

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Ronald Douglas :
t/a Mr. Buddaworth's :
1313 New York Avenue NW : Fact Finding
License No. 128109 : Hearing
 :
(Review of Applicant :
Fitness for Licensure :
for a Retailer's License):
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Thursday
February 13, 2025

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member
RYAN JONES, Member
DAVID MEADOWS, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
RONALD DOUGLAS, Licensee
SEAN GORDY, DC OAG

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

2 4:27 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next
4 hearing on our calendar is Mr. -- a fact-finding
5 hearing regarding Ronald Douglas, trade name Mr.
6 Buddaworth's. And is Mr. Douglas available?

7 MR. ORELLANA: Ronald Douglas, your
8 access has been elevated. That is all, chairman.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
10 Douglas, can you turn your camera on, please? I
11 believe that Mr. Gordy is still required. So Mr.
12 Douglas, can you please turn your camera on, sir?

13 MR. GORDY: Mr. Chairman, I'm still
14 with you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
16 right. Let's -- do we -- Mr. Douglas, I cannot
17 see you, Mr. Douglas. I think that based on the
18 lighting -- I think it's based on the lighting.
19 I can't see you. I cannot make out your face,
20 sir. All I see is a dark shadow.

21 MR. DOUGLAS: Oh, maybe I'm --
22 shouldn't be. Right. Here we go.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. That's
24 better, sir. Thank you. The Board called --
25 good afternoon. The Board called a fact finding

1 in this matter of the conditional license of
2 Ronald Douglas regarding concern and interactions
3 with ABCA staff. The Board will hear from the
4 agency's licensing manager and then the applicant
5 can provide a response if he so chooses. The
6 purpose of today's hearing is to make a record of
7 -- for consideration by the Board at a later
8 date. As this is a conditional application, the
9 Board will not make a decision on qualifications
10 until a full license application has been filed
11 and deemed complete. If the Board determines
12 that a qualifications proceedings is necessary,
13 then the Board will provide appropriate notice
14 and documentation at that time.

15 All right. So Mr. -- and this is a
16 fact-finding hearing. It's informal. Parties
17 are not sworn in at fact-finding hearings. The
18 Board cannot legally order any party to take any
19 specific action. Fact-finding hearings are just
20 informational for the Board. And so Mr. Douglas,
21 can you please spell and state your name for the
22 record, sir?

23 MR. DOUGLAS: R-O-N-A-L-D,
24 D-O-U-G-L-A-S, Ronald Douglas.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

1 Douglas, and you are the owner of -- you -- you
2 have a conditional license for -- I'm sorry --
3 you have a conditional license for an entity
4 called Mr. Buddaworth's, is that correct, at 13
5 -- is that -- Mr. Budda -- B-U-D-D-A-W-O-R-T-H,
6 is that correct, sir?

7 MR. DOUGLAS: Yes. Mr. Buddaworth.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

9 Thank you. All right. Mr. Gordy, can you please
10 spell and state your name for the record, sir?

11 MR. GORDY: Sure. My name is Sean,
12 S-E-A-N, G-O-R-D-Y, and I'm the license --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. So -- I'm
14 sorry -- so Mr. Gordy, can you please share with
15 us any concerns, if any, do you -- that you have
16 regarding Mr. Douglas's interaction with the
17 agency?

18 MR. GORDY: Yes, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Douglas,
20 can you please mute your -- I cannot see you,
21 sir, but can you please mute your line, sir,
22 please? Go ahead, Mr. Gordy.

23 MR. GORDY: Thank you. Our concern is
24 -- with Mr. Douglas stems from at least two years
25 ago and rising to recently. I apologize. I

1 don't have my laptop and documents in front of
2 me. I can in a second but the applicant applied
3 for a medical cannabis license and during the
4 application process, we were introduced to him as
5 we had concerns with first clean hand for the
6 business entity as well as him as the individual,
7 who is 100 percent owner. In that time, my
8 interactions with Mr. Douglas have been initially
9 somewhat professional.

10 However, it really dissolved to very
11 contentious and incredibly combative. And so --
12 and emails, which was provided, as well as in
13 person -- my first meeting with Mr. Douglas was
14 -- it started out, again, respectful and
15 professional and then dissolved to him screaming
16 and threatening, which I walked away from that
17 original interaction with him, and to then him
18 emailing me and calling me and somewhat berating
19 me by phone. Then he came into the office the
20 second time in which we had conversation in which
21 he again became aggressive, very disrespectful
22 and then ultimately was asked to leave.

23 We did not hear from Mr. Douglas for
24 quite some time in that he had tried to secure
25 the documentation he needed. He ultimately

1 provided the tax documentation from OTR and then
2 was awarded a conditional license. We did not
3 hear from Mr. Douglas for a few months in which
4 he then resurfaced into the office, and he walked
5 into the office one day, and I don't have the
6 date in front of me but I'll pull it up. And so
7 he came into the offices of ABCA at the Reeves
8 Center at 14th and U, and he encountered first
9 one of our licensing specialists who was on duty
10 in our first floor medical cannabis office. And
11 Mr. Douglas had an elderly gentleman with him in
12 which he then asked to -- for some information
13 about his conditional license. The licensing
14 specialist assisted him and then he wanted more
15 information in which her not being the assigned
16 specialist, she reached out to the assigned
17 specialist but apparently, that wasn't fast
18 enough or enough for Mr. Douglas because then he
19 began to get extremely aggressive and
20 disrespectful to the licensing specialist on
21 duty.

22 The conversation itself, the service
23 itself really denigrated into him calling her a
24 fat bitch, repeatedly called her fat, waved his
25 hand in her face to the point where she was

1 extremely fearful for her own safety, and she had
2 to stand up and take a step back from behind the
3 desk. And then the -- according to my licensing
4 specialist, the gentleman that was with Mr.
5 Douglas even asked Mr. Douglas if he can calm
6 down, and Mr. Douglas said, "No" and continued to
7 berate my licensing specialist whom left the
8 office and walked to the nearby security desk
9 which was probably about 50 feet away, 20 -- 50
10 feet away and requested the help of security.
11 Security spoke to Mr. Douglas. He claimed that
12 he can calm himself down and they allowed him to
13 go upstairs.

14 This is not the first time. As I
15 mentioned, Mr. Douglas's behavior has been a
16 concern of my team. His assigned licensing
17 specialist also emailed me and we met to discuss
18 Mr. Douglas's behavior before his interaction
19 with the licensing specialist that was on duty.
20 She, too, expressed concern to -- about Mr.
21 Douglas's behavior and ultimately wrote an email
22 to me -- I think I included in the exhibit -- and
23 expressed concern that she does not want to work
24 with him alone and which I assured that that
25 didn't happen. And we had one other specialist

1 who encountered Mr. Douglas, I believe by phone.

2 I say all that to say that each
3 interaction with Mr. Douglas had been extremely
4 contentious, extremely disrespectful, and very
5 threatening to all three staff persons. All
6 three happen to be women. I, too, in my
7 experience in in-person interaction with Mr.
8 Douglas had to walk away from Mr. Douglas because
9 it became threatening. And just leading up --
10 and so my conversations with Mr. Douglas, I would
11 try to handle it professionally, speak with him,
12 hey, let's make sure that, you know, you don't
13 treat my staff this way, it's not necessary; you
14 know, what you said to my staff person, calling
15 her those names is unacceptable. He apologized
16 and felt he could move on.

17 Just two weeks ago, Mr. Douglas in,
18 assumably preparing for this hearing when he
19 received the invitation to attend this hearing,
20 called me one evening. And I didn't know it was
21 Mr. Douglas, and he introduced, hey, this is
22 Ronald Douglas and I just want to tell you -- I
23 want to know what's going on with this hearing.
24 And I told him that any questions that he had
25 about the hearing, about the process, reach out

1 to our legal team during business hours and they
2 will be happy to help you starting with the
3 person who invited you, and they can point you to
4 right direction. And he proceeded to then say to
5 me that he was -- I was just -- to summarize the
6 many, many things he said -- that he didn't
7 understand why we needed a fact finding. We
8 don't need to be fact finding. Why didn't we
9 asked him in the last two weeks or right before a
10 hearing that he had to appear at a hearing. This
11 is a game. This is a sham. Asked me where I
12 lived. This was a sellout and do you know that
13 I've been shot and I've been -- you know, he went
14 into a whole diatribe of who he was, who he is,
15 and threatened me by phone and to the pone where,
16 again, the conversation was reduced to threats,
17 profanity, argument. And I said to Mr. Douglas
18 several times, Mr. Douglas, I'm going to have to
19 let you go, Mr. Douglas, you know, we don't need
20 to have this conversation. And so he continued
21 to go on and on and which I hung up the phone.

22 He called back. He left a message on
23 my voicemail which you see -- which was provided
24 which was again latent with more anger and
25 aggressiveness and threats.

1 And so we asked that a fact finding be
2 held with Mr. Douglas because not only from our
3 experience from government employees and
4 servants, the District of Columbia, but we also
5 have concern for customers who may need to
6 counter Mr. Douglas and his operation if he's
7 issued and afforded the opportunity to possess a
8 medical cannabis license in the District of
9 Columbia. We collectively expressed that concern
10 that if he can't get through the process of
11 interacting with us that way, we all imagine what
12 customers will go through.

13 So again, to summarize, my staff was
14 terrorized by Mr. Douglas. My staff was
15 threatened by Mr. Douglas. My staff was
16 disrespected and berated by Mr. Douglas whom at
17 each time he done that, it's gotten progressively
18 worse, and he interacted with us like it was
19 nothing wrong with that. So our concern is that,
20 you know, Mr. Douglas has shown through this
21 process his behavior is unacceptable and that we
22 ask the Board to, again, address this very
23 serious issue, issues that involve safety and
24 just almost mental abuse to our staff, that that
25 won't be accepted at ABCA.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So Mr. Gordy,
2 so specifically, what were the threats? What
3 specific statements did Mr. Douglas allegedly say
4 to staff?

5 MR. GORDY: So just two weeks or when
6 I -- or a couple weeks ago, several weeks ago
7 when I spoke to Mr. Douglas, he -- and his -- in
8 the course of him losing control of himself, said
9 he'd been shot several times. I don't know who
10 he is. I know where you are and that you are not
11 going to take this from me. I work very hard.
12 I'm a Black man in the city and you all are all
13 alike. You all trying to take my license, my
14 business, my livelihood. I'm not going to let it
15 stand. You all going to hear from me. You will
16 know who I am. I said, "Okay." And that's when
17 I kind of hung up the phone.

18 But then also, my staff, the licensing
19 specialist that I'm purposely not naming unless
20 you require me to, when that person was on duty,
21 Mr. Douglas not only berated her, called her --
22 talked about her body size, being a Black female
23 and who she was and that she was a bitch and
24 called her bitch many times and waved his hand in
25 her -- and to the point where he approached her

1 and invaded her body space which was very
2 threatening to her and caused her to, you know,
3 exit from the other side of the desk and try to
4 find security and try to find some help.

5 And as well, there have been -- when
6 he was working with the assigned specialist, he
7 had, again, used all types of profanity with her
8 and told her that he will come down there and
9 that you all are not going to do this to me. And
10 so which prompted her to write the email and
11 which I shared as part of the exhibits as well.

12 So Mr. Douglas has, in every
13 interaction, I found, including myself and the
14 one incident with me before he even interacted
15 with my staff, I believe, after one, he actually
16 followed me to the elevator after I walked away
17 from him because he was, you know, threatening or
18 rising up like in a threatening manner while we
19 were talking in our first floor office. I walked
20 away and I told him to have a good day and as I
21 walked away, he followed me to the elevator, rode
22 the elevator up with me, and was standing with
23 fists balled and, you know, I had to -- I was
24 hoping the elevator get to the fourth floor, not
25 for me but for him. So again, the disrespect and

1 the feeling that he can intimidate government
2 servants to what he wants or what he thinks a
3 situation should be is concerning for us.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anything that
5 you would to -- I'm going to give Mr. Douglas an
6 opportunity to speak if he so desires but
7 anything else you want to leave -- say, Mr.
8 Gordy?

9 MR. GORDY: No. I think I've captured
10 everything.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
12 Douglas, as I stated, this is a fact-finding
13 hearing. The Board will not make any specific
14 findings today regarding your license. We're
15 just gathering information. And so if you choose
16 to respond, you can. You do not have. I
17 appreciate the fact, sir, that you appear today.
18 But if you choose to respond, this is your
19 opportunity to respond, sir, if you choose to.
20 You need to unmute yourself if you're going to
21 say something, sir.

22 MR. DOUGLAS: Certainly. Good
23 afternoon.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
25 sir.

1 MR. DOUGLAS: Am I still visible to
2 you?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. I
4 can see you well.

5 MR. DOUGLAS: Okay. First and
6 foremost, I think everything has just been
7 miscommunication. And when there's a breakdown
8 in communication, it can go several ways in a
9 city. So Mr. -- I was taking notes here -- Mr.
10 Gordy never articulated a threat that I made. He
11 said I balled my fists. He said that I said I
12 knew where he was. He said that I said "You're
13 going to find out who I am." First and foremost,
14 I'm a tall Black man. I got this license through
15 the social equity part of the -- ABCA's office
16 where you can get a cannabis license. I got this
17 from social equity. And in order to qualify for
18 social equity, you have to be a convicted felon.
19 And there are several other factors, on welfare,
20 so forth and so on. So I'm a convicted felon on
21 welfare with some documented mental health
22 issues. I got SSDI as a result of my mental
23 health conditions. But I asked this office
24 several times in communication where is the
25 felon? I am part of the District's cannabis

1 office felon program. Where is the felon in the
2 office that can relate to me, because I don't
3 think any of you guys can relate to me. I've
4 been in a federal prison for marijuana. In
5 prison, there's certain behaviors and tendencies
6 that you pick up. I've been in the poor
7 impoverished community my entire life. I asked
8 Mr. Gordy where was he from. He said he was from
9 Southeast, too. I gave him an example of when
10 you go into a Giant and he said Alabama Avenue
11 Southeast in the 20032 Zip Code of Washington,
12 D.C., if you're returning something, you have to
13 tend to prepare yourself for a confrontation
14 because the attitude in such retail environment
15 tends to be a little aggressive and upsetting.
16 This has been my environment my entire life.

17 For an example, I went into Giant and
18 -- on Alabama Avenue right there, and I asked
19 where he lived to see if he could relate to where
20 I'm from because I'm a convicted felon from
21 Southeast, impoverished poor man on welfare. I
22 need you to be able to relate to me. You're a
23 college graduate with a high end job whose mom is
24 proud of him. I failed at everything I've done
25 in my life. This is a economic opportunity where

1 if I'm lucky, I can create generational wealth,
2 but I need to know if you can relate to me before
3 I go on my spiel, before I spill my heart and
4 soul.

5 So I would go into a Giant. I'm
6 getting a cake that says "Happy Birthday
7 Grandma." And then I ask them to put this and
8 can you put that, And do you know they was like,
9 you -- you, that's it, you can't get no more.
10 That's it to the word. They say you got all you
11 can get. There's no limit to what you can put on
12 a cake. So I mean this is just the general
13 environment that I live up in, and it's conducive
14 to non-productivity and communication tends to
15 break down.

16 But I've also told them often I have
17 a master's degree in social science. I got a
18 master's degree so you must forgive my delivery
19 but if you can get past my tone and maybe my body
20 language, I'm not a liar. I don't threaten
21 anyone. I will not antagonize you. I will not
22 look down my nose at you. I will only tell you
23 the truth and stand on it. If I'm wrong, I'm the
24 type of person -- in the nightclub, I've said all
25 of these things to Mr. Gordy. But if I step on

1 your shoe, I would not only apologize but I'll
2 wipe -- I'll get down on my knee with a napkin
3 and wipe it and say excuse me, brother, forgive
4 me to ensure that it doesn't go into a clash,
5 because I know my people. I can relate to the
6 frustrated, aggravated Black man. So I just
7 asked who was the felon in the office that can
8 relate to me. It's a shame that you have a felon
9 program but don't have a felon who can come out
10 the office and maybe talk to that felon when
11 things break down in communication.

12 Yes. I called the woman a fat bitch,
13 but I did not walk in that office, and I hope you
14 guys review the tape because like I said, this
15 seems to be a witch hunt to me. I've rubbed
16 elbows wrong with a few people in the office.

17 The first interaction was in May of
18 2024 when I applied and was given my license. I
19 got frustrated with the fact when I came in on
20 the last day and nobody's answering me or
21 replying to me, the last day for approved, I come
22 here and find out that I have 10 more steps to
23 take. So I was frustrated with not finding out
24 yes, you've been approved but no, you have to go
25 do this, you have to go get a notarized paper,

1 you have to go this. And I expressed frustration
2 and this dang with that, not with a person.

3 I wasn't mad at Jacqueline or believe
4 her name is, the -- my first case manager that he
5 mentioned. I wasn't mad at her that she told --
6 I was upset with the fact that I thought I was at
7 the beginning -- I mean end of my process but
8 seemed that I was just at the beginning. And I
9 asked her why can't I be frustrated and yes, I
10 always use race. Forgive me. I said, "Why can't
11 I be frustrated as a Black man? "Why can't I
12 bang the table and say, this is fucked up as long
13 as I don't say fuck you? Excuse my language.
14 These are the examples I use.

15 Why can't -- why can't I -- why do I
16 have to say, "gosh darn," "golly, gee" when I'm
17 upset? I'm not upset with you. I am upset with
18 the circumstances. And where I'm from, I have a
19 tendency to express myself with that kind of
20 language, but not to you personally. I'm not
21 saying F you, sir. I'm saying this is a f'd up
22 situation. Jesus Christ, I got to go do this and
23 that now and that, so I rubbed her wrong. She
24 couldn't understand where I was coming from. She
25 took it as if I was personally upset with her.

1 That's the original. That's in 2024.
2 I came in with a old man to get a copy of my
3 license that I already have, conditional license
4 that I have. This was in October. I didn't get
5 a hearing notice until January. It took 90 days
6 for you to decide that I should have a hearing,
7 fact finding. It seems like a witch hunt. I
8 done now rubbed elbows with the lady who I called
9 a fat bitch after communication broke down.

10 What I've tried to tell them was that
11 was provoked ignorance. I didn't come in there
12 just ignorant. I came in with an 88-year-old man
13 who owns a property who gave me a lease. I
14 finally got my lease and secured a lease. He
15 wanted to see a copy of my conditional license.
16 He didn't believe that it was legitimate because
17 on the news, they were reporting how many
18 dispensaries they were shutting down, and he
19 didn't think that my letter saying that I had a
20 conditional license was legit. So I took him
21 into the office just to request a copy, just a
22 printout. Can you guys just print out my
23 conditional license I have. The lady at the desk
24 told him that I don't have a license.

25 I said, well, what does conditional --

1 why does it say license after condition --
2 conditional license if I don't have a license.
3 And I tried to explain to her you might know
4 something I don't, but you're not articulating
5 the facts to this man. Now you have him
6 believing that I am scamming and lying about my
7 license. You just told him I don't have a
8 license. And why would I be in ABCA office for a
9 copy of my license that I don't have? And she
10 responded with whatever she responded with. And
11 then I went back and as communication broke down,
12 she got her sass and her baggage, and she got her
13 body language and all of that and of course,
14 that's provoked ignorance. I'm not at work.
15 She's at work. I am doing business in a public
16 building.

17 So I go to DMV to get to get a copy of
18 my license I already have, to get a duplicate
19 copy of my license. I get in an argument with
20 the clerk and go down to the next clerk, And they
21 print me off a copy of my license. I leave and
22 go home and now they're going to revoke my
23 driving privileges? I just came in for a copy.
24 Communication broke down. Somebody felt a way
25 about that communication, totally understood it.

1 But I have no intention of working in
2 my business at all. I'm just going to be the
3 owner. I intend to have a gentleman manager --
4 manager and employees. I don't intend to be
5 there. So why should my character or lack
6 thereof in public communication -- you go to
7 Wal-Mart, you argue with the bakery clerk, and
8 you get fired from your office position? I
9 shouldn't be allowed to have a economic
10 opportunity with -- to create general wealth for
11 my family because I got in an argument or two
12 with the ABCA staff? If this was any other
13 office that I had a lapse of communication with,
14 would I be threatened to lose my license? No.
15 So this is a personal attack, man, where I rubbed
16 some people wrong in my breakdown of
17 communication, And now they're trying to see to
18 it that I can't feed my family as a result. What
19 does my character or lack of communication have
20 to do with business? I'm not going to be there
21 at that business, have no desire to be there.
22 You're going to take my license because you don't
23 like the way I talk? That don't make sense.

24 And threaten? How come they continue
25 to help me? After the exchange with the F -- the

1 fat B, I went upstairs. Mr. Gordy came out and
2 saw me and the 88-year-old gentleman that I came
3 with. Mr. Gordy came up and explained to him
4 that yes, Mr. Douglas does have a license. Mr.
5 Gordy came up and before he gave me help, we
6 addressed what happened downstairs. I said my
7 piece. Hey, man, she got out of line And I got
8 -- And I had to talk to her and that's it. You
9 all -- she -- you all need to check her, correct
10 her, And retrain her cause she got out of pocket.
11 And he -- then he -- after addressing that, he's
12 assisted me. He told the gentleman that yes, my
13 license is legitimate. He went back in the back
14 of the office hisself and printed the duplicate
15 of my conditional license, brang it back to Mr.
16 Early, got on one knee in front of Mr. Early and
17 broke down everything in my license to let him
18 know that it's legitimate, that he can give me
19 the lease, and after that Mr. Douglas will have
20 his placards. I thanked him. We were happy. He
21 let me keep the copy and then we got up and left.

22 For another footnote, he like seven
23 foot. I'm 5' 9", 131 pounds soak and wet with
24 two bricks in my pocket. I ain't physically
25 threaten nobody. I'm from the community where I

1 don't take that. Why I remember people going
2 postal. I remember people will come back and
3 kill everybody at work. I'm not saying this is
4 what I do. This is why I don't threaten people
5 in public. I didn't threaten nobody and if you
6 review the tape, I didn't get in that woman's
7 face and put no hand in her face. And
8 furthermore, for her to get up and come out of
9 the office, she would have to come within one
10 foot of me to get out of the door. So why would
11 she be intimidated of me in her face and then get
12 up and walk right passed me to go out for
13 security?

14 What happened is after I called her a
15 fat B and said give -- man, and whatever I said,
16 I left out to go upstairs. Why wouldn't -- if
17 this didn't -- this didn't require incident
18 reporting. Security came over to me but they
19 still let me go upstairs. When I went upstairs,
20 Mr. Gordy still assisted me. He still talked to
21 my landlord. He still gave me a copy of
22 everything, and then he went about his business,
23 And I went about mine. Ninety days later I got a
24 notice that I'm going to have a hearing, that
25 they might take my license because I had the

1 interactions in the ABCA office with ABCA staff.

2 And again, what does a disagreement
3 while I'm in public? I'm not ABCA. Everybody
4 conducts theirselves a little different at work.
5 I'm not at public. I'm out in public. I wasn't
6 at work, so I shouldn't be held to conditions or
7 standards like I was on the clock and duty. I
8 was in public. The person who was on duty ought
9 to be retrained and conditioned, And I hope
10 before you make any decision, you go and review
11 all of them tapes. And why are people so
12 threatened still helping me?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
14 -- your back on camera, Mr. Douglas. I put
15 myself on mute because I was hearing a feedback
16 and that's why -- I don't like putting myself on
17 mute because I start talking and then folks
18 didn't realize.

19 Mr. Douglas, no one is threatening
20 your license, sir. No one is taking away your
21 license at this juncture, sir. Okay. So let me
22 just put that -- be clear that your -- at this
23 juncture, sir, your license is not threatened.
24 The purpose of this hearing is that -- And I like
25 the fact that you put on the record that although

1 you had had negative interactions with certain
2 staff members, that Mr. Gordy, who testified
3 earlier, that he assisted you to ensure that you
4 have what's required. So I appreciate the fact
5 that you did put that on the record to say in
6 spite of whatever problems that you might have
7 had, that Mr. Gordy assisted you with your
8 concerns.

9 So I'm going to bring this hearing to
10 a close. I just want to just put some things on
11 the record. The Board is in this hearing, as
12 stated at the beginning, Mr. Douglas --

13 MR. DOUGLAS: I just want to --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

15 MR. DOUGLAS: Can I ask -- I asked the
16 office for what rule and --

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'm going
18 to explain to you, sir. I'm going to explain to
19 you.

20 MR. DOUGLAS: I was asking -- not you
21 -- I asked them And they never could tell me.
22 What rule did I break in the application that I
23 signed?

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
25 explain to you what's going on, sir. Okay. I'm

1 going to explain to you. And remember at the
2 beginning of the hearing, I stated that the Board
3 is not making a decision. We're just having this
4 hearing.

5 So anyway, but -- so -- but I just
6 want to state this, sir. I just want to advise
7 you that as a licensee, you will be charged with
8 enforcing the District laws on your premises,
9 resolving conflicts with customers and
10 maintaining security on the premises. You'll
11 also have to interact with D.C. Government
12 personnel such as ABCA, the Marshal, MPD, and
13 others. You may have to deal with Government
14 officials investigating your business and
15 notifying you of violations. In all of these
16 situations, it is the expectation of the Board
17 that you handle them in a cool and professional
18 manner. If you cannot be trusted to address
19 these situations professionally, then you may not
20 get a license or you may not keep a license for
21 very long.

22 Finally, if you choose to pursue a
23 full license, the Board will look into your
24 conduct. Therefore, it behooves you to operate
25 in a professional and civil manner moving

1 forward, sir. Character -- I mean when we have a
2 license, fitness and character are issues that
3 the Board can look at to make a determination if
4 the person can qualify for a license, but we're
5 not at -- there, sir. Your license is not being
6 threatened. We're just having this hearing to
7 state that you've had some unfortunate contact
8 with some staff members and just saying to you
9 publicly that we look forward to working with you
10 and we will, as you stated, although you had
11 whatever interaction that you had with Mr. Gordy,
12 that Mr. Gordy treated you professionally, And
13 what we just expect and anticipate that your --
14 that if you get a license, you will work
15 professionally with everyone, either customers or
16 investigators who might come to your
17 establishment in a professional manner, sir.

18 Okay?

19 MR. DOUGLAS: Yes. And what's the if
20 based on now? What's if I get a license? I
21 already have a conditional license.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, right.

23 But --

24 MR. DOUGLAS: My next --

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- I --

1 MR. DOUGLAS: -- time would make --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your -- your

3 next --

4 MR. DOUGLAS: -- And once I'm done,
5 that means I got my placard so --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

7 MR. DOUGLAS: -- now what's the issue?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's no
9 issue, sir. What I'm saying is that --

10 MR. DOUGLAS: -- I got these hearing
11 notices in January --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir --

13 MR. DOUGLAS: -- or I would be open
14 now. Just -- And the last --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.

16 MR. DOUGLAS: -- piece, I would be
17 open now --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir.
19 That's not true.

20 MR. DOUGLAS: -- but I had to come
21 cause I didn't know, And nobody would explain
22 this is just a hearing, Mr. Douglas. No one that
23 I tried to email, not Mr. Gordy, not anyone who
24 emailed me these notices told me this. So I
25 don't know what was going to happen today, didn't

1 have any idea what to expect, And every time I
2 reached out to prepare myself for this character
3 and fitness aspect of the writ, nobody would tell
4 me nothing.

5 I don't know what that is. I don't
6 know what it means. I don't know what -- they
7 said it's for when you got in an argument with
8 staff at the office. So I felt like wow, I got
9 in an argument with the staff and you're going to
10 take my license. I'm just explaining something.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Douglas --

12 MR. DOUGLAS: That's why I didn't know
13 what was going on, And thank you for your
14 clarification, but what's the if now? I have the
15 lease. The only reason I --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Douglas, no
17 one is taking your license away from you, sir.
18 You have a conditional license and no one is
19 taking your license away from you, sir. Basic --
20 the next step, if you have a location, you will
21 come to the agency, and the agency will move
22 towards processing your license.

23 However, character -- I'm not saying
24 that anything that you have done so far is a
25 disqualifying factor. I'm just saying to you

1 character and fitness are issues that the Board
2 can look at in agreeing to give any licensee a
3 full license, because one of the concerns that we
4 have, sir, we are granting your license. It is a
5 privilege to have a license. And so we want to
6 make sure that this privilege that is granted to
7 you, that when our investigators invariable --
8 invariably, if you have a license, an
9 investigator is going to come to your property,
10 And we're going to ask for the manager or a
11 manager or the owner. And you need to be there
12 and we want to make sure that your interaction
13 with our employees are professional, and we also
14 want to make sure that your interactions with
15 anyone who comes in your facility is
16 professional. That's all. Okay?

17 MR. DOUGLAS: Yes. Can I suggest you
18 all get a felon on your ABCA staff to deal with
19 your felons that apply?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I hear your
21 recommendation, sir, but I also -- you are aware
22 that there is an Office of Returning Citizen --
23 there -- Office for Returning Citizen, and maybe
24 you can reach out to that office, and maybe they
25 can help you facilitate the process.

1 MR. DOUGLAS: I'm sure I'm not the
2 only convicted felon that applied under the
3 social equity. If this -- this is just a lapse
4 in communication. I didn't threaten no one. I
5 don't --I wouldn't do it. You can go look back
6 and review the tapes. He never told you or
7 articulated a threat. Again, I haven't
8 threatened anybody. For just the tone of voice
9 and language to be such a big deal that it could
10 possibly take away someone's license --

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.

12 MR. DOUGLAS: When they're not even at
13 work. It's terrible.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. Sir, there
15 is -- as I'm stating, your conditional license
16 currently is not --

17 MR. DOUGLAS: I got that but to have
18 to go through this just because I had a discord.
19 We broke down in words. We argued. It takes two
20 to tango. Me and -- I didn't threaten anybody.
21 I didn't get in anybody's face. Now let's just
22 assume, for argument's sake, that I didn't
23 threaten anybody And I didn't get in anybody's
24 face, a breakdown in communication warrants this?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I -- sir --

1 MR. DOUGLAS: That's why I think that
2 there needs to be a felon working in that office
3 to work with felons, because I think someone who
4 did time and was a felon wouldn't have been
5 offended by me. They would have been able to
6 relate and understand my communication and where
7 I'm coming from even if I chose to use, you know,
8 bad words they call them. They would relate.
9 They would understand. Just like me when I run
10 business, if someone's out there yelling in the
11 bank that I work at, I say, hold everybody, let
12 me get that. Excuse me, brother, what's going
13 on? Talk to me, man. What's up? Everything all
14 right? Man, no, man. This is wrong. It don't
15 make no God damn -- hold on, brother, talk with
16 me. I got you. Don't let them get you now.
17 That what I -- but you got to let me know what's
18 happening. It wasn't me that did it now, but I'm
19 going to make it right. Talk to me. See, I know
20 how to work with that, ease that situation, get
21 that brother what he needs, keep everybody safe,
22 get him out the office. There's no one in ABRA
23 who can do that.

24 Man, if everybody's getting so
25 wrinkled over a loud tone and certain language to

1 the point that it has to come to this, then you
2 need somebody in the office who can relate
3 because I'm telling you, what you got from me,
4 the rant you heard today and where I rambled and
5 how Donald Trump caused it to weave, caused it to
6 weave. I may go into this story and bring out
7 this point, that's all I did. How did I change
8 character today when I got so passionate? I just
9 changed suddenly and learned how to get my tone?
10 No, sir. I'm not disrespectful. I'm not
11 ignorant. I've been to federal prison and I was
12 the same way doing that time. I would have
13 gotten killed in there if I didn't stand up for
14 right and principle. I would have died because I
15 present myself like I am right now in Southeast
16 Washington in these impoverished streets, and the
17 reason that I didn't get killed and I don't is
18 because I don't be wrong. I will not threaten
19 you. I will not cross the line. I'm just
20 expressing myself with passion.

21 When Martin bangs the table and says
22 it on the podium, when Farrakhan, when Malcolm
23 bangs the table, the crown goes crazy. But when
24 a brother is passionate in the office about his
25 point, everybody's insane about it. But how come

1 no security was called and no incident reports?
2 Why they didn't walk me out? I was so
3 threatening but they still let me go upstairs.
4 These things don't happen. I was so threatening
5 but they still gave me assistance, the 7' 2" And
6 I'm 5' 4" and he was afraid? Cut it out. That's
7 exaggerating and this is how I know we can tell
8 you that this is a witch hunt. They got angry at
9 me for whatever and I'm trying -- they're trying
10 -- cause they're trying to take a brother's
11 economic opportunity. Why wouldn't they tell me
12 that that's what this was?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Mr.
14 Douglas, thank you for appearing today and thank
15 you for expressing your views, sir. You have a
16 great day. Okay. Thank you, sir.

17 MR. DOUGLAS: Yes. Hold on. Now
18 would you feel like the way that I was to you
19 today that I shouldn't get the chance? Just a
20 personal question. I shouldn't get a chance to
21 feed my family cause of the way I talked to you
22 today?

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Douglas, I
24 have informed you that your -- currently, you --

25 MR. DOUGLAS: Yes. I know it is --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- your license
2 is not --

3 MR. DOUGLAS: And since that's
4 established, I just wanted to know personally if
5 it was possible, would you do that, sir?

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I --

7 MR. DOUGLAS: Would you take away my
8 economic opportunity to feed my children in the
9 way I talked to you today?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Douglas,
11 this hearing is over. You have a great day and
12 thank you for being here. And I know you're being
13 here all day so --

14 MR. DOUGLAS: And I will -- do right.
15 All right.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, sir.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. DOUGLAS: If God wouldn't allow
19 that and you couldn't do that, that would be
20 being God, man, like playing God with somebody's
21 words And your --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
23 Douglas. Have a great day.

24 (Whereupon, at 5:09 p.m., the
25 above-entitled proceeding was adjourned.)

A

ABCA 1:20 3:3 6:7
10:25 20:8 21:12 24:1
24:1,3 26:12 30:18
ABCA's 14:15
able 15:22 32:5
above-entitled 35:25
ABRA 32:22
abuse 10:24
accepted 10:25
access 2:8
action 3:19
address 10:22 26:18
addressed 22:6
addressing 22:11
adjoined 35:25
advise 26:6
afforded 10:7
afraid 34:6
afternoon 2:25 13:23
13:24
agency 4:17 29:21,21
agency's 3:4
aggravated 17:6
aggressive 5:21 6:19
15:15
aggressiveness 9:25
ago 4:25 8:17 11:6,6
agreeing 30:2
ahead 4:22
ain't 22:24
Alabama 15:10,18
Alcoholic 1:2,13
alike 11:13
allegedly 11:3
allow 35:18
allowed 7:12 21:9
Anderson 1:14,16 2:3,9
2:15,23 3:25 4:8,13
4:19 11:1 13:4,11,24
14:3 24:13 25:14,17
25:24 27:22,25 28:2,6
28:8,12,15,18 29:11
29:16 30:20 31:11,14
31:25 34:13,23 35:1,6
35:10,16,22
anger 9:24
angry 34:8
answering 17:20
antagonize 16:21
anticipate 27:13
anybody 31:8,20,23
anybody's 31:21,23
anyway 26:5
apologize 4:25 17:1
apologized 8:15
apparently 6:17
appear 9:10 13:17

appearing 34:14
applicant 1:8 3:4 5:2
application 3:8,10 5:4
25:22
applied 5:2 17:18 31:2
apply 30:19
appreciate 13:17 25:4
approached 11:25
appropriate 3:13
approved 17:21,24
argue 21:7
argued 31:19
argument 9:17 20:19
21:11 29:7,9
argument's 31:22
articulated 14:10 31:7
articulating 20:4
asked 5:22 6:12 7:5 9:9
9:11 10:1 14:23 15:7
15:18 17:7 18:9 25:15
25:21
asking 25:20
aspect 29:3
assigned 6:15,16 7:16
12:6
assistance 34:5
assisted 6:14 22:12
23:20 25:3,7
assumably 8:18
assume 31:22
assured 7:24
attack 21:15
attend 8:19
attitude 15:14
available 2:6
Avenue 1:7 15:10,18
awarded 6:2
aware 30:21

B

B 22:1 23:15
B-U-D-D-A-W-O-R-T-H
4:5
back 7:2 9:22 20:11
22:13,13,15 23:2
24:14 31:5
bad 32:8
baggage 20:12
bakery 21:7
balled 12:23 14:11
bang 18:12
bangs 33:21,23
bank 32:11
based 2:17,18 27:20
Basic 29:19
began 6:19
beginning 18:7,8 25:12
26:2

behavior 7:15,18,21
10:21
behaviors 15:5
behooves 26:24
believe 2:11 8:1 12:15
18:3 19:16
believing 20:6
berate 7:7
berated 10:16 11:21
berating 5:18
better 2:24
Beverage 1:2,13
big 31:9
Birthday 16:6
bitch 6:24 11:23,24
17:12 19:9
Black 11:12,22 14:14
17:6 18:11
Board 1:2,13 2:24,25
3:3,7,9,11,13,18,20
10:22 13:13 25:11
26:2,16,23 27:3 30:1
body 11:22 12:1 16:19
20:13
brang 22:15
break 16:15 17:11
25:22
breakdown 14:7 21:16
31:24
bricks 22:24
bring 25:9 33:6
broke 19:9 20:11,24
22:17 31:19
brother 17:3 32:12,15
32:21 33:24
brother's 34:10
Budda 4:5
Buddaworth 4:7
Buddaworth's 1:6 2:6
4:4
building 20:16
business 5:6 9:1 11:14
20:15 21:2,20,21
23:22 26:14 32:10

C

cake 16:6,12
calendar 2:4
call 32:8
called 2:24,25 4:4 6:24
8:20 9:22 11:21,24
17:12 19:8 23:14 34:1
calling 5:18 6:23 8:14
calm 7:5,12
camera 2:10,12 24:14
cannabis 1:2,13 5:3
6:10 10:8 14:16,25
captured 13:9

case 18:4
cause 22:10 28:21
34:10,21
caused 12:2 33:5,5
Center 6:8
certain 15:5 25:1 32:25
Certainly 13:22
chairman 2:8,13
Chairperson 1:13,16
2:3,9,15,23 3:25 4:8
4:13,19 11:1 13:4,11
13:24 14:3 24:13
25:14,17,24 27:22,25
28:2,6,8,12,15,18
29:11,16 30:20 31:11
31:14,25 34:13,23
35:1,6,10,16,22
chance 34:19,20
change 33:7
changed 33:9
character 21:5,19 27:1
27:2 29:2,23 30:1
33:8
charged 26:7
check 22:9
children 35:8
choose 13:15,18,19
26:22
chooses 3:5
chose 32:7
Christ 18:22
circumstances 18:18
Citizen 30:22,23
city 11:12 14:9
civil 26:25
claimed 7:11
clarification 29:14
clash 17:4
clean 5:5
clear 24:22
clerk 20:20,20 21:7
clock 24:7
close 25:10
Code 15:11
collectively 10:9
college 15:23
Columbia 1:1 10:4,9
combative 5:11
come 12:8 17:9,21
19:11 21:24 23:2,8,9
27:16 28:20 29:21
30:9 33:1,25
comes 30:15
coming 18:24 32:7
communication 14:8
14:24 16:14 17:11
19:9 20:11,24,25 21:6
21:13,17,19 31:4,24

32:6
community 15:7 22:25
complete 3:11
concern 3:2 4:23 7:16
 7:20,23 10:5,9,19
concerning 13:3
concerns 4:15 5:5 25:8
 30:3
condition 20:1
conditional 3:1,8 4:2,3
 6:2,13 19:3,15,20,23
 19:25 20:2 22:15
 27:21 29:18 31:15
conditioned 24:9
conditions 14:23 24:6
conducive 16:13
conduct 26:24
conducts 24:4
conflicts 26:9
confrontation 15:13
consideration 3:7
contact 27:7
contentious 5:11 8:4
continue 21:24
continued 7:6 9:20
control 11:8
conversation 5:20 6:22
 9:16,20
conversations 8:10
convicted 14:18,20
 15:20 31:2
cool 26:17
copy 19:2,15,21 20:9
 20:17,19,21,23 22:21
 23:21
correct 4:4,6 22:9
counter 10:6
couple 11:6
course 11:8 20:13
crazy 33:23
create 16:1 21:10
cross 33:19
crown 33:23
currently 31:16 34:24
customers 10:5,12 26:9
 27:15
Cut 34:6

D

D-O-U-G-L-A-S 3:24
D.C. 15:12 26:11
damn 32:15
dang 18:2
dark 2:20
darn 18:16
date 3:8 6:6
DAVID 1:18
day 6:5 12:20 17:20,21

34:16 35:11,13,23
days 19:5 23:23
DC 1:20,21
deal 26:13 30:18 31:9
decide 19:6
decision 3:9 24:10 26:3
deemed 3:11
degree 16:17,18
delivery 16:18
denigrated 6:23
desire 21:21
desires 13:6
desk 7:3,8 12:3 19:23
determination 27:3
determines 3:11
diatribe 9:14
died 33:14
different 24:4
direction 9:4
disagreement 24:2
discord 31:18
discuss 7:17
dispensaries 19:18
disqualifying 29:25
disrespect 12:25
disrespected 10:16
disrespectful 5:21 6:20
 8:4 33:10
dissolved 5:10,15
District 1:1 10:4,8 26:8
District's 14:25
DMV 20:17
documentation 3:14
 5:25 6:1
documented 14:21
documents 5:1
doing 20:15 33:12
Donald 33:5
Donovan 1:14,16
door 23:10
Douglas 1:6,21 2:5,6,7
 2:10,12,16,17,21 3:2
 3:20,23,24 4:1,7,19
 4:24 5:8,13,23 6:3,11
 6:18 7:5,5,6,11 8:1,3
 8:8,8,10,17,21,22
 9:17,18,19 10:2,6,14
 10:15,16,20 11:3,7,21
 12:12 13:5,12,22 14:1
 14:5 22:4,19 24:14,19
 25:12,13,15,20 27:19
 27:24 28:1,4,7,10,13
 28:16,20,22 29:11,12
 29:16 30:17 31:1,12
 31:17 32:1 34:14,17
 34:23,25 35:3,7,10,14
 35:18,23
Douglas's 4:16 7:15,18

7:21
downstairs 22:6
driving 20:23
duplicate 20:18 22:14
duty 6:9,21 7:19 11:20
 24:7,8

E

earlier 25:3
Early 22:16,16
ease 32:20
economic 15:25 21:9
 34:11 35:8
either 27:15
elbows 17:16 19:8
elderly 6:11
elevated 2:8
elevator 12:16,21,22,24
email 7:21 12:10 28:23
emailed 7:17 28:24
emailing 5:18
emails 5:12
employees 10:3 21:4
 30:13
encountered 6:8 8:1
enforcing 26:8
ensure 17:4 25:3
entire 15:7,16
entity 4:3 5:6
environment 15:14,16
 16:13
equity 14:15,17,18 31:3
established 35:4
establishment 27:17
evening 8:20
everybody 23:3 24:3
 32:11,21
everybody's 32:24
 33:25
exaggerating 34:7
example 15:9,17
examples 18:14
exchange 21:25
excuse 17:3 18:13
 32:12
exhibit 7:22
exhibits 12:11
exit 12:3
expect 27:13 29:1
expectation 26:16
experience 8:7 10:3
explain 20:3 25:18,18
 25:25 26:1 28:21
explained 22:3
explaining 29:10
express 18:19
expressed 7:20,23 10:9
 18:1

expressing 33:20 34:15
extremely 6:19 7:1 8:3
 8:4

F

F 18:21 21:25
f'd 18:21
face 2:19 6:25 23:7,7,11
 31:21,24
facilitate 30:25
facility 30:15
fact 1:7 2:25 9:7,8 10:1
 13:17 17:19 18:6 19:7
 24:25 25:4
fact-finding 2:4 3:16,17
 3:19 13:12
factor 29:25
factors 14:19
facts 20:5
failed 15:24
family 21:11,18 34:21
far 29:24
Farrakhan 33:22
fast 6:17
fat 6:24,24 17:12 19:9
 22:1 23:15
fearful 7:1
February 1:11
federal 15:4 33:11
feed 21:18 34:21 35:8
feedback 24:15
feel 34:18
feeling 13:1
feet 7:9,10
felon 14:18,20,25 15:1
 15:1,20 17:7,8,9,10
 30:18 31:2 32:2,4
felons 30:19 32:3
felt 8:16 20:24 29:8
female 11:22
filed 3:10
finally 19:14 26:22
find 12:4,4 14:13 17:22
finding 1:7 2:25 9:7,8
 10:1 17:23 19:7
findings 13:14
fired 21:8
first 5:5,13 6:8,10 7:14
 12:19 14:5,13 17:17
 18:4
fists 12:23 14:11
fitness 1:9 27:2 29:3
 30:1
floor 6:10 12:19,24
folks 24:17
followed 12:16,21
foot 22:23 23:10
footnote 22:22

foremost 14:6,13
forgive 16:18 17:3
 18:10
forth 14:20
forward 27:1,9
found 12:13
fourth 12:24
front 5:1 6:6 22:16
frustrated 17:6,19,23
 18:9,11
frustration 18:1
fuck 18:13
fucked 18:12
full 3:10 26:23 30:3
furthermore 23:8

G

G-O-R-D-Y 4:12
game 9:11
gathering 13:15
gee 18:16
general 16:12 21:10
generational 16:1
gentleman 6:11 7:4
 21:3 22:2,12
getting 16:6 32:24
Giant 15:10,17 16:5
give 13:5 22:18 23:15
 30:2
given 17:18
go 2:22 4:22 7:13 9:19
 9:21 10:12 14:8 15:10
 16:3,5 17:4,24,25
 18:1,22 20:17,20,22
 21:6 23:12,16,19
 24:10 31:5,18 33:6
 34:3
God 32:15 35:18,20,20
goes 33:23
going 8:23 9:18 11:11
 11:14,15 12:9 13:5,20
 14:13 20:22 21:2,20
 21:22 23:1,24 25:9,17
 25:18,24,25 26:1
 28:25 29:9,13 30:9,10
 32:12,19
golly 18:16
good 2:25 12:20 13:22
 13:24
Gordy 1:21 2:11,13 4:9
 4:11,14,18,22,23 11:1
 11:5 13:8,9 14:10
 15:8 16:25 22:1,3,5
 23:20 25:2,7 27:11,12
 28:23
gosh 18:16
gotten 10:17 33:13
government 10:3 13:1

26:11,13
graduate 15:23
Grandma 16:7
GRANT 1:17
granted 30:6
granting 30:4
great 34:16 35:11,23
guys 15:3 17:14 19:22

H

hand 5:5 6:25 11:24
 23:7
handle 8:11 26:17
happen 7:25 8:6 28:25
 34:4
happened 22:6 23:14
happening 32:18
happy 9:2 16:6 22:20
hard 11:11
health 14:21,23
hear 3:3 5:23 6:3 11:15
 30:20
heard 33:4
hearing 1:7 2:4,5 3:6,16
 8:18,19,23,25 9:10,10
 13:13 19:5,6 23:24
 24:15,24 25:9,11 26:2
 26:4 27:6 28:10,22
 35:11
hearings 3:17,19
heart 16:3
held 10:2 24:6
help 7:10 9:2 12:4
 21:25 22:5 30:25
helping 24:12
hey 8:12,21 22:7
high 15:23
hissself 22:14
hold 32:11,15 34:17
home 20:22
hope 17:13 24:9
hoping 12:24
hours 9:1
hung 9:21 11:17
hunt 17:15 19:7 34:8

I

idea 29:1
ignorance 19:11 20:14
ignorant 19:12 33:11
imagine 10:11
impoverished 15:7,21
 33:16
in-person 8:7
incident 12:14 23:17
 34:1
included 7:22
including 12:13

incredibly 5:11
individual 5:6
informal 3:16
information 6:12,15
 13:15
informational 3:20
informed 34:24
initially 5:8
insane 33:25
intend 21:3,4
intention 21:1
interact 26:11
interacted 10:18 12:14
interacting 10:11
interaction 4:16 5:17
 7:18 8:3,7 12:13
 17:17 27:11 30:12
interactions 3:2 5:8
 24:1 25:1 30:14
intimidate 13:1
intimidated 23:11
introduced 5:4 8:21
invaded 12:1
invariable 30:7
invariably 30:8
investigating 26:14
investigator 30:9
investigators 27:16
 30:7
invitation 8:19
invited 9:3
involve 10:23
issue 10:23 28:7,9
issued 10:7
issues 10:23 14:22 27:2
 30:1

J

Jacqueline 18:3
January 19:5 28:11
Jesus 18:22
job 15:23
JONES 1:17
JOSE 1:20
JR 1:17
junction 24:21,23

K

keep 22:21 26:20 32:21
kill 23:3
killed 33:13,17
kind 11:17 18:19
knee 17:2 22:16
knew 14:12
know 8:12,14,20,23
 9:12,13,19 10:20 11:9
 11:10,16 12:2,17,23
 16:2,8 17:5 20:3

22:18 28:21,25 29:5,6
 29:6,12 32:7,17,19
 34:7,25 35:4,12

L

lack 21:5,19
lady 19:8,23
landlord 23:21
language 16:20 18:13
 18:20 20:13 31:9
 32:25
lapse 21:13 31:3
laptop 5:1
latent 9:24
laws 26:8
leading 8:9
learned 33:9
lease 19:13,14,14 22:19
 29:15
leave 5:22 13:7 20:21
left 7:7 9:22 22:21
 23:16
legal 9:1
legally 3:18
legit 19:20
legitimate 19:16 22:13
 22:18
let's 2:16 8:12 31:21
letter 19:19
liar 16:20
license 1:7,9 3:1,10 4:2
 4:3,12 5:3 6:2,13 10:8
 11:13 13:14 14:14,16
 17:18 19:3,3,15,20,23
 19:24 20:1,2,2,7,8,9
 20:18,19,21 21:14,22
 22:4,13,15,17 23:25
 24:20,21,23 26:20,20
 26:23 27:2,4,5,14,20
 27:21 29:10,17,18,19
 29:22 30:3,4,5,8
 31:10,15 35:1
licensee 1:21 26:7 30:2
licensing 3:4 6:9,13,20
 7:3,7,16,19 11:18
Licensure 1:9
life 15:7,16,25
lighting 2:18,18
limit 16:11
line 4:21 22:7 33:19
little 15:15 24:4
live 16:13
lived 9:12 15:19
livelihood 11:14
location 29:20
long 18:12 26:21
look 16:22 26:23 27:3,9
 30:2 31:5

lose 21:14
 losing 11:8
 loud 32:25
 lucky 16:1
 lying 20:6

M

mad 18:3,5
 maintaining 26:10
 making 26:3
 Malcolm 33:22
 man 11:12 14:14 15:21
 17:6 18:11 19:2,12
 20:5 21:15 22:7 23:15
 32:13,14,14,24 35:20
 manager 3:4 18:4 21:3
 21:4 30:10,11
 manner 12:18 26:18,25
 27:17
 marijuana 15:4
 Marshal 26:12
 Martin 33:21
 master's 16:17,18
 matter 1:5 3:1
 MEADOWS 1:18
 mean 16:12 18:7 27:1
 means 28:5 29:6
 medical 5:3 6:10 10:8
 meeting 1:3 5:13
 Member 1:17,17,18
 members 25:2 27:8
 mental 10:24 14:21,22
 mentioned 7:15 18:5
 message 9:22
 met 1:13 7:17
 mine 23:23
 miscommunication
 14:7
 mom 15:23
 months 6:3
 move 8:16 29:21
 moving 26:25
 MPD 26:12
 mute 4:20,21 24:15,17

N

name 2:5 3:21 4:10,11
 18:4
 names 8:15
 naming 11:19
 napkin 17:2
 nearby 7:8
 necessary 3:12 8:13
 need 9:8,19 10:5 13:20
 15:22 16:2 22:9 30:11
 33:2
 needed 5:25 9:7
 needs 32:2,21

negative 25:1
 never 14:10 25:21 31:6
 New 1:7
 news 19:17
 nightclub 16:24
 Ninety 23:23
 nobody's 17:20
 non-productivity 16:14
 nose 16:22
 notarized 17:25
 notes 14:9
 notice 3:13 19:5 23:24
 notices 28:11,24
 notifying 26:15
 NW 1:7

O

OAG 1:21
 October 19:4
 offended 32:5
 office 5:19 6:4,5,10 7:8
 12:19 14:15,23 15:1,2
 17:7,10,13,16 19:21
 20:8 21:8,13 22:14
 23:9 24:1 25:16 29:8
 30:22,23,24 32:2,22
 33:2,24
 offices 6:7
 officials 26:14
 Oh 2:21
 Okay 2:15,23 11:16
 14:5 24:21 25:25
 27:18 30:16 34:13,16
 35:16
 old 19:2
 once 28:4
 open 28:13,17
 operate 26:24
 operation 10:6
 opportunity 10:7 13:6
 13:19 15:25 21:10
 34:11 35:8
 order 3:18 14:17
 ORELLANA 1:20 2:7
 original 5:17 19:1
 OTR 6:1
 ought 24:8
 owner 4:1 5:7 21:3
 30:11
 owns 19:13

P

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2:1
 p.m 2:2 35:24
 paper 17:25
 part 12:11 14:15,25
 Parties 3:16

party 3:18
 passed 23:12
 passion 33:20
 passionate 33:8,24
 people 17:5,16 21:16
 23:1,2,4 24:11
 percent 5:7
 person 5:13 8:14 9:3
 11:20 16:24 18:2 24:8
 27:4
 personal 21:15 34:20
 personally 18:20,25
 35:4
 personnel 26:12
 persons 8:5
 phone 5:19 8:1 9:15,21
 11:17
 physically 22:24
 pick 15:6
 piece 22:7 28:16
 placard 28:5
 placards 22:20
 playing 35:20
 please 2:10,12 3:21 4:9
 4:14,20,21,22
 pocket 22:10,24
 podium 33:22
 point 6:25 9:3 11:25
 33:1,7,25
 pone 9:15
 poor 15:6,21
 position 21:8
 possess 10:7
 possible 35:5
 possibly 31:10
 postal 23:2
 pounds 22:23
 premises 26:8,10
 prepare 15:13 29:2
 preparing 8:18
 present 1:15,19 33:15
 presiding 1:14
 principle 33:14
 print 19:22 20:21
 printed 22:14
 printout 19:22
 prison 15:4,5 33:11
 privilege 30:5,6
 privileges 20:23
 probably 7:9
 problems 25:6
 proceeded 9:4
 proceeding 35:25
 proceedings 3:12
 process 5:4 8:25 10:10
 10:21 18:7 30:25
 processing 29:22
 profanity 9:17 12:7

professional 5:9,15
 26:17,25 27:17 30:13
 30:16
 professionally 8:11
 26:19 27:12,15
 program 15:1 17:9
 progressively 10:17
 prompted 12:10
 property 19:13 30:9
 proud 15:24
 provide 3:5,13
 provided 5:12 6:1 9:23
 provoked 19:11 20:14
 public 20:15 21:6 23:5
 24:3,5,5,8
 publicly 27:9
 pull 6:6
 purpose 3:6 24:24
 purposely 11:19
 pursue 26:22
 put 16:7,8,11 23:7
 24:14,22,25 25:5,10
 putting 24:16

Q

qualifications 3:9,12
 qualify 14:17 27:4
 question 34:20
 questions 8:24
 quite 5:24

R

R-O-N-A-L-D 3:23
 race 18:10
 rambled 33:4
 rant 33:4
 reach 8:25 30:24
 reached 6:16 29:2
 realize 24:18
 really 5:10 6:23
 reason 29:15 33:17
 received 8:19
 recommendation 30:21
 record 3:6,22 4:10
 24:25 25:5,11
 reduced 9:16
 Reeves 6:7
 regarding 2:5 3:2 4:16
 13:14
 relate 15:2,3,19,22 16:2
 17:5,8 32:6,8 33:2
 remember 23:1,2 26:1
 repeatedly 6:24
 replying 17:21
 reporting 19:17 23:18
 reports 34:1
 request 19:21
 requested 7:10

require 11:20 23:17
required 2:11 25:4
resolving 26:9
respectful 5:14
respond 13:16,18,19
responded 20:10,10
response 3:5
result 14:22 21:18
resurfaced 6:4
retail 15:14
Retailer's 1:9
retrain 22:10
retrained 24:9
returning 15:12 30:22
 30:23
review 1:8 17:14 23:6
 24:10 31:6
revoke 20:22
right 2:16,22 3:15 4:9
 9:4,9 15:18 23:12
 27:22 32:14,19 33:14
 33:15 35:14,15
rising 4:25 12:18
rode 12:21
Ronald 1:6,21 2:5,7 3:2
 3:24 8:22
rubbed 17:15 18:23
 19:8 21:15
rule 25:16,22
run 32:9
RYAN 1:17

S

S-E-A-N 4:12
safe 32:21
safety 7:1 10:23
sake 31:22
sass 20:12
saw 22:2
saying 18:21,21 19:19
 23:3 27:8 28:9 29:23
 29:25
says 16:6 33:21
scamming 20:6
science 16:17
screaming 5:15
Sean 1:21 4:11
second 5:2,20
secure 5:24
secured 19:14
security 7:8,10,11 12:4
 23:13,18 26:10 34:1
see 2:17,19,20 4:20
 9:23 14:4 15:19 19:15
 21:17 32:19
sellout 9:12
sense 21:23
serious 10:23

servants 10:4 13:2
service 6:22
seven 22:22
shadow 2:20
sham 9:11
shame 17:8
share 4:14
shared 12:11
shoe 17:1
shot 9:13 11:9
shown 10:20
shutting 19:18
side 12:3
signed 25:23
SILAS 1:17
sir 2:12,20,24 3:22 4:6
 4:8,10,18,21,21 13:17
 13:19,21,25 14:3
 18:21 24:20,21,23
 25:14,18,25 26:6 27:1
 27:5,17 28:9,12,18
 29:17,19 30:4,21
 31:14,25 33:10 34:15
 34:16 35:5,16
situation 13:3 18:22
 32:20
situations 26:16,19
size 11:22
soak 22:23
social 14:15,17,18
 16:17 31:3
somebody 20:24 33:2
somebody's 35:20
someone's 31:10 32:10
somewhat 5:9,18
sorry 4:2,14
soul 16:4
Southeast 15:9,11,21
 33:15
space 12:1
speak 8:11 13:6
specialist 6:14,16,17
 6:20 7:4,7,17,19,25
 11:19 12:6
specialists 6:9
specific 3:19 11:3
 13:13
specifically 11:2
spell 3:21 4:10
spiel 16:3
spill 16:3
spite 25:6
spoke 7:11 11:7
SSDI 14:22
staff 1:20 3:3 8:5,13,14
 10:13,14,15,24 11:4
 11:18 12:15 21:12
 24:1 25:2 27:8 29:8,9

30:18
stand 7:2 11:15 16:23
 33:13
standards 24:7
standing 12:22
start 24:17
started 5:14
starting 9:2
state 3:21 4:10 26:6
 27:7
stated 13:12 25:12 26:2
 27:10
statements 11:3
stating 31:15
stems 4:24
step 7:2 16:25 29:20
steps 17:22
story 33:6
streets 33:16
suddenly 33:9
suggest 30:17
summarize 9:5 10:13
sure 4:11 8:12 30:6,12
 30:14 31:1
sworn 3:17

T

t/a 1:6
table 18:12 33:21,23
take 3:18 7:2 11:11,13
 17:23 21:22 23:1,25
 29:10 31:10 34:10
 35:7
takes 31:19
talk 17:10 21:23 22:8
 32:13,15,19
talked 11:22 23:20
 34:21 35:9
talking 12:19 24:17
tall 14:14
tango 31:20
tape 17:14 23:6
tapes 24:11 31:6
tax 6:1
team 7:16 9:1
tell 8:22 16:22 19:10
 25:21 29:3 34:7,11
telling 33:3
tend 15:13
tendencies 15:5
tendency 18:19
tends 15:15 16:14
terrible 31:13
terrorized 10:14
testified 25:2
thank 2:9,24 4:9,23
 13:11 24:13 29:13
 34:14,14,16 35:12,17
 35:22
thanked 22:20
themselves 24:4
thereof 21:6
things 9:6 16:25 17:11
 25:10 34:4
think 2:17,18 7:22 13:9
 14:6 15:3 19:19 32:1
 32:3
thinks 13:2
thought 18:6
threat 14:10 31:7
threaten 16:20 21:24
 22:25 23:4,5 31:4,20
 31:23 33:18
threatened 9:15 10:15
 21:14 24:12,23 27:6
 31:8
threatening 5:16 8:5,9
 12:2,17,18 24:19 34:3
 34:4
threats 9:16,25 11:2
three 8:5,6
Thursday 1:11
time 3:14 5:7,20,24
 7:14 10:17 28:1 29:1
 32:4 33:12
times 9:18 11:9,24
 14:24
today 13:14,17 28:25
 33:4,8 34:14,19,22
 35:9
today's 3:6
told 8:24 12:8,20 16:16
 18:5 19:24 20:7 22:12
 28:24 31:6
tone 16:19 31:8 32:25
 33:9
totally 20:25
trade 2:5
treat 8:13
treated 27:12
tried 5:24 19:10 20:3
 28:23
true 28:19
Trump 33:5
trusted 26:18
truth 16:23
try 8:11 12:3,4
trying 11:13 21:17 34:9
 34:9,10
turn 2:10,12
two 4:24 8:17 9:9 11:5
 21:11 22:24 31:19
type 16:24
types 12:7

U

<p>U 6:8 ultimately 5:22,25 7:21 unacceptable 8:15 10:21 understand 9:7 18:24 32:6,9 understood 20:25 unfortunate 27:7 unmute 13:20 upset 18:6,17,17,17,25 upsetting 15:15 upstairs 7:13 22:1 23:16,19,19 34:3 use 18:10,14 32:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>videoconference 1:13 views 34:15 violations 26:15 visible 14:1 voice 31:8 voicemail 9:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>W 1:14,16 Wal-Mart 21:7 walk 8:8 17:13 23:12 34:2 walked 5:16 6:4 7:8 12:16,19,21 want 7:23 8:22,23 13:7 25:10,13 26:6,6 30:5 30:12,14 wanted 6:14 19:15 35:4 wants 13:2 warrants 31:24 Washington 15:11 33:16 wasn't 6:17 18:3,5 24:5 32:18 waved 6:24 11:24 way 8:13 10:11 20:24 21:23 33:12 34:18,21 35:9 ways 14:8 we're 13:14 26:3 27:4,6 30:10 wealth 16:1 21:10 weave 33:5,6 WebEx 1:13 weeks 8:17 9:9 11:5,6,6 welfare 14:19,21 15:21 went 9:13 15:17 20:11 22:1,13 23:19,22,23 wet 22:23 wipe 17:2,3 witch 17:15 19:7 34:8 woman 17:12</p>	<p>woman's 23:6 women 8:6 word 16:10 words 31:19 32:8 35:21 work 7:23 11:11 20:14 20:15 23:3 24:4,6 27:14 31:13 32:3,11 32:20 working 12:6 21:1 27:9 32:2 worse 10:18 wouldn't 23:16 31:5 32:4 34:11 35:18 wow 29:8 wrinkled 32:25 writ 29:3 write 12:10 wrong 10:19 16:23 17:16 18:23 21:16 32:14 33:18 wrote 7:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>years 4:24 yelling 32:10 York 1:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <p>Zip 15:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>10 17:22 100 5:7 128109 1:7 13 1:11 4:4 131 22:23 1313 1:7 14th 6:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>2 34:5 20 7:9 20032 15:11 2024 17:18 19:1 2025 1:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>4 34:6 4:27 2:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>5' 22:23 34:6</p>	<p>5:09 35:24 50 7:9,9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7' 34:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>88-year-old 19:12 22:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>9 22:23 90 19:5</p>
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Mr. Buddaworth's

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 02-13-25

Place: teleconference

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