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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF: :

Ayeshah Albuelhiga :

- - - - -X

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Whereupon, the above-referenced matter
came on for hearing at the Alcoholic Beverage
Control Board, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street,
N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009.

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

2 NICK ALBERTI, BOARD MEMBER

3 JAMES SHORT, BOARD MEMBER

4 MIKE SILVERSTEIN, BOARD MEMBER

5 RUTHANNE MILLER, BOARD MEMBER

6

7 ALSO PRESENT:

8 AYESHA ALBUELHIGA

9 VERNON LEFTWICH

10

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

2 FACT FINDING HEARING

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This matter was
4 through a fact finding hearing on a temporary
5 license application for the event of August 6th,
6 Music and Food Festival, Ms. --

7 MS. ABUELHIGA: Abuelhiga. Sorry, it's not
8 phoenetic.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Abuelhiga. What
10 is your last name, ma'am?

11 MS. ABUELHIGA: My last name is Abuelhiga, my
12 first name is Ayesah.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, I apologize.
14 Just have a seat, please.

15 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Her name, again, is?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what I'm going
17 have her do it again.

18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: All right.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just have a seat,
20 please, and there's a sign-in sheet there I'd
21 like you to sign and spell your name and then
22 identify yourself for the record and also spell

1 your name for us, please, okay?

2 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, please identify
4 yourself again for the record, please.

5 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, it's Ayeshah Abuelhiga.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, and I
7 apologize for this matter was on the schedule for
8 last week and don't remember why it was bumped.

9 MS. ABUELHIGA: I think it was going way over
10 and they asked for me to come back this week.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Come back this week?
12 And we -- it was not on this week's calendar so I
13 apologize and I was told you've been here, what
14 time was it scheduled for?

15 MS. ABUELHIGA: It was scheduled for 3:00.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For 3:00, oh we're not
17 too bad, but I apologize that we didn't recognize
18 you in the audience.

19 MS. ABUELHIGA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I just want to
21 apologize on behalf. All right, so can you tell
22 us about this event that you're planning to have

1 and please identify the streets. I think the
2 maps are a little unclear, so identify. Tell us
3 about yourself, this event, and the genesis of
4 this event and the streets that you want to have
5 it on.

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: So, I own Mason Dixie Biscuit
7 Company, a small restaurant at Union Market.
8 This Saturday marks our second anniversary of
9 being in business. So, D.C. has been a very
10 supportive community, especially Northeast D.C.
11 where our restaurant is located. So, we wanted to
12 do a fun, family friendly kind of music festival
13 plus food and art to kind of celebrate
14 everything.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on one minute,
16 please. Can you identify yourself for the
17 record, please?

18 MR. LEFTWICH: Investigator Leftwich. L-E-F-
19 T-W-I-C-H.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Investigator Leftwich
21 has changed, so that's -- I apologize but that is
22 why you're not getting a response from me. I

1 apologize for the record.

2 MS. ABUELHIGA: No worries.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He appeared earlier in
4 the day and -- so I apologize.

5 MS. ABUELHIGA: So, yeah, it's just a
6 celebratory event. We wanted to celebrate with
7 our community, the D.C. residents and our
8 customers that have supported us for the last two
9 years. The event's going to be located at 1900
10 Kendall Street Northeast, which is at the
11 juncture of Kendall and Gallaudet Street
12 northeast, right off of New York Avenue, right
13 across from the school bus depot on that street.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, it's a very -- and
15 one of the reasons we requested a fact finding
16 hearing is that I think especially Mr. Short,
17 board member Short, was concerned about the
18 numbers and that these streets are very tiny.
19 So, tell us more about how is it that you -- I
20 mean, how long this event is supposed to last and
21 how do you anticipate accommodating 1000 people
22 in this neighborhood?

1 MS. ABUELHIGA: It's not 1000 people at once
2 that we're anticipating. I think that's going to
3 be the total throughout the whole day.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's the -- you
5 didn't put the time of the event here.

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: It's 12:00 to 10:00 p.m.
7 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m. So, we anticipate that
8 people will come and go. There's different acts
9 that have their own representative fan base and
10 things like that, so max capacity I think will be
11 around 300 or so people at one time. The area is
12 quite large. I think it's almost 40,000 square
13 feet so it definitely has the capacity and we
14 predict that most of our audience will be
15 commuting by foot or by Lyft. We have a
16 partnership through one of our sponsors to
17 sponsor carpools to the area and they'll actually
18 have a safe dropoff and loading zone off of Opie
19 Street, which obviously is a much larger street
20 and has plenty of parking on the weekends, so
21 they can easily pull over and drop the audiences
22 off safely.

1 MR. ALBERTI: May I ask a real quick
2 question.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead, Mr.
4 Alberti.

5 MR. ALBERTI: I'm trying to orient myself.

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah.

7 MR. ALBERTI: So, where is New York Avenue on
8 this map?

9 MS. ABUELHIGA: It's not on this because
10 there's another building adjacent to it, so this
11 is at the bottom. If you turn it upside down.

12 MR. ALBERTI: Hold it like this, okay.

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah. So, this is Kendall
14 here.

15 MR. ALBERTI: This is Kendall here, all
16 right.

17 MS. ABUELHIGA: And then, yup this is Kendall
18 and this is Gallaudet and it kind of bends around
19 so it's kind of a weird street. Gallaudet --

20 MR. ALBERTI: I know, I know. I'm familiar
21 with it.

22 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, and then there's

1 another building right here and then New York
2 Avenue is right here. So it's kind of half way
3 down Kendall Street.

4 MR. ALBERTI: Okay, so this is on the south
5 or west side?

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: If you're driving north, or
7 east on New York Avenue, you make a right onto
8 Kendall.

9 MR. ALBERTI: I'm on Okie, I get to Kendall
10 on Okie.

11 MS. ABUELHIGA: Correct, yeah, it's right in
12 front of you if you're on Okie.

13 MR. ALBERTI: It's sort of on the opposite
14 side of the street off --

15 MS. ABUELHIGA: Correct.

16 MR. ALBERTI: -- to my right hand corner
17 there?

18 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yes, that's it.

19 MR. ALBERTI: Gotcha, thank you.

20 MS. ABUELHIGA: No problem.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
22 Leftwich are you prepared to ask any questions

1 regarding this event? I know that it's last
2 minute, so I appreciate your being here.

3 MR. LEFTWICH: No problem. And I'm not sure,
4 you may have answered these questions, but at the
5 review of the initial application I see first on
6 the application it states that ten security
7 individuals will be hired, and then based on the
8 map I only count five.

9 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, so we revised the
10 estimate based on the advice of our security.
11 They're a license security firm, Alliance
12 Security, and they said that if we're not
13 anticipating 1000 people at that time that that
14 was overload so they indicated that five should
15 be sufficient, especially if they say no more
16 than 300 at a time.

17 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay. And G license, correct?
18 So, that will be spirits, beer and wine?

19 MS. ABUELHIGA: Correct. No wine, but beer
20 and spirits, yes.

21 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay, would there be water,
22 like free, or paid?

1 MS. ABUELHIGA: Paid water.

2 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay. And for the bartenders,
3 I see there are three bars and wristbands at the
4 door. Will they be checking IDs or only
5 wristbands.

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, the security personnel
7 at the gate are trained to check IDs, do a pat
8 down and bag check and they will be given a
9 yellow wristband if they're 21 and then as they
10 go to the bar they have to present -- all of our
11 bartenders are aware they have to present the
12 yellow wristband or a VIP green wristband.

13 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay. And I heard you did say
14 that it was a family friendly event so this will
15 mean that under 21 will be allowed in. Will
16 there be any markings on them or?

17 MS. ABUELHIGA: No, they just won't be able
18 to purchase alcohol. There is a nonalcohol
19 ticket that we'll provide them with which lets
20 them purchase Coca Cola or water.

21 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay, and that was my next
22 question. Here it says how patrons will pay,

1 tickets and cash bar, so --

2 MS. ABUELHIGA: I didn't know what to
3 classify it as so they are paying for tickets for
4 those three classifications tickets. There's one
5 ticket for nonalcoholic beverages, one for
6 domestic beer, one for pinion beer and one for
7 liquor.

8 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay, so I'm assuming cash
9 exchange won't occur at the bar, it'll be
10 somewhere else.

11 MS. ABUELHIGA: Correct, it'll be at a table,
12 Mm hmm.

13 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay. And what time do you
14 plan on having last call?

15 MS. ABUELHIGA: 10:00 p.m.

16 MR. LEFTWICH: Last call is at 10:00?

17 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, and everyone needs to
18 be out by -- the last act ends at 10:30 and
19 that's when we'll close the event.

20 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay. Is there lighting?

21 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yes.

22 MR. LEFTWICH: Okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know, Mr. short,
2 you're the one that requested it, so you don't
3 let me know that you have a question, so Mr.
4 Short go ahead.

5 MR. LEFTWICH: Thank you very much, Mr.
6 Chair.

7 MR. SHORT: I'm not even going to try to
8 pronounce your name, I'm just going to move on.
9 Now, traffic control. The streets are very
10 narrow and you know and I know. Have you
11 contacted Metropolitan Police Department and let
12 them know?

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yes, I've contacted the fifth
14 district as well as MPD headquarters.

15 MR. SHORT: Are they going to have any
16 officers out there?

17 MS. ABUELHIGA: They told me based on the
18 count it was up to me if I wanted to have an
19 officer there but they would be stopping by, so
20 that's all they said.

21 MR. SHORT: Again, I'm just quite concerned
22 coming and going 1000 people, a lot of them will

1 be driving in there.

2 MS. ABUELHIGA: We instructed anyone that's
3 driving to go to the Hecht's Warehouse parking
4 lot which is about three or four blocks away.

5 MR. SHORT: I know exactly where it is.

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: Mm hmm.

7 MR. SHORT: We're familiar with the manager
8 over there and that's why I was quite concerned.

9 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah.

10 MR. SHORT: So, I would think -- can I
11 suggest -- how many security people are you going
12 to have?

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Five.

14 MR. SHORT: Five security. And are they
15 going to be doing any traffic control?

16 MS. ABUELHIGA: No.

17 MR. SHORT: So, when people come off Kendall,
18 traffic is one way west, correct? One way west,
19 it is.

20 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

21 MR. SHORT: And so, when they come in off
22 Monroe and Okie and then make that turn into

1 Kendall that's just very, very tight and the
2 apartments on both sides of the street.

3 MS. ABUELHIGA: There's a lot of demolition
4 going on around it so there's not a lot of actual
5 residents living there. Because we've already
6 walked through and --

7 MR. SHORT: I understand, I understand. I'm
8 just going to say to you, what happens is you'll
9 be surprised how many community people are going
10 to come out when they see all the strange cars
11 coming to the neighborhood. I would be concerned
12 about the security and traffic control.

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

14 MR. SHORT: Can you give me any suggestions,
15 anything you could do to help the community and help
16 your event to keep moving smoothly?

17 MS. ABUELHIGA: Pedestrian traffic or car
18 traffic?

19 MR. SHORT: Car traffic.

20 MS. ABUELHIGA: So, we're actually issuing an
21 e-mail the day before the event to let anyone
22 know who will be driving that they must go and

1 park in the Hecht's Warehouse parking lot, so
2 that way they're directed to a parking area and
3 then they can walk over.

4 MR. SHORT: have people drop somebody off and
5 then just take the car around and park?

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, so we're going to alert
7 them to be dropped off on Oakie Street where that
8 street's super wide and that there is a safe
9 place for them to park so that will also be
10 there.

11 MR. SHORT: Will you have some signage up,
12 hopefully?

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yes, we'll have signage.
14 Yeah, correct. We'll have signage and an actual
15 physical, like I told you Lyft is a major
16 sponsor, they're giving 50% off rides, so we're
17 hoping that most people will choose that and Lyft
18 will actually have a station on Okie. That way,
19 that's where they're getting dropped off.

20 MR. SHORT: Can I just make a very strong
21 suggestion that you get at least one MPD officer
22 out there? Ideally, they're going to send two

1 because they don't send one anymore because of
2 the incidents going on around the country.

3 MS. ABUELHIGA: Mm hmm.

4 MR. SHORT: It might cost you a little
5 something but I think it would make your event
6 run much smoother.

7 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

8 MR. SHORT: When they see MPD either at your
9 gate or somewhere on Kendall and they say keep
10 moving it won't be a lot of problems.

11 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

12 MR. SHORT: What about -- what are you going
13 to do if there's an EMT or somebody has a medical
14 emergency?

15 MS. ABUELHIGA: So, we have a medical tent,
16 with providers coming for the full day of
17 service. They will have a tent on site.

18 MR. SHORT: They're certified EMTs?

19 MS. ABUELHIGA: Correct, yup.

20 MR. SHORT: That sounds great. So you are
21 thinking, that's good.

22 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yup.

1 MR. SHORT: And you mentioned you'll be
2 serving water, correct?

3 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah.

4 MR. SHORT: If you're going to commit to MPD,
5 at least two officers for traffic control, when
6 you have the tent with D.C. Fire Department --

7 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah.

8 MR. SHORT: I think that takes care of a lot
9 of my concerns.

10 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

11 MR. SHORT: Thank you.

12 MS. ABUELHIGA: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by
14 any other board members? Yes, Mr. Leftwich.

15 MR. LEFTWICH: I didn't check the weather
16 that day but I was at an event this past weekend
17 that was really hot and they just ended up having
18 free water, so if the weather is really bad, I
19 would definitely suggest not having it just be
20 paid.

21 MS. ABUELHIGA: Yeah, for sure.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Questions? Hearing

1 none -- yes, Mr. Short? Go ahead, Mr. Short.

2 MR. SHORT: What I was going to suggest just
3 to make me as a board member feel better, once
4 you get those, the MPD two officers can you send
5 a copy of that to ABRA for our records?

6 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay.

7 MR. ALBERTI: I was just checking with the
8 director to see if his event might eligible for
9 reimbursable detail and apparently it is so I
10 suggest you talk to --

11 MS. ABUELHIGA: Oh, that's awesome!

12 MR. ALBERTI: -- Mr. [inaudible 4:11]. But
13 after this hearing.

14 MS. ABUELHIGA: Great! Awesome!

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

16 MS. ABUELHIGA: Is it just a standard
17 process?

18 MR. SHORT: You can talk to [inaudible
19 4:13].

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He'll explain. If the
21 board agrees to -- any other questions by any
22 other board member? Hearing none, I make a

1 motion then that this matter be approved. Is
2 there a second?

3 MS. MILLER: Second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Miller seconded
5 the motion. All those in favor say aye. (chorus
6 of ayes.) Those opposed? (No audible response.)
7 The matter passed 5-zero-zero. Is the office
8 still open?

9 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: No, she'll be in tomorrow.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're going to sign
11 off on this today and you can pick up your
12 license tomorrow.

13 MS. ABUELHIGA: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, we're off
15 the record. Thank you very much

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter was
17 concluded.)

18