DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

La Morenita Restaurant, LLC,
t/a La Morenita Restaurant,
3539 Georgia Avenue NW
Retailer CR - ANC 1A
License No. 86595
Case #19-PRO-00088

(Application to Renew the License)

Wednesday
September 25, 2019


PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
JAMES SHORT, Member
ALSO PRESENT:

MICHAEL WRAY, ANC 1A
MERCEDEZ RAMIREZ, APPLICANT
BLANCA AVILES, APPLICANT
ERIK SEJAS, INTERPRETER
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good morning, everyone. I would like to welcome you to the regularly scheduled meeting of the District of Columbia Alcohol and Beverage Control Board. Today is September 25, 2019. I would like to introduce members of the board with us today. To my far right is Ms. Rafi Crockett.

To my immediate right is Mr. Bobby Cato, and to my immediate left is Mr. James Short. My name is Donovan Anderson. I'm chairman of the Board. We have four members in attendance today, and we do have a quorum to conduct business. I would like to mention three things before we get started.

First of all, if you have any electronic devices, pagers, cell phones or such, please make certain they're turned off to avoid any interruption of the proceeding. Secondly, there is a piece of paper on each table.

When you come forward, as your case is
called, please take a seat at the table and
please sign in. This is to ensure the correct
spelling of your name for the record. Lastly,
please note that today's hearings -- today's
meeting of the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board
is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please
address any concerns or complaints to the Office
of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov. I
will note that our approximate time is 9:46 a.m.
Our first order of business is a protest hearing
status case, No. 19-PRO-00088, La Morenita
Restaurant, License No. 86595. Would all parties
who are here for La Morenita Restaurant please
appear.

           INTERPRETER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman. I'm Erik Sejas, the Spanish
interpreter hired by ABRA.

           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Hold on one
minute, please. I'm sorry; your name again,
please?

           INTERPRETER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my
name is Erik Sejas.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, please? Do you -- I can't speak this morning. Do you solemnly affirm that you will faithfully and accurately interpret the proceedings in this matter from English to Spanish, and from Spanish to English, to the best of your ability?

INTERPRETER: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, have a seat, please. Could the parties please identify themselves for the record? I'll start with the licensee. I'm sorry; you're the protestant, I'm sorry. Go ahead, sir.

MR. WRAY: Michael Wray, W-R-A-Y, ANC 1A.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Wray. I would like the -- to introduce themselves for the record.

MS. AVILES: My name is Blanca Aviles.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Who is Ms. Aviles?

MS. AVILES: I am.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, what's your
relationship to the establishment?

MS. AVILES: I am the owner.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Who is the next person?

MS. RAMIREZ: Should I say my name?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes.

MS. RAMIREZ: Mercedez Segura Ramirez.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Who is she, please, to the establishment?

MS. AVILES: She works for me. She is in charge.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, fine. There's a sign-in sheet on the table. Make sure that both people sign in their names, please. Are there any preliminary matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Board? This is not about -- when I ask preliminary matters, not about the substance, just if there's any issues/concerns you want to bring to the attention of the Board.

MS. AVILES: That we were going to come to an agreement, and we were going to pay a
fine.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: We don't need to -- I was just asking not -- if you guys are going to come to an agreement, then you do that. That doesn't concern us. From the protestant, at least at this juncture, from the protestant's perspective, was there any preliminary matters that needs to be brought to the attention of the Board?

MR. WRAY: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No? Okay. This matter is scheduled for a protest hearing on October 30th, at 1:30 p.m.

INTERPRETER: The interpreter requests repetition, please, the date and the time.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: October 30th, at 1:30. I always -- the Board supports settlements because this is your neighborhood. You live in -- I'm sorry. I prefer both parties working together to settle the matter. If you're unable to do that, then the Board, of course, will make this decision. Now that we have scheduled this
matter for a protest hearing, there are a few things that I would like to instruct you about, so that the protest hearing is focused and addresses only those issues that are being protested.

You either have already received or will be receiving an email from Imani Moreland that contains a copy of the protest information form and a copy of the exhibit form. Both parties are required to complete and submit the protest information form and the exhibit form at least seven days before the date of the hearing.

If we do not receive a copy of your forms seven days before the hearing, your application or your protest may be subject to dismissal. These documents not only need to be submitted to ABRA, but to the opposing party, as well. Please note that these documents greatly assist the board in narrowing the protest issues, facilitating the process, and keeping the parties on point during the hearing.

Each side will have 90 minutes to
present its case. This includes all direct and
cross-examination of witnesses. The Board does
not intend to hear testimony on matters that are
not relevant to those issues that are being
protested, nor will the Board tolerate repetitive
testimony. Are there any questions?

MS. AVILES: No.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: We thank you very
much for your cooperation. If you have any
questions at any point, please contact Assistant
General Counsel April Randall.

INTERPRETER: Just want to confirm,
this is October 30th, 1:30.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, if the matter
is not settled, if you do not have a settlement
agreement, then we'll have a hearing here October
30th, at 1:30. What this means is that seven
days before, both sides need to exchange the
documents that they're going to rely upon. Our
office is here to work with you if you do not
understand the process.

MS. AVILES: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm going to give you, again, Ms. Randall's phone number. It's 202-442-4353.

INTERPRETER: Interpreter requests repetition, please, 202-442 --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: 4353. This is for both sides. I will just support the fact that you can continue to talk. If you have a settlement agreement, then we won't have a hearing. Good luck, and if not, I will see you on October 30th, at 1:30.

MS. AVILES: Thank you.

MR. WRAY: Thank you.

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 9:56 a.m.)
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opengovoffice@dc.gov
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person 6:4

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www.nealrgross.com
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: La Morenita Restaurant

Before: DCABRA

Date: 09-25-19

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

[Signature]
Court Reporter