



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

2 (3:10 p.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, the  
4 next case on our calendar is Case No -- is a  
5 Fact-Finding Hearing on License No. 120090,  
6 application for a new license. Ms. Fashbaugh,  
7 can you please elevate the rights of the parties  
8 in this case please?

9 MS. FLETCHER: Please stand by.  
10 Joseph Jarrouje, your rights have been elevated.  
11 Commissioner Lisa Palmer was on earlier, but she  
12 has left. That is all, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
14 Joseph Jarrouje?

15 MR. JARROUJE: Yes, yes. I'm here.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is  
17 there someone else that's supposed to be there,  
18 sir or is it just you?

19 MR. IBRAHIM: Zakaria Ibrahim  
20 represented by Beirut Nights.

21 MS. JARROUJE: And his wife, Leila  
22 Jarrouje, just being present just in case he  
23 needs to explain more in English.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying  
25 everyone who needs to be on this case, they're on

1 this case. That's what I'm trying to ask.

2 MS. JARROUJE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do  
4 you guys have a camera that you can turn on?

5 MS. JARROUJE: Yes, we do. Let's just  
6 start the video. I'm sorry. Just a second.

7 Wait, it's taking time. Do you see us now?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can see  
9 you. Thank you. All right, okay.

10 MR. IBRAHIM: Good afternoon, Mr.  
11 Chairman.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
13 fine. Okay. Some background to this case.  
14 Previously there was an application for this  
15 location occupied by Charcoal Town. The Board  
16 denied Charcoal Town's application due to failing  
17 to defend a qualification challenge to Board  
18 Order No. 2021-260 related to selling alcohol  
19 without a license. Subsequently we now have an  
20 application by -- I'm sorry, who's the Applicant  
21 in this case? Who applied for the license?

22 MS. JARROUJE: Joseph, my husband.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And  
24 so we're just trying to ascertain who is this  
25 person and whether or not -- whether or not this

1 is the same entity that had requested -- applied  
2 for a license in the previous case. So let's  
3 start off by having you, Mr. Jarrouje, can you  
4 please spell and state your name for the record  
5 please?

6 MR. JARROUJE: My name Joseph  
7 Jarrouje. I'm the owner of Beirut Nights.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Spell it --  
9 spell your name.

10 MR. JARROUJE: J-A-R-R-O-U-J-E.

11 MS. JARROUJE: Family name.

12 MR. JARROUJE: This is a family name.  
13 My first name, J-O-S-E-P-H.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now the other  
15 two people with you, are they going -- are they  
16 going to testify today?

17 MR. JARROUJE: Yes, yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you please  
19 identify yourself and -- Well, let me have the  
20 other people identify themselves by spelling  
21 their names please.

22 MS. JARROUJE: My name is Leila  
23 Jarrouje, L-E-I-L-A J-A-R-R-O-U-J-E, same family  
24 name. And I'm his wife, just helping out because  
25 of the English -- in case he needs to express

1 things that he is not able to quickly say it.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who's the  
3 next person?

4 MR. IBRAHIM: Zakaria Ibrahim. It is  
5 Z-A-K-A-R-I-A. Last name is I-B-R-A-H-I-M from  
6 Ibrahim Consulting Service. I'm here to assist  
7 Beirut Nights with the new license.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You said  
9 consulting firm? What do you mean by consulting  
10 firm? I'm just trying to get some clarification?

11 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm a consulting service  
12 for commercial. I process permits, license, or  
13 represent Liquor Board or the smoking license,  
14 all of that.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
16 fine. So Mr. Jarrouje, tell me about who are  
17 you? Tell me, give me some information about  
18 your business model and what it is that you're  
19 requesting in this location, sir?

20 MS. JARROUJE: Okay. Would you mind  
21 if I --

22 MR. IBRAHIM: Let me explain because  
23 --

24 MS. JARROUJE: Would you mind if I  
25 explained so it would be quicker?

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If he says  
2 that's fine.

3                   MR. JARROUJE: There's a lot of  
4 language, Mr. Chair.

5                   MR. IBRAHIM: Okay, if you're -- Okay,  
6 he's fine. He's saying if you're fine for me to  
7 explain, yes. Okay, so Joseph -- I'm just going  
8 introduce you who he is. Joseph, he is a retired  
9 vet from Lebanon. He came to the U.S. seven  
10 years ago. We came all of us as a family. We  
11 have two kids, they are in the university now.  
12 And he decided after serving in the Army for many  
13 -- for like 25 years, he retired as brigadier.

14                   He said he wants to do something  
15 related to our heritage. So he choose Georgetown  
16 to introduce something Arabic and Lebanese. Like  
17 everybody knows, the tabouleh and all that. To  
18 cut a long story short, he wanted to do something  
19 related to our tradition in terms of food. So he  
20 started looking for a place. He found this  
21 place, it was open before under a different name.  
22 And then we negotiated with the owner.

23                   And we took the whole place and we  
24 changed everything because we want to do it in a  
25 different way -- in our way to host like more

1 people or customers like the age of our kids  
2 because I do have 22 and 20 years old. And  
3 here's their -- this location, there's a lot of  
4 universities. They can come in with their  
5 computers, take a bite because it's not a big  
6 menu what you have. And enjoy something Middle  
7 Eastern. So this is in a nutshell what we're  
8 trying to do.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now who is the  
10 landlord for 2025 through -- I'm sorry, 1025  
11 through 1027? Who's the landlord?

12 MS. JARROUJE: Mr. Charif Khangi.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, can  
14 you spell it -- can you spell that name please?

15 MS. JARROUJE: I think his name is  
16 written C-H-A-R-I-F. Khangi is K-H-A-N-G-I.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now  
18 Mr. Jarrouje, have you opened up business before?  
19 Have you ever operated a business before or a  
20 restaurant before? I guess it's a tavern that's  
21 been -- I'm sorry. What type of business -- Have  
22 you operated a business like this before?

23 MS. JARROUJE: Liquor license or a  
24 restaurant license, you're asking?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anything.

1 Anything.

2 MS. JARROUJE: Anything. Honestly,  
3 this is not something we have done before --

4 (simultaneous speaking)

5 MS. JARROUJE: -- in our country, in  
6 our home because this is -- this is part of our  
7 culture and tradition. Like if you want to come  
8 to a house for like Sunday -- like we have like  
9 30 people. They come for - like they please,  
10 but this is how the usual invitation is. That's  
11 part of what we do in our culture.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, I know  
13 that he said that he bought -- but how did he  
14 realize that this place was available? How did  
15 he -- specifically, how did he come into this  
16 location?

17 MS. JARROUJE: Okay, I can just  
18 explain to him.

19 (foreign language spoken)

20 MR. IBRAHIM: He just find that --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's speaking?

22 MR. IBRAHIM: This is Zakaria Ibrahim.  
23 I believe the landlord, he was having some issue  
24 with the old tenant because of his violation and  
25 he was about to kick him out. So the old owner,



1 he asked to sell whatever he had here such as  
2 kitchen, hood, refrigerator, bar. So we find Mr.  
3 Joseph to buy that from him so we can go out here  
4 and finish his lease with the landlord -- because  
5 the landlord was about to get him out of here.  
6 Not just because of the rent, it was just because  
7 of some issue with the client.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you Mr.  
9 Ibrahim, were you the one who brought this to the  
10 attention of Mr. Jarrouje?

11 MR. IBRAHIM: No. No, I don't get  
12 involved in such matter. I get involved when  
13 more into license process, not as real estate or  
14 whatever. But they are Lebanese and there is a  
15 community together and I believe the landlord is  
16 Lebanese.

17 MS. JARROUJE: The landlord, Charif,  
18 is a Lebanese guy, so we all know each other  
19 through the Embassy. So Charif did send word  
20 through -- because my husband is brigadier so he  
21 knows the military attache who is his friend  
22 because they are from the same -- what's the same  
23 -- the same cohort. I don't recall that cohort,  
24 so they are -- so he said the word around. And  
25 this is how he knew about Charif willing to reuse

1 the place.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
3 when is that -- So when in fact -- when did you  
4 folks first decide to open this restaurant?

5 MS. JARROUJE: When you want to open  
6 such type of work? (foreign language spoken)  
7 When he took his pension from Lebanon because you  
8 need money for that. So when he took his pension  
9 from the Army and he came here. So it was really  
10 deciding -- really going into doing it, it was  
11 during the COVID. Before that a little bit, so  
12 we were looking for a place. And then after  
13 that, we heard that the place was available.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
15 who -- who are the business partners for this --  
16 Who are the business partners? Who are the  
17 people who have ownership interest in this -- in  
18 this business?

19 MS. JARROUJE: Nobody. Joseph only.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: One hundred  
21 percent?

22 MS. JARROUJE: One hundred percent,  
23 yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do you know  
25 -- do you know Mr. Rabir Makhoul, R-A-B-I-R M-A-

1 K-H-O-U-L?

2 MS. JARROUJE: Of course. Yes, of  
3 course we know Rabir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How?

5 MS. JARROUJE: Rabir, he's the old  
6 tenant. He came and took some of his stuff from  
7 here. And we were introduced to him when --  
8 through Charif Khangi when Joseph took the place.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But prior to --  
10 prior to Mr. Jarrouje taking ownership of the  
11 place, did he know who he was before --

12 MS. JARROUJE: Yes, yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Mr. Makhoul,  
14 M-A-K-H-O-U-L?

15 MS. JARROUJE: Yes. Yes. Yes, we  
16 know -- You're asking if we knew Rabir before we  
17 took the place from Charif Khangi?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

19 MS. JARROUJE: He answered, yes. We  
20 are Lebanese and we know all each other and we  
21 have the same friends. Yes. But we're not  
22 friends like friends. Yes, we know a lot of  
23 Lebanese if this is your question.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any  
25 business relationship with Mr. Makhoul or his

1 business, Mehyar, LLC -- M-E-H-Y-A-R, LLC? So do  
2 you have any business relationships with Mr.  
3 Makhoul or his business?

4 MS. JARROUJE: No.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need Mr.  
6 Jarrouje, I need him -- ask if he can understand  
7 that I need -- Does he have any business  
8 relationship --

9 ADMIN. JUDGE MALONE: No, no.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- with Mr.  
11 Makhoul or his business?

12 ADMIN. JUDGE MALONE: No, no, no.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever  
14 worked for him?

15 MR. JARROUJE: I'm new here. I don't  
16 know.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever  
18 worked for him?

19 MR. JARROUJE: No, no, no.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever  
21 performed any type of work for him?

22 MR. JARROUJE: (foreign language  
23 spoken) No, no.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now you're  
25 saying that because you're Lebanese and it's a

1 small community, you know Mr. Makhoul because of  
2 the small community. Is that correct?

3 (foreign language spoken)

4 MR. JARROUJE: Yeah, but not a friend.  
5 I know him when I rent this place more -- I know  
6 him more when I rent this place.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now  
8 has your business received any money, labor, or  
9 goods or services from Mr. Makhoul or from his  
10 business?

11 MR. IBRAHIM: Come again, Chairman.  
12 I'm sorry.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Has your  
14 business -- have you received any money, labor,  
15 or goods or services from Meyhar LLC or from Mr.  
16 Makhoul?

17 MR. IBRAHIM: No. We just estimate  
18 how much is a hood, how much is a refrigerator,  
19 how much is a bar, how much is a chair, and we  
20 figure it out and we bring him out instead of  
21 taking everything and we'll go order one again.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now will you  
23 receive any future money from him?

24 MR. IBRAHIM: No -- No relation at  
25 all.

1 (simultaneous speaking)

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- from him?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: No more.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any goods and  
5 services from him or his entity anytime in the  
6 future?

7 MR. IBRAHIM: We're not happy to see  
8 him because we heard a lot and we never expect  
9 such amount.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, I didn't  
11 hear what you said. Repeat what you just said.

12 MR. IBRAHIM: He's not happy with him  
13 because after he left, we heard a lot of the  
14 story, which it doesn't make us comfortable to be  
15 close to him either.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now I was told  
17 -- I just gave him clarification, did he let --  
18 There was property left in the business. Is that  
19 correct?

20 MR. IBRAHIM: There is what?

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Property.

22 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Yes. Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so did you  
24 purchase that property with a loan? How did you  
25 come about --

1 (simultaneous speaking)

2 MR. IBRAHIM: Discussion came. It is  
3 used already. We can show it to you, the shop  
4 manager's here, the place is open. It's old  
5 sofa, old kitchen, old bar and we can work with  
6 the computer to show you what we took and all.  
7 There is nothing fancy, but in the state of  
8 getting rid of all of that and with the older  
9 bar, we just use it.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now  
11 I just -- and I might be asking a repetitive  
12 question, but I need -- I need answers to these  
13 questions. Do you intend to work with him --

14 MR. IBRAHIM: No.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- as an  
16 employee, independent contractor, or any capacity  
17 moving forward?

18 MR. IBRAHIM: We not involved with him  
19 at all. He's not allowed even to come here.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
21 This is for you specifically, Mr. Ibrahim.

22 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now you stated  
24 that you're the consultant. DCRA has informed us  
25 that there's a checklist of items to be addressed

1 before you can obtain a Certificate of Occupancy  
2 at 1025 31st Street NW. Is that correct?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: That's correct, Chair.  
4 That's correct.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is it  
6 -- where are you in addressing DCRA?

7 MR. IBRAHIM: I got a letter, but  
8 we're waiting for the final approval. I was  
9 trying to submit it yesterday because I believe  
10 we need a certificate of occupancy. But I have  
11 no translate. It come kind of late. I don't  
12 want to disturb. But I had an email, which I can  
13 send it to ABRA now showing that our certificate  
14 of occupancy got a number and it was approved for  
15 final inspection. I have the letter here and I'm  
16 going to forward it to ABRA as today and to the  
17 ANC and the Fine Art. I have it. I know that is  
18 not going to be clear for you here, but I can  
19 email it as we speak that all package from all  
20 the violations, where we are as today.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
22 you will provide the letter to ABRA that you have  
23 received from -- So basically, it's my  
24 understanding the representations you're making  
25 is that you have gotten the letter from DCRA and



1 so you're now ready for final inspection. Is  
2 that correct?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes and I can prove it  
4 now as we speak. If you wanted me to send it to  
5 Martha or Mr. Sean, I can send that whole package  
6 --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

8 MR. IBRAHIM: -- regarding the smoke,  
9 regarding violations, regarding sign, all this  
10 package is ready. I can mail it now as we speak.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I would  
12 like you to mail it sir.

13 MR. IBRAHIM: Let me go in my office  
14 and we're going to mail it to you to Ms. Martha.  
15 Is this good?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, that's  
17 fine.

18 MR. IBRAHIM: Okay. Okay. You can  
19 continue with them. I'm going to send --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ibrahim,  
21 you can wait until the hearing is over. You  
22 don't have to do it now.

23 MR. IBRAHIM: I just want to satisfy  
24 the Board because really I feel sorry for this  
25 young man. He's been pending for three or four

1 months. I understand the situation, which Mr.  
2 Sean communicated with me about the status of the  
3 landlord - the tenant before. And whatever  
4 happened here, that's got nothing to do or is not  
5 related to my client at all. You've got a good  
6 man here. He saved the family tavern, he's in  
7 order, he's up to code himself with his wife.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now  
9 I found a Certificate of Occupancy -- All right,  
10 Mr. Ibrahim, do not send to Ms. Jenkins, send it  
11 to Licensing. I think you're -- I think you've  
12 been communicating with --

13 MR. IBRAHIM: Who?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Licensing  
15 Division.

16 (simultaneous speaking)

17 MR. IBRAHIM: -- of the Liquor Board  
18 or --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

20 MR. IBRAHIM: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I think  
22 the Licensing Division -- whoever you've been  
23 talking to in the Licensing Division, send that  
24 package to them. Right?

25 MR. IBRAHIM: Okay.

1 MS. JARROUJE: Can you give us the  
2 email address?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: We're going to send it  
4 now. I'm sorry. I don't know it.

5 MS. JARROUJE: He doesn't know the --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

7 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm just trying to speed  
8 the process.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. If  
10 you've been speaking to Martha Jenkins, just send  
11 it to her. And we'll forward it to --

12 (simultaneous speaking)

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we'll  
14 forward it to the Licensing Division because I  
15 don't have --

16 MR. IBRAHIM: Thank you. Thank you.  
17 Thank you. I appreciate that.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't have the  
19 phone number right now to -- I don't have the  
20 email address --

21 MR. IBRAHIM: I'll send you the letter  
22 rush. Just give me, toward the end of the day,  
23 everything going to be there or I stop by and  
24 drop it there because I have all the copies here  
25 with me.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't have  
2 the -- You don't have the licensing number for --  
3 (simultaneous speaking)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Mr. Gordy --

5 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I do. Yes, I do.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Sean Gordy?

7 Do you have that?

8 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I have Mr. Sean  
9 Gordy, of course. And if you're looking for the  
10 phone number, I have it here.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no.  
12 I'm sorry. Just send it to Mr. Gordy. Okay?

13 MR. IBRAHIM: I will. I will.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sean Gordy. All  
15 right.

16 MR. IBRAHIM: I will.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, now  
18 I know that you had asked for a summer garden.  
19 Was the summer garden approved for that address?

20 MR. IBRAHIM: For 1025, it's under  
21 review and hasn't been responded.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
23 okay.

24 MR. IBRAHIM: I have that too. It is  
25 here, it is a review, and have the permit number

1 for the inspection.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 MR. IBRAHIM: I will send it too.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now -

5 MR. IBRAHIM: 1027 had a summer garden  
6 approved.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

8 MR. IBRAHIM: 1025, it is pending.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
10 what connects -- how is 1025 through 1027 31st  
11 Street connected? Are they connected?

12 MR. IBRAHIM: They are connected --  
13 they are two different buildings, but they're  
14 connected from the back. I can show you. We can  
15 walk through with the computer if you would like  
16 to have an idea.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So where would  
18 the -- where is the summer garden then? Are  
19 there two -- you don't have to show me, you can  
20 just tell me. So where are the summer gardens?  
21 Are they --

22 MR. IBRAHIM: They are in the back.  
23 Both of them in the back. One, it is covered,  
24 which is the issue of the violation. It was  
25 covered with no permit. And we already submit

1 through and everything, that's why we're under  
2 review. And the other one, it is not covered,  
3 which it is allowed. They authorized it already  
4 at DCRA and gave us capacity for it.

5 MS. JARROUJE: There is door -- he's  
6 asking how they are linked together. There is a  
7 glass door in-between the open areas. Because  
8 the other one is covered and the other one is  
9 not.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MS. JARROUJE: The entrance of 125, it  
12 has a separate door by itself.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
14 how do you plan to use -- how do you plan to use  
15 the summer gardens? If summer gardens are  
16 approved for both locations, how do you plan to  
17 utilize that?

18 MR. IBRAHIM: I didn't get the end of  
19 the question. How I'm what?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How do you plan  
21 to utilize how -- what are your plans for the  
22 summer garden -- if the summer garden is  
23 approved for both properties, how do you plan to  
24 utilize both of them?

25 MR. IBRAHIM: Up to the regular time.

1 I mean, we're going to use it just for sitting  
2 outside having a drink, outside having a hookah,  
3 outside as our provision. And that's it, trying  
4 to close around -- 12 o'clock, we're going to  
5 close the summer garden. There is no need for it  
6 after that. And everything is going to be under  
7 the law. Mr. Joseph is not here to violate the  
8 law or he's trying to beg for cutting corner or  
9 anything. He, himself in order.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MR. IBRAHIM: That's why we are here  
12 to help him.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do you  
14 intend to use any neon signs when you open?

15 MR. IBRAHIM: Neon signs?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

17 MR. IBRAHIM: No.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You know, those  
19 plastic bright light --

20 MR. IBRAHIM: No, I don't think  
21 Georgetown, ANC, and Fine Art give us what is  
22 allowed and what is not. And that's why the sign  
23 being again was made to get up to code with them.  
24 But we're not going to use -- regarding your  
25 question, we're not going to use a neon sign. Or

1 if we're going to use anything, it's going to be  
2 removable in case it will be moved for something  
3 from time to time. But we already discussed the  
4 model with ANC and the Fine Art and we find what  
5 is the rule over there and we're going to apply  
6 it.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, now  
8 -- So have you done any work on the windows?

9 MR. IBRAHIM: No. No. In fact, even  
10 I have a construction which is directing the  
11 restaurant from A-B to B-C. But we still just  
12 waiting --

13 MS. JARROUJE: We're waiting to  
14 finish.

15 MR. IBRAHIM: -- to finish. I don't  
16 know when they're going to finish. We talk with  
17 ANC. We bring this model, but we cannot do  
18 anything about it -- We're waiting for the  
19 construction to finish. We can take some  
20 pictures for you, Chairman, and send it to see  
21 how much hard time he's going through.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess what  
23 I'm trying to find out -- I guess what I'm trying  
24 to find out as far as the windows are concerned,  
25 are there any vinyl -- any plans to install vinyl



1 windows? And if so, have you received the proper  
2 permits for that?

3 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm not applying for  
4 that. I'm not looking for that. What I'm  
5 looking, I'm going to put a sign -- simple sign.  
6 It's going to be hand writing and we already  
7 submitted that document for DCRA and the Fine  
8 Art. And they give us some comment, which is the  
9 engineering working in it. If you want that, I  
10 can bring it for you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
12 What about hookah? Do you plan to provide  
13 hookah?

14 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, we submit some  
15 document to show that we need hookah. We're  
16 seeking hookah. We get ventilation for the  
17 hookah. Hookah's part of the Middle East  
18 tradition.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But have you --  
20 have you applied to DCRA --

21 (simultaneous speaking)

22 MR. IBRAHIM: I didn't. No, it is not  
23 the DCRA no longer. It is the Health Department.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,  
25 Department of Health. I apologize, sir.

1 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you have --

3 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, I do. And I have  
4 a letter I'm going to submit it.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

6 MR. IBRAHIM: It's going to answer  
7 these questions, yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
9 you have applied to -- You have applied to DCRA -  
10 - I'm sorry, Department of Health, I'm sorry --

11 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- for hookah.

13 MR. IBRAHIM: I'm dealing with Ms.  
14 Carrie. She's the one who's -- program manager,  
15 tobacco control program. DCRA is not working  
16 with the Health -- with the smoking no more.  
17 This is going to get with the Health Department  
18 and it is just the tobacco control. And that's  
19 who we are dealing with now. And I'm going to  
20 submit this document to you as today too.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, thank  
22 you. That was my --

23 (simultaneous speaking)

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- it was my  
25 error. You are correct. It is the -- It's the

1 Department of Health. I said DCRA, so I --

2 MR. IBRAHIM: It's okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
4 I'm glad that -- I'm glad to hear that you are in  
5 contact with the Department of Health regarding  
6 hookah. All right, any other questions by any  
7 other board members regarding this issue?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair.

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

11 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. This is to  
12 the owners and to the agent if you'd like to  
13 answer it. I see where he's provided a letter  
14 where's he applied to the Department of Health  
15 for hookah. We have in the District of Columbia,  
16 too many businesses who don't have permits who  
17 are doing hookah and do not have any permits from  
18 the Department of Health. Will you permit to not  
19 doing any hookah if you get an ABC license until  
20 you get permission from the Department of Health?

21 MR. IBRAHIM: I can promise you this,  
22 I will. I can keep my promise. But I want to  
23 tell you, Your Honor, Mr. Chairman, I've studied  
24 the smoke and the tobacco program since - for  
25 years. And that law, it was need something -- we

1 call it waiver, which it means you're supposed to  
2 sell tobacco and to prove that you sell tobacco  
3 and it is proved in your tax.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Ibrahim -- Mr.  
5 Ibrahim, thank you for that rambling, but yes or  
6 no? Will you not smoke hookah in your business  
7 or the owner until they get permission from the  
8 Department of Health?

9 MR. IBRAHIM: The smoking hookah  
10 outside is legal. You don't need no permit,  
11 which it is in our --

12 (simultaneous speaking)

13 MEMBER SHORT: That is not -- that is  
14 not what I asked you. Will you please answer yes  
15 or no?

16 MR. IBRAHIM: If the law asking me to  
17 do so, I'll comply with the law. But --

18 (simultaneous speaking)

19 MEMBER SHORT: For the record, I'm  
20 asking you until you get permission from the  
21 Department of Health, you will not sell or permit  
22 persons to do hookah until you get a permit from  
23 the Department of Health. Yes or no?

24 MR. IBRAHIM: I can, yes. I can.

25 MEMBER SHORT: Did you say yes or no?

1 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So you're saying  
3 yes to what, sir? So we're clear for the record.

4 MR. IBRAHIM: I will not sell hookah  
5 until I finish this process. But there is a part  
6 in the restaurant, which you don't need license.  
7 I will try -- there is no require for the smoke  
8 because it's open place, which people can smoke  
9 anything if it is a cigarette or a hookah. I  
10 know the law, Mr. Chairman. I worked with the  
11 Tobacco Control for so long. There is a  
12 requirement for the waiver and there is a  
13 requirement for having a smoke.

14 DCRA was involved and need  
15 ventilation, which this place have it. And  
16 outside never required since it is an open place.  
17 I can serve with the Liquor Board with this rule  
18 as you wish. I'm aware that Tobacco Control,  
19 what is coded and what is not. Outside since it  
20 is open place, there is no license needed.  
21 Inside since we have --

22 (simultaneous speaking)

23 MEMBER SHORT: I understand what  
24 you're understanding is. But outside of your  
25 front door is public space. Correct?

1                   MR. IBRAHIM: Outside, I don't use  
2 sidewalk. We refuse to have sidewalk. We have  
3 summer garden, which is our property. Do you get  
4 my point. There is summer garden and there is  
5 sidewalk --

6                   (simultaneous speaking)

7                   MEMBER SHORT: The point is you have  
8 to get a permit to have -- to use public space,  
9 correct?

10                  MR. IBRAHIM: Summer --

11                  MEMBER SHORT: From the District?

12                  MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Summer garden is  
13 not public space. Sidewalk is the public space.  
14 Summer garden, it's a part of the restaurant,  
15 which exists and it is open. Summer garden -  
16 sidewalk cafe, you need from the public --

17                  MEMBER SHORT: So that I don't come  
18 off as badgering you, Mr. Chairman, I have no  
19 questions of this person. I just wanted it on  
20 the record that public space is used -- when you  
21 get a summer garden, you must have a permit from  
22 the city do that. It is not anybody -- everybody  
23 just can't walk around and claim public space.  
24 You have to get a permit to do that. And we're  
25 allowed to sign off to ABRA for you to use that

1 for a summer garden. So I'm going to say to you,  
2 until I see something from the Department of  
3 Public Health, notwithstanding what you -- what  
4 your understanding is, the law says for me as a  
5 board member not to let you permit to use hookah  
6 until you get permission from the Department of  
7 Health. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you  
8 very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.  
10 Any other questions by any board member -- any  
11 other board member? Mr. Jarrouje, is there  
12 anything else you want to say before I bring this  
13 hearing to close here?

14 (foreign language spoken)

15 MR. JARROUJE: Let me wife -- let my  
16 wife tell it.

17 MS. JARROUJE: I'm going to translate  
18 what he wants to say. He's going to say that as  
19 a person who lived by the law all his life, he's  
20 going to abide by the law, whatever it is. The  
21 system is a bit complicated. Now he's learning  
22 that. And it was confusing because there's a lot  
23 of layers and a lot of details. But bottom line  
24 is he want this to work. He wants to have the  
25 business going if everything went on fine. And

1 this is something that we all as a family were  
2 looking forward. And when he learned about there  
3 were certain violations that we learned of while  
4 we're applying for this license, we had Mr.  
5 Zakaria Ibrahim with it, with the hope that would  
6 be the end of it. I think that's what he wanted  
7 to say. Anything else?

8 MR. JARROUJE: No.

9 MS. JARROUJE: No.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
11 Ibrahim, can you -- can you send all the  
12 documents to Sean -- sean.gordy2@dc.gov?

13 MR. IBRAHIM: I got his email and I  
14 will contact Mr. Sean today by email and also if  
15 the Board will give me a minute to confirm  
16 regarding the summer garden if we are allowed --  
17 because there is some change in the law from my  
18 understanding, summer garden since it is open, I  
19 have no problem with the smoke. But let me  
20 confirm with that and I will include it by -- I  
21 will admit today that correction to the Tobacco  
22 Control to get an answer and will follow through  
23 with that. But any other documents, I will send  
24 it to Sean today before 5 o'clock.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. All



1 right, I just want to -- It's my understanding at  
2 least from what you stated that there's two  
3 summer gardens. You have approval to use one and  
4 so you're still waiting for the -- waiting for  
5 DCRA for approval to do the other summer garden.

6 MR. IBRAHIM: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As far as  
8 hookah is concerned, we don't regulate hookah.  
9 Hookah is regulated by -- Hookah is regulated by  
10 the Department of Health. And I think the  
11 question that Mr. -- Although we do not enforce  
12 hookah in establishments, I just think that Mr.  
13 Short was asking whether or not you will allow  
14 hookah inside your establishment without having a  
15 permit. But I don't --

16 (simultaneous speaking)

17 MR. IBRAHIM: Until we have permit, we  
18 will not use.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's not  
20 for me to ask and I'm not going to say whether  
21 we're -- I don't know whether or not a permit is  
22 required if you have a summer garden and it's  
23 outside. I do not know whether or not you can  
24 have hookah on an open summer garden. I do not  
25 know the answer. But that's something that you,

1       sir, if the establishment is going to utilize --  
2       wants to do hookah, I would hope that you are up  
3       with the different regulations.

4                   MR. IBRAHIM:  I am.

5                   (simultaneous speaking)

6                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  -- that as you  
7       go through this process, you speak to Mr. Gordy.  
8       We offer a significant amount of training to new  
9       owners.  And I will ask that you find out when we  
10      have the different trainings --

11                   MR. IBRAHIM:  Yes.

12                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  -- that you  
13      make yourself --

14                   (simultaneous speaking)

15                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  -- since this  
16      is a new venture for you.  If this license is  
17      granted, the Board of course would want you to  
18      be successful.  And if this license is - if the  
19      license is granted, the Board doesn't look  
20      forward to seeing you again.  And one of the ways  
21      that you can ensure that the Board does not see  
22      you again if this license was granted is that if  
23      you utilize the training that the agency offers  
24      to new owners.

25                   MR. JARROUJE:  I will.  Thank you.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
3 Well thank you for your presentation today. The  
4 Board will take this matter under advisement and  
5 we'll decide whether or not we will allow -- the  
6 purpose of this hearing was just to get some  
7 information about your request for this license  
8 and your relationship to the previous individual  
9 who had requested a license for this location.

10 And so we will take this matter under  
11 advisement and make a determination whether or  
12 not we're going to say no, we're not going to  
13 grant a license or we will allow the process to  
14 move forward under licensing. Okay? That's the  
15 next step. The Board will make the decision to  
16 say probably no, we're not going to grant this  
17 license or we're going to ask you to do a  
18 different type of hearing or we will allow the  
19 process to work itself out to see what happens.  
20 Okay?

21 MR. IBRAHIM: Thank you. Thank you,  
22 Chairman.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
24 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

25 MR. IBRAHIM: Thank you.

1 MR. JARROUJE: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, bye.

3 We're going to go off the record until 4 o'clock.

4 And I will ask all board members to return to

5 executive section. But we'll -- we will come

6 back to our public session at 4 o'clock.

7 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

8 went off the record at 3:48 p.m.)

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