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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: :

Temporary License Application

Date of Event: April 30, 2016

Event: Music Festival

Applicant: Bryant A. Curry(Living Classrooms Foundation)

Neighborhood: 3100 Benning Road NE

12,000 attendees

FACT-FINDING HEARING

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Wednesday, April 20, 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.

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2 CHAIRPERSON:

3 DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Presiding

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5 OTHER PERSONS PRESENT:

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7 NICK ALBERTI, BOARD MEMBER

8 RUTHANNE MILLER, BOARD MEMBER

9 JAMES SHORT, BOARD MEMBER

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

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know we're running  
3 a little bit late, but I think we should be fine. The  
4 next matter on our -- we have a fact-finding hearing for  
5 the music festival scheduled for April 30th, 2016,  
6 12,000 -- 12,000 expected attendance. Could the parties  
7 please approach and identify themselves for the record  
8 please.

9 MR. CURRY: My name is Bryant Curry.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are you, sir?  
11 Now, you said you're Bryant Curry. Who are you?

12 MR. CURRY: My name is Bryant Curry, and I'm  
13 Kingman Island coordinator with Living Classrooms  
14 organization.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'm new. I'm a  
16 new chair so I'm not familiar with the event. So maybe  
17 you have -- you have appeared before and everyone knows  
18 who you are, but I don't know. That's why I'm asking.

19 MR. CURRY: Oh, sorry.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So everyone I ask --  
21 I'll ask them --

22 MR. CURRY: No -- no worries.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- I'll ask them,  
2 okay, your name and why are you here. Go ahead, ma'am.

3 MR. QUARLES: I'm Alex Quarles. I am the  
4 director of development for Living Classrooms, the  
5 National Capital Region and festival coordinator.  
6 Sorry. Q-U-A-R-L-E-S. Thank you. Good morning.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.

8 MR. CAIN: My name is Lee Cain. I'm with  
9 Living Classrooms, director of Kingman Island. My name  
10 is spelled L-E-E, last name C-A-I-N.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we're waiting to  
12 see if we have an investigator. But in the interim why  
13 don't you just tell us a little bit about -- about --  
14 about this event and -- and how many -- just -- and just  
15 some history about this event. Hold on a minute please.  
16 Please identify yourself for the record.

17 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: Investigator  
18 Leftwich, L-E-F-T-W-I-C-H, first name Vernon,  
19 V-E-R-N-O-N.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank  
21 you, sir. And why don't you just tell us -- give us  
22 some information about this event.

1 MR. CURRY: Well, Living Classroom is --  
2 we're an environmental educational organization, and we  
3 work in Wards 6, 7, and 8 with introducing the -- or  
4 introducing the environment to our -- to our youth,  
5 basically showing them the connection that they have  
6 with the environment even though they may -- may not  
7 believe so. Kingman Island is a -- a huge piece of  
8 that. In the past it was just a -- a space that we felt  
9 wasn't used adequately. We adopted it in 2006. I  
10 believe in 2007 was the first festival, we had roughly  
11 200 people. And the goal of the festival is to raise  
12 funds to support our educational activities on the  
13 island and around the city and also to support the --  
14 the maintenance activities as well. We adopted the  
15 island on behalf of the city. So we also took on the  
16 task of, you know, managing the space throughout the  
17 year. So as I mentioned this is our seventh festival.  
18 We've had -- we're preparing for roughly 12,000 people.  
19 We have -- we've been learning, you know, every year  
20 trying to make, you know, different ways to better serve  
21 the -- the patrons that come in addition to address any  
22 issues that we've been brought up by different --

1 different individuals that's in the process.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just -- have you guys  
3 received a special events license from the city as yet?

4 MR. CURRY: We're in the process of working  
5 that. So once we leave here our next stop is over at  
6 ABRA to, you know, continue that process -- or -- or  
7 DCRA to finish that process. Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
9 right. I was reviewing your application. It says  
10 pending special events license. So that's all, I was  
11 just trying to find out some background where you guys  
12 are with that process. Mr. Leftwich, do you have any  
13 questions?

14 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: What's your plan in  
15 regards to ensuring that only 21 and up are consuming  
16 alcohol? Is it a secure location, a part of -- or which  
17 tent is it at? If you can just -- just --

18 MR. CURRY: Sure. So -- so the island is a  
19 place just off of our of off of RFK parking lot, and  
20 there is one way in and one way out of -- out of space.

21 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: Uh-huh.

22 MR. CURRY: So if you look at this map

1 here -- so this is -- this would be the entrance. So  
2 this is the parking lot. Patrons will come in through  
3 this tent, and they will get IDed. So our plan is to  
4 have anyone that's 21 and up, they will get a -- a blue  
5 wrist band and they will get IDed. And anyone that's  
6 non-drinking or under 21, they would get a yellow wrist  
7 band. We also will pass out what will be called a Kleen  
8 Kanteen. And in order to drink a alcoholic beverage  
9 they only can drink out of that canteen. And it's  
10 reusable so we're going that route to cut down on trash  
11 and things.

12 MR. CAIN: There is a gate that is not shown  
13 on that map that is about four-feet wide. So there is  
14 one place to pass through. And we will at all times  
15 have two security posted at that location so no one can  
16 sneak in around the check-in tent. They will have blue  
17 wrist bands like Bryant said and yellow ones for under  
18 21.

19 MR. QUARLES: It's also a two-tiered system.  
20 So in order to purchase your drink tickets you have to  
21 show your wrist band and in order to retrieve your --  
22 your beverage as well. So there's two checkpoints.

1 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: Okay. And will  
2 there be -- and what -- what's the event look like there  
3 like the day of the event just because we don't see  
4 much --

5 MR. CURRY: Yeah. So this map here is --  
6 lays out a lot of the activities. So we'll have food  
7 trucks obviously serving food. We'll have beer stations  
8 in the main meadow where patrons can cash in their --  
9 their beer tickets and show their wrist band to retrieve  
10 the beer. We'll have one large stage at the back which  
11 is at the top where they will listen to the -- to the  
12 music. And then on the far left-hand side that's a VIP  
13 section which is just a premiere viewing space of the  
14 stage.

15 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: So there's only one  
16 place where you can retrieve alcoholic beverages  
17 or there's --

18 MR. CURRY: There's an additional one. So  
19 the second -- we have a lower meadow which is this guy.  
20 So the flow of traffic would be -- they'll enter here,  
21 and then we have a long meadow or a trail that leads to  
22 this area. So it's a smaller duplicate of this. So we

1 have more food trucks, more pouring stations, and then  
2 additional stage and another small -- small VIP?

3 MR. QUARLES: No. There's no --

4 MR. CURRY: No. No VIP in the lower meadow.  
5 And then inside both of those areas we have first-aid  
6 tents. We'll have security guards that are placed at  
7 each individual beer station, you know, identifying  
8 individuals who are in line, making sure that they  
9 are -- they have the adequate, you know, badges. Also  
10 in each space we'll have security dedicated to each  
11 individual area to make sure that no one is passing a  
12 beer to someone that shouldn't. And also they will be  
13 up and down the path, you know, observing as well. So  
14 that will be two-fold and also identifying any other,  
15 you know, issues -- medical issues or anything else.

16 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: Okay. And in  
17 regards to security will they be communicating via  
18 Walkie Talkie or --

19 MR. QUARLES: Yes. Yes.

20 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: Okay.

21 MR. QUARLES: They'll have their own system,  
22 and then their captain will be connected to our system

1 as well.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any  
3 questions from the board members? Go ahead, Mr. Short.

4 MR. SHORT: Good morning, Mr. Curry.

5 MR. CURRY: How you doing?

6 MR. SHORT: Great. Again, this is a great  
7 event. Can you give the names of any of the schools --  
8 local schools that will be participating or get -- be a  
9 part of --

10 MR. QUARLES: Who will receive some of the  
11 funding?

12 MR. SHORT: Yeah.

13 MR. QUARLES: Sure. So we work really  
14 closely with Browne Education Campus which is right up  
15 the street from Kingman Island. I don't know if you're  
16 familiar with it.

17 MR. SHORT: Directly across from the golf  
18 course.

19 MR. QUARLES: Yeah. We run a tremendous  
20 amount of after school programing. There's a program  
21 called Imagination that's a really wonderful program. I  
22 invite any of you to come visit it and come see us.

1 Queen Beez which has become one of our more famous  
2 programs is leadership through hip-hop. We run that  
3 program at Browne as well. We're running a STEM  
4 mentoring program at Watkins Elementary which is also  
5 down the street. That's a two-day a week STEM -- STEM  
6 mentoring, science -- science, technology, engineering,  
7 and math. And they run a curriculum where they actually  
8 build robots and then compete with their robots. So  
9 those are the two big programs that we're running  
10 nearby. We obviously take students out to Kingman on a  
11 regular basis. So we use Kingman as an outdoor  
12 classroom. We have three specific outdoor classroom  
13 spaces on the island, and those students are from all  
14 over the district as well.

15 MR. SHORT: Do you do any participation with  
16 Carver or Langston, the community right there?

17 MR. QUARLES: With the community, yeah. I  
18 mean they come out to the island for our events. We --  
19 we hold -- host a number of community events as well on  
20 the island. We also have a program through -- for this  
21 festival where if -- if you show up and want to -- and  
22 are from the surrounding the neighborhoods and want to

1 come on site, you know, we welcome all of that.

2 So yeah.

3 MR. SHORT: Okay. Now, I know when you --  
4 when you first get there you park on the parking lot and  
5 you come across the bridge. Is there any other way to  
6 get in or out of the island?

7 MR. QUARLES: Not for the general public.  
8 There is a back [inaudible 1:29:29] and gate that will  
9 be only reserved for our support vehicles, and that will  
10 be --

11 MR. SHORT: For emergency vehicles?

12 MR. QUARLES: Exactly. And that will be  
13 heavily monitored.

14 MR. SHORT: I just want to get that on the  
15 record.

16 MR. QUARLES: Our command center is back  
17 there as well.

18 MR. SHORT: Okay. So you're going to have  
19 50 security?

20 MR. QUARLES: Yes.

21 MR. SHORT: Where will they been stationed?

22 MR. CURRY: So we have -- so we'll have

1 roughly five or six at the front -- front entrance, two  
2 at the -- at the main gate that I was speaking of before  
3 because we said there's only one entrance in and out.  
4 So basically that will be two-fold to make sure that  
5 everybody has a wrist band coming in and they're also  
6 making sure that no beer is coming out. When you go  
7 across the double bridges there will be also an  
8 additional two security guards there kind of doing the  
9 same thing, making sure that people have wrist bands and  
10 then no beer is coming out. That is our no alcohol  
11 beyond point. So that's pretty much the area of focus  
12 because it is a island. So no one can really get out of  
13 that space without coming out that way. So it makes it  
14 a little --

15 MR. ALBERTI: Unless they [inaudible  
16 1:30:31] across.

17 MR. CURRY: Yeah. It makes it a little bit  
18 easier.

19 MR. QUARLES: Nobody is swimming home this  
20 year.

21 MR. CURRY: Absolutely.

22 MR. CAIN: And then I do have the list that

1 we have.

2 MR. CURRY: Yeah. I mean --

3 MR. CAIN: Oh, go ahead.

4 MR. CURRY: So we'll have three -- three  
5 guards at each pouring station. We'll have one at the  
6 VIP station in the main meadow. We'll have additional  
7 ten roamers in the main meadow, ten roamers along the --  
8 the main path heading down to the -- the lower meadow.  
9 Within the lower meadow we'll have five roamers and then  
10 three guards at the beer -- beer pouring station. So  
11 that --

12 MR. SHORT: How will -- how will they be  
13 identified?

14 MR. CURRY: How will the --

15 MR. QUARLES: Security?

16 MR. SHORT: Security. How would I know if I  
17 came there and I had a situation and everybody's is  
18 dressed alike? How would I know --

19 MR. QUARLES: They're uniformed.

20 MR. SHORT: How would I know the security  
21 present?

22 MR. QUARLES: We're using --

1 MR. CURRY: We're using MVP Services. I  
2 don't -- I'm not aware of the uniform, but I'm pretty  
3 sure they have uniforms.

4 MR. QUARLES: They definitely do have  
5 uniforms.

6 MR. CAIN: It says security on the back.

7 MR. SHORT: Is security written on there  
8 clothing?

9 MR. QUARLES: Yes.

10 MR. SHORT: Okay. That's the answer that --  
11 that's the correct answer. Thank you. Okay.

12 MR. QUARLES: Our staff will also be in  
13 staff uniforms as well.

14 MR. SHORT: Okay. So you're looking for  
15 12,000 people?

16 MR. CURRY: So we're preparing for 12.

17 MR. QUARLES: Preparing for.

18 MR. SHORT: What are the hours?

19 MR. CURRY: It starts at 12:00 through 8  
20 p.m.

21 MR. SHORT: 8 p.m. I might tell you this, I  
22 came out there last year --

1 MR. CURRY: What are your thoughts?

2 MR. SHORT: -- and it was such a line I  
3 couldn't -- couldn't get -- couldn't even get to the  
4 tent. I mean so if you're handling things well -- we  
5 didn't get any complaints and the community is  
6 benefiting from it. So thank you very much for what  
7 you're doing for our community. And one last question,  
8 are the turtles back yet --

9 MR. QUARLES: Yes.

10 MR. SHORT: -- in Kingman Lake?

11 MR. QUARLES: I was out there yesterday.  
12 They were all on this big log. It was really exciting.  
13 We have beavers out there now too.

14 MR. SHORT: Well, let me say this to you, I  
15 can remember when the turtles just as big as this  
16 screen. On Sundays people would be on the bridge  
17 selling turtles for all of the people that come from  
18 around the country.

19 MR. CURRY: Oh, really. Wow.

20 MR. SHORT: I mean huge turtles. So we're  
21 glad that they're back because the DDT came, and the  
22 water washing down from Maryland and all. So we're glad

1 to see the river cleaned up and especially Kingman Lake.  
2 Thank you for your wonderful job. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
3 That's all I have.

4 MR. QUARLES: Thank you. If you come this  
5 year, come in the information tent, tell them to call  
6 me.

7 MR. ALBERTI: Now I know how to get in.

8 MR. QUARLES: Seriously. No. Just let me  
9 know. I'm happy to [inaudible 1:33:00].

10 MR. SHORT: I'll just -- I'll just come  
11 earlier this time.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any  
13 questions, Mr. Alberti?

14 MR. ALBERTI: This is just out of curiosity.  
15 So are you having a stage at the far south meadow?

16 MR. QUARLES: Yes.

17 MR. ALBERTI: All the way down there.  
18 Great. Very good.

19 MR. QUARLES: Yeah. We kind of decided it  
20 was time to expand or footprint. We really want to make  
21 sure that there's enough space for everyone on the  
22 island.

1 MR. ALBERTI: With 12,000 people. Yeah.

2 MR. QUARLES: And it's a beautiful --  
3 frankly it's my favorite spot on the island. So I was  
4 really excited to be able to bring everyone.

5 MR. ALBERTI: Down there often. So yeah.  
6 That's good. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Miller.

8 MS. MILLER: I just have a couple. How many  
9 people did you have last year, do you know.

10 MR. QUARLES: I think it was ten.

11 MS. MILLER: 10,000?

12 MR. QUARLES: Yeah.

13 MS. MILLER: Do you -- do you sell tickets  
14 ahead of time or how do you --

15 MR. QUARLES: We do.

16 MS. MILLER: Okay. So that's how you keep  
17 track of it.

18 MR. QUARLES: Yeah. And we'll cap it.  
19 We're kind of encouraging presale tickets and we're  
20 letting everyone know that if we hit -- you know, if we  
21 hit a certain number in presale, then there will be no  
22 -- no one allowed on -- on or off day of who doesn't

1 have a presale ticket.

2 MS. MILLER: Because it can get too crowded,  
3 right?

4 MR. QUARLES: It can. I mean it's an  
5 island. We can't really expand our [inaudible 1:33:58].

6 MS. MILLER: Is 12,000 the max? I mean  
7 that's what you -- I heard you say you're preparing for  
8 12,000 or what?

9 MR. CURRY: Yeah. That's our max. Yes.

10 MS. MILLER: Okay. Okay. Good. Okay. I  
11 was just curious and then this is it. When you say you  
12 adopted the island what did you mean exactly?

13 MR. QUARLES: So it's actually owned by the  
14 district. It's under DMPED's portfolio. And -- and  
15 tell me if I'm giving you too much history.

16 MS. MILLER: No. No. That's understood.

17 MR. QUARLES: But the island was originally  
18 planned as an environmental education center. There are  
19 plans for it that still exist, we have them. And so  
20 when the conversation around who should take over the  
21 island had started, Living Classrooms manages wonderful  
22 environmental education centers in Baltimore. And so we

1 kind of were seen as a natural fit for the island. So  
2 we have a management contract with the district with  
3 DMPED, a license to occupy that we -- and we maintain  
4 the island both physically and financially. So we bring  
5 public and private dollars out to the island which is  
6 really incredible. We also do workforce development  
7 programs out there. So we have programs that train  
8 young men and women who are coming out of incarceration  
9 to go back to work. We work on hard skills and soft  
10 skills. And a lot of their work is done on the island,  
11 park maintenance, all kinds of, you know, wildlife work,  
12 and carpentry as well.

13 MS. MILLER: And is this the big fund-raiser  
14 for the year?

15 MR. QUARLES: Absolutely.

16 MS. MILLER: Okay. Great. Okay. Well,  
17 thank you very much, thank you Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go ahead,  
19 Mr. Alberti.

20 MR. ALBERTI: I just want to thank you for  
21 all your work out there. I go to the island often, so I  
22 see the progress and cleaning up and, you know, just

1 really getting rid of the undergrowth. And it's -- it's  
2 great. Everything seems to be working well. So -- and  
3 I thank you for your programs. I know the community  
4 appreciates them.

5 MR. CURRY: Appreciate it.

6 MR. QUARLES: Awesome. Thank you so much.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Leftwich, do you  
8 have any other questions?

9 INVESTIGATOR LEFTWICH: No, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
11 right. I -- based on the fact-finding I make a motion  
12 that we approve this event. Is there a second?

13 MR. SHORT: Mr. Short has seconded the  
14 motion. All those in favor say aye. [Chorus of ayes].  
15 Opposed. The matter passed four-nothing. Thank you  
16 very much. It's approved, and good luck with your  
17 event.

18 MR. QUARLES: Thank you.

19 MR. CURRY: Thank you. I appreciate it.

20 MR. SHORT: I'll buy my tickets online this  
21 time.

22 MR. ALBERTI: Watch the hill overlooking the

1 -- the main stage.

2 MR. QUARLES: Yes. We've actually moved it.

3 MR. ALBERTI: Two years ago it collapsed.

4 MR. QUARLES: Oh, my gosh. Don't tell me  
5 that.

6 MR. ALBERTI: They had a bunch of people up  
7 there on top of that hill and it's just landfill.

8 MR. CURRY: Yeah. Yeah, it is. That's one  
9 of the best viewing spots.

10 MR. ALBERTI: And -- well, you had a little  
11 bit of a slide. You had a landslide.

12 MR. QUARLES: We cleared off an additional  
13 hill this year to have awesome viewing space. Thank you  
14 so much. And hopefully we'll see you all on the 30th.

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

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