DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF: Seven Seas, Inc.
t/a Seven Seas Restaurant:
5915 Georgia Ave, NW
Retailer CR - ANC 4B
License No. 654
(Request for Reinstatement)

Wednesday,
February 27, 2019


PRESENT:
DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
NICK ALBERTI, Member
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:
SUPERVISORY INVESTIGATOR MARK BRASHEARS, ABRA
SHARON HUIE, Interpreter
LIU TSUI PO FUNG, Licensee
10:39 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Our next case is a Fact-Finding Hearing for Seven Seas Restaurant, License No. 654.

Will the parties, please, approach and identify themselves for the record, please?

INTERPRETER HUIE: My name is Sharon Huie. I'm the interpreter.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Either side, it doesn't matter, whatever.

Can you raise your right hand, please, ma'am? No, no, you. All right. Raise your right hand, please.

Do you solemnly affirm that you will faithfully and accurately interpret the proceedings in this matter from English into Cantonese and from Cantonese into English to the best of your ability?

INTERPRETER HUIE: Yes, I do.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Have a seat, please. Good morning. Could the applicant
identify herself for the record, please?

MS. PO FUNG: My name is Liu Tsui Po Fung, Seven Seas Restaurant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Good morning. Have a seat. There is a sign-in sheet. Have her sign-in, please.

All right. I guess the first question I want to ask, does the business have a basic business license?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you provide us a copy?

MS. PO FUNG: (No audible answer.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Hold on. So when is this restaurant able to open?

MS. PO FUNG: Here for you to activate this license, plus the ABC License, then we will start the business.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?

Activate what license? I'm sorry.

MS. PO FUNG: Yeah, to activate this
ABRA License, because I understand that has been taken away from me right now, so I just wanted to apologize for that, because I missed the payment because I wasn't aware of the letter or the phone call.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I don't think -- I know that the reason why the license was canceled was because it did not appear to our Investigator -- all right.

We were asked to take the license out of safekeeping, because you wanted to open on February 14th.

MS. PO FUNG: I think there is some miscommunication there. All right. Okay. So Ms. Campbell, Kelly Campbell called Mr. Romero, who is the manager of Seven Seas Restaurant, and informed him about the payment/fee. And yet, Mr. Romero did not tell me about the message.

And so and until I received the cancellation of the -- okay, so I did not even know about the cancellation of -- the letter for the cancellation.
So I came here and then I talked to Ms. Kelly and then that was when she gave me this letter, which I did not receive.

So I want to apologize that I missed that payment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. But let me ask a question. Does she have a C of O, a Certificate of Occupancy for the business?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, she does.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, were you-- was -- are you waiting for someone to come to inspect the property for you to open up or why -- did DCRA come and do a final inspection?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, we already have all that inspection.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can I see that, please? I'm going to give you all your stuff back. Okay. So why did you not pay the safekeeping fees?

MS. PO FUNG: So it was because of the
miscommunication, because when Ms. Kelly told Mr. Romero, my manager --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

MS. PO FUNG: -- all that and he did not inform me. And until I got the cancellation, then I contacted Ms. Kelly and that's when she handed me this letter, but I did not receive this letter earlier either.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So did you attempt to pay, to tell her that okay, fine, I can pay the fee?

MS. PO FUNG: I did offer to her, but she said that I have to appear before the Board. So after the Board meeting, then they would inform me whether I could pay it or not.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go ahead. I'm sorry. Go ahead, finish, I didn't hear.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Oh, okay.

MS. PO FUNG: So yeah, she told me that I need to go through the Board's decision before I could pay it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if the Board was to reconsider its decision, when could the rest -- when would the restaurant open?

MS. PO FUNG: As soon as possible.

MEMBER ALBERTI: What's that mean?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if, say for example, the Board said today that we will give you your license back, when can she open? When will she be able to open?

MS. PO FUNG: So we will do -- you know, we will want to open it up as soon as possible. I'm hoping by the end of March, but then sometimes, you know, there may be some kind of obstacle, but that I could not be sure, but I am really hoping by the end of March.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what would-- it's now -- that's like a month. So what needs to be done? Why should she need until the end of March? Why not Monday? Why another month?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, because we still have to install the TV cable and also all the Internet cables, because right now the person
next door did not allow us to do that. So we have to think of ways to do that and also we still have to hire the best cook that we could. And so it might take a little time there.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Alberti.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So maybe someone can show you. Martha, can you show her the picture that we have of the front of the establishment?

MS. JENKINS: Sure.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So my question is will this restaurant have the same name, Seven Seas?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes.

MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. I am a little -- I find it -- well, there is no signage here. I mean, you are poised to open and there is absolutely no signage here. Why is that?

MS. PO FUNG: There is -- because you only need one day for that, the signs.

MEMBER ALBERTI: You only need one
day? So has she -- okay, fine. Can you --

MS. PO FUNG: We already have the sign
on the top there. The white part there.

MEMBER ALBERTI: There is no message
on that sign.

MS. PO FUNG: But those will be
carried very quick. We already have it ready for
that one.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So do you have
a contract or a proposal for that signage?

MS. PO FUNG: I know that it can be
done very quickly. It will not affect, you know,
the time of our opening.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Does she have a
company that she knows she will engage to do
that?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, the name is called
Sign of Tomorrow.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Sign of Tomorrow.
Okay. And is the kitchen ready for operation?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes. Yes, it has
already passed all the inspections.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Pardon?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, it has already passed all the inspections.

MEMBER ALBERTI: It has passed the health inspection?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, from the Health Department, yes.

MEMBER ALBERTI: I have no further questions right now.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions? Mr. Brashears, do you want to add anything to these proceedings?

INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Yes, sir, I can. Do I need to --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can just come up, please. Please, identify yourself for the record, please.

INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: ABRA Supervisory Investigator Mark Brashears.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you familiar? Is there anything to add towards this establishment?
INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Well, I understand there might have been some confusion about the BBL. Basically, upon reviewing my memo and just checking PIVS a few moments ago, on the date that I initially or Investigator Puente initially did the PIVS check, it was January 30th.

I visited the establishment on January 30th and when I checked PIVS again on the 5th of January when I authored the memo, there was nothing showing up in PIVS. Well, now, the permit shows up and it is dated 1 February. So it does show an active BBL for the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: But wasn't reflected in the database at the time of the memo.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I saw that. What she provided us a document, it has a February date. So that's why in reviewing your memo, that was why I had asked her -- that was the first question I had asked her about the basic business license. So we stand corrected.
It's just that your -- the time you went to visit
the place, there was no basic -- there was no
active basic business license at that location.

All right. All right. Anything else
you want to state, ma'am?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, I just want you to
accept my apology for missing the payment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if we were
to do it, when would you be -- if we, if the
Board was to decide to grant you the -- for the
license to remain in safekeeping through March
30th of 2019, when would you make the payment with
-- if there is an -- when would you be able to
make those payments?

MS. PO FUNG: How much would the late
payment fee be?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know,
but I'm just saying I don't know if there is a
late fee, but what I'm trying to say is that when
would you be able -- I know it shouldn't be that
much more, but when would you be able to make the
payment? At least the payment for -- well,
because it is late, there will be late fees. But
I don't know what the payment is to keep the
license in safekeeping.

However, when would she be able to pay
it?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, as soon as I know
how much the fine, the payment will be, I will be
going to the bank to make that payment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
right. Any other questions by any other Board
Members? All right.

All right. What I'm going to do is
that we are going to go around back and --

MEMBER ALBERTI: We can take this
under consideration and let her know.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, all right.

All right. We will -- any final comments you
want to make?

MS. PO FUNG: If I get this approved,
I'll be very happy to open up the restaurant and
finish other minor work and open up the
restaurant as soon as I can.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. The Board will take this matter under advisement and we will let you know. All right. Thank you.

INTERPRETER HUIE: So are we done?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we are done.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So we will let her know. We will discuss it and we will let her know what the decision is.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Okay.

MS. PO FUNG: Do you know when? How long it will be?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She will get a decision before the week is out.

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, will you be able to mail the letter to me about the decision?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do we have your correct address? What is your --

MS. PO FUNG: It's a P.O. box. It will be P.O. Box 56176.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can -- ask her to --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Can she go to --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ask her to write it and write her address and give it to the Agency, so we will make sure that we have --

INTERPRETER HUIE: Sure, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- her correct address. So tell her to give us, give the Agency. Can you help her and write it on something?

INTERPRETER HUIE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And before she leaves here?

INTERPRETER HUIE: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Okay. We do have your -- did you receive something in the mail from us to be here today?

MS. PO FUNG: Yes.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Yes, she did receive this, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that is her
address?

INTERPRETER HUIE: Yes, that's her address, yes, um-hum.

MS. PO FUNG: Yes, that's it, P.O. box.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you.

INTERPRETER HUIE: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

MS. PO FUNG: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Then thank you. Bye-bye. We are off the record.

(Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing was concluded at 11:05 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Seven Seas

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-27-19

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

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