DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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MEETING
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IN THE MATTER OF:

James M. Babin : Fact-finding
Neighborhood Restaurant : Hearing
Group VII, LLC
945 Florida Avenue, NW
Retailer CR

September 19, 2013

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 DONALD BROOKS, Member
HERMAN JONES, Member
MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:
ABYIE GHENENE, OAG


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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Will you |
| 2 | spell your last name? |
| 3 | MR. BERGMAN: Sure. B-E-R-G-M-A- |
| 4 | $N$. |
| 5 | INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: ABRA |
| 6 | Investigator Abyie Ghenene. |
| 7 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, great. |
| 8 | Great, okay. Now, what this looks like to me, |
| 9 | and I think that you can probably characterize |
| 10 | it better, but you're affiliated with the new |
| 11 | Brooklyn Flea Market. |
| 12 | MR. BERGMAN: That's right. |
| 13 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. |
| 14 | MR. BERGMAN: I guess they're |
| 15 | calling it District Fleas. It's the -- |
| 16 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Now are they |
| 17 | calling it District? |
| 18 | MR. BERGMAN: -- location there. |
| 19 | Would you like some, I've prepared some -- |
| 20 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Sure. |
| 21 | MR. BERGMAN: -- materials for |
| 22 | you. |

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202-234-4433
(Off the record comments)
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I heard it was crowded last week.

MR. BABIN: It was.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That' great, that's great. Okay, so I'm not clear as to how this application falls within a flea market, $I$ guess. Is it separate, is it part of it, is it --

MR. BERGMAN: Yeah, so it's a part of it. If you want to look at the site plan, I'll refer to that, just give you a little bit of a layout there.

The flea market is exactly that. It's a number of vendors selling wares from antique furniture to jewelry, all manner of things. And then to one side is a food and beverage area, mainly food, I should say.

So the green tents that you see, or the green squares, represent tents that will be food vendors from all different parts of the city.

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Part of our restaurant group, Red Apron Butchery, will be serving hot dogs, specialty artisanal hot dogs there for instance, so a number of different food vendors, as you see.

And then Michael had met with the organizers of the event awhile back and we talked about the idea of offering some beer at the event, being that one of our specialities is craft beer. So we explored that possibility and thought it might be a good fit for a nice kind of afternoon event out and about shopping.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. This is just like the last one with my question here.

MR. BERGMAN: Yeah?
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Neighborhood Restaurant Group, are you a vendor of the District Flea Market or are you --

MR. BERGMAN: We would be a vendor of the flea market, correct.

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\text { Page } 6
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CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, okay. Just selling beer?

MR. BERGMAN: Just beer, that's correct.

MR. BABIN: There are ten food tents. As Erik mentioned, one of those is another one of our companies. And so there would be one, we would run one beer tent. Other beverages are available all the way across the food tents. They're non-alcoholic.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right, okay. So you would be the only alcoholic vendor?

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And you would only sell beer?

MR. BABIN: Only beer.
MR. BERGMAN: That's right.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Have you done this in a similar situation?

MR. BABIN: We've done this at a variety of different outdoor events in the City, in Alexandria, in Arlington, sometimes
in separate locations, sometimes in outdoor locations that are adjacent to our businesses.

This is a unique situation in that we are going to be part of a much larger event that is not a beer-focused event. When we put these things on, we normally are having like Oktoberfest or the big event last year that I think we'll be talking to you about soon called Snallygaster, which was a great success last year on the waterfront in Yards Park.

So we're very familiar with all of the issues that go into this type of service. What's different in this case is the scale of what we're doing is very, very small in the context of a much larger event that is really a draw for the retail component, where food and beverage is an ancillary thing and not the star of the show.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I was trying to skim this. But I just may have to ask a question again.

MR. BERGMAN: That's fine. Yeah,

I just wanted you to be able to refer to if you weren't talking.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So how are you going to check IDs or --

MR. BERGMAN: Sure. We're going to have -- I myself will be onsite. So I also have two other licensed ABRA managers that will be serving with me, bartenders at one of our establishments, Birch and Barley, down the street, as well as our beer director, who curates all of our list.

So between myself and my two bartenders, we'll be IDing at the site of purchase, wrist banding for those folks for identification later if they decide to come back.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have TIPS training or anything like that?

MR. BERGMAN: Sure do.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. BERGMAN: And all my bartenders do as well.

is actually directly in front of one of the exits itself, plus there'll be employees at the other entrances as well.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. BERGMAN: Furthermore, the flea market retains reimbursable MPD detail for their security, for the crux of their security, as well as a couple of just independent doorman, basically, from some of the restaurants to work the event, to make sure that everything's --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right, okay.
MR. BERGMAN: Both for theft from other vendors as well as for any kind of an issue that might arise from alcohol service, whatever.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Is this primarily to go, or do you have any chairs or tables for people to sit and drink?

MR. BERGMAN: There are some
tables there for folks to gather around and eat and just sit down for a minute.

MR. BABIN: We won't have any seating that we're doing or that is directly attached to the space. But there's an area that's going to have some tables. And I think, I'm not positive about this, but I think they may actually have a few little tables sprinkled around.

So people are milling through and trying to see 100 different vendors in a few hours. So it's really a walking event.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Others have questions? Mr. Brooks?

MR. BROOKS: Oh, okay. Just briefly, you say about 100 different vendors?

MR. BERGMAN: That's right.
According to the map, all the white squares there represent different --

MR. BROOKS: So I'm trying to picture exactly where you're located. Is this across from Nellies?

MR. BERGMAN: It is, directly behind the Floridian Building, so 9:30 Club,

Floridian and then this lot.
MR. BROOKS: Oh, oh. Further up, oh, okay.

MR. BABIN: Yeah. I know the lot you're talking about. It's actually up from that. So it's north of the 9:30 Club

MR. BERGMAN: Straight off of $W$, as W hits Florida.

MR. BROOKS: Okay. Because I was trying to imagine how you can get 100 vendors in that spot that $I$ was thinking of.

MR. BERGMAN: Right, yeah.
MR. BROOKS: Okay, okay. All right. Let me see if I had anything else. And you're going to use, okay, now I see. Okay, it makes sense. So you're using four MPD reimbursable?

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct.
MR. BROOKS: Is that what you're doing? Okay. And you plan on doing this in the future also, don't you?

MR. BERGMAN: They're running for
at least five more weeks, I believe, or four more weeks. I think we're planning on the next three. We have the large event we were just referring to on the 19th of October for approval.

MR. BROOKS: You may not be able to do it on the same day, yeah. MR. BERGMAN: Yes. MR. BROOKS: Okay. Because I think we were thinking about, we got those applications, I believe.

MR. BERGMAN: Okay.
MR. BROOKS: And we were
considering not bringing you back.
MR. BERGMAN: Oh, well, not that we don't love being here.
(Laughter)
(Off the record comments)
MR. BROOKS: At least that's the discussion. I leave that up to the Chairwoman to decide how you want to do that.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm not
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bringing them back as long as we don't hear any terrible reports.

MR. BERGMAN: We're enjoying ourselves, it's fun.

MR. BABIN: We'll stay here as long as we need to.

MR. BERGMAN: And we'll be seeing you again for the Snallygaster application as well.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, good.
Okay.
MR. BERGMAN: So it won't be for long.

MR. BROOKS: Okay, all right.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, others?
MR. ALBERTI: Yeah. I have just a couple couple questions. First of all, I read the article in the paper. It sounds like an exciting concept.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes, it should be fun.

MR. ALBERTI: So I wish you well.
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And I understand why people want to have a beer while they're walking around. So it's great. But how big is this area?

MR. BERGMAN: Geez --
MR. BABIN: We did take a quick scan of --

MR. BERGMAN: I'd call it a half acre, if I'm looking at it.

MR. BABIN: It's pretty large.
MR. ALBERTI: It's pretty big.
MR. BABIN: It's pretty large, right? It's a really good looking lot.

MR. ALBERTI: And the reason I ask that is that you've got one small beer stand. And yet, hopefully you understand, you're assuming responsibility for a large area.

MR. BERGMAN: Yeah.
MR. ALBERTI: I think you know that.

MR. BERGMAN: We do, we know that.
MR. ALBERTI: But it doesn't hurt to remind you of that. So you've got two Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
entrances away from your beer stand. You're responsible for people walking out with cups. How are you going to manage that?

MR. BERGMAN: Yeah, we know. We've spoken with the organizers of the event. And that was precisely our concern as well. So that's why they went ahead with the reimbursable detail so that there is actual presence, a police presence there that is a little bit more than just someone standing at the exit, so that this is seen as a serious consideration for the organization.

MR. BABIN: Our biggest concern before we saw the space was that the control point would basically be 100 foot long open space. But they actually have it fenced so there are small areas through which people have to come and go.

MR. ALBERTI: Oh, each of these lines is a fence?

MR. BABIN: Yeah.
MR. BERGMAN: Each of those black


And along the green squares is the building, the back of the building.

MR. ALBERTI: Okay. But these interior lines, are those fencing?

MR. BERGMAN: No. That's just pathways and walkways.

MR. ALBERTI: Oh, okay. All right, okay. I can tell that.

MR. BABIN: Yeah. This is a building, this is a side of a building.

MR. ALBERTI: So let me give you concern and advice in the same sentence here. Because MPD's not going to be watching out so much for people walking out with a drink. Their job, they've got bigger fish to fry. MR. BERGMAN: Sure, okay. MR. ALBERTI: The event organizers, whoever they are, they're not your employees. You need to impress upon them that that's their responsibility.

MR. BERGMAN: Sure.
MR. ALBERTI: Because you're going
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. to get dinged.

MR. BERGMAN: Right
MR. ALBERTI: An inspector sees someone standing outside that fence with a drink, you're going to get dinged.

MR. BERGMAN: Sure.
MR. ALBERTI: So just instruct them that that's upon their responsibilities to watch people walking out. The people, you know, it's a Saturday, Saturday morning, people are going to want to just, oh, I haven't finished. I want to leave.

MR. BERGMAN: And that's part of why $I$ wanted to be in attendance as well. I have bartenders to go to pour beer. I was planning on roaming the event to make sure that things are --

MR. ALBERTI: And that's my other question. You're going to have people with wrist bands so you'll be able to identify who's drinking. Will you have employees just casually roaming the event?

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MR. BERGMAN: There'll be employees of the event as well, like I said, myself. I'll be roaming as well.

MR. ALBERTI: So you're coordinating with the event people --

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct.
MR. ALBERTI: -- to understand that's part of their responsibility.

MR. BERGMAN: Absolutely. It was our first concern as, as $I$ said. We know the implications for it.

MR. ALBERTI: I know. Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You have any questions?

MALE PARTICIPANT: No.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just have one more question just to clarify, security. When you say, Number 10, the number of security, you say four MPD plus four private security from our restaurants.

MR. BERGMAN: I guess I was
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referring to doormen that we employ that check IDs and do basic crowd control. We never really get too out of hand at any of our establishments. So generally it's just checking IDs and making sure everyone's in a good state of mind.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And they could be roaming in there, whatever. MR. BERGMAN: That's correct, right.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And then the MPD that you're referring is the reimbursable detail hired by the whole event, correct?

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr. Ghenene, do you have some questions, comments? MR. GHENENE: Thank you very much. And I apologize if these questions were answered somewhere else.

MR. BERGMAN: No, that's okay. MR. GHENENE: So you guys
mentioned that you guys wouldn't be offering entertainment. But are the larger organizers offering entertainment?

MR. BERGMAN: They're not.
MR. GHENENE: Okay.
MR. BERGMAN: Just food and beverage. And then there're also just stationary vendors.

MR. GHENENE: Got you. Along the same line of questioning, you guys say that you're going to have four MPD officers in addition to four private security officers. Are the larger group going to have security officers as well?

MR. BERGMAN: They are all being paid by the organization. We provided half, they provided the MPD.

MR. GHENENE: So it's really four security guards and four MPD for the entire --

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct.
MR. GHENENE: Okay.
MR. BERGMAN: Yep.
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MR. GHENENE: But they answer to you or they answer to who?

MR. BERGMAN: Well, my employees will know me.

MR. GHENENE: No, security.
MR. BERGMAN: Security answers to the organization.

MR. GHENENE: Okay. Next, are you guys going to be serving spirits or just strictly beer and wine?

MR. BERGMAN: Strictly beer.
MR. GHENENE: Strictly beer, okay. Strictly beer?

MR. BERGMAN: Strictly beer, not even wine.

MR. GHENENE: Okay. And how are you going to control that? Is that ticket sales? Is it tastings? Is it all you can drink?

MR. BERGMAN: Oh, no. It's just ala carte service. Generally, part of our offering at all of our restaurants is a half

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glass or a full glass pour. So it'll be the same with this.

MR. GHENENE: So is it you pay per half a glass or is it your bracelet entitles you to --

MR. BERGMAN: No. You pay ala carte.

MR. GHENENE: I got you, yeah.
MR. BERGMAN: The bracelet just tells us you're 21.

MR. GHENENE: Okay, good.
MR. BERGMAN: And it's not inexpensive beer. These are all --

MR. BABIN: Yeah.
(Laughter)
MR. GHENENE: I got you. And you indicated here that you're requesting sales and operation from 10:00 to 5:00?

MR. BERGMAN: That's correct.
MR. GHENENE: What are the hours of the market?

MR. BERGMAN: The same.
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MR. GHENENE: The same?
MR. BERGMAN: Yeah. I'd be hard pressed to say that we'd be serving beer at 10:00. We'll probably get there --

MR. GHENENE: I got you.
MR. BERGMAN: -- and get set up and all that stuff.

MR. GHENENE: You've got to be prepared, right?

MR. BERGMAN: Hey, you never know. It is Saturday, right.

MR. GHENENE: And then finally, I just read in the summary about the District Flea, you indicated that in the first week thousands of these new residents came there. How did you guys arrive at four security guards if thousands of people came?

MR. BERGMAN: Yeah, this is a little bit of a PR match-up.

MR. GHENENE: I got you.
MR. BERGMAN: So I think that it might have been a little overstated for what
the first week was expected. And again, I don't know the last flea market you went to, but it was pretty in control.

MR. GHENENE: Well, I asked the question. But in that regard, are you guys using, since we have three entrance locations, is anyone using clickers to keep track. Because it might be time to get another security guard there.

MR. BERGMAN: We hadn't planned on it but certainly can. That's not a problem at all.

MR. GHENENE: Okay. And then finally, since you guys said that these are all craft beers, will you guys be selling them? Like if someone says, oh, this is pretty good. Can I get a six pack? Are you guys going to be selling it to go?

MR. BERGMAN: Oh, it's all draft. MR. GHENENE: Strictly --

MR. BERGMAN: No bottles.
MR. GHENENE: No growlers.
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MR. BERGMAN: No growlers or anything like that.

MR. GHENENE: Okay, that's it. Thank you.

MR. BERGMAN: Thank you. MR. BABIN: Thank you, Mr. Ghenene.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, any other questions?

MR. ALBERTI: No.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right. Then I would move that we approve this application for this coming Saturday. That's what we have in front of us. And I approve this application.

MR. BERGMAN: Thanks.
MR. BABIN: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: See how you do.

MR. BERGMAN: Okay, thanks.
Hopefully we'll see you out there.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Hopefully you
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
just might. I do want to check that out actually. Yeah, and then we'll deal with your other applications, hopefully without your coming in again.

MR. BERGMAN: Sounds great. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. MR. BERGMAN: Excellent. Thanks so much for your time, appreciate it. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, thank you. Have fun.
(Whereupon, the hearing in the above-entitled matter was concluded at 2:04 p.m.)

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