

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
Busboys of Brookland, LLC :
t/a Busboys and Poets :
One-Day Substantial Change :
Event: DC VegFest 2016 :
Event Date: 09/24/2016 :
Hours 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. :
Yards Park 1ST St & N St SE :
License #94546 :
No. 16-SC-00407 :
(15,000 attendees/17 security :
- - - - -X

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

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

OLENDER REPORTING, INC.
1100 Connecticut Avenue N.W., #810, Washington, D.C. 20036
Washington: 2028981108 • Baltimore: 4107523376
Toll Free: 8884453376

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

NICK ALBERTI, BOARD MEMBER

JAMES SHORT, BOARD MEMBER

MIKE SILVERSTEIN, BOARD MEMBER

RUTHANNE MILLER, BOARD MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:

ANDY SHALLAL

ROBIN WALKER

ERICKA THOMPSON

INVESTIGATOR GETHERS

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on the record. We have a 1:30 fact finding hearing, Busboys and Poets, One-Day substantial change application for the DC VegFest 2016, date of event 9/24/2016. Will the parties please approach and identify themselves for the record, please?

MR. SHALLAL: My name is Andy Shallal, I'm the --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're fine, go ahead.

MR. SHALLAL: Okay. I thought -- Hi, my name is Andy Shallal, I'm the founder and owner of Busboys and Poets.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll tell you what to do, sir. You listen to me and don't [inaudible] Now you can go ahead.

MR. SHALLAL: Thank you.

MS. WALKER: I'm Robin Walker, and I'm the organizer for the VegFest.

MS. THOMPSON: My name is Ericka Thompson and

I'm the -- for Busboys and Poets.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, can -- who wants to speak on behalf of the event and to tell us about the event that you're planning?

MS. WALKER: I think I will. The event is on September 24th --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Speak up, Ms. Walker.

MS. WALKER: The event is on September 24th at Yards Park. It's free to everybody. We plan to have 15,000 people. The hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will have 111 vendors and 25 of those are new vendors. The event is for nonprofit and promotion. There's a kids' area, so there will be cooking demonstrations for families. There is a music tent and we've got a beer park. That's in the back, the beer park. We've been hosting this event for eight years.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, have you had alcohol before?

MS. WALKER: We have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the board has been

providing the alcohol and how does that -- tell us about that.

MS. WALKER: Well, sir, the year before it was at a restaurant in D.C. The restaurant has since closed.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just tell us about your experience since you're asking the same provider this year, so why don't you tell us about, from your perspective, how did that go?

MS. WALKER: How did it go with alcohol, sir?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

MS. WALKER: It went very well. We had a section in the back fenced off where the beer is served, a music tent. Our employees are attending. There are some volunteers and we have been putting on wristbands that identify the employees, so the employees serving the beer know that I do ID checks. We don't have more than about 15 people in the beer garden area at one time and we have not had any trouble.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, why don't we have a Busboys and Poets employee talk about the

provision of alcohol at the location.

MS. THOMPSON: We'd like to participate again at the festival serving the alcohol and beer at the beer garden. We'll have members of our staff on deck to check IDs and also serve. There will be two stations. An entrance -- two folks stationed at the entrance to check IDs and give the verified bracelets or wristbands, and then patrons will come outside in the garden and purchase by cash or credit at the counter. What did I forget to mention?

MR. ALBERTI: Can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Alberti.

MR. ALBERTI: I'm going to interject here just -- for the record, can you say your name for the record?

MR. GETHERS: I'm supervisory investigator Gethers.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MR. ALBERTI: So, it's not clear to me, when you talk about beer garden, is this where the beer is going to be consumed as well as served,

solely?

MS. WALKER: Yes, yeah.

MR. ALBERTI: So it's just in that area?

MS. WALKER: Yeah, it's just in that area,
people --

MR. ALBERTI: There won't be people walking
around through the entire venue with alcoholic
beverages?

MS. WALKER: No.

MR. ALBERTI: Great. That's what I need to
know, thank you.

MS. WALKER: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

MR. SHORT: Do you have a diagram of
anything?

MS. WALKER: I have a diagram here. Would
you like to -- can I bring it?

MR. SHORT: Yes, that's always very helpful.

MS. WALKER: What?

MR. SHORT: It's always very helpful.

MS. WALKER: Okay, this is where the beer
garden will be and this is where Busboys and

Poets will be serving food. The outside of the beer garden.

MR. SHORT: How many exits egress?

MS. WALKER: Huh?

MR. SHORT: How many exits egress?

MS. WALKER: It's a parking lot, you can get in and out.

MR. SHORT: So, there's no fence.

MS. WALKER: No, huh uh, there's not a fence.

MR. SHORT: But there will be.

MS. WALKER: It will be. It will be fenced.

MR. SHORT: I just wanted to see it, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any other questions by any other board members? Yes, Ms. Miller, go ahead.

MS. MILLER: Okay. I just want to clarify. You say you have done this eight years, right?

MS. WALKER: Yes.

MS. MILLER: In this location?

MS. WALKER: Yeah, six years? Six, five years, five or six years we've been at Yards

Park, but as Yards Park has grown we have moved around within the event spaces, as we've grown as well. But, this will be our third year in this space.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Third year, okay.

MS. WALKER: Yeah, I think so, yeah, third year.

MS. MILLER: Are you having the same security or?

MS. WALKER: We're having a little bit more this year.

MS. MILLER: Okay.

MS. WALKER: We -- two of us of the security guards will be stationed at the beer garden all day. We have a security supervisor who is going to join us this year.

MS. MILLER: How many security in all?

MS. WALKER: Seventeen.

MS. MILLER: Okay.

MS. WALKER: Which is what Yards Park, who we work very closely with, has recommended and they recommended the security company that we are

using.

MS. MILLER: And who is that?

MS. WALKER: Rafkin.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right, that's all I have for now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Gethers, I know that you're sitting there. Do you have any questions you want to ask?

MR. GETHERS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MR. GETHERS: I would like to review the diagram because that was my team operation and I just wasn't sure what it -- what the setup was.

UNKNOWN: The beer garden is right here and back there at 10 Dexter, so [inaudible 3:03:40].

MR. GETHERS: Okay, just moments ago you described to the board that it's somehow cordoned off?

MS. WALKER: It is.

MR. GETHERS: Can you describe that for us?

MS. WALKER: Yeah, it's Allied Fencing. They have some little white picket fencing and we

cordon it off on all four sides and we have one entrance so that people can't just wander in.

MR. GETHERS: And you mentioned that there were going to be two security stationed there?

MS. WALKER: Yeah.

MR. GETHERS: And what specifically are you doing for the checking of IDs?

MS. WALKER: The checking of IDs?

MR. GETHERS: Yes.

MS. WALKER: We have two Busboys and Poets staff members at the gate, or at the entrance, to check IDs and to distribute the age verified wristbands.

MR. GETHERS: And can you describe the wristbands, please?

MS. WALKER: They're these tie-back plastic security with the pinhole bands.

MR. GETHERS: Very well, thank you. And you've done it in this location for about three years?

MS. WALKER: Yeah. I think this is our third year, but we were in the parking lot right next

door to it the year before.

MR. GETHERS: Okay. So, in the past have you had any problems or are there any situations that you can share with the board or any of those that might allow for you to continue to be successful with this event?

MS. WALKER: We don't have any problems. We've been very fortunate but we're careful, too, you know, but we've not had any problems at all in any aspect of the event.

MR. GETHERS: Okay. That's all I have for now, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any other questions by any other board members? Any final thoughts by anyone, or any final presentation?

MS. WALKER: No. I'm good.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No? Everyone is so talkative today, maybe I --

UNKNOWN: Last year we had a really good experience, so having done it last year, we hope the weather will be better this year. Last year it was very cold on the day when we did it, so

we're looking forward to having a great event.

MR. ALBERTI: What's on the menu?

UNKNOWN: We have vegan stir fry.

MS. WALKER: We have vegan stir fry.

UNKNOWN: It's made with brown rice and vegetables and vegan chicken. It's really good.

MR. ALBERTI: They know [inaudible 3:06:15].

UNKNOWN: Are you not a vegan, Mr. Alberti?

MS. WALKER: A carnivore.

MR. ALBERTI: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do we have any --

UNKNOWN: I want to say, we want to make sure that whatever we said that it's vegan that a person who is a carnivore can enjoy it just as much, you shouldn't have to sacrifice taste because you want to eat vegan. So, it's just for the carnivores in us. We still like events -- I'm a carnivore, too, by the way, just --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: In spite of the recommendation that you just made, I make a motion that we approve this event. Is there a second?

MR. SHORT: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has seconded the motion. Those in favor say aye. (chorus of ayes.) Those opposed? (no audible response.) The matter passed 5-zero-zero. Now let me have you folks sign off on this and you can pick up your license. Thank you.

MS. WALKER: Thank you.

UNKNOWN: Thank you so much, your honor.

MS. MILLER: Thank you, have fun.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The board will be in recess until our 2:30 hearing.

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