



**ALSO PRESENT:**

**MEDHANIE WELDERGERGISH, Licensee**

**ALEXANDER PADRO, ANC 6E**

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

2 9:34 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
4 everyone. I would like to welcome you to the  
5 regularly scheduled meeting of the District of  
6 Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

7 Please know that today's hearings will  
8 be conducted in accordance with D.C. Official  
9 Code Section 2-574 of the Open Meetings Act.  
10 Today is August 15th, 2018.

11 I would like to introduce Members of  
12 the Board with us today. To my far right is Mr.  
13 Donald Isaac, Sr. And to his left is Mr. Bobby  
14 Cato. To my far left is Ms. Rema Wahabzadah. To  
15 her right is Mr. Mike Silverstein.

16 My name is Donovan Anderson, and I'm  
17 Chairman of the Board. We do have five Members  
18 here today. And we do have a quorum to conduct  
19 business.

20 I would like to mention two things.  
21 But first, before we get started, first of all,  
22 if you have any electronic devices, pagers, cell

1 phones, or such, please make certain that they're  
2 turned off to avoid any interruption of the  
3 proceeding.

4 Secondly, there is a piece of paper on  
5 each table. When you come forward as your case  
6 is called, please take a seat at the table, and  
7 please sign in. This is to ensure the correct  
8 spelling of your name for the record.

9 Additionally, when you introduce for  
10 the record, please spell your name aloud for the  
11 court reporter. I will note that the approximate  
12 time is 9:36 a.m.

13 Our first order of business, a protest  
14 hearing status, Case number 18-PRO-00044, 1618  
15 Liquor and Grocery Cold Beer and Wine, License  
16 number 84582. Will the parties please approach  
17 and identify themselves for the record, please.

18 MR. PADRO: Mr. Chairman and Members  
19 of the Board, I am Alexander M. Padro,  
20 representing ANC 6E.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
22 Mr. Padro.

1 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Hi. Good morning.  
2 My name is Medhanie Weldergergish. I'm the owner  
3 of 1618 --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I did not hear  
5 your last name, sir.

6 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Medhanie  
7 Weldergergish.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Welder --

9 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Gergish.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Gergish?

11 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
13 sir. And I apologize too. But make sure that  
14 you write your name down on that sign in sheet,  
15 sir.

16 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Okay, sure.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning  
18 again, Mr. Padro. Are there any preliminary  
19 matters in this case?

20 MR. PADRO: There are not.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 This matter is scheduled for a protest hearing on

1 September 19th at 4:30 p.m. What do we do? So,  
2 September 19th at 4:30 p.m. if the matter is not  
3 settled.

4 MR. PADRO: Mr. Chairman, if I might.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

6 MR. PADRO: Just to update the Board.  
7 We did undertake a mediation session with Ms.  
8 Fletcher. We additionally were able to provide  
9 the licensee with some information from the  
10 General Counsel's office related to the  
11 requirement that the license be renewed before it  
12 can be transferred.

13 The licensee is in the process of  
14 completing a sale of the business. And he  
15 understands that in order to be able to have the  
16 license renewed the remaining items from the  
17 previous settlement agreement have to be  
18 completed.

19 He is actively engaged with obtaining  
20 quotes for completing the two actions that are  
21 pending from that particular settlement  
22 agreement. And we have every, the ANC has every

1 intention to believe that the licensee is working  
2 in good faith, with the objective of completing  
3 these tasks before the established protest  
4 hearing, so that we would be able to withdraw our  
5 objections to the renewal.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
7 right. As stated before, the matter is scheduled  
8 for a protest hearing on September 19th. And if  
9 the parties work towards settling the issues, and  
10 you protest, we will move forward with the  
11 protest.

12 But if that's, if the matter is not  
13 settled we'll have the hearing. Do I need to go  
14 through -- Well, let me read the instructions for  
15 a protest hearing.

16 Now that we have scheduled this matter  
17 for a protest hearing there are a few things that  
18 I would like to instruct the applicant and the  
19 protestant about, so that the protest hearing is  
20 focused, and addresses only those issues that  
21 have been protested.

22 The Board does not intend to hear

1 testimony on matters that are not relevant to  
2 this case. You should have received by  
3 electronic or regular mail a copy, a letter  
4 explaining the protest process, a copy of the  
5 protest information form, and a copy of the  
6 exhibit form.

7 If you do not have these documents  
8 please contact Assistant General Counsel April  
9 Randall following this hearing. It is imperative  
10 that you review the rules closely, and adhere to  
11 them before and during the protest hearing.

12 You are also required to complete and  
13 submit the protest information form, PIF, and the  
14 exhibit form seven days before the date of the  
15 hearing. These two forms and accompanying  
16 documents need to be submitted to ABRA's legal  
17 division and to all opposing parties in this  
18 matter.

19 If we do not receive a copy of your  
20 PIF, your application, or you protest, whichever  
21 side you're representing may be subject to  
22 dismissal.

1           Likewise, if we do not receive a copy  
2 of the exhibit form and the exhibits themselves  
3 your exhibits may be excluded from the record,  
4 upon a finding that the opposing party has been  
5 prejudiced, or no good cause for failure to  
6 submit has been shown.

7           Likewise, witnesses other than the  
8 party may also be subject to exclusion if not  
9 identified on the PIF.

10           Accordingly, these forms are very  
11 important. They greatly assist the Board in  
12 narrowing the protest issues, facilitating the  
13 process, and keeping a party on point during the  
14 hearing.

15           They likewise provide notice to the  
16 opposing parties, enabling them to better prepare  
17 for the hearing.

18           We thank you greatly for your  
19 cooperation. If you have any questions today, or  
20 at any time leading up to the hearing, please do  
21 not hesitate to contact AGC Randall at 202-442-  
22 4353.

1 I just want to say that if you have  
2 any problems, any questions about this process,  
3 you can contact Ms. Randall. And she will  
4 explain to you what is it that needs to be done  
5 during the process.

6 I do hope that the parties are able to  
7 come to an agreement by settlement agreement, so  
8 we don't have this protest hearing. But if we  
9 do, I will see you on September 19th at 4:30 p.m.  
10 Thank you. Have a good day.

11 MR. PADRO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Can I ask you a  
13 question?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

15 MR. WELDERGERGISH: So, do you think  
16 I have to transfer the license now?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.  
18 What, sir?

19 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Do I have to  
20 transfer the license? We can transfer the  
21 license now?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, why don't

1 you talk to our -- why don't you give a -- have a  
2 conversation, give --

3 (Off-microphone comments)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I  
5 think that's -- I kind of alluded, that's what  
6 Mr. Padro had alluded earlier. You're renewing  
7 your license, sir. So, in order for you to  
8 transfer the license it has to be renewed.

9 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so your  
11 license is expired. So, you're in the process of  
12 renewing it. So, before you can transfer it to  
13 someone else it has to be renewed. And so this  
14 is the process that you're in.

15 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, and when,  
17 anytime you're renewing your license the ANC can  
18 always protest your license during renewal. So,  
19 prior to you transferring the license to someone  
20 else, you yourself have to, you have to renew the  
21 asset.

22 So, therefore, you have to renew your

1 license. Once it's renewed then you can transfer  
2 it to someone. Because if it's not renewed then  
3 you don't have a license to transfer.

4 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, If you have  
6 any questions just reach out to the agency. They  
7 will provide you with whatever guidance you need  
8 to let you know what you can do, or whatever  
9 assistance they can provide you through this  
10 process to --

11 If you want to transfer it they'll  
12 tell you what is it that you need to do. And  
13 what needs to be done as far as this licensee, as  
14 far as the ANC is concerned.

15 And also, for you to realize that once  
16 you transfer the license, that whatever  
17 settlement agreement that currently exists with  
18 the license, or whatever settlement agreement  
19 that you sign, that transfers with the license.

20 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, it's not  
22 like, okay, I transfer the license and we don't

1 have to, if there's an existing settlement  
2 agreement then that new owner doesn't have to  
3 comply with it, or whatever terms that's  
4 negotiated. It goes with the license. Because  
5 it stays with the license forever, until the  
6 parties change it.

7 MR. WELDERGERGISH: All right.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay?

9 MR. WELDERGERGISH: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But that's the,  
11 if you have any problems call the agency. Give  
12 Ms. Randall a call, and they'll, she'll explain  
13 to you, and help you to facilitate the process.  
14 Okay?

15 MR. WELDERGERGISH: All right.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

17 Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
19 went off the record at 9:43 a.m.)  
20  
21  
22

**A**

**a.m.** 3:2 4:12 13:19  
**able** 6:8,15 7:4 10:6  
**above-entitled** 13:18  
**ABRA's** 8:16  
**accompanying** 8:15  
**Act** 3:9  
**actions** 6:20  
**actively** 6:19  
**additionally** 4:9 6:8  
**addresses** 7:20  
**adhere** 8:10  
**AGC** 9:21  
**agency** 12:6 13:11  
**agreement** 6:17,22 10:7  
 10:7 12:17,18 13:2  
**Alcoholic** 1:2,14,15 3:6  
**Alexander** 2:13 4:19  
**alluded** 11:5,6  
**aloud** 4:10  
**ANC** 1:8 2:13 4:20 6:22  
 11:17 12:14  
**Anderson** 1:16,19 3:3  
 3:16 4:21 5:4,8,10,12  
 5:17,21 6:5 7:6 10:14  
 10:17,22 11:4,10,16  
 12:5,21 13:8,10,16  
**anytime** 11:17  
**apologize** 5:13  
**applicant** 7:18  
**application** 1:10 8:20  
**approach** 4:16  
**approximate** 4:11  
**April** 8:8  
**asset** 11:21  
**assist** 9:11  
**assistance** 12:9  
**Assistant** 8:8  
**August** 1:13 3:10  
**avoid** 4:2

**B**

**Beer** 1:7 4:15  
**believe** 7:1  
**better** 9:16  
**Beverage** 1:2,14,15 3:6  
**Board** 1:2,14 3:6,12,17  
 4:19 6:6 7:22 9:11  
**Bobby** 1:19 3:13  
**Building** 1:15  
**business** 3:19 4:13  
 6:14

**C**

**call** 13:11,12  
**called** 4:6  
**case** 1:9 4:5,14 5:19 8:2  
**Cato** 1:19 3:14

**cause** 9:5  
**cell** 3:22  
**certain** 4:1  
**Chair** 10:11  
**Chairman** 3:17 4:18 6:4  
**Chairperson** 1:16,19  
 3:3 4:21 5:4,8,10,12  
 5:17,21 6:5 7:6 10:14  
 10:17,22 11:4,10,16  
 12:5,21 13:8,10,16

**change** 13:6  
**closely** 8:10  
**Code** 3:9  
**Cold** 1:7 4:15  
**Columbia** 1:1 3:6  
**come** 4:5 10:7  
**comments** 11:3  
**complete** 8:12  
**completed** 6:18  
**completing** 6:14,20 7:2  
**comply** 13:3  
**concerned** 12:14  
**conduct** 3:18  
**conducted** 3:8  
**contact** 8:8 9:21 10:3  
**Control** 1:2,14,15 3:6  
**conversation** 11:2  
**cooperation** 9:19  
**copy** 8:3,4,5,19 9:1  
**correct** 4:7  
**Counsel** 8:8  
**Counsel's** 6:10  
**court** 4:11  
**currently** 12:17

**D**

**D.C.** 1:16 3:8  
**date** 8:14  
**day** 10:10  
**days** 8:14  
**devices** 3:22  
**dismissal** 8:22  
**District** 1:1 3:5  
**division** 8:17  
**documents** 8:7,16  
**Donald** 1:20 3:13  
**Donovan** 1:16,19 3:16

**E**

**earlier** 11:6  
**electronic** 3:22 8:3  
**enabling** 9:16  
**engaged** 6:19  
**ensure** 4:7  
**established** 7:3  
**excluded** 9:3  
**exclusion** 9:8  
**exhibit** 8:6,14 9:2

**exhibits** 9:2,3  
**existing** 13:1  
**exists** 12:17  
**expired** 11:11  
**explain** 10:4 13:12  
**explaining** 8:4

**F**

**facilitate** 13:13  
**facilitating** 9:12  
**failure** 9:5  
**faith** 7:2  
**far** 3:12,14 12:13,14  
**finding** 9:4  
**first** 3:21,21 4:13  
**five** 3:17  
**Fletcher** 6:8  
**focused** 7:20  
**following** 8:9  
**forever** 13:5  
**form** 8:5,6,13,14 9:2  
**forms** 8:15 9:10  
**forward** 4:5 7:10

**G**

**General** 6:10 8:8  
**Gergish** 5:9,10  
**give** 11:1,2 13:11  
**go** 7:13  
**goes** 13:4  
**good** 3:3 4:21 5:1,12,17  
 7:2 9:5 10:10  
**greatly** 9:11,18  
**Grocery** 1:7 4:15  
**guidance** 12:7

**H**

**hear** 5:4 7:22  
**hearing** 1:8,15 4:14  
 5:22 7:4,8,13,15,17  
 7:19 8:9,11,15 9:14  
 9:17,20 10:8  
**hearings** 3:7  
**help** 13:13  
**hesitate** 9:21  
**Hi** 5:1  
**hope** 10:6

**I**

**identified** 9:9  
**identify** 4:17  
**imperative** 8:9  
**important** 9:11  
**information** 6:9 8:5,13  
**instruct** 7:18  
**instructions** 7:14  
**intend** 7:22  
**intention** 7:1

**interruption** 4:2  
**introduce** 3:11 4:9  
**Isaac** 1:20 3:13  
**issues** 7:9,20 9:12  
**items** 6:16

**J**

**JAMES** 1:21  
**JR** 1:19

**K**

**keeping** 9:13  
**kind** 11:5  
**know** 3:7 12:8

**L**

**leading** 9:20  
**left** 3:13,14  
**legal** 8:16  
**letter** 8:3  
**license** 1:9,11 4:15 6:11  
 6:16 10:16,20,21 11:7  
 11:8,11,17,18,19 12:1  
 12:3,16,18,19,22 13:4  
 13:5  
**licensee** 2:12 6:9,13 7:1  
 12:13  
**likewise** 9:1,7,15  
**Liquor** 1:6 4:15

**M**

**M** 4:19  
**mail** 8:3  
**matter** 1:5 5:22 6:2 7:7  
 7:12,16 8:18 13:18  
**matters** 5:19 8:1  
**Medhanie** 1:6 2:12 5:2  
 5:6  
**mediation** 6:7  
**meeting** 1:3 3:5  
**Meetings** 3:9  
**Member** 1:19,20,20,21  
 1:21  
**Members** 3:11,17 4:18  
**mention** 3:20  
**met** 1:15  
**Mike** 1:20 3:15  
**morning** 3:3 4:21 5:1  
 5:12,17  
**move** 7:10

**N**

**name** 3:16 4:8,10 5:2,5  
 5:14  
**narrowing** 9:12  
**need** 7:13 8:16 12:7,12  
**needs** 10:4 12:13  
**negotiated** 13:4

**new** 13:2  
**note** 4:11  
**notice** 9:15  
**number** 4:14,16  
**NW** 1:8,15

---

**O**

---

**objections** 7:5  
**objective** 7:2  
**obtaining** 6:19  
**Off-microphone** 11:3  
**office** 6:10  
**Official** 3:8  
**okay** 5:16 11:9,15 12:4  
 12:20,22 13:8,14  
**once** 12:1,15  
**Open** 3:9  
**opposing** 8:17 9:4,16  
**order** 4:13 6:15 11:7  
**owner** 5:2 13:2

---

**P**

---

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**  
 3:1  
**p.m** 6:1,2 10:9  
**Padro** 2:13 4:18,19,22  
 5:18,20 6:4,6 10:11  
 11:6  
**pagers** 3:22  
**paper** 4:4  
**particular** 6:21  
**parties** 4:16 7:9 8:17  
 9:16 10:6 13:6  
**party** 9:4,8,13  
**pending** 6:21  
**phones** 4:1  
**piece** 4:4  
**PIF** 8:13,20 9:9  
**please** 3:7 4:1,6,7,10,16  
 4:17 8:8 9:20  
**point** 9:13  
**prejudiced** 9:5  
**preliminary** 5:18  
**prepare** 9:16  
**PRESENT** 1:18 2:10  
**presiding** 1:16  
**previous** 6:17  
**prior** 11:19  
**problems** 10:2 13:11  
**proceeding** 4:3  
**process** 6:13 8:4 9:13  
 10:2,5 11:11,14 12:10  
 13:13  
**protest** 1:8 4:13 5:22  
 7:3,8,10,11,15,17,19  
 8:4,5,11,13,20 9:12  
 10:8 11:18  
**protestant** 7:19

**protested** 7:21  
**provide** 6:8 9:15 12:7,9

---

**Q**

---

**question** 10:13  
**questions** 9:19 10:2  
 12:6  
**quorum** 3:18  
**quotes** 6:20

---

**R**

---

**Randall** 8:9 9:21 10:3  
 13:12  
**reach** 12:6  
**read** 7:14  
**realize** 12:15  
**receive** 8:19 9:1  
**received** 8:2  
**record** 4:8,10,17 9:3  
 13:19  
**Reeves** 1:15  
**regular** 8:3  
**regularly** 3:5  
**related** 6:10  
**relevant** 8:1  
**Rema** 1:21 3:14  
**remaining** 6:16  
**renew** 1:10 11:20,22  
**renewal** 7:5 11:18  
**renewed** 6:11,16 11:8  
 11:13 12:1,2  
**renewing** 11:6,12,17  
**reporter** 4:11  
**representing** 4:20 8:21  
**required** 8:12  
**requirement** 6:11  
**Retailer** 1:8  
**review** 8:10  
**right** 3:12,15 5:21 7:6,7  
 11:4 13:7,15,16  
**Room** 1:15  
**rules** 8:10

---

**S**

---

**sale** 6:14  
**scheduled** 3:5 5:22 7:7  
 7:16  
**seat** 4:6  
**Secondly** 4:4  
**Section** 3:9  
**see** 10:9  
**September** 6:1,2 7:8  
 10:9  
**session** 6:7  
**settled** 6:3 7:13  
**settlement** 6:17,21 10:7  
 12:17,18 13:1  
**settling** 7:9

**seven** 8:14  
**she'll** 13:12  
**sheet** 5:14  
**SHORT** 1:21  
**shown** 9:6  
**side** 8:21  
**sign** 4:7 5:14 12:19  
**Silverstein** 1:20 3:15  
**sir** 5:5,11,13,15 10:18  
 11:7  
**sorry** 10:17  
**spell** 4:10  
**spelling** 4:8  
**Sr** 1:20 3:13  
**started** 3:21  
**stated** 7:7  
**status** 1:8 4:14  
**stays** 13:5  
**Street** 1:8,15  
**subject** 8:21 9:8  
**submit** 8:13 9:6  
**submitted** 8:16  
**Suite** 1:16  
**sure** 5:13,16

---

**T**

---

**t/a** 1:6  
**table** 4:5,6  
**take** 4:6  
**talk** 11:1  
**tasks** 7:3  
**tell** 12:12  
**terms** 13:3  
**testimony** 8:1  
**thank** 9:18 10:10,11  
 13:9,17  
**things** 3:20 7:17  
**think** 10:15 11:5  
**time** 4:12 9:20  
**today** 3:10,12,18 9:19  
**today's** 3:7  
**transfer** 10:16,20,20  
 11:8,12 12:1,3,11,16  
 12:22  
**transferred** 6:12  
**transferring** 11:19  
**transfers** 12:19  
**turned** 4:2  
**two** 3:20 6:20 8:15

---

**U**

---

**understands** 6:15  
**undertake** 6:7  
**update** 6:6

---

**V**

---



---

**W**

---

**W** 1:16,19  
**Wahabzadah** 1:21 3:14  
**want** 10:1 12:11  
**Washington** 1:16  
**we'll** 7:13  
**Wednesday** 1:12  
**welcome** 3:4  
**Welder** 5:8  
**Weldergergish** 1:6 2:12  
 5:1,2,6,7,9,11,16  
 10:12,15,19 11:9,15  
 12:4,20 13:7,9,15  
**went** 13:19  
**whichever** 8:20  
**Wine** 1:7 4:15  
**withdraw** 7:4  
**witnesses** 9:7  
**work** 7:9  
**working** 7:1  
**write** 5:14

---

**X**

---



---

**Y**

---



---

**Z**

---



---

**0**

---



---

**1**

---

**14th** 1:15  
**15** 1:13  
**15th** 3:10  
**1618** 1:6,8 4:14 5:3  
**18-PRO-00044** 1:9 4:14  
**19th** 6:1,2 7:8 10:9

---

**2**

---

**2-574** 3:9  
**2000** 1:15  
**20009** 1:16  
**2018** 1:13 3:10  
**202-442-** 9:21

---

**3**

---



---

**4**

---

**4:30** 6:1,2 10:9  
**400S** 1:16  
**4353** 9:22

---

**5**

---



---

**6**

---

**6E** 1:8 2:13 4:20

---

**7**

---

---

**8**

---

**84582** 1:9 4:16  
**8th** 1:8

---

**9**

---

**9:34** 3:2  
**9:36** 4:12  
**9:43** 13:19

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Medhanie Weldergergish

Before: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Date: 08-15-18

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.

*Neal R Gross*

-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701