

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD**

**In the Matter of:** )  
)  
Piassa, Inc. )  
t/a Piassa Ethiopian Cuisine & Café )  
)  
Applicant for a New )  
Retailer’s Class CT License )  
)  
at premises )  
1336 9th Street, N.W. )  
Washington, D.C. 20001 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No.: 16-PRO-00072  
License No.: ABRA-102178  
Order No.: 2016-472

Piassa, Inc., t/a Piassa Ethiopian Cuisine & Café (Applicant)

John Fanning, Chairperson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2F

**BEFORE:** Donovan Anderson, Chairperson  
Nick Alberti, Member  
Mike Silverstein, Member  
Ruthanne Miller, Member  
James Short, Member

**ORDER ON SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND  
WITHDRAWAL OF PROTEST OF ANC 2F**

The Application filed by Piassa, Inc., t/a Piassa Ethiopian Cuisine & Café, for a new Retailer’s Class CT License, having been protested, came before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) for a Roll Call Hearing on June 27, 2016, in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 25-601 (2001).

The official records of the Board reflect that the Applicant and ANC 2F have entered into a Settlement Agreement (Agreement), dated May 5, 2016, that governs the operation of the Applicant’s establishment.

The Agreement has been reduced to writing and has been properly executed and filed with the Board. The Applicant and Chairperson John Fanning, on behalf of ANC 2F, are signatories to the Agreement.

This Agreement constitutes a withdrawal of the Protest filed by ANC 2F.

Accordingly, it is this 3rd day of August, 2016, **ORDERED** that:

1. The Application filed by Piassa, Inc., t/a Piassa Ethiopian Cuisine & Café, for a new Retailer's Class CT License, located at 1336 9th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., is **GRANTED**;
2. The Protest of ANC 2F in this matter is hereby **WITHDRAWN**;
3. The above-referenced Settlement Agreement submitted by the Parties to govern the operations of the Applicant's establishment is **APPROVED** and **INCORPORATED** as part of this Order, except for the following modifications:

Section 5 (Noise) – The language “sidewalk café or” shall be removed.

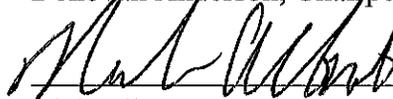
Section 15 (License Ownership) – The terms “assignee” and “contractee” shall be removed.

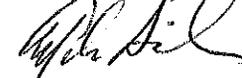
The parties have agreed to these modifications.

4. Copies of this Order shall be sent to the Applicant and ANC 2F.

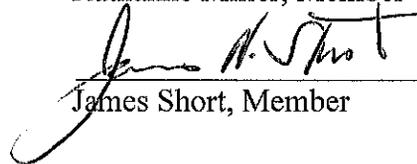
District of Columbia  
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donovan Anderson, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Alberti, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Silverstein, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruthanne Miller, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Short, Member

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-433(d)(1), any party adversely affected may file a Motion for Reconsideration of this decision within ten (10) days of service of this Order with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, DC 20009.

Also, pursuant to section 11 of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, Pub. L. 90-614, 82 Stat. 1209, D.C. Official Code §2-510 (2001), and Rule 15 of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, any party adversely affected has the right to appeal this Order by filing a petition for review, within thirty (30) days of the date of service of this Order, with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; (202/879-1010). However, the timely filing of a Motion for Reconsideration pursuant to 23 DCMR §1719.1 (2008) stays the time for filing a petition for review in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals until the Board rules on the motion. See D.C. App. Rule 15(b) (2004).

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made on this 5th day of May 2016, by and between Plassa, Inc., d/b/a Plassa Ethiopian Cuisine & Cafe ("Applicant") and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F ("ANC 2F").

### RECITALS

(a) Applicant has applied for a Retailer Class "CT" Tavern License (the "License") for a business establishment ("Establishment") located at 1336 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC (the "Premises"); and,

(b) Applicant desires to cooperate with the ANC in order to mitigate concerns related to the potential impact of operation of the Establishment on the surrounding community; and,

(c) In lieu of contested protest proceedings regarding the application for the License, the Parties wish to enter into a Settlement Agreement pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-446 to address such concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the recitals set forth above and the mutual covenants and conditions set forth below, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Recitals Incorporated. The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference.
2. Nature of the Business. The applicant will manage and operate a full service restaurant. Any change from this model shall require prior approval by the ABC Board.
3. Hours of Operation. It is understood that upon expiration of the below hours of operation, no patron may remain on the interior or exterior of the Premises. Applicant's standard hours will not exceed:
  - a. Sunday – Thursday: 9am to 1:30am
  - b. Friday – Saturday: 9am to 2:30am

Additionally:

- a. Exceptions to the standard hours shall be granted for:
  - i. Days designated by the ABC Board as "Extended Hours for ABC Establishments" or "Daylight Savings Time Extension of Hours" - Applicant may operate for one additional hour (that is, one hour later);
  - ii. In the event the Council of the District of Columbia or the ABC Board grants licensees in general extended operating hours for specific occasions, such as Inauguration or World Cup, Applicant may avail itself of such extended hours;
  - iii. And, on January 1 of each year Applicant may operate for one additional hour.
4. Summer Garden. The Applicant may have outside seating in accordance with a summer garden endorsement to its ABC license; patrons may be served in the summer garden area (private, not public space) only during the below hours and shall otherwise be free of patrons.
  - a. Sunday – Thursday: closing by 11:00pm
  - b. Friday – Saturday: closing by 12:00amApplicant will inspect the summer garden regularly for compliance.
5. Noise. Applicant shall adhere to DC Code 25-725 with respect to emanation of noise from the establishment. Applicant shall undertake such measures as reasonably are required to preclude unreasonable disturbance to occupants of abutting residential properties from emanation of noise or vibration from the Establishment, including from patrons at, entering, or exiting the

establishment. Applicant shall present only recorded background music. Applicant will not install any exterior speakers to the Establishment, and agrees that no speakers will be installed in or in any way directed to the sidewalk café or summer garden.

6. Entertainment Endorsement. The Applicant may have live music and/or other entertainment in accordance with an entertainment endorsement to its ABC license; entertainment is permissible only when located inside the establishment. Additionally live music is only permissible when not connected to any amplifying devices, including but not limited to speakers, amplifiers, or other similar devices.
7. Public Space and Trash. Applicant shall keep the sidewalk (up to and including the curb), tree boxes and alley free of litter, bottles, chewing gum, trash, and other debris in compliance with D.C. Code and Municipal Regulations. Applicant shall police these areas daily for refuse and other materials. Applicant shall also provide cigarette urns and cigarettes butt receptacle wherever patron gather to smoke.
8. Trash and Recycling. Applicant will contract with a trash and recycling contractor to provide sealable container(s) for trash, food waste, and recycling designed to prevent rodent intrusion, and further agrees to keep the containers closed and sealed at all times when waste is not being disposed. Applicant further agrees to hold all trash, food waste, and recycling within the building until the morning of the scheduled pick-up. The Applicant shall require its trash and recycling contractors to pick up trash and materials not earlier than 7:00 a.m. Applicant's employees shall not dispose of bottles or glass into trash containers or dumpsters in a manner which creates noise audible outside of the premises after 11:00 p.m.
9. Rat and Vermin Control. Applicant will maintain a contract with a professional, licensed rat, pest, and vermin control company to provide for routine control for the interior and exterior of the premises as needed to control pests.
10. Patrons. Applicant shall take reasonable steps to prevent its patrons from causing noise or disturbances in front of, or immediately adjacent to, the Establishment during the hours of operation and as they depart at closing.
11. Complaint Log. The Establishment's website will prominently feature the name and contact information for an individual to which any comments about the operation of the establishment may be addressed. The Applicant shall maintain a log for every complaint lodged with the establishment for any issue relating to this Agreement, including, but not limited to, complaints of noise, parking congestion, traffic congestion, security, trash, rodents, incidents, violence, crime, and/or operating hours. The log shall include, for each separate complaint, to the extent provided by any such complainant, the name of the complainant, the date of the complaint, any contact information provided by the complainant, the nature of the complaint, and the response taken by the Applicant or the Establishment. Every complaint shall be kept on file in the complaint log for a minimum of three years from the date on which the complaint was made. Applicant shall make the complaint log available to the Board for inspection and copying upon reasonable advance request.
12. Agreement Available Upon Demand. A copy of this Agreement shall be kept on the premises and made available to law enforcement officers and Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory

Administration inspectors immediately upon request.

13. Compliance with ABRA Regulations. Applicant shall abide by applicable Alcoholic Beverage Administration (ABRA) regulations regarding ownership of the License.
14. Participation in the Community. Applicant is encouraged to send a representative from time to time to meetings of the ABRA Policy Committee of ANC 2F. Participation in such meeting promotes open lines of communication, neighborhood involvement, and awareness of current ABRA issues. Dates and times can be found at [www.ANC2F.org](http://www.ANC2F.org).
15. License Ownership. Applicant agrees not to transfer or sell the license to any other entity before obtaining approval from the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. Applicant agrees to specifically notify any prospective transferee, assignee, or contractee of the existence of this Agreement and to provide them with a copy.
16. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and enforceable against the successors of the Applicant.
17. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed simultaneously in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
18. Notice and Opportunity to Cure. In the event that either party believes that the other materially breached any obligations under this Agreement, such party shall give written notice to the other of the existence of the breach and the specific nature thereof. The party alleged to be in breach shall have fourteen (14) days from the receipt of notice to cure the alleged breach (or if the breach shall relate to excessive noise or disturbance, the lesser of 72 hours or such shorter period as may be reasonable under the circumstances to immediately restore peace, order and quiet). If the breach is not cured within the notice period—or, with respect to a breach which reasonably requires more than fourteen (14) days to cure, efforts to cure the breach have not been commenced—failure should constitute cause for the ANC to file a complaint with the ABC Board pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-446(e) in order to enforce the provisions of the Agreement. In the case of a continuing violation, no notice or opportunity to cure need be provided for subsequent violations of this Agreement, following the initial provision of notice. Any notices required to be made under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent either via e-mail or U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the parties to this Agreement at the addresses below. Notice shall be deemed given as of the time of receipt or refusal of receipt.

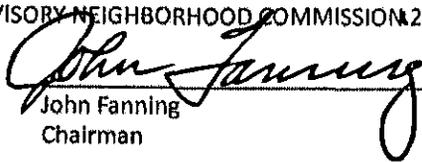
If to Applicant:                   Piassa, Inc.  
1336 9th Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001

If to the ANC:                    Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F  
5 Thomas Circle, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
ANC2FOffice@gmail.com

Either party may change its notice address by written notice to the other. Failure to give notice shall not constitute waiver or acquiescence to the violation, but notice shall be a prerequisite to the filing of a complaint with the ABC Board or any other enforcement action.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F

By:

  
John Fanning  
Chairman

APPLICANT

By:

  
Joseph Teshone Joe  
Plassa, Inc