

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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RAVINDER S. BHALLA
Mayor

Robert W. Phillips, Chairman
Steven Bauman, Vice Chairman
Paul Blanos, Commissioner

**Minutes of the March 22, 2018
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by Suzanne Hetman, Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS	
Chairman Robert W. Phillips	X
Commissioner Steven Bauman	X
Commissioner Paul Blanos	X

Also Present: Ben Choi, Esq., attorney for the board; Suzanne Hetman, board secretary; Scott DeRosa, Esq. and Alyssa Bongiovanni, Esq., attorneys from Corporation Counsel’s office as prosecutors for the board; Detective Anthony Caruso of the Hoboken Police Department ABC Unit; and Daisy Amado, recording secretary.

Board Re-Organization

Board attorney, Ben Choi, advised the three members to discuss and vote on a Chair and Vice-Chair for the board. Discussion ensued.

Motion to nominate Robert Phillips as Chairman.

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips			X			
Commissioner Bauman	X		X			
Commissioner Blanos		X	X			

Motion to nominate Steven Bauman as Vice Chairman.

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips	X		X			
Commissioner Bauman			X			
Commissioner Blanos		X	X			

Approval of the Minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes.

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips			X			
Vice Chairman Bauman	X		X			
Commissioner Blanos		X	X			

Amendment to Plea Agreement:

Liquor License #0905-33-005-008, 1 Republik Restaurant Corporation d/b/a 1 Republik, Case Number 17-14 and 17-35, Case Number 16-05

Paul Casteleiro, Esq. appeared before the board on behalf of the licensee. Mr. Casterleiro advised case number 16-05 was a violation of overcrowding back in December 2015. He and his client are requesting that the two day suspension from this violation, be served in addition to the thirty days they are already serving for the other matters, for a total of thirty two days to be served. They also want the option to serve the suspension prior to the May 21st date previously agreed upon. License holder is requesting an amendment to previous agreement as they began serving suspension yesterday, March 21, 2018. Prosecutor, Scott DeRosa, advised the City has no objection and is asking the board to approve this request. After questions from the board, Mr. Casteleiro stated the license is in the process of being transferred, just waiting on tax clearance certificate. Board asked if there are any restrictions on a transfer. Mr. Choi clarified the penalties are against 1 Republik not new owner. Board attorney, Ben Choi, asked the board if they had any objections. Discussion ensued.

Motion to accept: 1) two day suspension and add to current thirty days for Case Number 16-05 and 2) to allow 1 Republik to serve thirty two day suspension effective March 21, 2018

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips	X		X			
Commissioner Bauman			X			
Commissioner Blanos		X	X			

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Liquor License #0905-33-032-011, Skyboy Inc., d/b/a Northern Soul, 700 First Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, Case Number 17-20

Board secretary advised this matter has been moved to the board’s April 12, 2018 meeting.

Liquor License #0905-33-040-007, 205 First Street Corp., d/b/a Village Pourhouse, 205-207 First Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, Case Number 17-36

Board secretary advised this matter has been moved to the board’s April 12, 2018 meeting. It turned out the witness was not available to attend meeting tonight.

OFF THE RECORD / RECESS 6:24PM

BACK ON THE RECORD 6:26PM

HEARINGS

Charges Against Jerome Harris ‘Covered’ Employee, 1 Republik Restaurant Corp., Liquor License Number 0905-33-005-008, Case Number 17-16

Prosecutor, Scott DeRosa, advised prosecution is seeking to revoke Mr. Harris’ bar bard stemming from an incident on December 2, 2017 wherein Mr. Harris as a covered employee at 1 Republik impersonated a police officer. Mr. Harris was present before the board with his counsel, Joel Silverman, Esq. Prosecutor DeRosa further stated that per Mr. Silverman, the matter has been resolved in Superior Court and amended to a conditional dismissal program and prosecution is waiting for

clarification from counsel. Once documents are received from counsel it will be forwarded to Detective Caruso for investigation. Scott DeRosa is asking to carry the matter. Mr. Silverman stated for the record that his client has been advised that he is not allowed to work in Hoboken while this matter is being investigated. Board asked Mr. Harris if he understood to which he replied “yes.”

Motion to carry this matter to time Prosecutors’ deem appropriate (while matter is being investigated).

BOARD MEMBER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Phillips	X		X			
Commissioner Bauman			X			
Commissioner Blanos		X	X			

NEW BUSINESS

- Vice Chairman Bauman inquired about yearly Financial Disclosure Statements. Board secretary advised it is all done digitally and they should be hearing soon as to when to file.
- Board attorney, Ben Choi, advised the board that at the last meeting there was a question as to whether licensee may be represented by attorney or pro se – Mr. Choi has submitted this question to the state and has not received a response yet, as soon as he receives one he will advise the board accordingly.
- Board asked Detective Caruso how Saint Patrick’s Day went in Hoboken – Detective Caruso stated it went very well with the exception of the usual nuisances. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Bauman motioned to close the meeting and Commissioner Blanos seconded with all members unanimously agreeing to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33p.m.