

1 GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
2 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
3 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
4

5 - - - - -X

6 IN THE MATTER OF: :
7 The Griffin Group, LLC, :CASE: 16-PRO-00014
8 t/a Policy :
9 1904 14th Street Northwest :
10 License #ABRA-076804 :
11 Retailer Class CR :
12 Substantial change :
13 License # :
14 Retailer Class :
15 Monday, March 28, 2016 :

16 - - - - -X

17 Monday, March 28, 2016

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

22

1 CHAIRPERSON:

2 LAVERNE FLETCHER, Presiding

3

4 ALSO PRESENT:

5 RAJ MULTANI

6 CHARLES ELLIS

7 PETER SACCO

8 JOAN STERLING

9

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

2 [10:00 a.m.]

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Would the parties
4 in the matter of Policy please come forward? The
5 parties in the matter of Policy please come
6 forward. The applicant will be on this side and
7 the protestants on this side. This is case #16-
8 PRO-00014, The Griffin Group LLC trading as
9 Policy, 1904 14th Street Northwest, license
10 Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration
11 #076804. This is a Retailer Class CR,
12 substantial change: Addition of dancing to the
13 entertainment endorsement.

14 My name is Laverne Fletcher. I'm
15 conducting the Roll Call Hearing as the board's
16 agent pursuant to D.C. Official Code 1601.2.
17 Introductions beginning with the applicant,
18 please.

19 MR. MULTANI: Raj Multani, managing
20 partner, The Griffin, or Policy.

21 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And Mr. Multani,
22 would you spell your name for the record please?

1 MR. MULTANI: Sure, first name is R-A-J,
2 last name is Multani, M-U-L-T-A-N-I.

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you.
4 Present on behalf of Dupont Circle Citizens
5 Association?

6 MR. ELLIS: Charles Ellis. E-L-L-I-S is
7 the last name.

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you. Just a
9 second Mr. Ellis. Present on behalf of the
10 Group of Five? There is a Group of Five
11 protestants.

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: There's a couple of
13 them, which one?

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Is that you, Mr.
15 Ellis?

16 MR. ELLIS: Yeah, I'm part of the Group
17 of Five that signed up on behalf of the
18 Dupont Circle Citizens Alliance.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Because there's a
20 Group of Five, it doesn't state in the protest
21 letter who the designated representative is.

22 MR. ELLIS: Mm hmm.

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So, if the group -
2 - is Robin Deiner here?

3 MR. ELLIS: I'm representing her. She's
4 the president of the DCCA.

5 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER And you're
6 representing her as an individual in the Group of
7 Five also?

8 MR. ELLIS: I guess so, yeah. Does that
9 list also have me and Stacey --

10 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes.

11 MR. ELLIS: Lolita and Martha Logan?

12 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes.

13 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So -- so -- so,
15 Mr. Ellis, you're representing Stacey Hardy?

16 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And, of course,
18 you're here. What about Lolita Ellis? Is she
19 here?

20 MR. ELLIS: I'd better represent her, I'm
21 married to her. She's not here today.

22 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER She needs some --

1 And what about Martha Logan?

2 MR. ELLIS: Martha Logan is another
3 member of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association.

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And, she also
5 signed the protest letter, so you're representing
6 her as well?

7 MR. ELLIS: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So, Mr. Ellis,
9 what I'm going to do -- they didn't indicate that
10 in their protest letter but I'm going to accept
11 you as their designated representative.

12 MR. ELLIS: Well, that's good of you.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You're welcome.
15 So, what that means is for the group of 5, Mr.
16 Ellis you're the only one -- you're the only
17 person present so what that means is the Group of
18 Five is going to be granted conditional standing
19 because five people are not present. At the
20 upcoming status hearing, the other four people
21 will need to appear in person, in order for the
22 group to be granted full standing. Otherwise,

1 the ABC board may dismiss the protest filed by
2 the Group of Five. The board has to see these
3 five faces from any protest group, and so you
4 count as one today.

5 MR. ELLIS: Okay, so I'll need to get the
6 other signatories here with me --

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: For the status
8 hearing. So --

9 MR. ELLIS: What?

10 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER -- for the status
11 hearing.

12 MR. ELLIS: Right.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So, we're going to
14 schedule a mediation which is going to occur
15 before the status hearing and if the matter is
16 resolved in mediation then it won't matter that -
17 - about the status hearing because it would be
18 canceled. But it's only if the status hearing is
19 going to occur that they would -- they would need
20 to appear. So, for the mediation you can just
21 appear on their behalf.

22 MR. ELLIS: Okay, thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Mm hmm. So the
2 Group of Five is granted conditional standing and
3 Charles Ellis is the designated representative
4 for the Group of Five. Present on behalf of ANC
5 2B?

6 MR. SACCO: Hi, my name is Peter Sacco, I
7 am executive director of ANC 2B.

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Mr. Sacco, how do
9 you spell your last name?

10 MR. SACCO: Sacco, S-A-C-C-O.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Like it sounds.
12 Okay, and so ANC 2B does have standing as a
13 protestant. Mr. Sacco, did you put your contact
14 information on this sheet?

15 MR. SACCO: I did, I did.

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And who's present
17 on behalf of the Shaw Dupont Citizens' Alliance.

18 MS. STERLING: Joan Sterling.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Hi Ms. Sterling.

20 MS. STERLING: Hi.

21 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So, we have four
22 protestants in this matter, we have the Dupont

1 Circle Citizens Association and I look on the
2 record that the applicant was given at least
3 seven days' notice of the meeting held regarding
4 the protest of the application?

5 MR. MULTANI: I was.

6 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: That's a
7 requirement, so I'm stating it for the record.

8 MR. MULTANI: Very good.

9 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: There's a Group of
10 Five granted conditional standing, ANC 2B has
11 standing as a protestant, and the Shaw Dupont
12 Citizen's Alliance has standing as a protestant.
13 We need to set a date for a mediation, a status
14 hearing and a protest hearing, and I will give
15 you the other dates for the status and protest
16 hearings first. Mr. Multani, did you put your
17 contact information on that sheet?

18 MR. MULTANI: I have.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you. The
20 date of the status hearing is April 27th at 9:30
21 a.m. It's April 27, at 9:30 for the status
22 hearing. The protest hearing is scheduled for

1 June the 1st at 1:30 p.m.

2 MR. MULTANI: At 1:30?

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes, at 1:30.

4 MR. MULTANI: I have a conflict --

5 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: On June 1st?

6 MR. MULTANI: The 1st -- that I don't --
7 the birth of a child conflict --

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes.

9 MR. MULTANI: -- kind of thing that's
10 out of my hands.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes, that's out of
12 your hands.

13 MR. MULTANI: If I could -- I don't know
14 what to do.

15 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes, well what you
16 can do is if the matter is resolved in mediation
17 it won't matter --

18 MR. MULTANI: True.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: -- because the
20 protest hearing will be cancelled, but otherwise
21 you would need to just send an e-mail or letter
22 to the ABC Board --

1 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: -- copying the
3 protestants --

4 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: -- requesting a
6 different date for the protest hearing for the
7 reason that you stated, and then the board will
8 review your request.

9 MR. MULTANI: I have just one more
10 question.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Mm hmm.

12 MR. MULTANI: Mr. Ellis is representing
13 a new Group of Five, not the Group of Five that's
14 in the settlement agreement today?

15 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: He's representing
16 the Group of Five that filed the protest.

17 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Mm hmm.

19 MR. MULTANI: Yeah, I just wanted to
20 know who I was copying -- the Group of Five and
21 for the DCCA I would just e-mail you.

22 MR. ELLIS: Yes.

1 MR. MULTANI: And that would be just one
2 entity for both groups, and then, of course the -
3 -

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yeah, Mr. Ellis is
5 representing the Dupont Circle Citizens
6 Association and he's representing the Group of
7 Five.

8 MR. MULTANI: The reason I ask is I
9 wouldn't have to e-mail --

10 MR. ELLIS: One or the other right there.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Right.

12 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Right.

14 MR. MULTANI: I just want to make sure
15 I'm also --

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: But it's probably
17 the board [inaudible 8:11]

18 MR. MULTANI: Yeah, fair enough. I'll
19 just send it out to everybody, yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yeah, so you will
21 be sending your request to Charles Ellis, Mr.
22 Sacco, and Joan Sterling. You would copy them.

1 And they would get an opportunity to say if they
2 are opposed to the request or not and if they
3 are, they would say "no" because of whatever
4 reason. If they are okay with it, then it's
5 okay. So the board will --

6 MR. MULTANI: I don't want to bring a
7 gurney in here. I'm not going to miss this.

8 MS. STERLING: Is it possible to just
9 reschedule it out the following week right now?

10 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: The board has a
11 calendar. I don't know what's available on their
12 calendar, so once you send that in they'll review
13 their calendar and let you know when it can be.
14 There may not be anything available the following
15 week, but they'll take a look at the calendar and
16 let you know.

17 MR. MULTANI: Okay. So, the status
18 hearing is after the mediation.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes.

20 MR. MULTANI: And then we just kind of
21 determine a mediation amongst ourselves.

22 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I'm going to give

1 you some dates in a moment. The mediation is
2 with the board's mediator. Yeah, the mediation
3 takes place before the status hearing, so at the
4 status hearing basically what you're doing is
5 reporting the results of the mediation.

6 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And if the matter
8 is resolved in mediation anyway, then there's no
9 status hearing and there's no protest hearing.
10 So I'll give you the next available dates for the
11 mediation. The next available date is next
12 Tuesday, April the 5th. Otherwise, we'll move to
13 the following week, but on April the 5th a
14 mediation is available at 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00 in
15 the morning.

16 MS. STERLING: So, next week is not good
17 for --

18 MR. ELLIS: Two of us.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay. Then, I'll
20 move to the week of April 11 and Thursday, April
21 14 -

22 MR. ELLIS: What time of day?

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: At 9:00 or 10:00.
2 That would be on a Thursday, at 9:00 or 10:00.

3 MR. MULTANI: Could I have one more
4 date? I just have to check with a partner also,
5 and is there a way that we can call back and
6 confirm in two days? I have to make sure my
7 representation is available.

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I'm sorry, what
9 did you say --

10 MR. MULTANI: I just want to make sure -
11 - so April the 14th at 10:00 a.m. right now?

12 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yeah, so just,
13 yeah, we'll just -- so you're saying you're not
14 sure about that?

15 MR. MULTANI: Can I just get like two
16 dates and then I can confirm from two days and
17 then we'll work it out that way?

18 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, okay.

19 MR. ELLIS: Ms. Fletcher. I don't know
20 whether it's going to matter and I can get out of
21 it if vitally necessary, but I'd rather not get
22 out of my Tuesday and Thursday volunteering gig

1 11:00 to 1:00 at a school.

2 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, then I'll --
3 okay.

4 MR. ELLIS: This week is a free week
5 because I have it off.

6 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Right. Okay, well
7 then no Tuesdays and Thursdays.

8 MR. ELLIS: What's that?

9 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: That's Tuesday and
10 Thursday, right, that's not good?

11 MR. ELLIS: Yeah, and if we're allowed to
12 express a preference, I would prefer to avoid
13 Tuesday or Thursday, either one.

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay. I'll make
15 sure it's not Tuesday or Thursday.

16 MR. MULTANI: And Wednesday works much
17 better for me, I just want to throw that out
18 there.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, so then how
20 about if you want to look at Wednesday, April the
21 13th?

22 MR. MULTANI: What time?

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: At 9:00, 10:00 or
2 11:00.

3 MR. MULTANI: Thirteen is not a lucky
4 number for me. I'm totally kidding.

5 MS. STERLING: I have a conflict then.

6 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, then we can
7 move to Wednesday, so your status hearing is
8 Wednesday, April 27th. We can move to, if you
9 want a Wednesday, we can move to Wednesday, April
10 20th.

11 MR. MULTANI: Okay.

12 MR. ELLIS: That works.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Is that good?

14 MR. MULTANI: That's fine.

15 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: 9:00, 10:00 or
16 11:00.

17 MS. STERLING: It doesn't work for me,
18 but that doesn't mean that I can't see if Elwin's
19 available.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, okay.

21 MR. STEWART: So, I mean the 13th or the
22 20th, I can see if there's --

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay and Elwin is
2 spelled E-L --

3 MS. STERLING: E-L-W-I-N. F-E-R-R-I-S.

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: F-E-R-R-I-S.

5 Elwin Ferris.

6 MR. ELLIS: So, Wednesday April 20th?

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Wednesday April
8 20th at 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00. Any preference?

9 MR. ELLIS: I'm easy about the time for
10 us.

11 MR. MULTANI: Same. Whatever you guys
12 want.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: 11:00 is good, Mr.
14 Sacco? Is 11:00 good for you?

15 MR. SACCO: I'm not going to be the one
16 representing them.

17 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay.

18 MR. SACCO: So, I'm just going pass the
19 information along.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I gotcha. Well,
21 then I'm going to record Wednesday, April 20, at
22 11:00. So, Mr. Multani, did you still need an

1 additional date?

2 MR. MULTANI: No, it seems like --
3 because the next week is the status, right?

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes.

5 MR. MULTANI: On that Wednesday. So, I
6 guess we'll just shoot for that and --

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay.

8 MR. MULTANI: We'll do the best we can.

9 MR. ELLIS: Yeah, we're apt to remember
10 over a week, which we might not remember over
11 three weeks, speaking for myself.

12 MR. MULTANI: I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So, then,
14 mediation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20,
15 at 11:00, and you can just check in out front and
16 I will come out and get everyone. Any questions
17 at all? Mr. Sacco - so you put your contact
18 information on this sheet already, so initially
19 you're going to receive the communication, so
20 just so you know.

21 MR. SACCO: Yeah, I've done this before,
22 so I'll just forward it along.

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Oh yeah, you know
2 the process.

3 MR. SACCO: I just forward it along.

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You know the
5 process.

6 MR. SACCO: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, well, thank
8 you very much for coming.

9 MR. SACCO: Thank you very much.

10 MR. MULTANI: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, see you on
12 the 20th. The roll call hearing is concluded.

13 [Whereupon, at 10:14 a.m. the
14 above-entitled matter concluded.]