay, thank you.

MS. FLETCHER: Uh-huh. You're welcome. I'll give you the next available day for mediation. The next available day for mediation is Wednesday, April 13. Wednesday, April 13, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30.

MS. PALMER: Could folks do 11:00?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. CRUSE: I'm with Citizens Association, so it's okay.

MR. HOPKINS: It's okay with the group of five.

MS. FLETCHER: What about you, Mr. Hopkins?

MR. HOPKINS: Sorry, I just said I'm available at that time. The 11:00 a.m. for Pete.

MS. FLETCHER: That's 11:30.

MR. HOPKINS: That's still fine.

MS. FLETCHER: Is that good? What about you, Mr. Ibrahim?

MR. IBRAHIM: I'm fine with everything. You know, for most people that is coming, I did wish --

MS. FLETCHER: Can you say that again?

MR. IBRAHIM: I say I'm good, and
there is a month of Ramadan that is coming.

MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, I still couldn't hear you. Can you just speak a little louder?

MR. IBRAHIM: I'm just saying, there is a month which I don't work, which is going to be starting after five days from now, or six days. It's going to be a month I'm going to be off, so mostly March. And we don't work usually this month.

But I'm going to see if I'm going to hire Mr. Ely, or I'm going to keep representing the case. But I'm fine with the time, because I'm available. There is no problem with if I'm going to continue representing, or I'm going to have Mr. Ely representing that case any further. That's it. But I'm fine with the time. It is no problem whatsoever.

MS. FLETCHER: So, you're okay with 11:30 for mediation on Wednesday, April 13th?

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: I have to tell you, I actually didn't understand anything else that you said.

MR. IBRAHIM: I'm saying --
MS. FLETCHER: You want to repeat that again?

MR. IBRAHIM: My fault. The month from above it's going to start --

MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I heard -- uh-huh.

MR. IBRAHIM: Yeah, after six days, I will get escape for 30 days. During these 30 days, we just push it and we stay home. We don't work.

So, in case if I cannot have Mr. Ely representing this case full-time, I will be representing. So, it's no problem.

MS. PALMER: Mr. Ibrahim, I don't know if anybody else is comfortable, but I would be comfortable waiting to do this until after Ramadan is complete.

MR. IBRAHIM: You see, it is not my concern regarding that month, because I represent the client and he doesn't agree to my going. That's why I'm in that kind of situation.

But just we're not going to change the date for now, until I get back to Mr. Joseph today and let him know what's happen.

And also, I believe that Ms. Lee, that we can work out something for temporary license
for now. I know it is difficulty, and a lot of in-and-out of this case. But I wish if we can meet before and we just find some kind of solution for your protest, if this is okay with everybody.

MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Palmer?

MS. PALMER: Did you understand what Ibrahim said?

MS. PALMER: I think what he said is that he's going to talk to his client, who does not celebrate Ramadan, so he is not interested in waiting a month, and that there may be a different lawyer representing the applicant.

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Yes.

MS. PALMER: He also, I believe, said that he hopes to have a stipulated license, which at this point I'm not in a position to support and we have a whole group of people on the phone that also have standing. So, we wouldn't be able to move that forward.

MS. FLETCHER: And so, Mr. Ibrahim, you're representing the applicant?

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I do. Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, you're not the applicant. You're representing the applicant.
MR. IBRAHIM: I'm representing Beirut Nights. Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Just a second. So, you're not the owner but you're representing the owner?

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: And so, you're going to have to run this date by the owner? Or is this date going to be okay?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry?

MR. IBRAHIM: I think it's going to be okay with the owner. Just my concern, it is just if I can represent or not. But I think we're not going to changing no date or anything.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, I understood that. It think I'm having some trouble with maybe some volume on this side. So, I'm picking up words here and there. But I understood you to say -- so now you've disappeared, Mr. Ibrahim. I don't if you can hear me.

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I hear you very well.

MS. FLETCHER: But you said that you believe the owner will be available. If you're
not available, you would have someone present to represent the owner?

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Yes, I will. Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay, then mediation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30. And I'll send out a WebEx invitation for everyone to attend the mediation, the same as I did for the roll call today.

MR. IBRAHIM: Okay.

MS. FLETCHER: So, Mr. Hopkins?

MR. HOPKINS: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: I'm sorry, who has a question?

MR. HOPKINS: No, I don't. I'm fine.

MS. FLETCHER: So, Mr. Hopkins, what normally happens in these cases is that the mediation WebEx invitation goes to the designated representative only.

Unless you tell me now that there are any other individuals from the group that would be attending mediation, the invitation would go only to you, because you're the only person required to be present.
MS. CROWN: Can I request that

information sent to me?

MS. FLETCHER: Same for everybody

else?

MS. STARRELS: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

MS. STARRELS: Thank you.

MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. Okay.

MS. PALMER: And, Ms. Fletcher, could

you make sure that I receive it, in addition to

Commissioner Murphy?

MS. FLETCHER: In addition to who,

Ms. Palmer?

MS. PALMER: Commissioner Murphy.

MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, I've added you as

a designated representative. So, Ms. Palmer, you

want me to send the invitation to you and Rick

Murphy?

MS. PALMER: It can be just to me, but

I --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. FLETCHER: I'll just send it to

you.

MS. PALMER: Thank you.

MS. FLETCHER: I made a note in the
record that you're the designated representative.

     MS. PALMER: Yes, thank you.

     MS. FLETCHER: Any questions at all from anyone? Well, thank you for coming. I'll see you on the 13th at 11:30. All right, thank you.

     MS. PALMER: Thank you, Ms. Fletcher.

     MS. FLETCHER: You're very welcome.

Nice to see everybody. The roll call hearing is concluded.

(Whereupon the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:39 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Beirut Nights

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-28-22

Place: teleconference

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

_______________________________
Court Reporter

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