

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

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CITY OF ST. PAUL  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

In re RAS Ethiopian Bar & Restaurant LLC,  
d.b.a RAS Restaurant and Lounge

City Council File No. RES 22-882  
License No. 2010000006

**DECLARATION  
OF DJ BEDASSO AND  
ZINASH AMDE**

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I, DJ Bedasso (“DJ”) and Zinash Amde (“Zinash”), declare:

1. We make this Declaration in support of RAS Ethiopian Bar & Restaurant LLC, d.b.a RAS Restaurant and Lounge (“RAS”) Petition for a Stay of Proceedings pending appeal dated July 15, 2022.

2. We are husband and wife and owners of RAS. RAS was established in September 2009. DJ is the operator and manager of RAS.

3. DJ was born in Ethiopia in 1964, immigrated to the United States in 1994 and settled in the Twin Cities. His education is in aviation maintenance. We met in the Twin Cities. Zinash has been and is a nurse at HealthEast Care System. Prior to DJ’s current work as owner operator of RAS, he worked at Minnesota Valley Engineering as a production specialist. At RAS, he is responsible for all managerial duties which specifically includes addressing licensing issues with the City of St. Paul (“City”).

4. On Friday, June 3, 2022, a community advocate, Joseph Desenclos (“Desenclos”), called DJ and advised that Kathy Carruth (“Carruth”) with Highland District Council had told him liquor and related licenses for entertainment and gaming were going to be revoked. DJ told him he was not aware of this. Desenchlos forwarded the email he

received from Carruth.

5. On June 6, DJ sent an email to Shawn McDonald (“McDonald”) (legal assistant to Therese Skarda, Assistant City Attorney) and Carruth to let them know he had learned that he missed the May 20, 2022, deadline to respond to the revocation notice. (See **Ex. 1** email). DJ advised that he and Zinash were in process of obtaining legal counsel.

6. On June 9, DJ retained Brian Alton of McClay-Alton to represent RAS.

7. We did not receive the May 6, 2022, Notice of Violation at the addresses on the service list. One of the addresses, 4139 Benjamin Dr, Woodbury, MN 55129 was an old apartment address. We moved out of that address around February 2022 and temporarily moved in with DJ’s sister at 8608 Jenner Lane S, Cottage Grove, MN 55106. We anticipated closing on a house in Woodbury within a few months. We acknowledge that the Benjamin Dr. address was a contact address listed on the license. Further, we did not receive the May 6 letter at the RAS address. The first I learned of the notice was on June 3, 2022, as noted above.

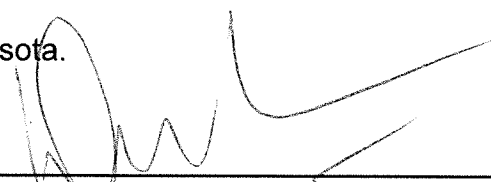
8. Our employee, Feneteye Sendba (“Sendba”), who opens RAS each morning and is solely responsible for mail has provided a Declaration stating that she did not receive the May 6 letter. (See Decl. Sendba). No other employee gave us any mail from the City of Saint Paul. When DJ learned of the notice on June 3, DJ immediately acted as noted above.


9. The revocation of RAS liquor license is financially devastating to RAS. Without the liquor license, RAS can only serve food. RAS will not be able to remain open during the appeal process as food sales will not be sufficient to meet fixed expenses as liquor sale revenues far exceed food revenue.

10. While this matter is on appeal we voluntarily will agree to the following changes: 1. Change the closing time from 2 a.m. to 12 a.m.; 2. Change our entertainment license from Entertainment B we had (live music and dancing) to Entertainment A (just audio music); and 3. We will forego RAS gambling license. These changes will allow us to shift into more of a family-oriented restaurant. We would love to continue to operate RAS and change the environment into that of a quiet and peaceful place where friends and family can enjoy food and time together. We cannot remain open without a liquor license.

11. RAS is not just a restaurant and bar. It is a source of support for the neighborhood community including the Ethiopian community. We have had fundraisers and DJ created a committee with Professor Daniel Abebe ("Abebe") that has helped people find ways to get an education, job, and housing. The loss of RAS would have a significant impact on the Ethiopian community.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 358.116, we declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Minnesota that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of our own knowledge except those matters stated on information and belief, and that this Declaration is made this 21st day of July 2022, in the County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota.

  
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DJ Bedasse

  
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Zinash Amde

**From:** DJ  
**To:** Jennifer Fink  
**Subject:** Fwd: RAS Revocation Notice  
**Date:** Friday, July 15, 2022 4:21:12 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: DJ <rasdj2516@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Jun 6, 2022, 2:37 PM  
Subject: RAS Revocation Notice  
To: <shawn.mcdonald@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, <kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org>

Dear Shawn,

Today, I tried calling you several times as I was made aware that I missed the May 20, 2022 deadline to respond to this notice by a community member that is working on some safety concerns at a business next door.

I am reaching out today to inform you that I'm in the process of retaining an attorney to help my wife and I out with this legal matter.

I have been working many of the 12 items listed in the notice, some things have been completed and some are in progress and will be finished in a few days.

Once we have retained our attorney, I will have them contact you immediately.

Sincerely,

DJ and Zinash

**Ex. 1**