

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE REPORT
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

To: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia

From: Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
Chairperson, Committee on Business and Economic Development

Date: December 20, 2017

Subject: Report on Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017”

The Committee on Business and Economic Development, to which Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND EFFECT

Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017” was introduced on September 26, 2017 by Chairman Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor. This resolution would confirm Rema Wahabzadah to be a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, replacing Mafara Hobson, for a term to end on May 7, 2020.

I. Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“ABC Board” or “Board”) is an independent body that meets weekly to adjudicate, administer, and enforce alcoholic beverage laws.¹ The Board is comprised of seven members, appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council.² D.C. Code specifies that Board appointments must be for a term of four years, except appointments made for the remainder of unexpired terms.³ The code also requires each member of the Board to be a resident of the District, with no other principal residence for at least 3 years immediately preceding his or her appointment.⁴ Members of the board cannot hold full-time employment with the District government during his or her term of service⁵ and certain financial interests and commissions are prohibited.⁶ Finally, each member of the Board shall have a demonstrated record of substantial involvement in issues related to the community impact of licensed establishments before his or her appointment to the Board.⁷

Table 1: Membership of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Resolution #	Appointee	Position	Term Expiring	Residency
<i>PR22-0494</i>	<i>Rema Wahabzadah</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>May 7, 2020</i>	<i>Ward 6</i>
<i>PR22-0651</i>	<i>Bobby Cato, Jr.</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>May 7, 2019</i>	<i>Ward 5</i>
R21-0256	Donovan Anderson	Chair	May 7, 2019	Ward 7
R21-0284	Nick Alberti	Member	May 7, 2019	Ward 6
R22-0059	Donald L. Isaac Sr.	Member	May 7, 2019	Ward 7
R21-0282	Mike Silverstein	Member	May 7, 2019	Ward 2
R21-0622	James Short	Member	May 7, 2020	Ward 7

¹ *ABC Board*, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION, <http://abra.dc.gov/page/abc-board>, (last visited December 17, 2017).

² D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-201 (a).

³ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-206 (d).

⁴ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-206 (a).

⁵ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-206 (b).

⁶ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-206 (g) states “no member or employee of the Board, directly or indirectly, individually, or as a member of a partnership, association, or limited liability company, or a shareholder in a corporation, shall have any interest in selling, transporting, or storing alcoholic beverages, or receive a commission or profit from any person licensed under this title to sell alcoholic beverages; provided, that a Board member or employee may purchase, transport, or keep in his or her possession an alcoholic beverage for his or her personal use or the use of the members of his or her family or guests.”

⁷ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-206 (c).

The Board is generally tasked with enforcing the District's alcohol laws.⁸ More specifically, it was created to: "(1) Oversee the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration ("ABRA"); (2) Receive and evaluate applications for licenses, transfers of licenses to new owners, and renewals of licenses; (3) Issue, transfer, and renew licenses to qualified applicants; (4) Regularly conduct inspections of the premises and the books and records of all licensees during day and evening hours and, on a reasonable number of occasions, without prior notification to the licensee or the licensee's employees, for compliance with the requirements of this title and regulations issued under this title; (5) Establish procedures to receive and respond timely to complaints from any person alleging a violation of any provision of this title or regulations issued under this title; (6) Conduct investigations, on its own initiative or on the basis of valid complaints, to identify violations of this title or regulations issued under this title; (7) Suspend or revoke licenses and impose civil fines as authorized by this title and regulations issued under this title; and (8) Refer evidence of criminal misconduct to the Inspector General of the District of Columbia, the Corporation Counsel, or the United States Attorney for the District, for investigation and prosecution."⁹

II. Nominee's Qualifications

Ms. Rema Wahabzadah is a licensed attorney in the District and in Maryland and is currently the Compliance and Business Development Counsel to Cary Rx, a pharmacy located in Ward 6 that serves the healthcare needs of District residents. Prior to this role, Ms. Wahabzadah served as an attorney at the Law Offices of Paul Strauss & Associates where she represented community associations and neighborhood nonprofits. She also represented small businesses before the ABC Board and fought for the rights of low-income tenants. Ms. Wahabzadah received her Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Politics from George Mason University. She received her Juris Doctor from the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. She is a Ward 6 resident.

At the public hearing on Proposed Resolution 22-0494 on December 11, 2017, Ms. Wahabzadah testified to her work experience with the different processes and practices of the ABC Board and her understanding of its role in enforcing the laws and regulations of the District, while also working in collaboration with the community. She also spoke about her collaborative nature and diverse background, which she believes will bring a fresh perspective to Board.

III. Committee's Recommendation

The Committee recommends the confirmation of Rema Wahabzadah's nomination for appointment as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, for a term to end on May 7, 2020. Ms. Wahabzadah meets all the statutory qualifications for Board membership. Her relevant experience practicing law, representing clients before the ABC Board, and engaging relevant stakeholders impacted by the Board demonstrates her qualifications to serve on the Board.

⁸ *ABC Board*, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION, <http://abra.dc.gov/page/abc-board>, (last visited December 17, 2017).

⁹ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 25-201(c).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

- September 26, 2017 PR22-0494 is introduced by Chairman Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor.
- October 3, 2017 PR22-0464 is referred to Committee on Business and Economic Development.
- October 6, 2017 Notice of Intent to Act on PR22-0494 is published in *the District of Columbia Register*.
- December 8, 2017 Public Hearing on PR22-0494 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- December 11, 2017 Public Hearing on PR22-0494 is held by the Committee on Business and Economic Development.
- December 20, 2017 Considered and vote on PR22-0494 by the Committee on Business and Economic Development.

POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Mayor's comments in the attached September 26, 2017, letter requesting consideration and approval of the proposed resolution are hereby incorporated by reference.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS COMMENTS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

WITNESS LIST AND HEARING RECORD

On December 11, 2017, the Committee on Business and Economic Development held a public hearing on Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the "Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017". The witness list and hearing record for Proposed Resolution 22-0494 are hereby incorporated by reference. A video recording of the hearing can be viewed at www.oct.dc.gov. The following witnesses testified at the hearing or submitted statements for the record:

Paul Strauss, Senator, District of Columbia.

Senator Strauss testified in support of Ms. Wahabzadah's confirmation and spoke to her good character. He also spoke of his pride in his previous work with the nominee and his belief that the District would benefit from her expertise in the field.

Rema Wahabzadah – Nominee

Ms. Wahabzadah testified and answered questions regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the issues that come before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Ms. Wahabzadah testified to her working knowledge of the Board's regulations, her passion for protecting people, and ensuring the District's continued economic growth. She further testified to her commitment to give the priorities of all eight Wards her full attention and to ensuring that important data regarding the effectiveness of single-sale moratoriums be shared with the Committee in a timely fashion.

IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Seven positions exist on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Each position requires Council confirmation. Unlike the law governing many other mayoral appointments, pursuant to D.C. Code §25-201(a), a nomination to the ABC Board is deemed disapproved absent action by the Council within 90 days. Thus, absent Council action, Rema Wahabzadah's nomination will be deemed disapproved on January 10, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

Pursuant to section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1957 (District of Columbia Official Code 1-301.47a(c)), the requirement of a fiscal impact statement does not apply for confirmation resolutions. ABC Board members are compensated for their services at a rate of \$40 per hour for time spent in performance of duties at meetings, with a cap of \$18,000 per member per year.¹⁰ The compensation for members of the Board is included as part of the annual budget for ABRA.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <u>Section 1</u> | States the short title of the legislation. |
| <u>Section 2</u> | Confirms the appointment of Rema Wahabzadah as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. |
| <u>Section 3</u> | Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Mayor. |
| <u>Section 4</u> | Provides that the resolution shall take effect immediately. |

¹⁰ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 1-611.08(C-1)(8).

COMMITTEE ACTION

On December 20, 2017, the Committee on Business and Economic Development held a markup to consider Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Jr. Confirmation Resolution of 2017”. The markup was called to order at 10:13 a.m. Chairperson McDuffie recognized a quorum consisting of himself and Councilmembers Allen, Evans, and Gray. Chairperson McDuffie, without objection, moved the Committee Print and Committee Report for Proposed Resolution 22-0494 en bloc with leave for staff to make technical and conforming changes. After an opportunity for discussion, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Committee Print and Committee Report with the members voting as follows:

YES: Chairperson McDuffie and Councilmembers Allen, Evans, and Gray

NO: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Bonds

ATTACHMENTS


- (A) Proposed Resolution 22-0494, as introduced
- (B) Notice of Public Hearing on PR22-0494, as published in the *District of Columbia Register*
- (C) Agenda and Witness List
- (D) Witness Testimony
- (E) Legal Sufficiency Determination
- (F) Committee Print of PR22-0494

ATTACHMENT A

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : September 29, 2017

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017", PR22-0494

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee on Business and Economic Development. This resolution will be deemed disapproved on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 without Council action.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



SEP 26 11:20
OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

SEP 26 2017

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-201(a), I am pleased to nominate the following individual to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board:

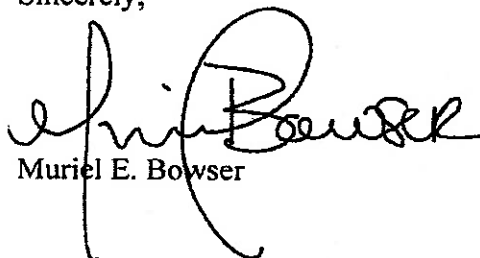
Ms. Rema Wahabzadah
811 4th Street, NW, Unit #211
Washington, DC 20001
(Ward 6)

for appointment as a member of the Board, replacing Mafara Hobson, for the remainder of an unexpired term to end May 7, 2020.


Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing Ms. Wahabzadah's experience, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,



Muriel E. Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Rema Wahabzadah as a member of the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Board.

RESOLVED, BY COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
resolution may be cited as the "Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah
Confirmation Resolution of 2017".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Ms. Rema Wahabzadah
811 4th Street, NW, Unit #211
Washington, DC 20001
(Ward 6)

as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-
201(a), replacing Mafara Hobson, for the remainder of an unexpired term to end May 7, 2020.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

REMA ZADAH

Legal advisor | | Business consultant | | Client advocate

EDUCATION

David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington D.C. (2010-2013)

J.D., May 2013

Admitted to the Bar of Maryland and the District of Columbia

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (2003-2007)

B.A. Government and International Politics, Pre-Law

EXPERIENCE

Cary Rx, Washington, D.C.

Advisory Counsel – Compliance & Business Development, November 2016- Present

- Advise on a range of business issues to managing partners of a pharmaceutical technology start-up in the District of Columbia
- Ensure compliance with local and federal business & technology rules and regulations
- Draft patent and trademark applications to the USPTO
- Devise strategic plans to expand Cary Rx sales and cultivate personal relationships with investors and clients
- Draft and deliver proposals to prospective clientele

Statehood Initiative Agency (SIA), Washington, D.C

Legislative Counsel (As needed), June 2015-Present

- Advise on legal issues pertaining to budget allocation, requisitions, statehood initiative bills, purchase contracts, and federal and local government rules and regulations
- Advise on legislative activity on the House and Senate floor, and the District of Columbia Council
- Cultivate personal relationships with members of the House, Senate and the District of Columbia Council and represent the Agency in high-level business meetings

Paul Strauss and Associates, P.C. Washington, D.C

Associate Attorney, August 2013-November 2016

- Represent clients in the District of Columbia and Maryland in civil litigation with a focus on real estate (high level real estate transactions), government, employment and business law
- Advise business owners in the District of Columbia on local government and business trade compliance
- Represent clients in jury trials, court trials, mediation and appeals
- Draft legal memoranda and court briefs for state and federal cases

Fluor Corporation, Arlington, VA

Business Development Manager, Fluor Government Group, December 2009 – May 2010

- Researched government procurement contracts for national and international nuclear operations
- Reported to Senior high-level staff on government policies, DOE regulatory actions, and industry news
- Represented the FGG in high-level business meetings with government officials

SKILLS & ACTIVITIES

- High level powerpoint slide creator with excellent speaking and presenting skills
- Advance skills in microsoft office suite
- Experienced with project management and JIRA
- Utilized Pipeline (CRM) to manage, obtain and close sales
- Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., Member
- Counsel on the Legal Committee for the New Columbia Statehood Constitution



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Rema Wahabzadah



Rema Wahabzadah is the Advisory Counsel for Cary Rx.

Ms. Wahabzadah is a lawyer and business consultant in the District of Columbia. She currently works with Cary Rx, a DC-based pharmaceutical start-up that offers on-demand prescription delivery to DC residents and DC healthcare facilities. Throughout her career, Ms. Wahabzadah has been devoted to public service.

Ms. Wahabzadah began her career as an Associate Attorney at Paul Strauss and Associates, PC, a law firm founded by DC Senator Paul Strauss (Shadow). It is here where she found her passion for public service. She has represented the District of Columbia's residents and business establishments, in addition to serving as Legislative Counsel to the Statehood Initiatives Agency, an agency dedicated to the achievement of statehood for DC. Ms. Wahabzadah is a volunteer member of the Legal Committee which drafted the New Columbia Statehood Constitution and a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bar.

A Ward 6 resident, Ms. Wahabzadah obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Politics from George Mason University and a Juris Doctor from the David A. Clarke School of Law.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Alana Intrieri, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: September 15, 2017
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution appointing Rema Wahabzadah as a Member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced Resolution and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish

ATTACHMENT B

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

Revised and abbreviated

COUNCILMEMBER KENYAN R. McDUFFIE, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

B22-0262 – THE “405 53RD STREET N.E. DISPOSITION ACT OF 2017”;

B22-0431– THE “GREAT STREETS TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017;

**B22-0528 – THE “KEENE SCHOOL DISPOSITION AND LEASE APPROVAL ACT OF
2017”;**

**PR22-0494 – THE “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD REMA
WAHABZADAH CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION OF 2017”**

**PR22-0651– THE “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD BOBBY CATO, JR.
CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION OF 2017”**

Monday December 11, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Room 120, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

On Monday, December 11, 2017 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie, Chairperson of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, will hold a public hearing on Bill 22-0262, the “405 53rd Street N.E. Disposition Act of 2017”; Bill 22-0431, the “Great Streets Technical Amendment Act of 2017”; Bill 22-0528, the Keene School Disposition and Lease Approval Act of 2017”; Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017”; and Proposed Resolution 22-0651, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Bobby Cato, Jr. Confirmation Resolution of 2017”. The stated purpose of Bill 22-0262 is to approve the surplus and disposition of District-owned real property located at 405 53rd Street N.E., in Washington D.C., known for tax and assessment purposes as Lot 0800 in Square 5232.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-0431 is to amend the “Retail Incentive Act of 2004” to make technical changes in order to centralize and consolidate the various resolutions and acts that relate to the Great Streets Program. The stated purpose of Bill 22-0528 is to approve the disposition of District-owned real property located at 33-35 Riggs Road, N.E. in Washington, D.C., known for tax and assessment purposes as Lots 802 and 806 in Square 3702.

The stated purpose of Proposed Resolution 22-0494 is to appoint Ms. Rema Wahabzadah as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. The stated purpose of Proposed Resolution 22-0651 is to appoint Mr. Bobby Cato, Jr. as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. *Please note that this notice has been revised and abbreviated to include Proposed Resolution 22-0494 and Proposed Resolution 22-0651.*

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should contact the Committee on Business and Economic Development via email at cautrey@dccouncil.us or at (202) 724-8053, and provide their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by **close of business Thursday, December 7th**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses are encouraged to bring **twenty single-sided copies** of their written testimony and, if possible, also submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to cautrey@dccouncil.us.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee on Business and Economic Development at cautrey@dccouncil.us or to Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 5, Washington, D.C. 20004. **The record will close at the end of the business day on December 27.**

ATTACHMENT C

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA & WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER KENYAN R. MCDUFFIE, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

PUBLIC HEARING ON

B22-0262 – THE “405 53RD STREET N.E. DISPOSITION ACT OF 2017”;

B22-0431– THE “GREAT STREETS TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017”;

**B22-0528 – THE “KEENE SCHOOL DISPOSITION AND LEASE APPROVAL ACT OF
2017”;**

**PR22-0494 – THE “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD REMA
WAHABZADAH CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION OF 2017”; AND**

**PR22-0651– THE “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD BOBBY CATO, JR.
CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION OF 2017”**

**Monday December 11, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Room 500, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004**

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. OPENING REMARKS**
- III. WITNESS TESTIMONY**

Bill 22-0262, the “405 53rd Street N.E. Disposition Act of 2017”

- i. Public Witnesses**
 - 1. Anthony Green, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC 7C04**
 - 2. Mary Morgan, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC 7C02**

ii. Government Witnesses

1. Camille D. Sabbakhan, General Counsel, Department of General Services

Bill 22-0528, the “Keene School Disposition and Lease Approval Act of 2017”

i. Public Witnesses

1. Daniela Anello, Head of School, DC Bilingual
2. John Breyer, Chief Operating Officer, DC Bilingual
3. Susie Rosenbaum, Board Chair, DC Bilingual
4. Thomas R. Castiello, School Counsel on the Disposition and Lease, Arent Fox LLP

ii. Government Witnesses

1. Camille D. Sabbakhan, General Counsel, Department of General Services

Bill 22-0431, the “Great Streets Technical Amendment Act of 2017”

i. Government Witnesses

1. Sybongile Cook, Director, Great Streets

Proposed Resolution 22-0494, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017”

i. Public Witnesses

1. Paul Strauss, Senator, District of Columbia

ii. Nominee

1. Rema Wahabzadah, Nominee

Proposed Resolution 22-0651, the “Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Bobby Cato, Jr. Confirmation Resolution of 2017”

i. Nominee

1. Bobby Cato, Jr., Nominee

IV. ADJOURNMENT

ATTACHMENT D

Testimony of Rema Wahabzadah
Committee on Business and Economic Development
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good afternoon, Chairman McDuffie, Members of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, and staff. I am Rema Wahabzadah and I am honored to present myself to this Committee for consideration as a nominee to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board. I would like to thank Chairman McDuffie and the Committee for holding this hearing, and Mayor Muriel Bowser for nominating me for this position.

As a long-term resident of the District living in Ward 6, a proud graduate of the UDC School of Law, and an active supporter of the DC Statehood movement, I am committed to the continued growth and success of our community. I am a licensed attorney in the District of Columbia and Maryland, and currently serve as Compliance and Business Development Counsel to Cary Rx, a pharmacy located in Ward 6 that serves the healthcare needs of DC Residents. Previous to that, I worked as an Attorney at the Law Offices of Paul Strauss & Associates, where I've fought for the rights of low-income tenants, represented small and local businesses before the ABC Board, and represented community associations and neighborhood non-profits. Through my work at the Law Offices of Paul Strauss & Associates, I was part of a team that was the 2015 recipient of the Tenant Advocacy Firm of the Year award.

As Lead Regulatory and Compliance Counsel with Cary Rx, I ensure compliance with local and federal licensing policies and procedures for a first of its kind on-demand mobile pharmacy in the District. I take pride in a diligent and meticulous approach to regulatory compliance. I will bring those same characteristics to this Board to better serve the community.

Having represented small businesses before the Board, I have a working experience in the processes and practices of the Board. I understand the Board's role in enforcing the laws and regulations of our City while also working collaboratively with the community. My familiarity with the law would inform and strengthen my work, and provide me with perspective when working with community organizations and businesses.

I have witnessed the growth of our city's restaurants and businesses into the world-renowned destinations they are today, and I am committed to our community's continued success and development. I've seen how our neighborhoods have grown into vibrant communities where our businesses and homes coexist and strengthen one another. I want to continue the robust work of the ABC Board in regulating and ensuring the healthy growth of our community while protecting our residents from undesirable violations of our laws. I believe my collaborative nature, relevant experience, and diverse background would strengthen the Board and bring a fresh perspective to the work of this important body. My goal is to help the Board to continue anticipating emergent problems and be well-equipped to quickly respond with well-informed policy to better serve our community. I believe the Board's regulatory strategy should be adapted to the ever-changing practices of the business community, where modern ideas like pop-ups are addressed quickly with the same depth of experience as more traditional operations.

As an appointee on the ABC Board, I feel that my experience and skills will positively contribute to its mission. As a Commissioner, I will use the skills I have acquired as a lawyer to make decisions based on evidence provided in an impartial manner. I will work with my colleagues to ensure residents know we have the best procedures in place to regulate our businesses, while also working with the hospitality industry to ensure undisruptive compliance. The world's eyes are focused on the success of our city and I want to be on the forefront of new

policies that ensure our administrative bodies safeguard the qualities that make DC so desirable to live, work, and do business in.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my nomination, and I look forward to any questions you may have.

ATTACHMENT E



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 724-8026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

FROM: Ellen A. Efros, General Counsel

DATE: December 15, 2017

**RE: Legal sufficiency determination for Proposed
Resolution 22-494, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Rema Wahabzadah Confirmation Resolution of 2017**

The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed resolution would confirm the appointment of Ms. Rema Wahabzadah as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.¹ If confirmed, Ms. Wahabzadah will serve a remainder of an unexpired term to end May 7, 2020.

I am available if you have any questions.

/s/ _____
Ellen A. Efros

¹ Established by § 25-201.

ATTACHMENT F

1 **Committee Print**
2 **PR22-0494**
3 **Committee on Business and Economic Development**
4 **December 20, 2017**
5
6

7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10 _____
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12 _____
13
14
15
16

17 To confirm the appointment of Ms. Rema Wahabzadah to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.
18

19 RESOLVED, BY COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the "Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Rema Wahabzadah
21 Confirmation Resolution of 2017".
22

23 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

24 Ms. Rema Wahabzadah
25 811 4th Street, N.W., Unit #211
26 Washington, D.C. 20001
27 (Ward 6)
28

29 as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, established by D.C. Official Code § 25-
30 201, replacing Mafara Hobson, for the remainder of an unexpired term to end May 7, 2020.

31 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
32 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

33 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.