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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: :  
UPTOWN ETHIOPIAN FUSION, LLC : Case #16-PRO-00027  
t/a Uptown Ethiopian Fusion  
Cuisine :  
1608 7th Street Northwest :  
License #ABRA-081849 :  
Retailer Class CR :  
License Renewal :

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Monday May 16, 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.

1

2 BOARD'S AGENT:

3 LAVERNE FLETCHER, Presiding

4

5 ALSO PRESENT:

6 JEFF JACKSON

7

8 GEBRE KAHASSAI

9

10 SISAY TESSEW

11

12 ALEXANDER M. PADRO

13

14 VALENTINE CASTANEDA

15

16

17

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

2 ROLL CALL HEARING

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Would the parties

4 Uptown Ethiopian Fusion please come forward?

5 Uptown Ethiopian Fusion. This is case #16-PRO-

6 00027, also Ethiopian Restaurant L.L.C. trading

7 as Uptown Ethiopian Fusion Cuisine, 1608 7th

8 Street Northwest, license #ABRA-081849. This is

9 Retailer class CR license renewal. The protest

10 issues are adverse impact on peace, order and

11 quiet and real property values. My name is

12 Laverne Fletcher. I am conducting the Roll Call

13 Hearing as the Board's agent pursuant D.C.

14 Official Code 1601.2. Introductions beginning

15 with the applicant.

16 MR. JACKSON: Jeff Jackson, representing

17 Uptown.

18 MR. CASTANEDA: A procedural question

19 madam. Are the tables set up? Does it matter?

20 I'm on the opposite side over there.

21 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You can go to over

22 that side then. Thank you very much.

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1 MR. CASTANEDA: I like them but I'm not  
2 at their -- right now.

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you. And  
4 your name Sir?

5 MR. KAHASSAI: First name Gebre, GEBRE,  
6 last name --

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I'm sorry can you  
8 say that again. The first name is what?

9 MR. KAHASSAI: Gebre, G-E-B-R-E --

10 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: E-B-R-E, Mm hmm.

11 MR. KAHASSAI: Last name Kahassai.

12 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: K-A-H-A --

13 MR. KAHASSAI: S-S-A-I.

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: S-S-A-I?

15 MR. KAHASSAI: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you very  
17 much. And your name ma'am?

18 MS. TESSEW: S-I-S-A-Y.

19 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: S-I. Can you hear  
20 that

21 MS. TESSEW: First name is S-I-S-A-Y.

22 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I'm sorry --

1 MS. TESSEW: S-I-S-A-Y, Last name is  
2 Tessew.

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: T as in Tom?

4 MS. TESSEW: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Present on half of  
6 ANC 6E?

7 MR. PADRO: Yes. Alexander M. Padro.

8 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Padro  
9 Would you spell your name for the record?

10 MR. PADRO: First name Alexander, A-L-E-  
11 X-A-N-D-E-R, last name Padro, P-A-D-R-O.,

12 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay. Your name  
13 Sir?

14 MR. CASTANEDA: Valentine Castaneda. V-  
15 A-L-E-N-T-I-N-E, last name C-A-S-T-A-N-E-D-A.

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Are you with the  
17 ANC as well, Mr. Castaneda.

18 MR. CASTANEDA: No madam. I'm here on  
19 behalf of the writer of the letter that should be  
20 in front of you. Mr.

21 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: May I see the  
22 letter that you have please?

1 MR. CASTANEDA: Yes ma'am. May I  
2 approach the bench?

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yeah. Thank you.  
4 Mr. Castaneda, did you receive, or the person  
5 you're representing, receive a copy of a Roll  
6 Call Hearing notice to appear today?

7 MR. CASTANEDA: I believe we did ma'am.  
8 Unfortunately I do not have a copy of it.

9 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I don't have a  
10 copy of this protest letter in the file at all.  
11 That's why I'm asking. If you received the Roll  
12 Call Hearing notice then I would know for sure  
13 that we received it and that for some reason this  
14 protest letter was not in the file.

15 MR. CASTANEDA: Just as a point of  
16 clarification, I wouldn't have gotten it myself,  
17 the business should have gotten it. My  
18 understanding is that they did, but again I do  
19 not have a copy of it with me.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And so how did you  
21 know to show up today?

22 MR. CASTANEDA: My colleague is here with

1 me also.

2 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I mean did you see  
3 it on the placard notice? Did somebody tell you?  
4 Just trying to get a sense of how you knew to  
5 come today.

6 MR. CASTANEDA: Somebody told me, yes  
7 ma'am. May I take a moment of the table for a  
8 few seconds?

9 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yeah.

10 MR. CASTANEDA: Madam it's been  
11 confirmed, we did receive a letter from the  
12 Board.

13 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Mm hmm.

14 MR. CASTANEDA: It's not in my  
15 possession, however.

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You received a  
17 letter from this Board?

18 MR. CASTANEDA: Correct. With the  
19 information to be here today.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: I'm just going to  
21 take a look at your letter, thank you very much.

22 MR. CASTANEDA: Yes ma'am.

1 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: So what kind of an  
2 establishment is Capitol Comfort Hostel?

3 MR. CASTANEDA: It is a hostel, or  
4 hostel, different pronunciations. It basically  
5 provides accommodations for travelers, primarily  
6 from outside of the United States.

7 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: It would fall into  
8 the hotel category?

9 MR. CASTANEDA: Not necessarily. It's  
10 less of a hotel because we rent beds as opposed  
11 to rooms. It's more of a dormitory type of  
12 arrangement for travelers, primarily youth people  
13 -- backpackers.

14 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And you're located  
15 at 1610 7th Street Northwest?

16 MR. CASTANEDA: Right next door to the  
17 business in question, yes ma'am.

18 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Do the properties  
19 abut? Do you know if they touch -- they're right  
20 next door -- do they touch one another?

21 MR. CASTANEDA: They do.

22 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: And does Capitol

1 Comfort own the building?

2 MR. CASTANEDA: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: For the purpose of  
4 the Roll Call Hearing I'm going to -- I don't  
5 have a copy of this protest letter in the file at  
6 all. So, for me, there's no record that this  
7 protest was filed in the first place. What I'm  
8 going to ask you to do is -- so I'm not going to  
9 dismiss this protest because as far as the record  
10 goes at this point there isn't one. So, what I  
11 am going to do is I'm going to, on the record, we  
12 acknowledge that you were here today and that you  
13 did file a protest, I'm going to ask you to  
14 petition the ABC Board folks for standing as a  
15 protestant. If you will send them a letter  
16 asking them to grant you standing as a  
17 protestant, you can tell them that you were not  
18 recognized as a protestant today.

19 You'll -- if you are going to claim to be  
20 an abutting property owner -- if you're not an  
21 abutting property owner you could not be a  
22 protestant because a hotel does not have -- or

1 hostel -- does not have standing to file a  
2 protest in the first place unless you are an  
3 abutting property owner, so if Capitol Comfort  
4 owns 1610 7th Street Northwest and the property  
5 abuts the establishment, then the Board could  
6 consider you as a protestant if it wanted to. We  
7 have no record of you being a protestant.

8           So, what I'm going to need -- what the  
9 Board's going to need -- is a copy of the Roll  
10 Call Hearing notice that you received from this  
11 office notifying you that you are a protestant,  
12 they'll need a copy of that. If you're claiming  
13 to be an abutting property owner put that in your  
14 request for standing as a protestant, and  
15 whatever submission you make to the ABC Board  
16 you'll need to provide to Jeff Jackson. Jeff  
17 Jackson is the representative for Uptown  
18 Ethiopian Fusion Cuisine and you also are going  
19 to need to put your contact information on that  
20 sheet.

21           MR. CASTANEDA: I have already done it.

22           CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You did that?

1 Okay. Thank you. I'll make one other note about  
2 the document that you gave to me so I'll know  
3 what was filed, but in this letter there is no  
4 signature, so unsigned protest letters are not  
5 acceptable. Maybe when the original protest  
6 letter was filed, that you say was sent to the  
7 agency, there was a signature, but if there's not  
8 a signature it can't be accepted but we'll --  
9 send us what you sent initially, because we don't  
10 have it at all, so for us this doesn't exist, so  
11 anything that you can do to show us that it does  
12 exist and that you sent it in would be helpful.  
13 This letter doesn't have a signature. And I will  
14 include this in the record just so you know.

15 MR. CASTANEDA: Thank you madam.

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: There is one  
17 protestant in this matter, ANC 6E. We need to  
18 set a date for a Status Hearing, a Protest  
19 Hearing and a Mediation. I'll give you the date  
20 for the Status and Protest hearings first. The  
21 Status Hearing is June 15, at 9:30 a.m.  
22 The Protest Hearing is July 27th, at 4:30.

1 MR. PADRO: Is the 27th - two seven?

2 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Yes, two seven.

3 MR. PADRO: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: You're welcome.

5 At 4:30. I'll give you the next available date  
6 for mediation. The next available date for  
7 mediation is Tuesday, May 24, at 9:00, 10:00 or  
8 11:00.

9 MR. PADRO: I will not be in the District  
10 of Columbia on that date.

11 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: Okay, Mr. Padro,  
12 let me see here. How about I'm going to move it  
13 to the month of June.

14 MR. PADRO: Have you looked at the week  
15 of June the 6th?

16 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: The week of June  
17 6th we can do Thursday, June 9 at 9:00, 10:00 or  
18 11:00.

19 MR. PADRO: 10:00 would be fine with me.

20 CHAIRPERSON FLETCHER: 10:00 for Mr.  
21 Jackson, okay. So, the mediation is set for  
22 Thursday, June the 9th at 10:00. Any questions

1 anybody? Okay, well thank you for coming. See  
2 you soon.

3                   Whereupon the above-entitled matter was  
4 concluded.