

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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## ROLL CALL HEARING

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## IN THE MATTER OF:

Watergate Hotel Lessee,  
LLC  
t/a Watergate Hotel  
2650 Virginia Avenue NW  
License #ABRA-091162  
Retailer CH  
Application  
Case #19-PRO-00032

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019

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The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
met in Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room,  
Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W.,  
Washington, D.C., Ms. La Verne Fletcher, Agent,  
presiding.

## PRESENT:

La Verne Fletcher, Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Board Mediator

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Royal Collette**

**Christine Evans**

**Richard Gessner**

**Stephen O'Brien**

**Rina Paz**

**Barbara Rohde**

**Peter Sacco**

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

2 (9:59 a.m.)

3 AGENT FLETCHER: Would the parties in  
4 the matter of the Watergate Hotel, please come  
5 forward -- the parties in the matter of the  
6 Watergate Hotel?

7 This is case number 19-PRO-00032,  
8 Watergate Hotel, Lessee, LLC, 2650 Virginia  
9 Avenue Northwest, Unit Number H-1, License Number  
10 ABRA-091162. This is a retailer class CH license  
11 renewal.

12 The protest issues are adverse impact  
13 on peace, order, and quiet. My name is La Verne  
14 Fletcher, conducting the Roll Call Hearing as the  
15 Board's Agent, introductions beginning with the  
16 Applicant, please.

17 MR. O'BRIEN: Stephen O'Brien for the  
18 Applicant.

19 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
20 O'Brien. And present on behalf of ANC 2A?

21 MR. SACCO: Peter Sacco, representing  
22 ANC 2A.

1                   AGENT FLETCHER: Mr. Sacco, would you  
2 spell your last name?

3                   MR. SACCO: Yes, Sacco, S-A-C-C-O.

4                   AGENT FLETCHER: Is anyone present on  
5 behalf of the Group of Five? Anyone present on  
6 behalf of the Group of Five?

7                   MR. SACCO: There is a Group of Five?

8                   MS. ROHDE: Yes, we're here. I can  
9 barely hear.

10                  AGENT FLETCHER: Maybe the microphone  
11 is out in the back. Maybe the microphone is out  
12 in the back, that's okay. If you're present just  
13 --

14                  MS. ROHDE: We're all supposed to come  
15 sit up here?

16                  AGENT FLETCHER: Yes. Initially, just  
17 state your name. There's a microphone right  
18 beside Mr. Sacco. If you would stand right  
19 there, and state your name, and spell it for the  
20 record.

21                  MR. SACCO: Are you here for the  
22 Watergate Hotel Group?

1 MS. ROHDE: Yes.

2 MR. SACCO: Okay, great.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: You can just state  
4 your name right into the microphone and spell it  
5 for the record, just --

6 MS. ROHDE: And then we sign also, is  
7 that correct?

8 AGENT FLETCHER: Once we determine who  
9 your designated representative is going to be,  
10 the designated representative will sign.

11 MS. ROHDE: I see. My name is Barbara  
12 Rohde, R-O-H-D-E.

13 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

14 MS. PAZ: My name is Rina Paz, R-I-N-A  
15 P-A-Z.

16 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

17 MR. COLLETTE: My name is Royal  
18 Collette, C-O-L-E-T-T-E.

19 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you.

20 MR. GESSNER: Richard Gessner, last  
21 name is G-E-S-S-N-E-R.

22 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

1 MS. EVANS: I'm Christine Evans with  
2 a C-H first name, and then E-V-A-N-S.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: What's the last name,  
4 Christine?

5 MS. EVANS: Evans.

6 AGENT FLETCHER: Now Ms. Evans, I  
7 didn't see your name on the protest letter, did  
8 you sign the protest letter?

9 MS. EVANS: No.

10 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay, that means that  
11 you're not a Protestant, but you're free to  
12 support the protest as we move through the  
13 process. For example, if we have any hearings --  
14 these are public hearings. You're welcome to  
15 come. If this matter goes forward for a protest  
16 hearing, you're welcome to come --

17 MS. EVANS: Okay.

18 AGENT FLETCHER: -- and just be  
19 present in support of the group.

20 MS. EVANS: Okay.

21 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you very much.  
22 So of the individuals present today,

1 are either one of you going to be the designated  
2 representative for the group?

3 (No audible response.)

4 AGENT FLETCHER: Ms. Rohde, that's  
5 going to be you?

6 MS. ROHDE: I will be. I have a bit  
7 of a head cold, so you're going to have talk up  
8 if I'm going to hear you.

9 AGENT FLETCHER: Well, you know, it's  
10 probably -- did you say -- can you better hear  
11 now?

12 MS. ROHDE: I can hear better now,  
13 yes.

14 AGENT FLETCHER: Oh yeah, it's in the  
15 back. I'm sorry, the microphones aren't working  
16 back there.

17 MS. ROHDE: Is the microphone on? Can  
18 everybody hear --

19 PARTICIPANT: I can hear.

20 MS. ROHDE: -- everybody else? It's  
21 just my head, I guess.

22 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Well, I can

1 still speak louder.

2 MS. ROHDE: Thank you.

3 AGENT FLETCHER: ANC 2A has standing  
4 as a Protestant. The Group of Five is granted  
5 conditional standing as a Protestant. What that  
6 means is, four of you are present today. You're  
7 granted conditional standing until at the  
8 upcoming Status Hearing one more person appears.

9 The Board has to see five faces in  
10 order to grant full standing, but you're going to  
11 be granted conditional standing today. So we'll  
12 just move forward --

13 MS. ROHDE: Okay.

14 AGENT FLETCHER: -- the way we would  
15 if you were granted full standing.

16 At the upcoming Status Hearing, you're  
17 going to receive a Status Hearing date. Once you  
18 get that date, one person who's not here today  
19 needs to appear, Donna Barbisch is the only  
20 person who must appear. You can appear also Ms.  
21 Rohde --

22 MS. ROHDE: Yes.

1                   AGENT FLETCHER:  -- as the designated  
2                   representative for the group.  You may come to  
3                   the Status Hearing along with Ms. Barbisch.

4                   MS. ROHDE:  Okay, do we know what date  
5                   that is yet?

6                   AGENT FLETCHER:  No, we don't know the  
7                   date yet.  Normally, I have Status and Protest  
8                   Hearing days on the date of the Roll Call  
9                   Hearing, but the person that provides those dates  
10                  has not yet returned from leave.  So today, I  
11                  don't have a Status Hearing date.

12                  MS. ROHDE:  Donna is a retired  
13                  two-star General, and she travels a great deal.  
14                  So as soon as we could -- that's why she's not  
15                  here today.  As soon as we could get that date,  
16                  that would be helpful.

17                  AGENT FLETCHER:  You will get that  
18                  date, you're going to receive an official hearing  
19                  -- you're going to receive an official hearing  
20                  notice.  That hearing notice is going to have the  
21                  Status Hearing date in it.

22                  Once you get that notice, you can --

1 if that's not a good day for Ms. Barbisch, you  
2 can ask the Board to reschedule the Status  
3 Hearing date. But if you do that, you need to  
4 copy Mr. O'Brien --

5 MS. ROHDE: Okay.

6 AGENT FLETCHER: -- who's the attorney  
7 for the hotel --

8 MS. ROHDE: Okay.

9 AGENT FLETCHER: -- to let him know.

10 MS. ROHDE: Very good.

11 AGENT FLETCHER: And so the Group of  
12 Five is granted conditional standing. Any other  
13 questions about that?

14 (No audible response.)

15 AGENT FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you.  
16 Did you sign on the -- put your information on  
17 the contact sheet?

18 (No audible response.)

19 AGENT FLETCHER: Thank you. We need  
20 to set a date for mediation. I'll give you the  
21 next available day. The next available day for  
22 mediation is June 10 at 1:00 or 2:00 in the

1 afternoon, or June 20.

2 MR. O'BRIEN: June 10 at 1:00 would be  
3 fine with me.

4 AGENT FLETCHER: Does that work for  
5 you, Mr. Sacco?

6 MR. SACCO: One of our commissioners  
7 will be handling it, Commissioner Smith, and I'm  
8 sure he can make that work.

9 MS. ROHDE: We will try. Absolutely.  
10 June 10 at 1:00 p.m., correct?

11 AGENT FLETCHER: Yeah, June 10 at 1:00  
12 p.m., that's on a Monday.

13 And Ms. Rohde if, you know, anything  
14 changes on your end, if you have the request to  
15 change any dates just always contact Mr. O'Brien  
16 first to --

17 MS. ROHDE: Do you have a card?

18 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, I do.

19 MS. ROHDE: Thank you.

20 AGENT FLETCHER: And one other thing,  
21 Ms. Rohde, if you have the need to request a  
22 change of any date, you will send that request to

1 Martha Jenkins our, General Counsel. Her name is  
2 spelled Martha, M-A-R-T-H-A.

3 MS. ROHDE: Yes.

4 AGENT FLETCHER: Dot Jenkins,  
5 J-E-N-K-I-N-S, at DC --

6 MS. ROHDE: At ABRA?

7 AGENT FLETCHER: At dc.gov.

8 MS. ROHDE: Okay.

9 Martha.Jenkins@dc.gov?

10 AGENT FLETCHER: Yes.

11 AGENT FLETCHER: So mediation is set  
12 for 1:00 on Monday, June 10. Any questions at  
13 all?

14 Okay. Thank you very much. Roll  
15 call is concluded. Thank you for coming.

16 (Whereupon, the Roll Call Hearing was  
17 concluded at 10:07 a.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Watergate Hotel

Before: DCABRA

Date: 05-28-19

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.

*Neal R Gross*

-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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