

MINUTES OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

November 15, 2023

PLACE: ABC Board Room - 1515 W 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

MEMBERS PRESENT: ALEX BLASS, CHAIRMAN; JAMIE ANDERSON; PAMELA DEPREIST;
SUSAN PEACOCK; STEVEN SMITH

MEMBERS ABSENT:

On the 15th of November 2023, the ABC Board did convene in Little Rock, Arkansas for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Blass, and Board members Anderson and Peacock were present via Go-To, and Board members DePreist and Smith were present in person.

The meeting started at 9:00 AM, with Chairman Blass calling the meeting to order.

The Board members accepted the Director's Decisions, Warning Letters, and requests for extensions of Inactive Status Letters. Board member Jamie Anderson made a motion to approve, Board member Susan Peacock seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Finally, the Board discussed setting the next Board meeting date, and the Board members agreed on the following date:

- December 13, 2023

Next on the agenda was a Settlement Hearing for Pure Pharma Laboratories appealing a Director's Decision dated October 9, 2023.

- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called attorney Abtin Mehdizadegan to speak on behalf of Pure Pharma Laboratories.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich notified the board that a settlement was reached between both parties and asked that the fine of \$19,450.00 be reduced to \$10,000.00 and the remaining \$9,450.00 be suspended if no similar violations occurred within a period of 90 days.
 - Board member Anderson asked that more specific details about the offense be provided before the board made their decision, where both ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Abtin Mehdizadegan provided comments on the matter.
- Board member Smith made a motion to approve the settlement fine and probation period, Board member DePreist seconded, and motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

The next agenda item was a hearing for Leafology.

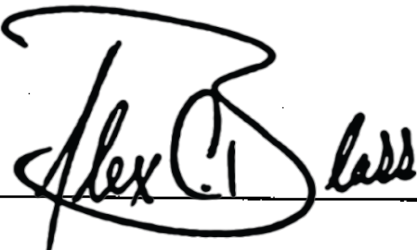
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich presented two evidence exhibits before the Board, and Chairman Blass accepted them.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called ABC Criminal Investigations Senior Auditor, Haley Allan to provide testimony.

- Both ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton, representing Good Day Cultivations, questioned Ms. Allan, where she responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called ABC Senior Investigator, David Platt to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich, attorney Charles Singleton, and Chairman Blass questioned Mrs. Platt, where he responded.
- ABC Criminal Investigations Senior Auditor, Haley Allan and ABC Senior Investigator, David Platt were then excused by the Board.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called ABC Enforcement, Criminal Investigations Division, and Audit Supervisor, Chris Crary to provide testimony.
 - Both ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton, questioned Mr. Crary, where he responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, Phil Higdon to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton questioned Mrs. Hidgon, where he responded.
 - Chairman Blass provided statements regarding Mr. Hidgon's concerns brought forth in his testimony, where ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, Rick Davis to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton questioned Mrs. Davis, where he responded.
- Board member Anderson questioned attorney Charles Singleton, where he responded.


- Chairman Blass provided follow-up questioning, where attorney Charles Singleton responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, Denise Davis to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich questioned Mrs. Davis, where she responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, John Brown to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich questioned Mr. Brown, where he responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, HH Wheeler to provide testimony.
 - Both ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton, questioned Mr. Wheeler, where he responded.
- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich called witness, Doug Beard to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and Board member DePreist questioned Mr. Beard, where he responded.
- Attorney Charles Singleton called witness, Brent McCord, President of Leafology, to provide testimony and provided photographs to be submitted as evidence.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton questioned Mr. McCord, where he responded.
- Attorney Charles Singleton called witness, Jessie Trammel, Vice President of Leafology, to provide testimony.
 - ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton questioned Mr. McCord, where he responded.
- Attorney Charles Singleton called witness, Chorus McCord, Chief Operating Officer of Leafology, to provide testimony.

- ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich and attorney Charles Singleton questioned Ms. McCord, where she responded.
- The legal team of Leafology and ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich provided closing statements, where the Board responded and considered each.
- Board Member Smith made a motion to enforce the \$10,500 fine, drop the 14-day suspension, and drop charges 20.1 and 12.5. Board member Anderson seconded, and it was passes with a 5-0 vote.
- An unknown member from the audience asked for the hearing to be summarized, where Board members Anderson and Smith, and ABC staff attorney, Chip Leibovich responded.

The Board meeting was then adjourned.



Alex Blass, Chairman



Christy Bjornson, Director