

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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 MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:	:
	:
Wonder Mart, LLC	:
t/a Wonder Mart	:
2743 Martin Luther King	:
Jr. Ave, SE	: Protest Hearing
Retailer B - ANC 8C	:
License No. 116997	:
Case #20-PRO-00048	:
	:
(Application for a	:
New License)	:

Thursday
 February 4, 2021

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson
 Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:

- DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
- BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
- EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
- JENI HANSEN, Member
- JAMES SHORT, JR., Member
- REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SALIM ADOFO, ANC 8C

VICTORIA AKINSEYE, ANC 8C

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff

VIERAH BUTLER, Protestant

JOYCE DOYLE, Congress Heights Homeowners
Association

ADANECH GEBEREMESKEL, Licensee's Agent

JUANDA JOHNSON, Protestant

EARL JONES, DC ABRA Investigator

ETSEGENET KETEMA, Licensee

KRISTI LOVE, Protestant

DR. CARLENE REID, Ward 8 Representative, State
Board of Education

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W-I-T-N-E-S-S-E-S

Name	Direct	Cross	Redirect
Earl Jones	22	43	--
Etsegenet Ketema	50	52	--
Joyce Doyle	61	66	--
Juanda Johnson	70	72	--
Vierah Butler	73	75	78
Carlene Reid	79	85	--
Kristi Love	93	96	--

E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

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3	Exhibit from councilman	34	34
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8	GIS information on zones	34	34
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10	GIS Information on schools	34	34
11	GIS Information on schools	34	34
12	Photo, nearby streets	34	34
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15	Photo, Friendship Charter School	34	34
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Protestant			
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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 4:08 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 on our calendar is Case No. 20-PRO-00048, Wonder
5 Mart, License No. 116997. Ms. Andrews, can you
6 please elevate the rights of the protestants and
7 also the licensee?

8 MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.

9 (Pause.)

10 MS. ANDREWS: Commissioner Adofo, your
11 rights have been elevated. Ms. Doyle, your
12 rights have been elevated. Investigator Jones,
13 your rights have been elevated.

14 Ms. Love, your rights have been
15 elevated. Ms. Johnson, your rights have been
16 elevated. Ms. Reid, your rights have been
17 elevated. Ms. Akinseye, your rights have been
18 elevated. That's all, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.
20 Andrews. Okay. There are lots of folks who are
21 on this hearing today. And so what I'm going to
22 do -- what I'm going to ask everyone to do if you
23 are not speaking, please mute your microphone.

24 This is -- we might have a long
25 afternoon. So if for some reason, if something

1 is happening in your background that you don't
2 want us to know, you can stop your video and mute
3 your video and mute your microphone. But I just
4 want to advise everyone that the public will see
5 what is going on.

6 What I would ask at the moment, we're
7 going to go through our introduction. So I'm
8 going to ask everyone to unmute to start their
9 video and unmute their microphone because I'm
10 going to ask everyone to introduce themselves for
11 the record. All right. So let's start with the
12 licensee. So I would like the licensee to state
13 and spell his or her name for the record, please.

14 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: My name -- hello,
15 my name is Adanech Geberemeskel. I'm licensee
16 agent.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell
18 your name for the record, please, ma'am?

19 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: My name, A-D-A-N-E-
20 C-H. And my last name, G-E-B-E-R-E-M-E-S-K-E-L.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: G-E-B-R-E --
22 and how do you pronounce that again, ma'am?

23 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Adanech.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your last name,
25 please, ma'am.

1 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Geberemeskel.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is for me
3 because I'm going to refer to you this entire
4 proceeding. So that's why I'm asking you to tell
5 me how to pronounce your name so I don't butcher
6 it the entire hearing.

7 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Geberemeskel.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Geberemeskel.

9 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 Thank you. Who is with you today to testify,
12 ma'am? Is it yourself alone or do you have
13 witnesses?

14 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: No, I have -- the
15 owner is online with me, Etsegenet. She will
16 introduce herself, the owner of the place.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who are you?

18 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: I'm the agent of
19 the licensee.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So
21 you're the agent of the license. Who's the
22 owner?

23 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: The owner is
24 Etsegenet. I'm just -- okay. Go ahead,
25 Etsegenet.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She needs to
2 unmute her -- can you unmute your microphone,
3 ma'am, and spell and state your name for the
4 record?

5 MS. KETEMA: My name is Etsegenet
6 Ketema, Wonder Mart (audio interference) owner.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell
8 your first name and spell -- spell your first
9 name and also spell your last name, please.

10 MS. KETEMA: First name is Etsegenet,
11 E-T-S-E-G-E-N-E-T. Last name, Ketema, K-E-T-E-M-
12 A.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there anyone
14 else with you, Ms. Geberemeskel? Or is it just
15 the both of you?

16 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: No, both of us.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
18 right. Let's start then with the -- let's have
19 the ANC introduce yourself for the record and
20 spell its name. And so we'll start with the ANC
21 Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good evening,
23 everyone. My name is Salim Adofo. That is S-A-
24 L-I-M A-D-O-F-O.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Maybe what I'll

1 ask you, Mr. Adofo, to do your -- maybe you need
2 to get closer to the microphone or turn your
3 volume up because since you're going to be
4 speaking a whole lot, I need your voice to come
5 out clearly and your --

6 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's better.

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I apologize.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's better.

10 Who is with you, sir? Why don't you introduce --
11 tell me who is with you and then that person can
12 introduce themselves once you call their name.

13 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. I have
14 five witnesses. I have four witnesses from the
15 Commission and the State Board of Education
16 representative for Ward 8. I will go in the
17 order that I see them on my screen. First, I see
18 Ms. Joy Doyle.

19 MS. DOYLE: Yes, hi. Joy Doyle and
20 I'm here as a resident and representing the
21 Congress Heights Homeowners Association.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Does she need to
24 spell her name?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, please.

1 Go ahead, Ms. Doyle. State and -- I need
2 everyone to state and spell their name for -- and
3 the reason why I ask this because we have a court
4 reporter who is transcribing everything that's
5 said today.

6 MS. DOYLE: Yes, my apologies. My
7 name is J-O-Y-C-E, last name, D-O-Y-L-E.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Who
9 else is next?

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have Ms. Wanda
11 Johnson who's a resident of 8C02, the SMD.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name
13 is Juanda Johnson. My first name is spelled J-U-
14 A-N-D-A, Johnson, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who else do we
16 have?

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Next we have Ms.
18 Kristi Love, resident of 8C.

19 MS. LOVE: Hello. My name is Kristi
20 Love, K-R-I-S-T-I. Last name is Love, L-O-V-E.
21 And I feel like I'm echoing.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are
23 echoing. The reason you're echoing is because
24 Mr. Adofo's phone, his line is unmuted. So --

25 MS. LOVE: Oh, okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that's why
2 I ask everyone if you're not speaking, mute your
3 phone. My phone will always be open. My line
4 will always be open, but there's no echo. But
5 everyone else, there is always an echo. That's
6 why I always tell everyone that they need to mute
7 their phone if they're not speaking. Mr. Adofo,
8 who else do we have?

9 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: We have Victoria
10 Akinseye. She's with her daughter who will also
11 be testifying.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Akinseye,
13 please open her camera, open her phone, state and
14 spell her name for the record, please.

15 MS. AKINSEYE: Yes, good afternoon.
16 My name is Victoria Akinseye. First name is
17 spelled V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A. Last name is spelled A-
18 K-I-N-S-E-Y-E.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is the
20 witness? Who is with you? Mr. Adofo said that
21 someone is --

22 MS. AKINSEYE: Vierah. Excuse me.
23 Vierah. Hold on a second.

24 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: While we're
25 waiting, can I introduce the next witness, sir?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: We have Dr.
3 Carlene Reid, the Ward 8 State Board of Education
4 representative.

5 DR. REID: Good afternoon, everyone.
6 I am Dr. Carlene Reid, the Ward 8 State Board of
7 Education representative. My name is spelled C-
8 A-R-L-E-N-E, last name, R-E-I-D.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go
10 back. Who is with Ms. Akinseye?

11 MS. AKINSEYE: This is my daughter,
12 Vierah Butler.

13 MS. BUTLER: Hi, my name is Vierah
14 Butler. It's spelled V-I-E-R-A-H B-U-T-L-E-R.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is
16 that everyone?

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
19 Adofo, remember I told you when we had our pre-
20 hearing conference that we're only going to have
21 five witnesses. So are you planning to testify?

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. Ms.
23 Akinseye was just accompanying her daughter.
24 She's not testifying.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's the

1 daughter. Well, that's still six people. I said
2 five.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I apologize. I
5 didn't know that I was included in the five.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
7 Well -- all right. But -- all right. I don't
8 want to be here all night tonight. So -- all
9 right. I'm not going to allow repetitive
10 testimony.

11 So if the person is going to -- I
12 don't want the person -- I don't want the -- I do
13 not want the person to testify to the same
14 information that the next person did. So if it's
15 not new testimony, I'm going to cut them off.
16 All right. Just want to let you know that.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm going to
19 listen intently. And if you're just going to
20 have a witness come on and parrot the same thing
21 someone else says, I'm going to basically cut
22 that person off from testifying. Is that clear?

23 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
25 right. Well, this is a protest hearing. Are

1 there any -- all right. Each side has one hour
2 to present its case. And so within the one hour
3 will be cross-examination.

4 So do not spend a whole lot of time
5 cross-examining a witness because that's going to
6 take away from your time. If you believe --
7 well, I'm not going to tell you how to present
8 your case. But it would be best if you do direct
9 testimony and then cross-examination.

10 So you have one hour. Each side has
11 one hour to present its case. The way this case
12 is going to -- the way -- the process of how this
13 goes is that after we do this preliminary, we'll
14 have the applicant will do an opening statement.

15 What I need the applicant to do is to
16 tell us what is it that the applicant is
17 requesting and what the applicant wants the Board
18 to do. After the applicant provides its opening
19 statement, then I will have the ANC, they can
20 also do an opening statement. And basically, I
21 want the ANC to tell me what is it that they want
22 the Board to do.

23 What is it that they're seeking.
24 After the ANC has presented its opening, then the
25 Board will call its witness. And the Board's

1 witness is the investigator who I know has spoken
2 to -- or at least attempted to speak to the
3 applicant and also to the ANC to find out what
4 the issues are.

5 So the investigator will present.
6 He's the Board's witness, and so he will present
7 his findings. Once the investigator has
8 presented his findings, then the applicant will
9 present her case and therefore will call
10 witnesses and whatever documents or witnesses and
11 evidence that they're relying on. Then the
12 applicant will present its case.

13 Once the applicant present its case,
14 then the ANC will have an opportunity to cross-
15 examine the applicant and/or if they decide to
16 call in witnesses. Then the ANC will cross-
17 examine the applicant's witnesses. Once the ANC
18 has cross-examined the applicant's witnesses,
19 then the Board will cross-examine -- the Board
20 will ask questions of the applicant's witnesses.

21 Once that's done, I will give the
22 protestant an opportunity to ask follow-up
23 questions of the Board. You don't have to. But
24 if you have follow-up questions, I will give you
25 an opportunity to ask follow-up questions and I

1 will also give the protestant -- both the
2 applicant and the protestant will have an
3 opportunity to do follow-up questions of the
4 questions that were asked by the Board.

5 Once the Board has presented its case,
6 then the applicant will present its case. Once
7 the applicant presents its case, again, we'll
8 have cross-examination by the protestant and the
9 Board will ask questions. Then the protestant
10 will present its case.

11 And we'll have, again, cross-
12 examination by the applicant. And then the Board
13 will ask questions. And then we will have a
14 closing after that. And again, then we'll --
15 each side will close its case. We'll move
16 whatever documents or evidence -- documents into
17 the record. We'll close the case and that's it.

18 And as I stated before, each side has
19 an hour. This is -- I will be a little bit
20 flexible. But as I said before, I'm not going to
21 have redundant testimony. If we're going to have
22 redundant testimony, I'm going to cut this off
23 because it's 4:30 and we all want to leave here
24 at a reasonable hour today.

25 But we will stay here until this is

1 over with. So I'm not going say -- I'm not -- I
2 said hour because we're all working remotely and
3 no one wants to -- the Board has been at this
4 since 9:30 this morning, although we took a
5 break. But no one wants to be sitting in front
6 of their computer till midnight tonight if they
7 don't have to.

8 But we're here to do this. You'll
9 have five minutes to give -- this is not from
10 your case. But each side will have five minutes
11 to an opening. And I'll also give you another
12 five minutes to do a closing -- a maximum of five
13 minutes to do a closing.

14 But that's not -- that doesn't take
15 away from your hour. Your hour doesn't start
16 until you present your case and then you do the
17 cross-examination. Okay? Are there any
18 questions or any preliminary issues that either
19 side needs to bring to my attention?

20 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. This
21 is Commissioner Salim Adofo.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Is my sound
24 better than it was previously?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's much

1 better, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. I just
3 wanted to reflect on the official record that the
4 investigator was unable to contact me.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you can
6 -- that's reflected in the report. And then when
7 you -- hold on. When you cross-examine him, you
8 can give whatever explanation you want at that
9 juncture.

10 So he said in the report that he's
11 going to testify. He said that he tried to
12 contact you. You can ask him questions about it
13 at that time. Okay?

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: No, sir. I just
15 wanted to state that he had the wrong email
16 address. So I was never contacted. But that's
17 all.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But as I said,
19 you and him can have that conversation. He's
20 going to testify, and then you can -- you're
21 going to have an opportunity to ask him
22 questions. And so you can -- I don't know what
23 email address he has.

24 He might -- and you can ask him what
25 email address he has for you. I don't know. I

1 don't know any of that. So that's what I'm
2 saying.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So when he's on
5 the stand, then you and him can have that
6 conversation. All right. Are there any other
7 questions by anyone else before we start? All
8 right. So let's have the applicant do -- now Ms.
9 -- oh, Lord, have mercy. Ms. --

10 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: --
12 Geberemeskel, are you -- as the agent, are you
13 the one who's going to do the cross-examination
14 and the opening? Tell me how it's going to go.

15 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Okay. The
16 application is a --

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying
18 are you the one going to present the case?

19 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: No, the owner going
20 to present the case.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
22 who's going to do the opening -- is the owner
23 going to do the opening statement?

24 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

1 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the owner
3 is going to call you as a witness or -- I'm
4 sorry. I'm just getting the process.

5 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Yes, she going to
6 call me as a witness, yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
8 fine. All right, Ms. Ketema. You have five
9 minutes -- Ketema, you have -- Ketema?

10 MS. KETEMA: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have five
12 minutes to do your opening, ma'am.

13 MS. KETEMA: Okay. Thank you so much.
14 Okay. Wonder Mart is an existing business --
15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. I
17 want to make sure everyone's mic is muted. I
18 need everyone to mute their mic except for -- I'm
19 even going to mute my mic. So hopefully, I'll
20 remember to unmute it. So go ahead, ma'am.

21 MS. KETEMA: Okay. Thank you. Wonder
22 Mart is an existing business in the neighborhood
23 since August 2019. And now we're trying to
24 expand by adding 25 percent beer and wine as 75
25 percent of our service being a grocery and

1 convenience. So since we don't carry 100 percent
2 liquor product, this -- there's no way the
3 additional 25 percent beer and wine affect the
4 safety of the neighborhood.

5 Since we are a part of the community,
6 we commit our service in maintaining the peace
7 and security the area by installing at the back
8 and side of establishment. So in addition, this
9 we install extra light fixture to make the area
10 brighter. And the liquor store nearby have 100
11 percent liquor and they open longer hour. Since
12 we have a shorter business hour is wouldn't be
13 present, like, to affect the peace and security
14 for our community. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo?

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good evening,
19 everyone. I am Commissioner Salim Adofo, Chair
20 of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C. In
21 October, our Commission voted to protest the
22 issuing of a license to Wonder Mart, LLC on the
23 grounds that it was within 400 feet of an
24 existing elementary school, also within 400 feet
25 of an already established liquor store, and

1 within a corridor of several other liquor stores
2 and other establishments that sell beer and wine.

3 The store is also within the close
4 proximity of 801 East Men's Shelter. And that
5 being so close to the school and to a men's
6 shelter as well as other liquor stores, it is our
7 position as representatives of the 14,000-plus
8 people of ANC 8C that it is not necessary to have
9 another establishment sell beer and wine.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 Thank you. All right. So the Board will call
12 its first witness, Mr. Jones.

13 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Good afternoon.
14 Can you all hear me?

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. Do
16 you have a microphone, sir? You can --

17 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm on my phone.
18 So if you all can hear me, I think that's fine.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear me.
20 Do you have video that you can turn on.

21 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I thought I had
22 it on. Let's see. Is it on now?

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.

24 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm trying to
25 enable the video, but it's not coming (audio

1 interference). Are you able to hear me?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you.
3 I would prefer -- okay. I can now see you.

4 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Can you see me?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can see
6 you, sir. Can you raise your right hand, please?

7 WHEREUPON,

8 EARL JONES

9 was called for examination by Counsel for the ABC
10 Board, and after having been first duly sworn,
11 was examined and testified as follows:

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you state
13 your name for the record, please?

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: My name is
15 Investigator Earl Jones for the Alcoholic
16 Beverage Regulation Administration.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where are you
18 currently employed? I'm sorry.

19 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm currently
20 employed with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation
21 Administration.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's your
23 position with ABRA?

24 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm an
25 investigator, and I conduct investigations and

1 inspections of licensed ABC establishments within
2 the District of Columbia.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long
4 have you worked for the Agency?

5 INVESTIGATOR JONES: For nine years,
6 sir.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you
8 testified in protest hearings before?

9 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you
11 familiar with Wonder Mart?

12 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I am, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how are you
14 familiar with this establishment?

15 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I conducted a
16 protest investigation of Wonder Mart within the
17 last month. If you want me to finish, I can.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you -- I'm
19 not sure if your -- are you moving? Sometimes
20 you sound like you're breaking up, so I'm not
21 sure if everyone can hear you well.

22 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Let's see if I
23 can try to -- I'll try to hold it because, like I
24 said, I'm on my phone. So can you hear me now?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I can

1 hear you much better. So we'll try to keep --
2 because your video keeps on moving and your
3 voice. So I want to make sure that everyone
4 hears you moving forward. All right. Did there
5 come a time that -- you said you did an
6 investigation. Did you write a report regarding
7 your investigation?

8 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you share
10 with us what information regarding Wonder Mart
11 were you able to find out regarding this protest
12 and the establishment?

13 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Okay. I
14 conducted a protest of -- I conducted a protest
15 investigation of Wonder Mart, LLC which is
16 located at 2743 Martin Luther King Avenue,
17 Southeast, 20032, in January of 2021. The
18 establishment at 2743 Martin Luther King Avenue,
19 Southeast is bounded by Cypress (phonetic)
20 Street, Southeast and Milwaukee Street, Southeast
21 to the north, Lebaum Street, Southeast to the
22 south, and 5th Street, Southeast which leads to
23 the east and directly behind Wonder Mart and
24 Friendship Charter School's grounds.

25 The new Class B license application

1 for 2743 Martin Luther King Avenue, Southeast was
2 protested by ANC 8C which is led by designated
3 representative Commissioner Salim Adofo. There
4 are three ABC establishments within a block of
5 2743 Martin Luther King Avenue, Southeast which
6 are King Avenue Liquors, Players Lounge, and
7 Quality Convenience Store. The protest issues of
8 the ANC are adverse impact on the peace, order
9 and quiet of the residents in the surrounding
10 areas as well as residential parking and
11 vehicular and pedestrian safety.

12 On January 22nd, 2021, I met with and
13 spoke with Ms. Ketema, proprietor of the
14 establishment, who stated the primary issue that
15 she is aware of with the new license application
16 from Wonder Mart is that the ANC does not want
17 another alcohol license in the area where they
18 feel peace, order, and quiet are already at
19 issue. I monitored the establishment at 2743
20 Martin Luther King Avenue, Southeast a total of
21 five times from January 13th, 2021 when I was
22 assigned the case to January 22nd, 2021 with no
23 violations found. The monitoring period, I
24 observed no -- I observed -- excuse me, I
25 observed little parking -- little to no parking

1 in front of the establishment mainly due to bus
2 stops, parking restrictions, and heavy
3 construction taking place on Martin Luther King
4 Avenue, Southeast.

5 The establishment also does not have
6 a designated parking area or spaces as other ABC
7 establishments do in the area. I also did not
8 observe any criminal, loitering, or disturbance
9 of the peace issues. Lastly, most of the
10 individual patrons of the establishment arrived
11 on foot and appeared to be residents of the
12 surrounding areas.

13 According to MPD crime analysis unit,
14 there were 22 calls for service for 2743 Martin
15 Luther King Avenue, Southeast between January
16 2020 to January 2021. There were four disorderly
17 calls, three mental health calls, two calls for
18 persons down and disorderly and miscellaneous.
19 There were also one calls a piece for the
20 following: unknown situations, persons with a
21 weapon, burglary of a business, aggravated
22 assault, hit and run, accident of a government or
23 commercial vehicle, robbery threat of a vehicle
24 or weapon, 911 hang-up, and accidentally unknown
25 injury.

1 None of these calls were ABRA-related
2 violations as well as from the list of calls were
3 produced that were not necessarily associated
4 with Wonder Mart but to its address as well as
5 the surrounding areas. And finally, as of the
6 conclusion of the protest report, January 27,
7 2021, I did not receive correspondence or a
8 response from the protestant from ANC 8C
9 Commissioner Adofo after attempting to make
10 contact on January 13th as well as January 22nd.

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
13 Jones. Hold on. Hold on, Mr. Jones.

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Am I the only
16 one having problems hearing him?

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I'm unable to
18 hear him clearly throughout the entire testimony,
19 sir.

20 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Okay.

21 MEMBER SHORT: That may be a problem,
22 Mr. Chair.

23 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: It seems to be
24 cutting in and out --

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MEMBER HANSEN: Yeah, I can hear him,
2 but it's getting -- sorry.

3 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Should I try --
4 can you hear me now?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear
6 you. But I guess we're having some issues with
7 your connection, so --

8 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yeah, I'm getting
9 -- I'm also getting messages. It sounds like I'm
10 having bad service.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
12 What?

13 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm also getting
14 messages from the office advising that it sounds
15 like I'm having bad service. Are you able to
16 hear me closely now?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you
18 better.

19 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Can everybody
20 hear me now?

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear
22 you better now.

23 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, it's clearer.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

25 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Okay. So should

1 I go over this again?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I think you
3 were talking about -- where you are was your lack
4 of communication with Mr. Adofo.

5 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yeah. So I guess
6 the thing -- and I heard what he said with
7 reference to he did not receive correspondence.
8 The email address that I have is 8c07@anc.gov
9 which is the email address that I received from
10 our internal department that handles the side
11 that they deal with as far as the litigation part
12 dealing with the other side as far as the
13 protestants or as far as the business owners or
14 proprietors. So I'm only responding to the
15 information that I'm given. And so I do
16 apologize if he did not receive the information.
17 But I did respond or I did send out respondents
18 to -- or correspondence to him on two separate
19 occasions.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what was
21 the email address?

22 INVESTIGATOR JONES: It was
23 8c07@anc.gov.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go
25 ahead.

1 INVESTIGATOR JONES: And so I did
2 reach out to him on two separate occasions, and
3 that was both on January 13th as well as January
4 22nd. And I did not receive any response as to
5 the close of my report on January 27th.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go
7 ahead, sir.

8 INVESTIGATOR JONES: And so I guess at
9 that point, that's the closure of my report.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Was
11 there -- are there exhibits attached to your
12 report?

13 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
15 the exhibits attached to your report?

16 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I have 25
17 exhibits, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you to
19 go through each of the exhibits and tell us what
20 they are, please.

21 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir. So the
22 first exhibit is a copy of the initial public
23 notice as far as the protest is concerned. Just
24 give me a second. The second exhibit is an
25 exhibit from the ANC 8C.

1 The third exhibit is -- so there was
2 another exhibit from a councilman from the area.
3 But he was not represented as far as being a
4 protestant. But I did include his exhibit in
5 this report from Mr. Travon Smith, Commissioner.

6 We do have -- number 4 is my email to
7 Commissioner Adofo. Number 5 is my calls for
8 service to the Unified Communications as far as
9 the calls for service. Number 6 is an exhibit of
10 the owner's license.

11 Number 7 is my email -- my second
12 email to Commissioner Adofo. Number 8 is an
13 exhibit of the GIS information as far as the --
14 where the establishment is located as far as the
15 zones are concerned. And number 9 is the zones
16 explained, in U-4.

17 Number 10 is GIS information for -- is
18 GIS information -- I'm sorry -- GIS information
19 as far as locations for schools or recreation
20 centers. Number 11 is the GIS information for
21 middle schools and elementary. Number 12 is an
22 explanation of a copy of the nearby residential
23 streets.

24 Number 13 is a copy or a picture of --
25 again, of -- so this is the back alley behind the

1 establishment that is in front of Friendship
2 Charter School. Number 15 is a copy of a picture
3 of Friendship Charter School that's in the
4 alleyway. Number 16 is a copy of the R.I.S.E.
5 community center across the street from the
6 establishment which is on St. Elizabeth's
7 property.

8 Number 17 is a copy of the front of
9 Wonder Mart. Number 18 is a copy of the rear of
10 Wonder Mart. Number 19 is a copy of the inside
11 of Wonder Mart which is from the cash register
12 side on the inside of the counter.

13 Number 20 is another copy of the
14 inside of the establishment from the rear
15 shooting towards the front. Number 21 is a copy
16 of the establishment shooting from the front
17 towards the rear of the establishment. Number 22
18 is a copy of the establishment shooting from the
19 rear of the establishment into the exit area
20 which also shoots kind of the storage areas as
21 well as the exit door.

22 Number 23 is a copy of a picture of
23 the locking area where they can lock up whether
24 it's beverages or whatever they want to put in
25 there. That's a locking area, storage area.

1 This one on my copy is kind of unclear. It came
2 out kind of dark. I don't know what you can see,
3 but it's a picture of the parking --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What number is
5 that?

6 INVESTIGATOR JONES: That's 24. On my
7 picture, it comes out really dark. I don't know
8 why. But it's a picture of the parking right in
9 front of the establishment. It's the parking
10 sign that's in front of the establishment. And I
11 can --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: And 25, the last
15 one, 25 is the calls for service from the Unified
16 Communications from MPD, the calls for service
17 from January 2020 to January 2021.

18 (Whereupon, the above-referred to
19 documents were marked as ABC Board Exhibit Nos. 1
20 through 25 for identification and received into
21 evidence.)

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask.
23 Did you talk about -- did you testify about what
24 this document consists of?

25 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Which document,

1 sir?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Number 25.

3 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Let's see. Yes,
4 sir. Yes, sir. I went through the calls for
5 service. I went through all the calls for
6 service.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. I
8 apologize. So --

9 INVESTIGATOR JONES: That's okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- were any of
11 these -- on the calls for service, were there any
12 -- are there any ABRA violations? Was it -- I
13 mean, what were you able to gather from these
14 calls for service -- for the calls for service
15 that you gathered?

16 INVESTIGATOR JONES: So again for us
17 because they don't have an ABRA license, they're
18 not ABRA related or they're not ABRA violations.
19 However, from the calls that I did notice, what I
20 did indicate was that as well as what happens
21 from MPD is that whenever you put in the call for
22 service for a certain address, they always give
23 you the calls for that address as well as
24 whatever happens in the surrounding address. So
25 everything that comes in is not necessarily

1 dictated towards that address.

2 And if you can -- I can go through
3 these again for you. There are -- let me go
4 through this one more time. There are -- so --
5 okay. So there were four disorderly calls.
6 There were three mental health calls. There were
7 two calls for persons down, disorderly, and
8 miscellaneous.

9 And then there were one calls a piece
10 for the following which included unknown
11 situations, person with a weapon, burglary of a
12 business, aggravated assault, hit and run,
13 accident of a government or commercial vehicle,
14 robbery threat of a weapon, 911 hang-up, and
15 accident unknown injury. And all of that equaled
16 up to 22 calls. So all of these calls were not
17 necessarily dedicated towards that address, but
18 MPD cannot determine or at least tell us which
19 ones were absolutely dedicated towards that
20 address.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
22 right. Okay. Let me see if I have any other
23 questions I want to ask you. I heard Mr. Adofo
24 in his opening stating that this was less than
25 400 feet from a school. For this particular

1 establishment, is that significant?

2 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I think it could
3 be because there is Friendship Charter School
4 that they share an alley with. However, there
5 are also other ABC establishments that are in
6 that same area. Again, that's not my -- I can't
7 determine what should happen and what shouldn't
8 happen.

9 But I do know when I monitored the
10 area and drove the area on multiple occasions,
11 like I said, there is a charter school that is
12 directly behind the establishment and they share
13 an alleyway. But there are also two other
14 establishments. You have Player Lounge which is
15 directly in back of and in front of that
16 establishment, then you have King Liquors which
17 also shares that same alleyway.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're
19 saying that there are other ABC establishments
20 that -- you're saying that there are other ABC
21 establishments in the vicinity that's also within
22 the 400 feet. Is that what you're saying?

23 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is
25 there anything else you want to add, sir?

1 INVESTIGATOR JONES: No. I know that
2 -- and I wish that I could have -- and I
3 apologize and I wish that I could've talked to
4 Commissioner Adofo because I wanted to really get
5 his side of what happened or what his issues or
6 concerns are. And whether we had a bad email
7 address or contact, I made the attempt. However,
8 it would've been nice to get his standpoint on
9 how he feels about things.

10 I know from what the email that I
11 received from the Commissioner from -- the
12 councilman, I understand what the issues are. I
13 know that they don't want another ABC
14 establishment in that area -- in that condensed
15 area. Again, I can't determine that.

16 I only know from a business
17 standpoint, I know what Ms. Ketema, what her
18 thing was, was that she's trying to compete. And
19 I know for her it's a thing where she's kind of
20 losing business on what's going on around her.
21 But I also understand at the same point, it's
22 like you don't want more activity in an area
23 that's already condensed and already kind of
24 overconcentrated to them. And I'm only speaking
25 off of not talking to Commissioner Adofo.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
2 right. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Jones.

3 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Thank you, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any
5 other Board members who wish to ask questions of
6 Mr. Jones?

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
9 Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. Go ahead,
10 Mr. Short.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Investigator
12 Jones, are you familiar -- how familiar are you
13 with the community that you went through?

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I'm familiar, but
15 I can't say that I'm super familiar with it, sir.

16 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. If I could
17 recollect for you or just bring you up to some
18 history, the school used to be a boy's club. And
19 then the school was built after the liquor school
20 came and the other ABC establishment were already
21 there. So the market, which has always been a
22 market, never had an ABC -- ability to sell
23 alcohol.

24 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Okay.

25 MEMBER SHORT: So we already have, as

1 you mentioned, saturation. How saturated --
2 you've been with ABRA for nine years now. How
3 saturated would you say that situation is with
4 King Liquor and another ABC license all within
5 feet of each other?

6 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yeah, in my
7 opinion -- if you honestly ask my opinion, I do
8 think that there's overconcentration.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all
10 I have, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

12 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. And thank you, Mr. Short. You
14 actually hit the target that I was going to ask.
15 But I would like to further the discussion with
16 Inspector Jones. Inspector Jones, I want to
17 thank you for your presentation today.

18 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

19 MEMBER GRANDIS: Hearing Mr. Short and
20 hearing your presentation, that while this may be
21 a new owner for a year or so with a convenience
22 store, it was -- the prior use of this building
23 was also a convenience store, correct? Mr.
24 Short, is that what I heard?

25 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, to my knowledge

1 and living in the neighborhood myself for a
2 while, yes, it was a convenience store, yes.

3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. And Inspector
4 Jones, you've been in the area for a few years,
5 you said. Did they have -- do we know the last
6 time there was a liquor license approved in the
7 location?

8 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I don't recall
9 saying that, sir. I'm not -- I'm familiar with
10 the area, but I'm not familiar with that certain
11 establishment, sir. I know that King Liquors has
12 been there for a while. I know that Players
13 Lounge has been there for a while. This one
14 establishment, I am not that familiar with.

15 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yeah. King Liquor is
16 an A, correct?

17 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir.

18 MEMBER GRANDIS: But I thought I heard
19 in the presentation there was another B.

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yeah, Quality
22 Convenience Store. Yes, sir.

23 MEMBER GRANDIS: So that's also within
24 this area, correct?

25 INVESTIGATOR JONES: Yes, sir. Yes,

1 sir.

2 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Thank you very
3 much. And Mr. Chairman, thank you for letting me
4 ask the questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
6 Grandis. Are there any other questions by any of
7 the Board members?

8 All right. Hearing none, Ms. Ketema,
9 are there any questions you want to ask of the
10 investigator?

11 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Say
13 yes or no.

14 MS. KETEMA: No.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo, are
16 there questions you want to ask of the
17 investigator?

18 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. Okay.
19 Thank you. Mr. Jones, you stated that there were
20 how many other establishments that have alcoholic
21 beverages in the area?

22 INVESTIGATOR JONES: So within the
23 block, there were three other establishments.

24 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. And when
25 I looked at the report, you gave a 1,200 foot

1 radius. Did that also include Mart Liquor which
2 is at the -- two blocks away at the intersection
3 of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King?

4 INVESTIGATOR JONES: So if that wasn't
5 within the 1,200 radius, sir, then that wasn't
6 included. But I do understand what you're
7 saying.

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. And then
9 you also mentioned -- in the report -- it was
10 included in your report, but you didn't mention
11 it in the testimony. Then there's also Dawn to
12 Dusk Daycare which is also within the vicinity as
13 well, correct?

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: That is located
15 where, sir?

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: On Lebaum Street.

17 INVESTIGATOR JONES: So --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Mr.
19 Adofo, are you asking about -- I'm sorry. Are
20 you asking him about establishments that's within
21 the 1,200 feet? Or are you saying -- tell me.
22 I'm not following you.

23 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I wasn't clear on
24 his testimony in reference to what I read in the
25 investigation. I saw that there was Dawn to

1 Dusk. I also saw that there was King Liquor --
2 King Avenue Liquor as well as Mart Liquor and the
3 other establishment that he mentioned. But he
4 didn't mention those in his testimony, and I was
5 just trying to make sure that --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: -- everything is
8 still congruent. I didn't know if there was --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. I follow
11 you. Go ahead.

12 INVESTIGATOR JONES: So everything is
13 still congruent. It's just when we do the
14 testimony, we're just trying to really hit and
15 hone in on the initial facts. And so I
16 understand what you're saying. But for those
17 things, those are things for the testimony later
18 on to bring up and to go into that.

19 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. Also, you
20 stated that many of the calls that you received
21 would not have been ABRA complaints because the
22 establishment does not have an ABRA license. So
23 had they had an ABRA license, those have been
24 complaints --

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: -- ABRA
2 complaints?

3 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I can't determine
4 that, sir, because I can't -- unless the
5 establishment has an alcohol license and they're
6 found in violation, I can't determine that they
7 would be violations.

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. And just
9 for the record, my email address would be
10 8c07@anc.dc.gov. So you left out that very
11 critical part of anc.dc.gov. And I apologize for
12 the mix-up. I wish we would have been able to
13 connect with each other as well.

14 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I apologize too,
15 sir. And I wish we would have too. I apologize.

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Chairman
17 Anderson, I have no further questions.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
19 don't have any further questions. Okay. Thank
20 you very much, Mr. Jones, for your testimony.

21 INVESTIGATOR JONES: All right. Thank
22 you, sir. All right.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Ketema,
24 who's your first witness, ma'am?

25 MS. KETEMA: Say that again, please.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is now
2 your time to present your case. Do you have a
3 witness you wish to call?

4 Do you have -- how are you going to
5 present your case? Do you have a witness you're
6 going to call, or are you going to testify?

7 MS. KETEMA: Chair, my witness,
8 Adanech Geberemeskel.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're going
10 to call her as a witness?

11 MS. KETEMA: Yes. Also, I have 24
12 signature from the neighborhood from my customer.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. But
14 right now, you're going to call a witness. So
15 you're calling Ms. -- you're calling your agent
16 as a witness. Is that correct?

17 MS. KETEMA: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
19 ma'am. Can you raise your right hand, please?
20 Not you, ma'am. You're asking Ms. -- I'm talking
21 about Ms. Geberemeskel. Okay. Raise your right
22 hand, please.

23 WHEREUPON,

24 ADANECH GEBEREMESKEL

25 was called for examination by Counsel for the

1 Applicant, and after having been first duly
2 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do me one favor
4 again, please, ma'am. Can you state and spell
5 your name for the record, please?

6 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Okay. My first
7 name is A-D-A-N-E-C-H. And last name, G-E-B-E-R-
8 E-M-E-S-K-E-L.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
10 Ketema, you can ask them whatever questions you
11 want to ask them.

12 MS. KETEMA: So my concern was, like,
13 more than 25 percent they carry (phonetic) wine
14 is, like, Wonder Mart cannot responsible what's
15 happening around the MLK.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Are
17 you asking her a question?

18 MS. KETEMA: Huh?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She's your
20 witness. Are you asking her questions? You need
21 to ask her questions. That's why she's -- that's
22 why you call her. So do you have questions to
23 ask her?

24 MS. KETEMA: No.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's her

1 purpose?

2 MS. KETEMA: She know through the
3 process. When we start applying the license, she
4 know about the protest.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
6 Okay. Remember I explained the process. This is
7 your opportunity to call, have documents and
8 witnesses to tell the Board -- prove to the Board
9 why you deserve to have a license. Do you have
10 any questions you're going to ask her, or do you
11 have a statement you want to make it? Which one
12 is it?

13 MS. KETEMA: I don't have any question
14 to ask her.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do
16 you have a statement that you need to make to
17 tell the Board why is it that the Board should
18 offer you this -- should grant you this license?

19 MS. KETEMA: No.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
21 anything else to say? Do you understand this
22 process, ma'am?

23 MS. KETEMA: Yes, but 100 percent.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You know this
25 is a hearing? This is a protest hearing. You

1 requested a license.

2 MS. KETEMA: Mm-hmm.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The ANC is
4 protesting your license. The ANC is saying that
5 we should not give you a license. This is your
6 opportunity to use documents and witnesses to
7 tell the Board why the Board -- why the ANC is
8 wrong an why we should -- why the ANC is wrong
9 and why the Board should give you a license.
10 What evidence are you going to put on? What are
11 you telling us today? What is it that the Board
12 should make its decision on? Is there anything
13 you have to say?

14 MS. KETEMA: A summation give for,
15 like, us, we have existing business. We --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
17 on. Can you raise your right hand, please,
18 ma'am?

19 MS. KETEMA: Yes.

20 WHEREUPON,

21 ETSEGENET KETEMA
22 was called for examination by Counsel for the
23 Applicant, and after having been first duly
24 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is it that

1 you want to say, ma'am?

2 MS. KETEMA: As for existing business
3 and we are a taxpayer, we are a part of the
4 community. We commit our service maintaining the
5 peace and security of the area by installing the
6 back end for camera. So we are good support for
7 customer.

8 And as we continue as a business, we
9 give our customer the big selection of item, more
10 convenient as well. And more job opportunity,
11 more as we go, we pay more tax to the government.
12 Therefore, as a tax paying business, we must be
13 given the opportunity to expand our business to
14 best serve our community while at the same times
15 we promise to work (audio interference) to make
16 the neighborhood more safe and peaceful.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that all you
18 have to say, ma'am?

19 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're sure
21 there's nothing else you want to say?

22 MS. KETEMA: That's all about it.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo, are
24 there questions you have you want to ask of her?

25 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, ma'am. I'm

1 allowed to ask both parties questions or just
2 one, sir?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir.
4 You're asking -- the only person who had
5 something to say is Ms. Ketema. That's the only
6 person you can ask questions of.

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The other lady
9 didn't say nothing. So there's no questions for
10 you to ask of her.

11 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Thank you for the
12 clarification, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Ketema, I hope
13 I'm pronouncing your name correctly. I
14 apologize. So you have a security plan for
15 Wonder Mart if it was granted a license?

16 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And if so, can
18 you explain the security plan, please?

19 MS. KETEMA: We do hire security and
20 we also have the front and back camera.

21 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. You said
22 you hired security?

23 MS. KETEMA: Mm-hmm.

24 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And how would you
25 go about verifying the customers are age

1 appropriate to purchase adult beverages?

2 MS. KETEMA: Say that again, please.

3 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: How would you
4 verify that the customers are authorized to buy
5 adult beverages?

6 MS. KETEMA: I'm going to follow the
7 rule and regulation from ABRA.

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Have you gone
9 through the training?

10 MS. KETEMA: No.

11 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: So as of right
12 now, you have not gone through the training. And
13 so do you feel as though you're now qualified to
14 sell those beverages?

15 MS. KETEMA: Whenever I'm approved to
16 get the license, I'll go to the training and I
17 will follow whatever ABRA contributes.

18 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. So this is
19 where I'm somewhat confused. And if you can help
20 me, it would be greatly appreciated. How did you
21 devise the proper security plan without having
22 gone through the training to know what you need
23 to do?

24 MS. KETEMA: Well, now I don't believe
25 -- before, I have idea about it. But I'm, like,

1 researching and learning more and more. Then
2 whenever if I get the license, I will do the best
3 and I will follow the rule and the regulation.

4 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, ma'am. So
5 as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I am
6 not only -- I am the chair of the Commission.
7 And it's my responsibility to make sure that not
8 only to the residents but also our stakeholders
9 and business owners such as yourself operate
10 within compliance of ABRA's code as well as the
11 D.C. code overall.

12 And it is my responsibility to operate
13 in the best interest of you as well. And what
14 you're telling me is that you do not have full
15 understanding of what the policy is. And so if
16 you were granted a license, you would not be able
17 to operate in accordance with the policy. And
18 then you could possibly be fined.

19 So I have to look out for you as well.
20 And I'm not sure that you're communicating to me
21 that you have full understanding of the proper
22 security procedures that need to take place.
23 Also, you stated that you would operate at 25
24 percent of your gross income with alcoholic
25 beverages?

1 MS. KETEMA: Only 25 percent, 75
2 percent will be the grocery.

3 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. And what
4 I'm reading the municipal regulations Title 23,
5 it states that the sale of alcoholic beverages
6 constitutes no more than 15 percent of the total
7 volume of gross receipts. Are you familiar with
8 the municipal regulations for ABRA?

9 MS. KETEMA: I'm not.

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Can you repeat
11 that one more time, please?

12 MS. KETEMA: I'm not.

13 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: You're not
14 familiar with the ABRA regulation
15 administration's manual?

16 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. Have
18 you come to the ANC meetings to discuss with the
19 ANC about the protest once you were made aware
20 that the ANC on behalf of the residents in the
21 community protested you being issued a license?

22 MS. KETEMA: I go through the
23 neighborhood and talk to them to ask why they
24 opening, but I haven't get a chance to meet the
25 ANC Commissioner.

1 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. Thank
2 you. And my last question is with so many other
3 establishments in the community, why do you feel
4 the need to open up another establishment that
5 sells adult beverages so close to a school as
6 well as to a homeless shelter where there are
7 going to be customers that would come and they're
8 on the down side of life and possibly to consume
9 beverages there and further put themselves in a
10 bad position? Why is it necessarily for you to
11 sell alcohol in this community?

12 MS. KETEMA: I mean, I'm a business
13 person. Also, there is the Players Lounge and
14 the King Liquor. They're working, like, more
15 than hour me. Then I can work less hours, like,
16 until 10:00 maybe.

17 Also, they don't have security. They
18 don't have, like, much camera to protect the
19 customer and themselves too. So I'll try my best
20 to protect the customer and working with, like,
21 the community.

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Let me rephrase
23 my question. With so many issues that we have in
24 the community, why do you feel it is necessary
25 for Wonder Mart to be able to sell alcoholic

1 beverages knowing that we have so many other
2 issues such as homelessness? We have the uptick
3 in homicides. We have an uptick in delinquency.
4 Why would we support you in establishing another
5 store that can possibly contribute to that
6 activity as well as have that kind of activity
7 gravitate to the location? Why is it so
8 important for Wonder Mart?

9 MS. KETEMA: So Wonder Mart cannot
10 take responsibility what's going on outside. But
11 we try our best, like, to keep it safe, like,
12 working with the community and the neighborhood
13 too. So for me, like, selling 25 percent beer
14 and wine is not going to affect the neighborhood.

15 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Thank you. I
16 have no further questions, Chairman Anderson.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18 Thank you. Any questions by the Board members?
19 Questions by the Board members?

20 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes. Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
22 Grandis. Yes, Mr. Grandis.

23 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. Ms.
24 Ketema, and I apologize if I state your name
25 incorrectly. I want to welcome your presentation

1 with the Board members for you to be here today.
2 I am certain that being an independent small
3 business owner is not only exciting but very
4 heard. So I have a lot of respect for you being
5 out there as a small business person. I'm just
6 trying to get clarification. The zoning you are
7 operating in prior to you opening, was there an
8 ongoing business or was it vacant?

9 MS. KETEMA: It's ongoing.

10 MEMBER GRANDIS: It was a business?
11 Thank you.

12 MS. KETEMA: Mm-hmm.

13 MEMBER GRANDIS: And was that a
14 convenience -- was it a similar type of business
15 or a different type of business?

16 MS. KETEMA: Convenience store.

17 MEMBER GRANDIS: And you don't need to
18 know the answer to this, but do you know how many
19 years they were operating?

20 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Did they have
22 an ABC license?

23 MS. KETEMA: No.

24 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Thank you very
25 much. Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any
2 other questions by any of the Board members?

3 Just one last question. How long have
4 you owned this business, ma'am?

5 MS. KETEMA: August 2019.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You bought the
7 business in August 2019. And when you bought the
8 business, it did not have a liquor license. Is
9 that correct?

10 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so when did
12 you decide that you were going to apply for --
13 when did you apply for this liquor license?

14 MS. KETEMA: October.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: October 2019?

16 MS. KETEMA: 2019.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So as soon as
18 you bought the business, you applied for a liquor
19 license?

20 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is sold
22 in this establishment?

23 MS. KETEMA: It's a convenience store.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What type of
25 products do you sell? What do you sell in the

1 establishment?

2 MS. KETEMA: I got canned food, fresh
3 fruits, vegetables. We also have the fresh soap
4 (phonetic). We also have drink, soft drinks,
5 bread, eggs, all dairy product. Also, we have
6 tobacco product like cigarettes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8 Okay. Do you have anything else you want -- do
9 you have any -- I don't have any questions. And
10 is there anything else that you want to say, or
11 is this your presentation?

12 MS. KETEMA: This is my presentation.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo, do
15 you have a witness you wish to call?

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. I'm
17 going to ask Ms. Doyle to come forward, please.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Doyle, can
19 you raise your right hand please?

20 MS. DOYLE: Yes.

21 WHEREUPON,

22 JOYCE DOYLE
23 was called for examination by Counsel for the
24 Protestant, and after having been first duly
25 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
2 Your witness.

3 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Oh, okay. I
4 can't see. Good evening, Ms. Doyle. Can you
5 please tell us how do you think that Wonder Mart
6 having this license would impact your single-
7 family district?

8 MS. DOYLE: Thank you. Again, I am a
9 16-year resident of Ward 8 living here in
10 Congress Heights at 5th and Oakwood. I am also
11 one of the founding members of the Congress
12 Heights Homeowners Associations, and we are
13 comprised of over 40-plus members where 98
14 percent of us are persons of color.

15 We -- although do not have a lot of
16 diversity from an ethnic or racial background, we
17 do offer a lot of diversity in our ideologies,
18 work experience, diversity in thought, education,
19 income, and socioeconomic status. We are
20 investors in this community. We are financial
21 investors in this community as homeowners and we
22 are taxpayers.

23 So we are concerned. The CHHA in
24 total, we are focused on resolving tangible
25 issues that plague the aesthetics of our

1 immediate area of 8C02. We are -- and those
2 things are litter, working with DDOT, DPW,
3 National Park Service, and Department of Public
4 Works and MPD. I'm sorry if I repeated that.

5 We are not focused on resolving the
6 historical issues that plague this community. It
7 is beyond us and above us, such as the
8 homelessness, mental health, poverty, drug use,
9 and alcohol abuse. However, we do believe that
10 from our investments as homeowners, we will be
11 able to support the community and hopefully it
12 would have a positive impact on those historical
13 socioeconomic issues that plague this immediate
14 area.

15 We're opposed to the issuance of this
16 liquor license because as research shows, there's
17 a direct correlation between offsite liquor
18 stores and drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness,
19 poverty, and mental health. These things
20 increase behavior such as littering, drug sales,
21 open alcohol consumption, street harassment, rude
22 and ludicrous behavior, and violence. The liquor
23 store, although I support small business and I'm
24 a small business owner, this liquor store -- this
25 license for this liquor store will do nothing but

1 contribute to the systemic issues of this
2 neighborhood which we are fighting daily within
3 the Congress Heights Homeowners Association to be
4 heard and to be taken seriously.

5 We are a group of people that are
6 highly educated and prepared to get the attention
7 of those who run these agencies and have action
8 to understand that we are taxpayers and not part
9 of the negative stereotype that carries on
10 through Ward 8. The liquor license will not
11 benefit this community in any way. It will not
12 serve purpose to combat these issues.

13 And although I did hear that a light
14 was in place for security and there are 22
15 signatures of customers that are in support, the
16 issue is far greater than any one business owner,
17 particularly a small business owner or even a
18 small group of people that make up the Congress
19 Heights Homeowners Association. If you follow
20 the research from the Department of Justice --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms.
22 Doyle. I mean, Mr. -- and I gave you some
23 leeway. Mr. Adofo, I need her to answer a
24 question. I can't have her speak for five
25 minutes. So I need you to remember you have a

1 timeline.

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I need you
4 to ask pointed questions and I need shorter
5 answers. And I can't necessarily have her going
6 through for ten minutes. Okay?

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm giving you
9 some leeway.

10 MS. DOYLE: I thought it was 45
11 minutes, but that's okay. Go ahead.

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, ma'am.
14 Hold on. He has one hour to present his entire
15 case. Okay?

16 MS. DOYLE: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if he wants
18 to spend all one hour with you, that's his
19 choice. I'm just saying --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- he has one
22 hour --

23 MS. DOYLE: -- respect the timeline.
24 But go ahead. Let's move forward.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

1 MS. DOYLE: Let's move forward.

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, Ms. Doyle.

3 My question to you as the representative of the
4 Congress Heights Homeowners Associations, how do
5 you think that Wonder Mart, LLC having this
6 license will impact the value of the home that
7 you have, the real property values?

8 MS. DOYLE: It will negatively impact
9 the real property value of this community and
10 those of us who are financial investors and
11 taxpayers. It contributes to a depressed
12 economy, and there's no strategic plan to improve
13 it by selling more liquor.

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. Thank
15 you so much. I appreciate it. I have no further
16 questions for you at this time.

17 MS. DOYLE: Thank you.

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Ketema, do
20 you have any questions for her?

21 MS. KETEMA: Yes, thank you.

22 Actually, as you mention, we -- I'm not applying
23 for a liquor license. So that's not considered
24 as a liquor license. Also, whatever happen in
25 the shelter or around there, Wonder Mart --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you're
3 asking her a question. So I need you to ask her
4 -- if you have a question to ask her, not a
5 statement. Do you have any specific questions to
6 ask her based on the testimony she just gave?

7 MS. KETEMA: No, thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
9 by any Board members of the witness?

10 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
11 Short. I have --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short. Go
13 ahead, Mr. Short.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Ms. Doyle?

15 MS. DOYLE: Yes.

16 MEMBER SHORT: How many years have you
17 lived in the neighborhood?

18 MS. DOYLE: Sixteen years.

19 MEMBER SHORT: Ten years, so --

20 MS. DOYLE: Sixteen, sixteen.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Oh, okay, 16. I don't
22 want to -- I want to clarify something by making
23 -- I noticed something before I ask my next
24 question. How far do you live from the 300 block
25 of Raleigh Street, Southeast?

1 MS. DOYLE: Raleigh? I can't even --
2 I don't know. I'm literally around the corner
3 from Mart Liquor.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

5 MS. DOYLE: So --

6 MEMBER SHORT: Let me help you then.
7 When you make the right turn onto King Avenue
8 passing Mart Liquor which used to be a movie
9 theater. When I moved into 306 Raleigh Street,
10 Southeast in 1971, I was a young person with a
11 young wife and two babies. So that neighborhood
12 was a wonderful neighborhood. And in fact, my
13 ex-wife still owns the house.

14 But I'll just say this. I know about
15 the community and that's the reason why I made
16 the comment about the boy's club. Were you
17 familiar with the boy's club when it was
18 Milwaukee Avenue?

19 MS. DOYLE: I'm familiar about the
20 building and I've heard of the history of it,
21 yes.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, thank you
23 and your community, and thank you for your
24 housing association there for building the
25 community up and supporting the community. Thank

1 you for your time today.

2 MS. DOYLE: Thank you for having me.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
4 questions by any of the Board members?

5 All right. Hearing none, thank you.
6 Do you have another witness, Mr. Adofo?

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, I do. I'm
8 going to ask Ms. Juanda Johnson to come forward,
9 please.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Johnson?
11 Ms. Johnson, can you turn your camera on if you
12 have one.

13 MS. JOHNSON: I did. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see
15 you.

16 MS. JOHNSON: This is my first time
17 being on this Webex. So you're going to see my
18 right hand, right?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see
20 you. So if you have a camera --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, no.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you don't
24 have a camera.

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But if you have
2 one, turn it on because I can't see you.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Is it too dark, or --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, ma'am. I
5 cannot see you, period.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Hold on.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's not the
8 lighting. I can't see you. Your camera is not
9 on.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, I said -- okay. I
11 said start. I told it to start the video. My
12 apologies. Like I said, I'm unfamiliar with this
13 medium. You are sending your video. Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. That's
15 better. Can you raise your right hand, please?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Kind of. Okay. Here we
17 go.

18 WHEREUPON,

19 JUANDA JOHNSON
20 was called for examination by Counsel for the
21 Protestant, and after having been first duly
22 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
24 Adofo, your witness.

25 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good evening, Ms.

1 Johnson.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening.

3 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have several
4 questions for you. My first question is as a
5 senior, do you feel safe when you walk in the
6 vicinity of Wonder Mart?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Absolutely not. As a
8 matter of fact, I rarely walk through the
9 neighborhood at all, even though I am an avid
10 walker, because of the number of addicted
11 alcoholic and as well as drug addicted people in
12 the area. They're offensive and they say
13 offensive things. I don't feel safe.

14 I'm 70 years old, by the way. He was
15 kind. He didn't give my age. He didn't ask me.
16 But he said senior, so I'd like to clarify that.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: How long have you
18 lived in the area, ma'am?

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thirty-seven years.

20 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And in the 37
21 years that you've been there, have you seen an
22 increase in homelessness or drug addiction or
23 alcoholism?

24 MS. JOHNSON: Absolutely, absolutely.
25 I saw it when Obama was elected and Fenty closed

1 the shelter downtown. That's when a number -- a
2 large number of homeless people came to the area.
3 And statistically, according to the substance
4 abuse and mental health services, 38 percent of
5 homeless people are alcoholics.

6 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Thank you, Ms.
7 Johnson. I have no further questions.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
9 questions you wish to ask of her, Ms. Ketema?

10 MS. KETEMA: Yes, please.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I said do you
12 have any questions you want to ask Ms. Johnson?

13 MS. KETEMA: Yes, thank you. Ms.
14 Johnson, have you been in Wonder Mart store?

15 MS. JOHNSON: I was there before it
16 was Wonder Mart actually. I used to frequent
17 that store. I stopped when the traffic -- the
18 pedestrian traffic became offensive.

19 MS. KETEMA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
21 by any Board members?

22 All right. No questions by any Board
23 members. Thank you. All right. Do you have --
24 thank you, Ms. Johnson, for your testimony today.
25 All right. Ms. Adofo, do you have another

1 witness?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, my next
3 witness is Ms. Butler, the daughter of Victoria
4 Akinseye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where's Ms.
6 Butler?

7 MS. BUTLER: Hi.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
9 your right hand, please?

10 WHEREUPON,

11 VIERAH BUTLER

12 was called for examination by Counsel for the
13 Protestant, and after having been first duly
14 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you --
16 let me ask you a question. Do you know the
17 difference between right and wrong?

18 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

20 Your witness, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good evening, Ms.
22 Butler. You can place your hand down now. All
23 right. My question for you is, can you please
24 describe how safe you feel being able to play in
25 your own neighborhood?

1 MS. BUTLER: I don't feel that safe.
2 I don't play at all actually in my neighborhood
3 with other kids because of how many people walk
4 past. They look very sketchy. Most people, they
5 walk. A lot of people that are on alcohol and
6 drugs, they walk past our house all the time and
7 they knock on doors and stuff.

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. And
9 my next question for you is if you don't play in
10 your own neighborhood, where do you go?

11 MS. BUTLER: I go to my dad's house.
12 I play in his neighborhood. Actually, I play on
13 my bike and my scooter and hoverboard.

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And how far away
15 is your dad's neighborhood?

16 MS. BUTLER: Maryland.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. Thank
18 you. I have no further questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Ketema, do
20 you have any questions for her?

21 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Butler, how
23 far do you live from this establishment?

24 MS. BUTLER: Two minutes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you

1 mean two minutes? I mean, tell me. What do you
2 mean two minutes?

3 MS. BUTLER: It's down the street from
4 me.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you live
6 down the street. So you don't need to give me
7 your address, but what street do you live on?

8 MS. BUTLER: Lebaum.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
10 Lebaum?

11 MS. BUTLER: Mm-hmm.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what street
13 is this place on? Now Ms. Akinseye, you can't
14 have no conversation with her. I need her to --
15 Ms. Butler, Ms. Butler.

16 MS. BUTLER: Yes?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're talking
18 to me.

19 MS. BUTLER: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't need
21 you to look left, right, up, down. You need to
22 look directly in the camera. No one should give
23 you any information. No one should say anything
24 to you because you're under oath. And that's one
25 of the reasons why I ask you, do you know the

1 difference between right or wrong and telling the
2 truth.

3 So I'm just -- so now I even forgot
4 the question that I was asking you. So how far -
5 - you said five minutes. So do you know where
6 this establishment is located?

7 MS. BUTLER: Park Street.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I said, do you
9 know where the store is located? Yes or no?

10 MS. BUTLER: No.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No? So if you
12 don't know where the store is located, why are
13 you testifying against this business today? I'm
14 just asking you.

15 MS. BUTLER: Because my --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear
17 you.

18 MS. BUTLER: Because my mom wanted me
19 to be a witness.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Nothing
21 wrong with that. I don't have a problem with
22 your mother asking to be a witness and you state
23 -- I mean, and so what you stated today was just
24 how you feel about this place?

25 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
2 That's fine. Do we have any other questions by
3 any other witness -- I'm sorry. Do we have any
4 other questions by any other members?

5 Ms. Ketema, do you wish to ask her any
6 questions based on the questions I asked her?

7 MS. KETEMA: Sir, since she's not --
8 she don't know where we're located, so I don't
9 have any question for her.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 Thank you. Mr. Adofo, do you wish to ask her any
12 questions based on the questions that I asked,
13 sir?

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, I do have
15 two more questions I can ask her.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's based on
17 the questions I asked. It's not new area. These
18 questions are based on the questions that I had
19 asked her. If you want to ask her follow-up
20 questions on what I asked, fine, but not new
21 questions.

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go
24 ahead.

25 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Ms. Butler, you

1 made it known that you were not aware where this
2 store is, correct?

3 MS. BUTLER: Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: But you do know
5 that it's in your neighborhood, correct?

6 MS. BUTLER: Correct.

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Is it possible
8 that your mother doesn't allow you to play in
9 that area because of the possible things that
10 could happen to you?

11 MS. BUTLER: Yes, my mom doesn't allow
12 me to play around that area. I only go around
13 the area with an adult or a guardian that watch
14 over me. I'm not allowed to go in the store by
15 myself.

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. And
17 do you feel comfortable being able to be here and
18 to speak about your level of safety in your
19 neighborhood?

20 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. I
22 have no further questions, sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Ms.
24 Butler, thank you very much for your testimony
25 today. I know this is -- how old are you anyway?

1 MS. BUTLER: I'm 12.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're 12?

3 Well, thank you very much for your testimony
4 today, and I hope I wasn't too hard on you.
5 Okay?

6 MS. BUTLER: All right.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

8 Thank you. All right. Do we have another
9 witness?

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, I would like
11 to call Dr. Carlene Reid.

12 DR. REID: I'm present.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dr. Reid, can
14 you raise your right hand, please?

15 WHEREUPON,

16 CARLENE REID

17 was called for examination by Counsel for the
18 Protestant, and after having been first duly
19 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness.

21 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Dr. Reid, as a
22 subject matter expert in the field of education
23 and someone who has taught at --

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
25 on. Hold on, Mr. Adofo. You're not an attorney.

1 If you're going to do all of that, can you go
2 through her resume? I don't know who she is.

3 How are you going to have her testify
4 that she has subject matter -- so just why don't
5 you -- this is her opportunity -- before you ask
6 her those questions, have her tell us who she is
7 if you want her to say she has subject matter
8 jurisdiction. And I'll stop the timer so I'm not
9 taking away time from you to do this. Have her
10 tell us who she is.

11 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And once she
13 tells us who she is, then I can have a basis for
14 believing anything she is because I can say,
15 okay, fine, she does have some qualification to
16 give us testimony.

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Dr. Reid, can you
20 tell us who you are?

21 DR. REID: Yes, so I'm Dr. Carlene
22 Reid. I've been an educator in Washington, D.C.
23 for over 15 years, both in DCPS charter as well
24 as OSSE on the federal side. I'm not sure. Do
25 you need me to give more specifications around my

1 qualification? I have a doctorate in education.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's helpful,
3 ma'am. This is your opportunity to talk about
4 yourself. So can you tell me who you are?

5 DR. REID: Oh, yes. So I'm the
6 elected -- I'm the Ward 8 State Board of
7 Education representative. I'm just elected in
8 November and started my term January 2nd and
9 invited here to basically speak about the impact
10 of Wonder Mart receiving additional ability to
11 sell alcohol and some of the ways it connects to
12 the work in D.C. because we're all partners in
13 the city. So do you need more?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, go ahead,
15 Mr. Adofo.

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: My question to
17 you, Dr. Reid, is how would an establishment that
18 is so close to an educational institution impact
19 students?

20 DR. REID: Yeah. So specifically --
21 can you guys see me? I just got an error
22 message. Yeah, okay, cool. So specifically in
23 the realm of the Board of Education, the Office
24 of the Student Advocate delivered our safe
25 passages report which just to quickly kind of

1 give you some oversight about how students are
2 feeling, we have Friendship that's right there as
3 the high school.

4 And over 27.5 percent of students
5 indicated they felt uncomfortable coming in to
6 school, 21.5 percent felt that they were
7 concerned about their commute, 3.3 percent of
8 students felt that they were afraid. One in five
9 students reported not feeling safe in their
10 commutes mentioned that they were either
11 harassed, being watched, or feeling threatened.
12 And we also had, I mean, even from Ward 8,
13 instances of students being robbed, Etsegenet
14 cetera.

15 In the D.C. Advocate's report, the
16 recommendation around street harassment and us as
17 a city working together to collaborate to reduce
18 street harassment was a recommendation that
19 Investigator Jones who did the review of Wonder
20 Mart area mentioned the potential for street
21 harassment, for loitering or loitering
22 specifically because of the amount of
23 oversaturation of stores that serve alcohol in
24 that area. So I'm presenting in regards to the
25 impact on students trying to get back and forth

1 between the Metro, catch the bus, engage in after
2 school activities.

3 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Do you think
4 there's high potential for students to steal
5 alcoholic beverages in a convenience store?

6 DR. REID: I'm not sure about student
7 behavior. I mean, I would hope that Friendship
8 Academy or Friendship would work on that. But I
9 mean, I feel like there's no difference between
10 the other individual that may be able to steal
11 alcohol.

12 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. And
13 the final question is, do you think that this
14 establishment, if granted a license, would be
15 beneficial to the overall health and public
16 safety of our children commuting to and from
17 school?

18 DR. REID: No, and for the exact
19 reasons mentioned. Students often use the
20 convenience stores in immediate areas to
21 sometimes grab breakfast items, grab items on the
22 way from home. And my opinion, and also getting
23 off the (audio interference) have about students
24 commutes to and from school I think definitely
25 has a negative impact to be (audio interference)

1 individuals who might be possibly under the
2 influence or loitering because they just made a
3 purchase.

4 And also, I'm sorry. Go to your --
5 the second question. The plan or lack of plan
6 for security that was given in regards to student
7 overall health and well-being is problematic for
8 me. I would expect an establishment to have a
9 more secure plan, especially in the immediate
10 vicinity, not just Friendship but also a
11 childcare center that's right there. And then
12 the potential of the St. Elizabeth's campus to
13 also hold students for after school activities
14 because that area is developing.

15 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have no further
16 questions. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for
18 your -- I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Ketema,
19 do you have any questions for her?

20 MS. KETEMA: Yes. I mean, all the
21 students, they don't have direct park to direct
22 to Wonder Mart, LLC.

23 DR. REID: That's not a question.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, that's
25 for me to ask. If you can't answer the question,

1 say you can't answer the question. So all right.
2 Ms. Ketema, maybe you can rephrase the question.
3 Rephrase the question you want to ask her.

4 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you can
6 rephrase the question you want to ask. Just say
7 it in a different way. Are you making a
8 statement or are you asking a question? What is
9 it that you're doing?

10 MS. KETEMA: All she said is not
11 really directly related to Wonder Mart.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why don't
13 you ask her what you want to ask her in that
14 sense?

15 MS. KETEMA: I mean, what -- well, she
16 explain everything. But it's not related --
17 direct related to --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ask her how is
20 what she just said related to Wonder Mart. Ask
21 her that question.

22 DR. REID: How Wonder Mart is related
23 with whatever you explaining?

24 DR. REID: Chairman Anderson, is it
25 typical that you lead the --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, ma'am,
2 ma'am, ma'am. This is -- I'm the Chairman of the
3 Board, and I'm doing this. There's a lot of
4 things that occurred today here. She's not an
5 attorney. She asked you a question. You told
6 her that was not a question. That was improper
7 of you to have done that. So therefore --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- because she
10 -- so therefore, because she is not an attorney,
11 so because you told her it was not answer -- she
12 didn't ask you a question, I'm helping her
13 formulate the question so she can ask you the
14 question. That's all I'm doing. I'm not leading
15 her. You told her she didn't ask the question.

16 Clearly, she's trying to figure out to
17 formulate a question. And all I did was to say
18 to her, okay, fine. I tried to help her to
19 formulate a question to ask you since you told
20 her that wasn't a question she asked you if you
21 can answer.

22 DR. REID: It feels like guiding the
23 applicant. But I'm listening.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. You
25 said what, ma'am?

1 DR. REID: It feels like the applicant
2 is being guided --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am.

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 DR. REID: -- question.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am.

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I take offense
9 at that. I have been Chairman of this Board for
10 five years, and one of the things I try to do, I
11 try to make sure that everyone when they come
12 here today, they've been heard. She's not being
13 representative -- she's not represented. Okay?

14 And so she probably doesn't know the
15 process. That's not mine. But I got involved
16 because she asked you a question, and you told
17 her that was not a question. So what is she
18 supposed to do? I just help her formulate the
19 question so she can ask you.

20 If you did not tell her that was not
21 a question, I would not have gotten involved.
22 Okay? All right. If she has a question to ask
23 you, she can ask you.

24 MS. KETEMA: No question, sir.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any

1 other questions by any Board members?

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman, I'd like
4 to --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.
6 Go ahead.

7 MEMBER SHORT: First, congratulations,
8 Dr. Reid, on being the D.C. Board of Education
9 Ward 8 representative. How many years have you
10 lived in Ward 8?

11 DR. REID: Thank you, Mr. Short. I've
12 enjoyed your historical information about Ward 8.
13 So I've lived -- have been a homeowner in Ward 8
14 for eight years as of May but also have been here
15 when I was younger going to church. My parents
16 were married in Ward 8.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. We're very proud
18 of you. And your testimony today has been
19 compelling. And again, what impact would this
20 have on the school children -- you're a role
21 model for them. But what impact would this
22 business if they were allowed to sell alcohol
23 affect Ward 8 and that community around the
24 licensee's request --

25 DR. REID: Yes, sir.

1 MEMBER SHORT: -- to open up a --

2 DR. REID: Yes, Mr. Short. So again,

3 I have to point to safety as a main instance.

4 And we just have fresh data that supports street

5 harassment, individuals loitering which

6 Investigator Jones mentioned that the quantity of

7 stores in that area could increase loitering.

8 I live in Anacostia. We just have a

9 similar store here where a young man was killed

10 for walking in to grabbing coffee. I've heard

11 from the education community, especially

12 specifically Anacostia High School, where they

13 said that that's a route that their students

14 would take. Their students would buy snacks.

15 And they actually have pushed me to include safe

16 passages.

17 So thinking about this unfortunate

18 model over at Anacostia, I immediately thought

19 about Friendship which is a very close high

20 school to Wonder Mart. And we have to really be

21 stringent about how many stores can provide

22 certain elements, the use of the store for

23 students because students will be using that

24 store highly likely to buy snacks. And now we

25 want to make sure things are safe as possible.

1 So that's why I'm testifying because
2 we have seen other examples of similar
3 establishments that sell groceries and they also
4 sell beverages. And then somehow we end up with
5 either a dead young man or instances of children
6 being harassed as they're moving forward. And we
7 know the long term effects of harassment and
8 trauma on our students.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you for that
10 answer, and thank you very much for your --
11 again, congratulations, and thank you for being a
12 -- making Ward 8 proud. Thank you.

13 DR. REID: Thank you for your service,
14 Mr. Short.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Ketema, do
16 you have any questions to ask Dr. Reid based on
17 the questions that were just asked by Mr. Short?

18 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo, do
20 you have any questions of Dr. Reid based on the
21 questions that were just asked by Mr. Short?

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: No, sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dr. Reid, thank
24 you very much for your testimony today. Have a
25 great day, ma'am.

1 DR. REID: Thank you, Chairman
2 Anderson.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.
4 All right. Mr. Adofo, do you have another
5 witness?

6 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have my last
7 one for the day, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you still
9 have 47 minutes to go. Who is your next witness,
10 please?

11 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: It's Kristi Love.
12 She's president of the Association of Black
13 Social Workers.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Love, do
15 you have a camera you can turn on, please?

16 MS. LOVE: Yes, hold on. Hello.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Love, can
18 you raise your right hand, please?

19 MS. LOVE: Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
21 affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
22 truth? Can you put your hand back?

23 MS. LOVE: I know. I know. I'm
24 sorry. I got my --

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I

1 see you have someone you had to pay more
2 attention to than me. So let's start one more
3 time again.

4 WHEREUPON,

5 KRISTI LOVE

6 was called for examination by Counsel for the
7 Protestant, and after having been first duly
8 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
10 sir. And please have the person give a little
11 background information about themselves first,
12 please. Okay?

13 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MS. LOVE: Well, I'm -- go ahead.

17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 MS. LOVE: Kristi Love. I have been

19 --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MS. LOVE: Okay. I'm Kristi Love
22 (audio interference). I've been a resident only
23 since March 2019. But I have worked in D.C.,
24 basically Ward 8 and Ward 7, since 2007. I was
25 currently elected as the president of the

1 Association of Black Social Workers, Metro D.C.
2 chapter. And so I'm speaking more on behalf as
3 the Association of Black Social Workers.

4 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Are you resident
5 of ANC 8C?

6 MS. LOVE: Yes, I am.

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: So as a resident
8 of ANC 8C and as the president of the Association
9 of Black Social Workers, from a mental health
10 perspective, do you think adding an additional
11 store in the community that has adult beverages,
12 mind altering substances sold in close proximity
13 to people who currently have social -- excuse me,
14 substance abuse problems would advance the
15 community?

16 MS. LOVE: No. So as the Association
17 -- ABSW, we do not support another store that
18 will sell alcohol beverages because it does not
19 enhance the community. We are about black
20 communities, black families. And this is just
21 one of the ways that decreases the opportunities
22 for families to grow, to learn about health and
23 wealth, because like you all have already stated,
24 it's a homeless shelter, it's a school, it's
25 current behaviors and all of those things already

1 happening near me. So an additional liquor store
2 does not advance our stance on the black family
3 in the black community.

4 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. My
5 last question for you is there are a high number
6 of cases in our community that deal with CFSA,
7 Child and Family Services issues.

8 MS. LOVE: Mm-hmm.

9 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Does alcohol
10 contribute to the number of Child and Family
11 Service issues that we have within that immediate
12 community?

13 MS. LOVE: Absolutely because
14 alcoholism can -- that call to CFSA can be
15 because of neglect. And so because families are
16 experiencing trauma, substance abuse, and dealing
17 with alcohol, it definitely causes the breakup of
18 the family which, again, is against our code of
19 ethics and what we believe in for the black
20 family. So did that answer your question? So
21 yes.

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And I apologize.
23 Very last question, so with all of what you said,
24 this would be adverse to good order, peace, and
25 quiet in our neighborhood then, correct?

1 MS. LOVE: Right.

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have no further
3 questions, Chairman Anderson.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
5 Ketema, do you have any questions of her?

6 Do you have any questions you want to
7 ask, ma'am?

8 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
10 questions you want to ask her?

11 MS. KETEMA: No, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
13 by any Board members?

14 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Go ahead,
16 Mr. Short.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.
18 Ms. Love or should I say Social Worker Love,
19 that's a beautiful baby. I can see a little part
20 of it. But --

21 MS. LOVE: Oh, thank you.

22 MEMBER SHORT: And you know what?
23 I've seen a lot of communities in my eight years
24 here on the Board. I've seen a lot of
25 communities come and testify why or if they

1 should be permitted alcohol sales increase in
2 their communities.

3 And I'll just say this. Anybody who
4 sees this would say, Ward 8? And I would say,
5 yes, Ward 8. I bought my first house in Ward 8
6 for 18,300 dollars. And I'm glad to see now that
7 the community is coming up.

8 With that, I'll ask a question before
9 the Chairman corrects me. Ms. Love, family, you
10 mentioned family. So Ward 8, in your particular
11 community close to this establishment, how would
12 it affect family in this community?

13 MS. LOVE: How would it affect the
14 family?

15 MEMBER SHORT: Family, yes.

16 MS. LOVE: It affects the family -- a
17 social worker perspective. It affects the family
18 because it still -- it's exposure. It's exposure
19 to the alcohol and just an additional store that
20 is selling alcohol.

21 And so that can cause -- if it's not
22 the parents, it's the young folks. And again,
23 with mental health or recurring disorders, it
24 disrupts the family, especially if it's
25 generational things that are happening. And so

1 we're seeing just generations and generations of
2 accessibility to drugs and alcohol and stores
3 that sell it.

4 And so it affects the family and
5 money. It affects the wealth and what's coming
6 in to feed their families, to speak to their
7 families about mental health issues. And so just
8 all of those things -- those issues can affect
9 the family and break up families like Salim
10 mentioned about CFSA calls, abandonment, neglect.

11 Those things happen and imbalance. So
12 all of those things affect the family. And we're
13 a community, so it affects all the families.
14 When one family is affected, everybody is
15 affected.

16 MEMBER SHORT: All right, great. Now
17 you are testifying -- and I can say again knowing
18 the neighborhood like I know it. From Portland
19 Street to this particular location where they're
20 asking, there are several alcohol establishments,
21 A license alcohol already. So opening the door
22 for another one in your community -- so this is a
23 yes or no answer. In light of all the testimony
24 that has been said today and in light of your
25 testimony about family, are you in favor of us as

1 a Board granting this license.

2 MS. LOVE: No.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.

4 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

5 MS. LOVE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other

7 questions by any Board members?

8 Ms. Ketema, do you have any questions
9 of the witness based on the questions that were
10 asked by the Board?

11 MS. KETEMA: Okay. What's a direct
12 impact for my license that the evidence -- all
13 evidence, what's their testimony evidence?

14 MS. LOVE: Is that directed to me or
15 to the Board?

16 MS. KETEMA: The Board.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The question is
18 supposed to be to you. Are you asking the Board
19 a question or are you asking her a question?
20 Which one is it?

21 MS. KETEMA: I'm asking the Board.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can't ask
23 the Board a question, ma'am. I said to you are
24 you -- do you have a question to ask her. If you
25 have no questions --

1 MS. KETEMA: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- to ask her,
3 then you have no questions to ask her.

4 MS. KETEMA: Okay. I'm going to ask
5 her what's her testimony evidence.

6 MS. LOVE: To what? What is my
7 testimony evidence?

8 MS. KETEMA: What's a direct impact of
9 Wonder Mart, LLC?

10 MS. LOVE: Oh, so the stand for ABSW
11 is that an additional liquor store does not
12 positively impact the community. Is that --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

14 MS. LOVE: Yeah. And again, like
15 somebody else said, supporting small businesses
16 is good. This is just one of those things that -
17 - an additional thing that adversely -- that
18 negatively affects our family. It's not
19 something we support in the community.

20 MS. KETEMA: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. LOVE: Mm-hmm.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Adofo, do
23 you have any questions to ask her based on the
24 questions that were asked by the Board?

25 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: No, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Love, thank
2 you very much for your testimony.

3 MS. LOVE: Thank you. Thank you for
4 your time.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a good
6 day. Thank you very much. Mr. Adofo, do you
7 have another witness?

8 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: No, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you rest?

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I did not see
12 the documents of Ms. Ketema. Did you disclose
13 any documents for your PIF? Were there documents
14 that you disclosed to the Agency?

15 MS. KETEMA: Yes, I did.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
17 the documents? I have not seen them. So what
18 are the documents that you disclosed?

19 MS. KETEMA: The document is a
20 petition signature from the customer from the
21 community.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that all?
23 Anything else?

24 MS. KETEMA: That be all.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you seen

1 that document, Mr. Adofo?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have not been
3 issued anything from the -- from ABRA that is
4 official.

5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I got that email.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, no,
8 no. She said that -- did you get documents from
9 her in preparation for this hearing today?

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: No, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you never
12 saw -- you never got this petition that has the
13 signatures?

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I saw that via
15 email. And then the email correspondence said
16 that this had to be submitted officially through
17 these channels. And I never received anything of
18 the official channels.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
20 right. Did you provide this agency with any
21 documents in preparation for the hearing today?

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir. I did.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
24 these documents?

25 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I provided the

1 Agency with the survey that the Advisory
2 Neighborhood Commission conducted once we were
3 notified that Wonder Mart, LLC was pursuing a
4 license. And because of COVID, we didn't go door
5 to door. We did a survey sent via email, text
6 message, social media out to the community
7 stakeholders. And I submitted that.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What else did
9 you submit?

10 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: We submitted the
11 health equity report.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you go
13 through the documents you submitted and tell me
14 what they're identified as? How are they
15 identified?

16 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Oh, okay. Let me
17 --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you -- let
19 me ask you a question. Do you have them on your
20 computer?

21 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, I just have
22 to pull up the email with those documents. I
23 apologize.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you able to
25 -- if I give you permission to share your screen,

1 can you share the documents that way?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I believe so.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,
4 can you please give him the opportunity to share
5 his screen with us, please?

6 MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. Mr.
7 Adofo, you know have the right to share your
8 screen.

9 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: All right. Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
11 what are the documents?

12 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I have here my
13 PIF form of my witnesses, the community impact
14 statements, and the health report.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me go
16 through them. I haven't seen them, so I need to
17 --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need to
20 decide whether or not I'm going to allow them to
21 move them into evidence.

22 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. All right.
23 Here you go. This right -- are you able to see
24 the screen, sir?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. So what

1 is this document?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Okay. So this
3 was a spreadsheet of all the responses that we
4 got from residents when asked were they in
5 support of Wonder Mart, LLC having a license and
6 their reasons why. And this is their name -- the
7 date, their name, their address, their phone
8 number, email, their response to the question,
9 and these were their reasons why.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 This is Exhibit 1.

12 (Whereupon, the above-referred to
13 document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 1
14 for identification.)

15 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes. And we have
16 a total of 113 responses of no.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18 What's the next document that you have?

19 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: The next document
20 here was the D.C. crime search statistics within
21 2,000 feet of Wonder Mart. And these are all of
22 the different types of crimes that have taken
23 place.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are any of
25 these specific to Wonder Mart, or this is just

1 within 2,000 feet?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: This is just
3 within 2,000 feet of the address, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not going
5 to allow this into evidence. What's the next one
6 that you have?

7 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: And the final
8 piece that I submitted was -- and I couldn't
9 submit it any other way other than the link
10 because the file was too big, the D.C. health
11 equity report, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's that
13 item? I don't know what that is, so --

14 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: The D.C. health
15 equity report gives a comprehensive -- excuse me.
16 I'm trying to see the screen. The D.C. health
17 equity report gives a comprehensive report over
18 the last few years. It ended in 2018 where the
19 wards rank at in terms of health, education,
20 transportation, and a lot of other critical
21 issues.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what does
23 this have to do with Wonder Mart?

24 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I was just trying
25 to show where Ward 8 and particularly Congress

1 Heights was ranking at in terms of all these
2 different elements of what makes a community and
3 how Wonder Mart having a license to sell
4 alcoholic beverages plays a part in that.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not going
6 to allow this in evidence because it's not
7 relevant to -- it's not specific to Wonder Mart.
8 But I will allow Exhibit -- so the only document
9 that's been moved into evidence is Exhibit 1
10 which is -- you said there was a list of
11 neighbors who were against the establishment.

12 (Whereupon, the above-referred to
13 document was received into evidence as Protestant
14 Exhibit No. 1.)

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm also
16 going to allow into evidence Exhibit -- the
17 exhibit by Wonder Mart where they said it's a
18 list of 24 -- I'm sorry. Did you say you did not
19 receive that document?

20 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Right. I stopped
21 sharing my screen. I --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

23 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: -- received the
24 document initially. And in the email, it was
25 stated that Wonder Mart, LLC needed to follow the

1 proper channels to submit it. And since that
2 time, I received nothing else.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
4 Hold on. I'm trying to get response from the
5 Agency. So I'm not ignoring you. So I'm trying
6 to get a response from the Agency whether or not
7 the Agency received the PIF.

8 Okay. So that's why I'm not looking
9 at -- I don't want anyone to think that I'm
10 hearing my phone, doing stuff I shouldn't do.
11 But as you know, all of this is remote. I don't
12 have the document in front of me. I don't have
13 the PIF.

14 So the only thing I can do is before
15 I decide what we're going to do is to find out
16 from the Agency whether or not this document was
17 filed. Ms. -- did you file this document seven
18 days prior to the hearing? Did you file that and
19 disclose it to the Agency and also to Mr. Adofo?

20 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir. I did.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Agency said
22 you did not file a PIF. So did you file -- did
23 you follow the procedures in the sense that you
24 list your documents and witnesses?

25 MS. KETEMA: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The
2 Agency is telling me that you did not file a PIF.
3 So because the Agency is telling me that you did
4 not file a PIF and Mr. Adofo said that he never
5 received a formal document from you. Therefore,
6 I cannot -- the document that you said that you
7 wanted to move into evidence, I'm not going to
8 allow that to move into evidence because I'm
9 being told by the Agency that a PIF was not filed
10 and Mr. Adofo is telling me that he did not
11 receive the document.

12 So I'm not going to move that document
13 into evidence. So the only document that's going
14 to be moved into evidence, it's Exhibit 1 for the
15 Protestant. Okay, okay. Each side -- we have
16 now come to the end of the formal hearing.

17 So what we're going to do now is that
18 I'm going to give each side five minutes to wrap
19 up their case. So what that -- basically what it
20 is, Ms. Ketema, you're going to tell me what it
21 is -- what was presented today and what it is
22 that you want the Board to do. And Mr. Adofo,
23 once she gives her, you're going to tell -- that
24 you, Mr. Adofo, is going to tell me what was
25 presented today and what it is that you want the

1 Agency to do. Okay?

2 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
4 Ms. Ketema, you have five minutes to tell me what
5 it is that you want the Agency to do -- the Board
6 to do.

7 MS. KETEMA: Thank you. I feel like
8 all of it is they don't have direct impact to
9 Wonder Mart. Also, Wonder Mart, it's not going
10 to be the reason all what is going on in the
11 community. But I'm willing to work with the ANC
12 and ask the community too. And I need the
13 license because I need to compete and grow my
14 business too. And thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
16 ma'am. Mr. Adofo?

17 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: Good evening,
18 everybody. What I was able to witness today was
19 that Ms. Ketema, the owner of Wonder Mart, has no
20 clear security plan for how an establishment such
21 as this should operate. What I was able to
22 witness today was that Ms. Ketema did not seem to
23 understand the proper protocols and procedures
24 for submitting her paperwork to get her evidence
25 submitted which gives me the understanding that

1 she may not understand how to properly administer
2 and execute her license.

3 I wanted to be clear that I am not
4 against Wonder Mart in no way, shape, or form.
5 The ANC is not against Wonder Mart. The ANC is
6 here to ensure the health and the safety of all
7 of its residents and stakeholders which includes
8 Wonder Mart.

9 And from the testimony that I have
10 been able to hear from the owners of Wonder Mart
11 that there is no clear understanding of the ABRA
12 regulations. She stated that she was not
13 familiar with the regulations at all. And so I
14 have to say that we have to move forward with the
15 recommendation from the ANC.

16 We represent approximately 2,000
17 people, and that it is in the best interest of
18 the public health and the public safety for the
19 Board to not grant this license on the grounds
20 that it is also compromising the public health
21 and public safety of our children. We've
22 witnessed a young lady today testify that she's
23 not able to even play in her own neighborhood
24 safely or go in that area because of the
25 saturation of liquor stores in the area and the

1 adverse impact that it has on our community.

2 So I would just like to close by
3 saying that I think that we have to do what is in
4 the best interest of everyone involved in that at
5 this current juncture and time, Wonder Mart has
6 not shown to me that they understand all of the
7 ramifications of what goes into maintaining a --
8 getting a license or maintaining one at this
9 current juncture in time. So I would recommend
10 that ABRA do not grant this license.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Thank you. I want to thank both parties for
13 their presentation today. Just one last thing I
14 want to ask the parties and it's this legalese
15 that I never can get to the parties. Do the
16 parties wish to file proposed findings of fact
17 and conclusion of law or make the decision on
18 what was presented today?

19 Basically, what I just stated is that,
20 do you want to go write a legal brief to
21 summarize this hearing or allow -- or just have
22 the Board make the decision whether or not to
23 grant or deny this license based on the
24 presentation that made today? When I said,
25 proposed findings of fact and conclusion of law,

1 this would not be bringing in any new evidence.
2 This is just to say what happened here today.
3 Most people do not do that. But I just have to
4 ask.

5 COMMISSIONER ADOFO: I am okay with
6 the Board making a decision today, sir.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8 Well, I'm not going to make it right now, but
9 yes. All right. So the Board will make a
10 determination since I don't hear anything from
11 Ms. Ketema based on the presentation that was
12 made today.

13 All right. As Chairperson of the
14 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District
15 of Columbia in accordance with D.C. Official Code
16 Section 2574B of the Open Meetings Act, I move
17 that ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the
18 purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel
19 on Case No. 20-PRO-00048, Wonder Mart, License
20 No. 116997 pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section
21 2574B of the Open Meetings Act and deliberate
22 upon Case No. 20-PRO-00048, Wonder Mart, for the
23 reasons cited in D.C. Official Code Section
24 2574B13 of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a
25 second?

1 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah
2 seconds.

3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah
5 and Mr. Grandis have second the motion. I will
6 now take a roll call vote on the motion that's
7 been properly second. Mr. Short?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

10 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah?

12 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah,
13 I agree.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

15 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
18 agree.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
20 Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion
21 has passed, I hereby give notice that ABC Board
22 will recess this proceeding to hold a closed
23 meeting in the ABC Board conference room pursuant
24 to Section 2574B of the Open Meetings Act. Thank
25 you very much for your presentation today.

1 The Board will make a decision, and we
2 will issue a decision I believe within the next
3 60 to 90 days, I believe. There's a specific
4 timeline because this is a new license. But the
5 Board will issue -- you will have -- you will get
6 a written decision by the Board relatively
7 shortly on what decision is made today. So thank
8 you very much and have a good day. Thank you.

9 MS. KETEMA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11 Bye-bye. All right. We have now come to the end
12 of the Board's calendar for the day. So unless
13 there are any other further business, I am going
14 to close the record officially. So give me one
15 minute, please.

16 All right. As Chairperson of the
17 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District
18 of Columbia in accordance with Title 3, Chapter
19 405, Office of Open Government, I move that ABC
20 Board hold a closed meeting on February 10th,
21 2011 for the purpose of discussing and hearing
22 reports concerning ongoing or planned
23 investigations of alleged criminal or civil
24 misconduct or violations of law or regulations
25 and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel

1 on the Board's investigative agenda, legal
2 agenda, and licensing agenda for February 10th,
3 2021 as published in D.C. Register on February
4 5th, 2021. Is there a second?

5 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
7 second the motion. I will now take a roll call
8 vote on the motion that has been properly second
9 by Mr. Short. Mr. Short?

10 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

12 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Wahabzadah?

14 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Rema Wahabzadah,
15 I agree.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

17 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

19 MEMBER GRANDIS: Ed Grandis, I agree.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

21 Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion
22 has passed, I hereby give notice that ABC Board
23 will hold this aforementioned closed meeting
24 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notice will
25 also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room

1 bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar
2 on ABRA's website, and published in the D.C.
3 Register in as timely a manner as practical.

4 We are now adjourned for the day, and
5 I now direct the Board members for us to go to
6 executive session. Thank you very much, and I
7 thank the public for its participation today.
8 Thank you. Have a great day.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 went off the record at 6:18 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Wonder Mart

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-04-21

Place: teleconference

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