

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION
ADMINISTRATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

BANGKOK, INC.
t/a Machu Picchu
3263 M Street NW

Ret. Class CR

License No. 8309 ANC 2E

Fact Finding
Hearing
[Status]

Thursday,
May 15, 2014

Hearing Room 7100
941 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

The above-entitled matter convened at
4:30 p.m., before the District of Columbia
Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration
Board.

BEFORE:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

[4:44 p.m.]

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good afternoon. So the Board is back on the record. And we've been holding hearings today almost exclusively devoted to licenses that have been in safekeeping for an extended period of time.

So that's -- we're here to find out you know, why. What they've been doing, why they've been there for so long, and what your plans are with respect to them.

So let me first ask you if you could identify -- oh, and let me call your case and I'll ask you to identify yourselves for the record. This is case Bangkok, Inc. trading as Machu Picchu, located at 3263 M Street, NW. License Number 8309 and ANC 2E.

Okay, so if you would introduce yourselves for the record please. You can sit down. Actually it's easier to hear you sitting down anyway.

1 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes, I do --

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But your
3 name. Your name.

4 MR. MOHAMMED: My name is Taha
5 Mohammed.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And
7 yours.

8 MR. ANNAND: And my name is Robert
9 Annand. I'm not a -- he's the owner and
10 officer of the corporation. I'm a tax
11 attorney, I just try to help him over the
12 years in connection with the business.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so I'm
14 going to ask you both just to speak a little
15 louder.

16 MR. ANNAND: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So I heard
18 most of what you said, but what is your name
19 again?

20 MR. ANNAND: It's Robert Annand.
21 A-N-N-A-N-D.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: A-N-N-A-N-D,

1 okay. And you're here just to assist Mr.
2 Mohammed?

3 MR. ANNAND: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, all
5 right. So this isn't an evidentiary hearing.
6 Nobody's going under oath or anything, but
7 basically the Board has become concerned about
8 too many licenses just languishing out there.

9 And so we're trying to get an
10 understanding for each case you know, why
11 aren't you using it? What are your plans? And
12 what's the history, like you know, when you
13 got it and why has it been in safekeeping so
14 long?

15 MR. MOHAMMED: You know I'm
16 looking for a nice location.

17 MR. ANNAND: So when did you get
18 the license?

19 MR. MOHAMMED: It's on June, 2002,
20 something like that.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 2002? Okay.

22 MR. ANNAND: And how long did you

1 operate the restaurant?

2 MR. MOHAMMED: Five years
3 something.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Five years
5 what?

6 MR. ANNAND: He operated the
7 business for about five years.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You did
9 operate the business for five years? And then
10 what happened -- well which years?

11 MR. MOHAMMED: It was 2010
12 something.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Until 2010?

14 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And why did
16 you stop operating?

17 MR. MOHAMMED: Actually, you know
18 like the lease is over, I'm supposed to have
19 option.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The lease
21 was?

22 MR. MOHAMMED: It's over. And I'm

1 supposed to have option. And by court you
2 know, the landlord they take it because I
3 don't sign how many percent to going to be up.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you lose
5 your lease in 2010?

6 MR. MOHAMMED: No, I supposed to
7 have option. I did, but I don't sign how many
8 percent of when we up. So the rent, you know
9 it go up like it's very high. And there's
10 many construction in Georgetown you know, at
11 this time.

12 And you know I tried to look in
13 you know, for any different nice location, and
14 I don't found it. And how, you know like I'm
15 ready you know, to get any like, you know I
16 have me some people looking you know, for me
17 for nice location.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you've
19 been looking for a location since 2010?

20 MR. MOHAMMED: Trust me, yes. You
21 know look you know like many people. And now
22 I just was, I've been in Egypt but just come

1 in like four days ago. Was my brother had
2 been in hospital.

3 And I just got the message you
4 know, when I got here. Because my phone
5 doesn't work in Egypt. Then I talked to Mr.
6 Bob Annand and I have one of tenant they call
7 me next week, and what they look for you know
8 about two, three location.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so
10 you've been looking for five years? No. Four
11 years?

12 MR. MOHAMMED: You know, I looking
13 you know, like but just like you know, at this
14 time the rent is very high. Now you know, is
15 come down and you know.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So now is a
17 better time.

18 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes is.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So how
20 actively have you been looking now?

21 MR. MOHAMMED: You know like next
22 week I have somebody who show me like three

1 restaurants in Georgetown.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And so
3 are you working in the restaurant business
4 now?

5 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes I am.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You're
7 working in somebody else's business now?

8 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

10 MR. MOHAMMED: I work in Martin
11 Goswin.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: In where?

13 MR. MOHAMMED: Martin Goswin.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But
15 you intend to lease another space and open a
16 restaurant?

17 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And what kind
19 of restaurant is it going to be?

20 MR. MOHAMMED: It's going to be
21 Middle East.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Middle

1 Eastern?

2 MR. MOHAMMED: I have all the
3 appointment, everything in storage, and I pay
4 the storage every year.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so you
6 have all --

7 MR. MOHAMMED: I have everything
8 ready you know.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Like what
10 kind of equipment?

11 MR. MOHAMMED: Like you know the
12 table, you know like the refrigerator,
13 everything.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 MR. MOHAMMED: All the appointment
16 I have it and I have the proof you just from
17 the storage unit like I pay every months.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And
19 what size restaurant are you anticipating?

20 MR. MOHAMMED: I looking for like
21 you know, like 7,500 feet you know.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

1 MR. MOHAMMED: And they told me
2 like in it is like you know like many place in
3 Georgetown is closed now. And I don't get a
4 chance to, but they just called me and you
5 know we go and see next week you know.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have
7 an estimate or a guess as to when you think
8 you might actually succeed in getting a lease
9 for your restaurant?

10 MR. MOHAMMED: I'm sorry?

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have a
12 guess or a best estimate when you actually,
13 you think you might be able to get a lease?

14 MR. MOHAMMED: If I get it you
15 know, like just going to be right away. Like
16 two months or three months now. You know I
17 have everything, the decoration I have it you
18 know from Egypt, I get it like you know.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I mean
20 do you think like within six months you might
21 be in a restaurant?

22 MR. MOHAMMED: I'm sorry?

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you think
2 in six months you may locate?

3 MR. MOHAMMED: Yes in six months.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. MOHAMMED: Bless you, thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Other
9 questions?

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Quick question.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes Mr.
12 Alberti.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Sir, where are
14 you looking? Where are you searching for a
15 location?

16 MR. MOHAMMED: In Georgetown on M
17 Street.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Only in
19 Georgetown?

20 MR. MOHAMMED: M Street, they
21 going to show me like three, four location.
22 Is it the GM you know like in Martin, we work

1 together and just like and he told me he got
2 good news, but before I -- I supposed to see
3 it before I go to see my brother, he's in
4 hospital in Egypt, you know.

5 And I don't get a chance but the
6 time when I come in, I called him and he told
7 me I just can go anytime next week.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: So I guess my
9 question is are you looking -- are you
10 considering the possibility of looking outside
11 of Georgetown?

12 MR. MOHAMMED: I wouldn't be in
13 Georgetown.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay, thank you.

15 MR. MOHAMMED: Thank you very
16 much.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Others?
18 Okay, is there anything else you want to tell
19 us? Anything else that we haven't asked that
20 you want to tell us?

21 MR. MOHAMMED: God bless all of
22 you.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So
2 basically we want to keep an eye on these
3 licenses to make sure they're being used.

4 MR. MOHAMMED: Thank you very
5 much.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, so what
7 we'd like you to do is, if you could let us
8 know in six months where you're at.

9 MR. MOHAMMED: I will.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you could
11 drop a note to the Board. And our contact
12 would be Martha Jenkins, she's our general
13 counsel.

14 MR. MOHAMMED: Thank you very
15 much.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, you're
17 welcome. And we'll let you know if we need to
18 talk to you again. But -- yes?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Isn't it quite
20 possible we'll ask him to come in in six
21 months and see where he's at.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I was just

1 going to say --

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Because I'm -- I
3 really would like to know what progress is
4 being made.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, if you
6 write -- like I said, if you write to us
7 what's transpired, if you have a new location,
8 if you're you know, whatever, or if you don't,
9 or if you have a prospect. If once we read
10 that we can then decide whether we need to ask
11 you to come in and have another conversation
12 with us or not.

13 So yes, as Mr. Alberti was saying,
14 he though he might want to, so we'll see. But
15 if you could let us know, that would be great.

16 MR. MOHAMMED: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So I wish you
18 best of luck. Okay.

19 MR. MOHAMMED: Thank all of you.
20 God bless.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
22 It's okay. All right, that's it for us then,

1 right?

2 MR. ANNAND: Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you
4 very much.

5 MR. MOHAMMED: Thanks.

6 [Whereupon, at 4:53 p.m., the fact
7 finding status hearing was adjourned]

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