

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Meridian Pint :
3400 11th Street, NW : Fact-Finding
ANC-1A : Hearing
License No. 80606 :
 :
(One Day Substantial Change :
Application - Meridian Pint :
Festival) Date of Event: :
October 5, 2013 :
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October 2, 2013

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson Ruthanne Miller,

presiding.

PRESENT:

- RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson
- NICK ALBERTI, Member
- DONALD BROOKS, Member

- MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

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

2 (10:34 a.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. We
4 have another Fact-Finding Hearing, Meridian
5 Pint located at 3400 11th Street, N.W.,
6 License No. 80606, in ANC-1A. Okay. Good
7 morning.

8 MR. COBURN: Hello again.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: A lot of
10 events this season.

11 MR. COBURN: Yes. And once again,
12 it's a pleasure to see you all in a non-
13 adversarial mode.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right, right.
15 All right. So when you are ready, if you can
16 introduce yourself for the record?

17 MR. COBURN: Yes, I'm Skip Coburn.
18 I'm the Executive Director of the DC Night
19 Life Association and assisting the applicant.

20 MR. ANDRADE: I'm John Andrade,
21 owner of Meridian Pint.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

1 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: ABRA

2 Investigator Abyie Ghenene.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

4 Okay. So we understand that you are going to
5 have a neighborhood festival October 5th and
6 it's my understanding there were originally
7 going to be three entities?

8 MR. COBURN: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Now there is
10 one?

11 MR. COBURN: We ran into -- I had
12 applied for three one-day substantial change
13 requests for three expanded sidewalk cafes:
14 Meridian Pint, Maple and the Kangaroo Boxing
15 Club. Ultimately, two of the establishments
16 decided that for hiring extra employees and
17 doing other things, they didn't think they
18 would recoup the \$300 plus other expenses, so
19 they contacted me after I submitted these and
20 said that they didn't -- they are smaller
21 establishments than Meridian Pint and so they
22 didn't think they would be well-suited to

1 recoup the amount of money it was taking to
2 expand.

3 So they asked me to please
4 withdraw those two applications. I notified
5 Mr. Gordy verbally and by email subsequently
6 that those two applicants were withdrawing
7 their applications.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Just
9 for our context here, I know you submitted an
10 application that has a lot of information on
11 it, but can you just give an overview?

12 MR. COBURN: Of course.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

14 MR. COBURN: This is our second
15 annual event and I'll just start and, of
16 course, Mr. Andrade can expand. It's to
17 expand the sidewalk -- the existing sidewalk
18 cafe at Meridian Pint in accordance with the
19 Fire Marshal's rules to maintain a 20 foot
20 fire lane, DDOT's rules for what you have to
21 do when you occupy public space.

22 The Fire Marshal's rules for

1 obtaining the open flame grill permit for the
2 grill and the DCRA permit for what you may
3 construct -- for having a construction permit
4 on -- anywhere. So it's the same list of
5 permits that we did last time with the
6 involvement from the community to participate.

7 And other than just the overview
8 of that one block, we have also coordinated
9 with MPD for the Mayor's Special Event Task
10 Groups' requirement to have MPD Officers
11 blocking the street. DDOT has approved the
12 street closure for that one block. It's just
13 the 3400 Block of 11th Street. And beyond
14 those sort of geographical things, I would
15 turn it over to John if you have any questions
16 about the activities or the time line or
17 anything else.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So the
19 area for the festival is going to be a block,
20 but your application relates to just expanding
21 the sidewalk. Okay. And the selling of the
22 alcohol, etcetera. Okay.

1 MR. COBURN: And of course, that
2 area just, as I always do for you guys, has
3 the firm perimeter around the 21 and over
4 alcohol area with their attractive "No Alcohol
5 Beyond" point signs and stuff like that.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So are you
7 responsible for the whole festival then?

8 MR. ANDRADE: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

10 MR. ANDRADE: This is -- and I'll
11 give you the cliffnote version, but this is
12 the second and likely our last of having it as
13 an isolated Oktoberfest, one block festival.
14 We are loosely collaborating with the Columbia
15 Heights Day Festival. It's on the same day
16 and having it on the school yard of Harriet
17 Tubman a few blocks away.

18 So this will -- basically, we have
19 been communicating that this is the precursor
20 for next year combining it with the legitimate
21 multi-block street festival that will be the
22 Columbia Heights Day and the Oktoberfest kind

1 of coming together of two community festivals.

2 As it stands right now, we are
3 still operating independently. And you know,
4 we are going to have vendors on the street and
5 some live music in the way of oompah bands, I
6 guess is what you call it, the big German
7 bands with the big horns and a moonbounce and
8 face painters for children. And we have a
9 charity dunk tank to raise funds for Harriet
10 Tubman Elementary.

11 So it's pretty much of, you know,
12 trying to raise awareness for our community
13 and our local businesses and the vendors and
14 the existing restaurants. But when it comes
15 to our purposes here, Meridian Pint will be
16 the only one expanding our sidewalk for the
17 purpose of increased beverage sales.

18 MR. COBURN: And the food.

19 MR. ANDRADE: And food, of course.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So are
21 you doing anything different this year than --
22 you said you did it last year.

1 MR. ANDRADE: We did do it last
2 year. The only difference is we have added a
3 few more vendors.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Um-hum.

5 MR. ANDRADE: But otherwise it's
6 virtually the same.

7 MR. COBURN: And we had no
8 problems last year. All the inspectors were
9 very happy.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, good,
11 okay.

12 MR. COBURN: All of their
13 expensive inspectors were very happy.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And I know
15 it's in here, but could you remind me about
16 the security, what you are doing?

17 MR. ANDRADE: We have -- we are
18 collaborating with the other restaurants and
19 all bringing in -- either other restaurant is
20 bringing in a few security and then Meridian
21 Pint will be providing the bulk of it. We did
22 come up a little bit short on what we had

1 hoped to provide, so I have reached out to
2 Metropolitan Security to provide 3 to 4
3 additional professional security outside of
4 our existing security staff to total -- we
5 need to have a minimum of 20 collectively.

6 We have that and we will probably
7 go somewhere up to about 22.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

9 MR. COBURN: And MPD has also
10 tasked on two roving police officers on the
11 block in addition to the street blocking
12 officers.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I'm
14 going to let others pose questions, if you
15 would like. I see a lot of my other answers
16 in the application.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Since I have a
18 very poor memory, I don't remember last year.
19 All right. I saw that, basically, so I'm
20 looking at your diagram here. You are -- the
21 selling and consumption of alcohol will only
22 be on your sidewalk cafe. Is that correct?

1 MR. ANDRADE: Outside of the other
2 restaurants and what they are already -- what
3 they already naturally have --

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right.

5 MR. ANDRADE: -- by way of their
6 patio and whatnot, outside of that, yes. I
7 will be the only one that will -- that is
8 requesting additional space to sell anything
9 outside of what we normally have.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: So describe to me
11 what that additional space is. I mean --

12 MR. ANDRADE: The additional space
13 is essentially we have a long lateral patio
14 that extends along the side of our building.
15 We have a long building. And we are
16 essentially extending that -- the full width
17 of that street out into the street to
18 encompass all but that 20 foot emergency lane
19 as required by DDOT.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, okay. So
21 potentially, you are -- if you --

22 MR. ANDRADE: There are RVs that

1 have --

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right. You are
3 really taking the traffic lane. You are going
4 into the traffic. You are going into the
5 street itself, right?

6 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.
8 So that's a large area. So the -- is it all
9 ages?

10 MR. ANDRADE: The fenced in area--

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Your sidewalk
12 cafe.

13 MR. ANDRADE: Is 21 and up only.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: 21 and older?

15 MR. ANDRADE: yes.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So
17 families show up, there is -- will not be
18 allowed in at all?

19 MR. ANDRADE: I'm sorry?

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: If families show
21 up with children, they won't be allowed in at
22 all?

1 MR. ANDRADE: Correct. And that's
2 why we have created other environments to
3 where they can take their children for
4 moonbounce and face painting and things of
5 that sort.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Very good.
7 And it will be -- what kind of barriers are
8 you using to mark off that area?

9 MR. ANDRADE: They are -- you see
10 them at all sort -- you know, all throughout
11 the city. They are the 7 foot wide 4 foot
12 tall vertical --

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: The bicycle
14 racks?

15 MR. ANDRADE: -- right.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Gotcha. All
17 right. Okay. So there is going to be
18 beverages sold out -- we've got lots of
19 people. What kind of beverages are going to
20 be sold outside of this area?

21 MR. ANDRADE: Outside of the
22 fenced-in area?

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes. But non-
2 alcoholic beverages out of -- not in licensed
3 areas.

4 MR. ANDRADE: Right. The only
5 other beverages that are being sold outside of
6 the licensed areas are via the vendors that
7 are some local-based businesses selling these
8 sort of, you know, bottled juices and cold
9 brewed coffees and things of that sort.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And the
11 reason I'm asking is just so that we have an
12 idea of how to distinguish between alcoholic
13 beverages and non-alcoholic beverages outside
14 of the licensed areas. Okay. But that gives
15 -- I think the investigator may have more
16 questions about that which gives some idea.

17 Okay. I have no further
18 questions. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just want
20 to follow-up. What kind of alcohol are you
21 going to be selling?

22 MR. ANDRADE: Beer.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Just beer?

2 MR. ANDRADE: We specialize in
3 American Craft Beer.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay.

5 MR. ANDRADE: So our highlight is
6 going to be on primarily local-based breweries
7 and by local I mean within 100 mile radius
8 that are creating Oktoberfest-styles.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And are they
10 going to be in bottles, beer bottles or are
11 they going to be in --

12 MR. ANDRADE: Draft.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Draft?

14 MR. ANDRADE: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Draft. In
16 cups?

17 MR. ANDRADE: In cups, yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So are they
19 going to be clear cups?

20 MR. ANDRADE: They are going to be
21 the red Solo cups.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The what?

1 MR. ANDRADE: I'm sorry, the --

2 MR. COBURN: The red cups.

3 MR. ANDRADE: -- red plastic cups.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Red plastic.

5 MR. ANDRADE: So that we can
6 clearly identify what is alcohol and what is
7 not, so that's the only thing. Beer will only
8 be sold in those cups, so that we can clearly
9 identify.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I know
11 you said other vendors were selling other
12 beverages. Are you also selling other
13 beverages?

14 MR. ANDRADE: We will be selling--
15 well, our restaurant will be fully-functional.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

17 MR. ANDRADE: So customers that
18 are sitting down at the restaurant or standing
19 can also order any of our host of beverages,
20 whether they be juices or whatever the case
21 may be.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And so will

1 anybody be able to take a drink off your
2 premises?

3 MR. ANDRADE: Absolutely not, no.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any
5 other questions? Mr. Ghenene?

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

8 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: How is the
9 alcohol or the beer going to be sold? Is it
10 a flat rate and you can have as much as you
11 want?

12 MR. ANDRADE: It will be a flat
13 rate and as much as you want will be defined
14 only by what we deem the customer is capable
15 of consuming.

16 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

17 MR. ANDRADE: While still being
18 responsible.

19 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Are people
20 going to be wrist-banded, stamped, marked, how
21 are you going to know that they have been
22 checked?

1 MR. ANDRADE: We -- everything is
2 going to be in the perimeter. The first thing
3 that we are going to do is check IDs for
4 anybody coming into that perimeter.

5 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

6 MR. ANDRADE: If necessary, we do
7 have an ample supply of wristbands, but that
8 is not presently in our --

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. So
10 you are not planning on using any kind of
11 identifiers?

12 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

13 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. I'm
14 trying to remember the block, but I know there
15 is that pizza place kind of right --

16 MR. ANDRADE: RedRocks.

17 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: RedRocks is
18 right there.

19 MR. ANDRADE: It's on the south
20 side.

21 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Are they
22 participating in the festival?

1 MR. ANDRADE: They are not.

2 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. You
3 guys are the only people, like you said
4 before, that have applied for an expansion?

5 MR. ANDRADE: Yes.

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And
7 you mentioned that you were thinking about
8 partnering or you are going to partner with
9 the Columbia Heights Festival that is taking
10 place at Harriet Tubman?

11 MR. COBURN: Next year.

12 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Next year.

13 MR. ANDRADE: Next year.

14 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I
15 understand. This year it's on the field,
16 correct?

17 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

18 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: But you
19 will not be allowing alcohol to pass back and
20 forth?

21 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

22 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

1 MR. ANDRADE: Our intent is to,
2 with respect to the expansion of our patio,
3 function as, in terms of the rules and
4 regulations, business as usual.

5 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

6 MR. ANDRADE: Alcohol can only be
7 consumed on the premises and is never allowed
8 to leave it.

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I gotcha.

10 MR. COBURN: All the current rules
11 that apply to the current patio will apply to
12 the expanded patio.

13 MR. ANDRADE: Yes.

14 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And
15 you mentioned that you are going to have
16 vendors. Will any of them be alcohol vendors?

17 MR. ANDRADE: No.

18 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: And you
19 mentioned that other restaurants were
20 contributing to security?

21 MR. COBURN: They are hiring a
22 couple of extra security.

1 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So does
2 that --

3 MR. ANDRADE: It's just what I
4 have requested and we are working very much in
5 collaboration with the other restaurants. It
6 is that they each have at least two security
7 personnel that are either at their door or
8 actively in their --

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I
10 understand. And so does that entitle them to
11 -- well, I guess is the addition of the
12 security to ensure that alcohol is not coming
13 off of their premise?

14 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

15 MR. COBURN: Exactly. We both met
16 with managers and owners at Maple and at
17 Kangaroo Boxing Club and we decided that just
18 for the anticipated larger crowd, which we saw
19 last year and especially to make sure since
20 they are staying within the confines of their
21 existing sidewalk cafes, to make sure that
22 they had an extra person on the entrance/exit

1 from their sidewalk cafe, just as you say, to
2 make sure that nobody left those
3 establishments and carrying anything.

4 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So that's
5 their primary responsibility?

6 MR. ANDRADE: Checking IDs and
7 making sure that alcohol is not leaving their
8 establishment.

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And
10 then you are significantly expanding your
11 sidewalk cafe. Are you adding any portojohns
12 or extra bathrooms?

13 MR. ANDRADE: We are adding three
14 portojohns to the street, yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And
16 you mentioned to the Board that you are
17 shooting for 20 to 22 security staff?

18 MR. ANDRADE: In total, yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Of those
20 22, how many will be primarily responsible for
21 checking IDs at other establishments?

22 MR. ANDRADE: Each establishment

1 will have two security personnel. Presently,
2 there are -- outside of us, there is Kangaroo
3 Boxing Club. There is Maple. And there is
4 The Coupe that are on the block. So they will
5 have collectively six.

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.
7 Great. So you will have 16 for your space.

8 MR. ANDRADE: I will have between
9 14 and 16 for our space, yes.

10 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Perfect.
11 Thank you. And I would like to also note that
12 I have worked with the licensee before for
13 the, I think, Union Market.

14 MR. ANDRADE: Yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Where they
16 sponsored an event and it went off perfectly.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: This year?

18 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Sold this
20 year at Union Market?

21 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes.

22 MR. ANDRADE: Yes, ma'am.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right, yeah.
2 Okay. Good.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: So was that a
4 successful event for you?

5 MR. ANDRADE: We partnered with
6 the Think Local Group and they contracted us
7 to come in and handle the beer dispensing part
8 of it, based on our reputation. And I would
9 say it went very well, yes.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Great. Glad to
11 hear it.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just have
13 one more follow-up question. I thought I
14 heard you say two things. One, that you have
15 a restaurant and a sidewalk cafe already and
16 that it was going to kind of be business as
17 usual, just expanded? But then I thought I
18 heard you say you were only letting in people
19 who were 21 and over to some area.

20 MR. ANDRADE: The -- what I meant
21 to say is in terms of the business as usual,
22 obviously, in the way of rules and

1 regulations, the patio outside is going to be
2 -- everything inside is going to be in terms
3 of our customers and who is allowed in is
4 going to be business as usual, with respect to
5 age.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Um-hum.

7 MR. ANDRADE: Because the outside
8 portion is going to be so heavily -- it's
9 going to be so focused on serving beer and
10 dispensing beer, we thought it was necessary
11 to keep it 21 and up and try and limit the all
12 ages to the inside. So that's the only
13 distinction in terms of business as usual.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So
15 sidewalk cafe is going to be 21 and up.

16 MR. ANDRADE: Correct.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And access to
18 that, is that through the restaurant and from
19 the outside?

20 MR. ANDRADE: Yes. And we will
21 have security personnel at each entry point.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Great.

1 All right. Any other questions?

2 MR. COBURN: I had another
3 comment.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

5 MR. COBURN: I had gone to -- John
6 mentioned The Coupe on the corner of -- that's
7 the Monroe end.

8 MR. ANDRADE: Monroe, yes.

9 MR. COBURN: On the corner of 11th
10 and Monroe on the north end of the block is
11 The Coupe. I had also gone to them and asked
12 them if they wanted me to get a temporary
13 license for this date and they said no,
14 because they were very confident that you all
15 were going to approve their sidewalk cafe
16 application.

17 MR. ANDRADE: They already got
18 that.

19 MR. COBURN: And I just wanted to
20 make sure.

21 MR. ANDRADE: They did.

22 MR. COBURN: They did get that.

1 MR. ANDRADE: They got that last
2 week, yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

4 MR. COBURN: That's very nice.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you are on
6 the record with that.

7 MR. COBURN: They will be using
8 their existing sidewalk cafe also.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All
10 right. I'm ready to sign-off on this.
11 Anybody?

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm fine.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Have you
14 signed it?

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I have not.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

17 MR. COBURN: We're looking for
18 volunteers for the dunk tank.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, we would
20 be perfect, huh, yeah.

21 MR. COBURN: Yeah, you are usually
22 up for this.

1 MR. ANDRADE: It would be a great
2 opportunity to expand.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: I think I'm
4 booked for another dunk tank that day.

5 MR. ANDRADE: I think Pat had
6 already agreed to spend some time in there.
7 I'm trying to coerce anybody I can. At this
8 point, we are hoping to get the principal of
9 the school.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, good,
11 yeah.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: ANC Commissioners
13 are always great. You should go to the ANC.

14 MR. ANDRADE: Pat Mara from the
15 school board.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Great.

17 MR. ANDRADE: He is in there, too.

18 MR. COBURN: I do want to take a
19 moment to share one quick amusing thing that
20 happened at the Mayor's Task Force real
21 quickly.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

1 MR. COBURN: You know, I go before
2 them all the time. They know me really well.
3 The ABRA representative didn't happen to be
4 there that day, but when we briefed, when we
5 commenced and so somebody else asked the
6 question from the department -- from the
7 Mayor's Office actually, asked the question we
8 want to make sure that anybody participating
9 in the dunk tank will not have been drinking.

10 And you know me well enough to
11 know that I was very amused by that question.
12 And I said, right without even thinking about
13 it, well, at this particular event we don't
14 have to worry about that because in our dunk
15 tank we are not using water, we are filling it
16 with alcohol.

17 And the entire event task force
18 thought that was the greatest thing they heard
19 in weeks. I wanted to share that with you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
21 Thank you for sharing.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, in that

1 case, I'm volunteering.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you very
4 much.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, have a
6 great event.

7 MR. COBURN: Thank you.

8 MR. ANDRADE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
10 Okay.

11 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding
12 Hearing in the above-entitled matter was
13 concluded at 10:54 a.m.)

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