

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
:
Addis Incorporated, :
t/a King Convenience :
Store :
1535 U Street SE : Protest
Retailer B - ANC 8A : Hearing
License #89932 :
Case # 23-PRO-00097 :
:
(Application to renew :
the License.) :
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Thursday
March 21, 2024

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
NISA HARPER, Witness
ANDREW LANIER, SR., Witness
INVESTIGATOR JERRITA MILLINGTON, DC ABCA
LANEICE MOORE, ANC 8A
PATRICK O'KEEFE, Protestant
JAMILA WHITE, ANC 8A
SEYOUME WOURKNEH, Applicant

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

2 1:33 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, good
4 afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the afternoon
5 session of the ABC Board. My name is Donovan
6 Anderson, I'm chairperson of the Board.

7 Joining me this afternoon is Mr. James
8 Short and Mr. Silas Grant. The Board has three
9 members in attendance this afternoon, and that
10 constitutes a quorum.

11 We have one case in our calendar this
12 afternoon. And just want to advise the public,
13 if you have any technical concerns please raise
14 those concerns in the chat and our IT specialists
15 will provide you whatever technical assistance
16 can be provided.

17 All right. So the only case that we
18 have this afternoon is Case Number 23-PRO-00097,
19 King Convenience Store, License Number 89932. I
20 see that the parties are already elevated and so
21 -- all right. I would like the parties to
22 identify themselves. Let's start with you, Mr.
23 Mpras.

24 You're on mute, sir.

25 MR. MPRAS: Thank you. Emanuel Mpras

1 representing the King Convenience Store.

2 EMANUEL, MPRAS.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is your Client
4 here this afternoon, sir?

5 MR. MPRAS: My Client is here. Mr.
6 Seyoume Wourkneh.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where, I
8 don't see him. Can he identify himself for the
9 record by spelling and stating his name? Do you
10 have a camera, sir, you can turn on?

11 Yes, can you, can you please, you can
12 take yourself off mute please. Spell and say
13 your name for the record.

14 You need to take yourself off mute,
15 sir.

16 MR. WOURKNEH: Oh, sorry.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So please spell
18 and state your name for the record.

19 I cannot hear you, sir. You're on
20 mute. You need to unmute your line.

21 MR. WOURKNEH: Can you hear me now?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you,
23 sir.

24 MR. WOURKNEH: My name is Seyoume, S-
25 E-Y-O-U-M-E, last name Wourkneh, W-O-U --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you to
2 spell your name too, sir. Your last name.

3 MR. WOURKNEH: S-E-Y-O-U-M-E is first
4 name. Last name Wourkneh, W-O-U-R-K-N-E-H.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
6 sir. And what's your relationship to this
7 establishment, sir?

8 MR. WOURKNEH: Hm?

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is your
10 relationship to the establishment, sir?

11 MR. WOURKNEH: Oh, King Convenience
12 Store, I'm owner.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.
14 Mr. O'Keefe, can you please spell and state your
15 name for the record?

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Mr. Patrick
17 O'Keefe spelled, P-A-T-R-I-C-K, last name O,
18 apostrophe, K-E-E-F-E. The designated
19 representative for the group of five protest.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
21 sir.

22 MR. O'KEEFE: Good afternoon.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
24 This matter comes before the Board as a protest
25 on the application to renew a license held by

1 Addis, Inc, trade name King Convenience Store,
2 Retailer Class B License, ABRA Number 089932,
3 located at 1535 U Street, Southeast.

4 By way of background, the Board's
5 records reflects the following. The license
6 application was placarded on October 13th, 2023.
7 A group of five or more residents, represented by
8 Patrick O'Keefe, filed a protest on November
9 27th, 2023. The protestants were granted
10 standing at the roll call hearing held on
11 December 18th, 2023.

12 This is a second of two hearings
13 scheduled for today. Before the same parties
14 present this afternoon, we were also present in
15 the first hearing this morning, so I do not need
16 to repeat myself. Suffice to say that similar to
17 the earlier cases the Board intends to manage
18 this case in the most efficient way possible in
19 order to complete this hearing today.

20 And I will ask, as I asked earlier
21 this morning, are there any stipulations that can
22 be made?

23 Mr. O'Keefe, is that the, would the
24 Protestant agree to a renewal of the license with
25 stipulations, I'm sorry, with any renewal of the

1 license and then we can, the Board, the agent --
2 I'm sorry, the Protestants can say that with the
3 limitations the license can be renewed, or is it
4 that the Protestant's position that there are no
5 stipulations, we do not want the license to be
6 renewed?

7 I'm just trying to see if there is a
8 way we can streamline this hearing. We do not
9 have to do that, we can do the full protest
10 hearing as we did this morning.

11 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. At this time we do
12 not have any stipulations.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
14 that's fine.

15 All right. So, Mr. Mpras, are there
16 any preliminary matters you need to bring to the
17 Board's attention in this case?

18 MR. MPRAS: No, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe,
20 any preliminary matters?

21 MR. O'KEEFE: None at this time.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And
23 as the parties are familiar, as I have stated
24 before, the way the process will work today is
25 that the Board will call its first witness, the

1 Board's witness will testify. Once the Board's
2 witness has testified, the Board will ask
3 question of its witness. Once the Board has
4 asked question of its witness then the Applicant
5 will have an opportunity to cross, to ask
6 questions of the Board's witness. And then the
7 Protestants will have an opportunity to ask
8 questions of its witness.

9 After the Board has presented its
10 case, then the Applicant will have an opportunity
11 to present its case by calling its first witness.
12 Once the witness has been called, the Protestants
13 will have an opportunity to cross examine the
14 witness. And then the Board will have an
15 opportunity to present, to ask questions of the
16 witness.

17 Once the Applicant has presented its
18 case, the Protestant will have an opportunity to
19 present its case. And then the Applicant will
20 have an opportunity to ask questions of that
21 witness. By the end of the case we'll ask both
22 parties to make a closing statement, and then we
23 will submit for the Board to make a
24 determination.

25 But we'll start off by asking each

1 party to make an opening statement. And just
2 preliminarily let me ask, Mr. Mpras, how many
3 witnesses do you have?

4 MR. MPRAS: I would have, aside from
5 the Applicant I have four on my PIF. I don't
6 know if I will be calling all four.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
8 fine. Mr. O'Keefe, how many witnesses do you
9 have?

10 MR. O'KEEFE: I have two. And I will
11 be calling both of them.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
13 It's 1:40. One of the things that I will try to
14 do, I will try to take a break every two hours
15 because I know that it's difficult on all of us,
16 so I, at a reasonable period of time, say within
17 a two hour period, I'll take a ten minute break.

18 It is my intent that I want to close,
19 I want, we're going to finish this hearing today.
20 And we did an excellent job this morning in
21 managing the hearing, and so I'm hoping that by
22 business hours, 5:00, 6 o'clock, that we should
23 be able to complete that case by, say let's shoot
24 for 5 o'clock or so, okay? I'm hoping that we
25 can complete this case around 5 o'clock. But we

1 will finish this case today.

2 Do we need to take any witnesses out
3 of order? Are there any, those type of concerns
4 or can the Board move forward with its regular
5 order to present this case?

6 MR. MPRAS: We're fine with the
7 regular order, Mr. Anderson.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. That's
9 fine.

10 MR. O'KEEFE: I would request, if
11 possible, that one of the witnesses is taken out
12 of order in --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's, at
14 what point, now or tell me? Tell me what --

15 MR. O'KEEFE: As early as possible.
16 Whatever makes sense with the order.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, we can
18 take your witness now before the Board's witness
19 has testified, so if that's what you want then we
20 can do that? Is that?

21 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. I have, one of my
22 witnesses has a time concern with the schedule.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the time
24 concern that your witness has? What time is it
25 that your witness has?

1 MR. O'KEEFE: They need to be off
2 within the next 30 minutes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well then if
4 they need to be off within the next 30 minutes
5 then you'll have to call your witness now.

6 So this is what I will do. Let's
7 have, I'll have Mr. Mpras do an opening, a five
8 minute opening statement. You can do an opening
9 statement, and then I'll have you, Mr. O'Keefe,
10 you can call your witness, okay?

11 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
13 Mr. Mpras, you have five minutes to do an
14 opening, sir.

15 MR. MPRAS: Thank you, sir. Honorable
16 Members of the Board, I stand before you yet
17 again representing King Convenience Store. A
18 longstanding member of its community for over 15
19 years.

20 Recently, yet another protest was
21 filed by the same group of five or more regarding
22 its liquor license renewal. Members of this
23 group have been involved in blanket protesting
24 these types of establishments with low legitimate
25 justification in doing so.

1 While we do respect the right to
2 protest, we believe these claims are not only
3 unfounded but are fueled by motivations unrelated
4 to this business and its operations. To be very
5 clear, King Convenience Store is, and has always
6 been, a responsible retailer focused on providing
7 fresh groceries, every day essentials for his
8 neighbors, as well as beer and wine. Its focus
9 is on the families of its neighborhood and
10 fostering a safe and clean environment for those
11 people.

12 The accusations levied against King
13 Convenience Store lack all merit, as well as any
14 evidence. The King Convenience Store has an
15 exemplary record and relationship with not only
16 ABRA, but MPD and the authorities of the District
17 of Columbia. They're not hollow claims, they're
18 demonstrable true as we will show in presenting
19 our case.

20 Now, we suspect this protest is about
21 some type of other agenda then it is about the
22 store. The tactic seems to disrupt the status
23 quo, not address any genuine concerns over the
24 operation of this store. We urge the Board to
25 see through this and base its decisions on facts

1 and not any type of political theater.

2 Denying this license renewal would not
3 only hurt this business but also deprive the
4 community of a valuable resource. The King
5 Convenience Store is a responsible retailer that
6 enhances and benefits the fabric of the
7 neighborhood. The hearing report from the
8 Board's own investigator supports this.

9 We welcome a full and transparent
10 review, and we are confident that through
11 examination, a thorough examination will confirm
12 how the King Convenience Store's commitment to
13 responsible alcohol sales, and serving the
14 community with integrity. Thank you for your
15 time.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
17 thank you. Mr. O'Keefe. Mr. O'Keefe?

18 Mr. O'Keefe?

19 Time for your opening, sir.

20 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes, thank you. And I
21 apologize, I cut out for a second there so please
22 let me know if my audio cuts out.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, I
24 will. That's why I, you disappeared, that's why
25 I called your name a couple of times. Yes, go

1 ahead.

2 MR. O'KEEFE: Sorry. My apologies.
3 Sorry, sir, were you indicating that it was my
4 opportunity for an opening statement?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

6 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay, thank you. Hello.
7 Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to participate in this ABCA hearing
9 today. My name is Patrick O'Keefe, and I'm a
10 resident of Historic Anacostia. I have lived at
11 the corner of 16th and U Street, Southeast,
12 directly across the intersection from King
13 Convenience Store for six years. I can view it
14 from every window in front of my house and my
15 front porch.

16 During the time that I have been here
17 I have frequented the establishment and walked by
18 the building multiple times a day. I'm here
19 today we the representative for a group of five
20 or more protestors designated by the signatories
21 who represent them at this hearing.

22 As the designated representative, my
23 presence and responses today reflect those of a
24 large group of neighbors that express similar
25 concerns. Speaking from direct experience and on

1 their behalf, communicating concerns that I have
2 received from neighbors that live around the
3 location under discussion.

4 Again, I want to reiterate that I'm
5 here representing many neighbors that signed on
6 to this petition to express their concerns, which
7 is validated by ABCA. I'm conveying feedback for
8 those that were unable to attend in person today.
9 I'm also joined today by elected officials
10 representing the single member district where the
11 establishment is located in the neighboring
12 district.

13 Let me start by addressing the ABCA
14 report, which reflects this, King Convenience
15 Store, who was not present for the investigators
16 to visit the establishment, and cannot speak to
17 what they witnesses. The investigator reached
18 out to me and had the report finished within a
19 timeline that I could not accommodate. As a
20 working professional it is not always easy to
21 respond to emails within 72 hours.

22 Our feedback and concerns are no way
23 reflected in the ABCA investigative report. I
24 trust that the investigator did their due
25 diligence, but I implore ABCA to reconsider this

1 process generally and make sure that neighbors
2 with a vested interest participating in the
3 protest hearing process understand that they
4 essentially have two days to provide inputs to
5 one of the most important aspects of the
6 investigation. I was not told when this would
7 occur, following the most recent ABCA facilitated
8 status session, and had no idea that I was a
9 response was required within this timeline.

10 I also understand that the legal team
11 representing this establishment submitted
12 exterior photos of the building and artifacts
13 showcasing the cleanliness and lack of loiterers,
14 among other things. They're little snapshot in
15 time showing a clean establishment with no
16 loiterers and no way reflects the reality of the
17 residents who live with this situation on a daily
18 and hourly basis. And I'll repeat that I live
19 across the intersection and can view it from
20 every window in front of my home, and my front
21 porch.

22 I have been explicitly directed by the
23 Metropolitan Police Department not to take photos
24 of crimes and suspicious activity occurring with
25 the site of this establishment and therefore I do

1 not submit much photograph evidence of our
2 biggest concerns. For obvious reasons it can be
3 dangerous to take photos of people in buildings
4 in a corridor where shootings and homicides occur
5 frequently. These often happen after alcohol
6 fueled days and within mere feet of this
7 establishment.

8 The number of incidents within feet of
9 this establishment, combined with the endless
10 amount of empty alcohol bottles and cans
11 littering the 16 Street corner lead me and other
12 neighbors to believe that the violence, the
13 alcohol and general law are interconnected.

14 I do not have enough time today to
15 detail the violent crime incidents that I have
16 witnessed within the vicinity of this
17 establishment because we would be here for days.
18 If you have any questions about the frequency and
19 type of crime that I'm referencing occurring
20 outside of this establishment, simply drive by
21 the building. The entire exterior of the
22 building, facing 16th Street, Southeast, is
23 riddled with bullet holes from shootings, yes
24 plural, that have occurred within feet of the
25 building in the years that I have been here.

1 Also within feet of this building,
2 children playing regularly. Within one block of
3 this building, an elementary school. Our
4 children's lives are worth more than any fine or
5 liquor sale.

6 I decided heading into this hearing
7 that I would focus on magnifying the chorus of
8 neighbors that have concerns about the negative
9 impact that this establishment has on safety and
10 peace in the neighborhood. Unlike the corporate
11 establishments here today, I'm an representing a
12 group of residents that do not necessarily have
13 the time or the means to hire a professional
14 legal team that has regularly gone through this
15 process before.

16 There is no question that having an
17 establishment that provides food and other
18 supplies to residents is a benefit to the
19 community in most cases. We are not here today
20 to discuss their ability to sell food, medicine
21 and home supplies, we're here today to discuss
22 the removal of their license for selling alcohol.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
25 thank you. All right, Mr. O'Keefe, who is the

1 witness you wish to call?

2 MR. O'KEEFE: I'd like to begin with
3 Ms. White.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're only
5 calling one, you're not, you said you have two
6 witnesses --

7 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

9 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is Ms.
11 White?

12 MR. MPRAS: Ms. White is in the
13 waiting area.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. No, Ms.
15 White is online.

16 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

17 MS. WHITE: Oh, I put the wrong name,
18 I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Commissioner Moore.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
20 I'm sorry, is it Commissioner Moore or Ms. White?
21 Who is it that you're calling, sir?

22 MR. O'KEEFE: Ms. White.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And is that Ms.
24 White speaking?

25 MS. WHITE: I changed the name.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you just
2 have it like that? Ms. White, you just change
3 your name just like that?

4 MS. WHITE: I clicked on the three
5 dots --

6 (Laughter.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, sorry.

8 MS. WHITE: -- to change it.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can
10 you raise your right hand please?

11 Do you swear or affirm to tell the
12 truth and nothing but the truth?

13 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
15 sir.

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And, Ms.
17 White, thank you for taking time to join the
18 hearing this afternoon. Can you please begin by
19 spelling your first and last name for the record?

20 MS. WHITE: Yes. It's, J-A-M, as in
21 Mary, I-L-A. Last name White, W-H-I-T-E.

22 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And can you
23 please state for the record your address? Your
24 home address.

25 MS. WHITE: 1436 Bangor Street,

1 Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20020.

2 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And could
3 you please speak to the role that you put as an
4 elected official for this single member district?

5 MS. WHITE: I am the single member
6 district commissioner for this, where this
7 establishment is, in 8A05. I've been the, this
8 is my fourth year as a single member district
9 Commissioner. And this is my third year of chair
10 of the ANC 8A.

11 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay, thank you. And
12 within that single member district, approximately
13 how many residents reside within that district?

14 MS. WHITE: 2,100.

15 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. Can you
16 speak to any concerns that you have about
17 loitering outside of this establishment?

18 MS. WHITE: Yes. This establishment
19 is in my single member district. It is on 16th
20 Street wedged in between two additional liquor
21 establishments and there is constant loitering in
22 front of, on the steps of, and around that
23 establishment.

24 There has been two vacant properties
25 beside the establishment, that is now owned by

1 the establishment, that has also contributed to
2 the excessive amount of loitering and trash.
3 That I'm assuming that's going to be another
4 question. Do you want me to talk about trash now
5 or, okay, I'll wait.

6 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. I was going to
7 follow-up to ask if you could speak to any
8 concerns that you have regarding trash in front
9 of or around the property?

10 MS. WHITE: Yes, it's constantly trash
11 in front of and around the property. As a single
12 member district Commissioner, during the spring
13 and the summer time I often host, once a month
14 with another commissioner, cleanups. And that is
15 a core area that we cleanup as a community. So
16 we go around and clean up 16th Street, cleanup W,
17 V, U Street picking up liquor bottles, picking up
18 needles that people have used for different
19 substances, cigarettes. All types of trash.

20 We have tried to work with the
21 District, in particularly DPW, to get additional
22 trash cans, to get a dumpster put in front of the
23 building, and all sorts of measures, however DPW
24 has stated that because of changes that were made
25 after the September 11th attacks they are not

1 increasing public trash cans in the District. Or
2 in New York City. So the community cleans up
3 quite frequently.

4 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And can you
5 just speak to any concerns that you have about
6 criminal activity occurring outside of or within
7 the general vicinity of the establishment?

8 MS. WHITE: That is a hotspot. A
9 hotspot for the 7th District. It's one of their
10 primary hot spots. The 7th District is the
11 police precinct that is overtop of that area.

12 The entire corridor from 16th and
13 Marion Barry, up to 16th and W is the heaviest
14 crime area in our ANC. And one of the heaviest
15 in Ward 8, which is the heaviest in the District.

16 It's one of, if not the largest, open
17 air drug market in terms of sales and use. On
18 any given day during the spring or summer, when
19 the weather is nice, you can see upward of 250
20 people just chilling, hanging out around that
21 block, including right in front of the store.
22 Sometimes folks like to pull up recliner chairs.
23 I'm like, where you get this recliner from. And
24 just folks sit out right in front and they carry
25 out all activity.

1 We, I do not have a problem with
2 people chilling outside when it's nice. A lot of
3 people are unhoused, but there is a lot of liquor
4 consumption outside publicly. And drug use and
5 drug sales. And sex work as well.

6 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And
7 generally do you think that the establishment
8 under discussion today, King Convenience Store,
9 has had a positive or negative impact on the
10 community?

11 MS. WHITE: You know, this is a
12 complex and a nuance question. It's really hard
13 to establish a relationship with an establish
14 that has bullet proof barriers, so that you can't
15 actually have contact or make a relationship with
16 the staff. I personally don't have bullet proof
17 windows on my house so I'm able to access people
18 a lot more.

19 It seems to be very transactional in
20 terms of pushing products into the community and
21 less relationship building. As we have seen with
22 other actual food establishments.

23 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And are you
24 supportive of the renewal of the license for this
25 particular establishment?

1 MS. WHITE: I am not. And ANC 8A has
2 protested this license on several occasions, so
3 this year we did not meet the protest deadline
4 but --

5 MR. MPRAS: She cannot speak for the
6 ANC per the --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
9 overrule your objection. She has clarified the
10 record this is at, they have done several
11 occasions, but she did clarify that they did not
12 protest it this time, so that's what she stated.
13 And that, this is not a protest by the ANC so she
14 is not speaking, she's not allowed to speak for
15 the ANC, so far she is speaking as her, as a
16 single in her capacity, which is something she
17 can do.

18 But the record is clear that she did
19 testify that 8A did not protest the renewal of
20 this license. Okay.

21 MS. WHITE: Yes.

22 MR. MPRAS: Thank you.

23 MS. WHITE: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead,
25 ma'am.

1 MS. WHITE: We vote to protest, but we
2 did not submit the protest in time. So there was
3 a vote by all seven commissioners unanimously
4 protesting this year's renewal, but we did not
5 send the letter in before the deadline. And in
6 previous years we, and I have drafted the letter
7 to protest before.

8 MR. O'KEEFE: Great, thank you. Final
9 question here -- actually, I believe that's all
10 the questions that I have. Thank you for
11 allowing the reshuffle of witnesses, I appreciate
12 it. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome,
14 sir. Mr. Mpras, any questions?

15 MR. MPRAS: Yes, sir. Ms. White, how
16 far would you say you live from the King
17 Convenience Store?

18 MS. WHITE: I probably live about six
19 blocks, like I have mentioned in the last. It's
20 16th street, you go up 16th street and then you
21 turn on Bangor Street. So a little bit further
22 than I do from --

23 MR. MPRAS: Okay. From --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MR. MILLER: Understood. And how, do

1 you shop there?

2 MS. WHITE: I have shopped there twice
3 before. I do not like walking through the mass
4 crowd of people that hangout in front of that
5 liquor store, and so I do not frequent there very
6 often. But I have shopped there. And I have, I
7 go by there at least once a week.

8 MR. MPRAS: Yes. And you say you
9 don't shop there but you go by there once a week,
10 is that correct?

11 MS. WHITE: Yes. To the neighborhood,
12 yes.

13 MR. MILLER: Okay.

14 MS. WHITE: I've shopped there twice
15 before where I've spent money.

16 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how long ago
17 did you shop there?

18 MS. WHITE: The last time I shopped
19 there was probably about six months ago. I
20 bought some Ramen Noodles.

21 MR. MPRAS: Okay. All right. Great.
22 And is the ANC in favor of, or I'm sorry, not
23 currently.

24 Has the -- you mentioned that the ANC
25 voted to protest but did not file in time. Can

1 you tell me why they did not file the protest?

2 MS. WHITE: Because our person who
3 files had a death in their family, or a personal
4 emergency, and didn't get the letter in on time.

5 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

6 MS. WHITE: We are volunteers as well
7 who work full-time. Like Patrick mentioned.

8 MR. MPRAS: Now you said there are
9 three establishments, including King Convenience
10 Store, within our PSA, is that correct?

11 MS. WHITE: Within my PSA there are
12 two.

13 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

14 MS. WHITE: It's Union Liquors on the
15 corner of Marion Barry, Good Hope Road, and one
16 block up is King Convenience Store. The other
17 one is one block up, it's in Commissioner Moore's
18 SMD, which is D.C. Food Market.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Now did you protest
20 the liquor store you just mentioned?

21 MS. WHITE: Union Liquors?

22 MR. MPRAS: Yes.

23 MS. WHITE: No, their protest is, we
24 will be protesting it. It's a Class A. It just
25 opened up maybe, I got the email a week ago or

1 something like that.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And will you be,
3 are you protesting now, and will you be
4 protesting -- that's a compound question.

5 Are you protesting now because you
6 don't want any alcohol, any stores to sell
7 alcohol in your immediate area?

8 MS. WHITE: We're protesting because
9 of the environment that it's contributing to in
10 our community that's leading to public health and
11 safety issues.

12 MR. MPRAS: So you're fine with the
13 store staying open so long as it doesn't have a
14 liquor license?

15 MS. WHITE: Correct. Because that's
16 where the issues are coming from after the liquor
17 is being purchased.

18 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And question -- Now
19 have you observed the operation of the store and
20 interaction of the staff with the customers?

21 MS. WHITE: Yes. When I went into the
22 store.

23 MR. MPRAS: Six months ago?

24 MS. WHITE: Yes. I've been into the
25 store more than, I've only purchased twice, but

1 I've been into the store, over the last four
2 years, probably about, I'll say eight to ten
3 times altogether.

4 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Well, in those
5 eight to ten visits did you ever speak to the
6 owners about your concerns?

7 MS. WHITE: When I went there the
8 owners were not there when I was there. So not
9 on those occasions. We reached out, I believe
10 Mr. Kevin Lee used to be the lawyer for this
11 establishment, I can't remember. He, you know,
12 he does Union and he does so many more. But when
13 I went there on those occasions the owner wasn't
14 there, it was staff.

15 They do have, or they used to have
16 somebody who actually lived in the community who
17 used to, I don't know the right word to call
18 them. It wasn't really like a security, but
19 maybe a person who --

20 MR. MPRAS: An employee?

21 MS. WHITE: It was an employee, but
22 they did have an employee who lived in the
23 community at one point --

24 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

25 MS. WHITE: -- who used to be there.

1 Yes.

2 MR. MPRAS: So you said the owners
3 aren't there, can you, do you know who the owners
4 are?

5 MS. WHITE: No. When I went in there,
6 there was, so there was like a security incident
7 right outside the store and like the ANC, we all
8 went in there. Well not all of us, two of us had
9 went in there, and we had asked that particular
10 day was the owners there, and they told us, the
11 employees that were there said no, so.

12 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And when was this?

13 MS. WHITE: This was like last summer
14 sometime, so going on a year.

15 MR. MPRAS: Okay. So aside from that
16 visit was there any other outreach by you or the
17 ANC to speak to them regarding your concerns?

18 MS. WHITE: No.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And prior to filing
20 this protest, to the best of your knowledge did
21 you or any of the protestants contact the King
22 Convenience Store to discuss your concerns?

23 MS. WHITE: Prior to this particular
24 protest, no. I will just tell you it's been, for
25 me and my personal experience, especially my

1 first year as a Commissioner when I was reaching
2 out to the liquor stores it was like a dead end
3 in terms of talking to the liquor stores about
4 other types of businesses, adding on to their
5 businesses. And it was just really shutdown
6 like, no, we want to sell liquor. So it just
7 became very clear that the interest was profiting
8 off of liquor sells in a community that's
9 depressed and dealing with addiction.

10 MR. MPRAS: So based on those
11 assertions you basically decided it's just not a
12 worthwhile effort?

13 MS. WHITE: Well when you try as a
14 volunteer for a year when you have, I had another
15 liquor store, the OAG actually got it shut down
16 so I did have one that was on Marion Barry
17 Avenue, so I had three liquor stores in my single
18 member district. We have in our, just in our ANC
19 about, we got Nam's, we got, we have about eight.

20 So when you have so many and they're
21 just not interested in stop selling liquor in
22 this particular area and doing something more
23 around food access and actually adding to the
24 fabric of our community, you realize that this is
25 just a dead wall. So, you know, it's only so

1 much you're going to beat a dead horse.

2 MR. MPRAS: So you mentioned Nam's,
3 did you ever reach out to them?

4 MS. WHITE: Nam's is not in my single
5 member district, I was saying, I was counting the
6 liquor stores in the 8A.

7 MR. MPRAS: Got you.

8 MS. WHITE: In my single member
9 district I had three, one of them was shutdown by
10 the OAG back in 2022. And it's actually now
11 being converted into a grocery store called the
12 Fresh Food Factory. A local resident purchased
13 it and she's converting it into our first grocery
14 store.

15 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Let me get back to
16 Nam's for a minute. Do you have any knowledge of
17 Nam's renewals being protested right now or not?

18 MS. WHITE: The ANC has already
19 submitted a protest for Nam's.

20 MR. MPRAS: Okay. For the current
21 renewal?

22 MS. WHITE: Yes.

23 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And do you know if
24 the current group of five or more is also
25 protesting Nam's at this time?

1 MS. WHITE: I do not know.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Just give me, I'm
3 sorry. Excuse me, I was going off the previous.
4 Ms. White, thank you very much, I have no further
5 questions.

6 MS. WHITE: Thank you so much.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
8 by any Board Members? Go ahead, Mister --

9 MEMBER GRANT: Thank you --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant.

11 MEMBER GRANT: Thank you again for
12 being here into the afternoon. I've heard you
13 now testify twice today for two different
14 applicants that are within a reasonably close
15 distance of your home, in different directions.

16 With respect to you being a
17 Commissioner as a Chair, and also as an SMD
18 representative in 8A looking at multiple
19 applicants coming before the Board, can you walk
20 me through how you process delineating the
21 concerns you have for each individual applicant?

22 I know that their impact on your
23 community, as a collective, can be a lot. But
24 can you walk me through how you delineate the
25 differences between the applicants and their

1 impact on your community?

2 MS. WHITE: Absolutely. We delineate
3 based off complaints that we receive from the
4 community members, based off complaints that
5 we've seen on price gouging. For instance, that
6 will come up in the Nam's one just to give you a
7 little bit of a preview. Well let me not saying
8 price gouging, excessive prices for products that
9 should be much cheaper.

10 The way that children have interacted.
11 We also look at the cleanliness, how they are
12 keeping their site clean, how they're stopping
13 loitering.

14 And you know one that we never
15 protest, is Sunny's Liquor on MLK and Talbert
16 Street. That's one that we don't protest. And
17 you haven't seen the ANC come, at least in the
18 last four years, because Sunny's doesn't play
19 that. It's clean, there is no loitering, there
20 is no children in there. They're giving back to
21 the community in different ways.

22 And the owners actually live in the
23 community. They live on top of the store. So we
24 do differentiate because that's one that you
25 don't see the ANC, or the community, protesting.

1 So we look at many factors.
2 Relationship, cleanliness, the way that they are
3 maintaining the exterior, and then the
4 relationships that we've had, interactions that
5 we've had, with the establishment. Either
6 directly or through the neighbors who live in the
7 immediate vicinity.

8 MEMBER GRANT: I actually had one
9 additional question, but what you said prompted
10 me to have two additional questions. The first
11 is the new question that came to mind. Is
12 Sunny's an establishment that serves liquor?

13 MS. WHITE: Sunny's is a Retail Class
14 A.

15 MEMBER GRANT: Okay. All right.

16 MS. WHITE: Yes.

17 MEMBER GRANT: All right. And then my
18 original follow-up question. In this particular
19 case, right, again, having had you testify twice
20 today, can you express explicitly, for this
21 Applicant, what is it that is specific to this
22 Applicant that is causing your concern?

23 MS. WHITE: This, okay. So when you
24 look at the corridors, about four blocks from
25 Marion Barry to W Street along 16th Street, where

1 this Applicant, in particular, versus the other
2 applicant is really in the heart. Right there
3 where so much activity is happening.

4 They've had, they made national news
5 actually, like an MPD incident where they like
6 roughed up one of the residents like right there
7 on the fences, right outside of that
8 establishment. But this sits in the heart of
9 where so much of the activity happens.

10 And people are constantly going in and
11 out of the store getting alcohol, sitting on the
12 street right in front it consuming it, and then
13 issues are starting to arise. Whether they are
14 having issues internally with other folks who are
15 just hanging around. Like I said, you can come
16 out to Marion Barry today and go to 16th Street,
17 I might call it Good Hope Road because the name
18 just changed, you're going to see at least 200
19 people sitting out there.

20 But just going in the store,
21 purchasing their liquor, coming out, drinking,
22 using different other substances, selling other
23 substances, and then getting in altercations with
24 each other or other people in the community. The
25 kids have complained, the parents. Many parents

1 now do not even, if they have means, walk their
2 kids to school anymore at Ketcham. This is one
3 block from Ketcham.

4 So this sits at 15th and U, Ketcham
5 sits, I mean 16th and U, Ketcham sits at 15th and
6 U. This is one block away. Ketcham parents
7 don't even walk their kids to school by there
8 anymore, they will drive their kids to school
9 three blocks because of how, just unsafe that has
10 been. It's not a safe passage, and it's supposed
11 to be on safe passages.

12 And when we have kids that are trying
13 to come to school, especially students who are
14 like you middle school age students that have to
15 walk through there, there is sexual harassment.
16 The kids have to walk in the street now because
17 so many people are taken up, so many men
18 particularly, are taking up the sidewalk. And
19 they are men using alcohol, men using drugs.
20 They may have mental health issues too. Just a
21 whole, you know, mix of stuff going on.

22 And it's creating safety issues.
23 They're being sexually harassed having to walk in
24 the street, having to find other longer routes to
25 walk just to get to school.

1 And so, that's my problem with this
2 one in particular, where it is situated.
3 Differing from the other one that's a little bit,
4 two block away. Two blocks up on the same
5 street.

6 MEMBER GRANT: I'm sorry, I know that
7 I said that that was my final question, but I
8 have one final question, Mr. Chair, and Ms.
9 White. Going back to Sunny's really quickly, I
10 know it's a different class, Class A, but given
11 that example, would you conclude that it is
12 possible for an establishment to have a alcoholic
13 license and be able to maintain a certain decorum
14 as a member of the community?

15 MS. WHITE: Absolutely. I shop at
16 Sunny's myself. I shop at Sunny's and Lax
17 whenever I want, Lax is further down.
18 Absolutely.

19 The difference with Sunny's too is,
20 it's not in the open air drug market, it's on MLK
21 and Talbert. It's across from the Police
22 Academy. And so they did not situate themselves
23 right there where, in the belly of the beast,
24 just to be very clear and transparent about it.

25 So it's a locational difference. It's

1 in the same neighborhood, but it's not right
2 there in the belly of the beast. And then the
3 way that they maintain.

4 Sunny's also hires at least two people
5 from the community who works there the entire
6 time it's open. So they are talking to people,
7 they know people, they are helping you. And they
8 make sure to kind of maintain that community
9 connection.

10 And then the new owners of Sunny's
11 live in the community. They live over top of the
12 stop. They're two young woman that own it.

13 MEMBER GRANT: Okay, that's all for
14 me. Thank you both.

15 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
17 questions by any other Board Members?

18 Mr. Mpras, any questions of the
19 witness based on the questions that were asked by
20 the Board?

21 MR. MPRAS: No, Mr. Anderson.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any redirect,
23 Mr. O'Keefe?

24 MR. O'KEEFE: No.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Commissioner

1 White, thank you for your testimony, have a great
2 day.

3 MS. WHITE: Thank you. I'll see you
4 back at Union Liquors. Bye everyone.

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
7 Mpras, do you wish to call a witness, sir?

8 MR. MPRAS: Yes, I do.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh no, I'm
10 sorry. I apologize. I apologize.

11 MR. MPRAS: All right.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize.
13 And I apologize. Because we were out of order.
14 When I do things out of order. Now we're going
15 to do, the Board will call its first witness, Ms.
16 Jerrita Millington.

17 Ms. Millington, can you raise your
18 right hand? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
19 truth and nothing but the truth?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: (No audible
21 response.)

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell
23 and state your name for the record?

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: First name
25 Jerrita, J-E-R-R-I-T-A. Last name Millington, M-

1 I-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where you
3 currently, where are you currently employed,
4 ma'am? You can put your hand down.

5 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: ABCA.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long
7 have you bene employed at ABCA?

8 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: It will be
9 a year next month.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
11 your duties and responsibility at the Agency?

12 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I'm an
13 Investigator.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what does
15 it mean that you're an Investigator, ma'am? What
16 do you do?

17 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So I conduct
18 investigations, I do inspections as well.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever
20 testified at a protest hearing before, ma'am?

21 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: No, this
22 will be my first time.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Are you
24 familiar with King Convenience Store?

25 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I am

1 familiar because I am from the area, but this is
2 my first time knowing more about the
3 establishment.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how did you
5 become familiar with this establishment --

6 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Because I
7 was --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- in your
9 official, I'm sorry, in your official capacity,
10 ma'am?

11 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, I was
12 assigned the protest, that's how. And I was able
13 to research more and conduct an investigation on
14 this action.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
16 right. Did there come a time that you wrote a
17 case report?

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
20 would like you to share your report with us. So,
21 Mr. Orellana, can you please allow Ms. Millington
22 to share her screen and her case report?

23 MR. ORELLANA: Access has been
24 elevated.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

1 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Okay, give
2 me one second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You having some
4 issues there, ma'am?

5 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
7 ma'am, can you identify the document on the
8 screen for us?

9 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So this is
10 my case report for the protest renewal.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Let's go to the next page. And can you tell us,
13 who are the Protestants in this case?

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: The
15 Protestants in this case are Mr. O'Keefe. He is
16 representing, he is designated to represent the
17 party of five. The group of five.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now did you
19 have an opportunity to speak to the Protestant?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I have not.
21 I sent a email and I was not able to get a
22 response yet at this time.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was the
24 turnaround for a response from the Protestant,
25 ma'am?

1 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I would say
2 about 48 to 72 hours.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you had
4 contacted him, what, within -- he was -- it was --
5 -- he was expected to get back to -- I'm sorry.
6 How much time did you give him to get back to
7 you?

8 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So my lead
9 investigator, Investigator Dantzler, she reached
10 out to him for the both of us, and then I turned
11 around on March 13th and reached out, again,
12 separately to him. So that was about 48 to 72
13 hours before the report was due. It was a short
14 turnaround time because I was out sick when I was
15 assigned the case.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
17 right, so, can you tell us about the neighborhood
18 where this establishment is located? What type
19 of zoning does it have?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Zoning is a
21 residential zoning. It's homes on the east and
22 west side, and the north and south side of King
23 Convenience.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

25 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: There's row

1 homes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now
3 is there any schools in the area?

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, there
5 is one school, DC Wildflower Public Charter
6 School.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where is
8 the school located? How far is it --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, go
11 ahead.

12 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: On 1516 Good
13 Hope Road Southeast.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So is this
15 within the 1200, how far -- how far from the
16 school is this location?

17 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: This is --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How far from
19 the establishment is the school located?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: About 400
21 feet from King Convenience Store.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

23 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: And then
24 there's a, there's another store, there is a
25 store that is 1,200 feet away, DC Food Market.

1 Which was the protest from earlier this morning.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what type
3 of, what type of license does this location have?

4 I'm sorry, tell me the name of the
5 establishments that are within 1,200 feet and
6 what type of license do they have?

7 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: DC Food
8 Market, which is a Class B establishment, as well
9 as grocery. And then Union Liquor, which is a
10 Class A. And Good Hope Deli and Market, which is
11 a Class B.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so what are
13 the hours of operation of this establishment?

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: The
15 operation are from 7:00 a.m., well, to sell
16 alcohol is from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is the hours of
18 operation the same as the hours of alcohol sale?

19 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I believe it
20 is not. I'm sorry, give me -- I'm sorry, let me
21 --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you don't
23 see that, if you don't see --

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, I don't
25 have it on hand, I'm sorry. I don't have it on

1 hand.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
3 that's fine. Let's move on.

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Right.
5 There is a bus stop that is located on the same
6 block as King Convenience.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8 Now, now let me ask you a question. Did you have
9 an opportunity to visit this establishment?

10 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I did, but
11 every time that I visited they were closed. My
12 lead investigator, she was able to talk to the
13 owner while, when she went to investigate and
14 conduct an inspection for me, and she talked to
15 the owner while she was there.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but I'm
17 saying, so you're saying you didn't personally
18 visit the establishment, but did anyone from ABCA
19 visit the establishment?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did anyone from
22 ABCA monitor the establishment?

23 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, I
24 monitored the establishment as well, it just, it
25 was closed when I did it.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what time
2 did you go to, what time did you go to monitor
3 the establishment?

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So on
5 Monday, on the 11th, we monitored it from 7:00
6 p.m., 7:45. And then I monitored it 8:30 to
7 9:30. And then again, I monitored on the 13th
8 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:15. They were open. And I
9 did not witness any loitering or people outside.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So are --

11 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: On any of
12 the occasions that I went.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
14 see that, okay, that there are four times that
15 the establishment was monitored. So what days
16 was it closed?

17 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: On Monday
18 evening they were closed, after hours. Because
19 that was about after 8:00 p.m. If I'm not
20 mistaken they close around 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. And
21 on Tuesday they were closed as well. When it was
22 monitored at 9:45.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But what are
24 the, I guess what I'm confused about, what are
25 the hours of, what are the hours of alcohol sales

1 for this establishment?

2 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Till 12:00
3 a.m.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So they're not
5 necessarily open till 12:00 a.m., is that
6 correct?

7 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Exactly
8 correct.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
10 right, go ahead. Let's see. So, at the period
11 that you went to observe the establishment, tell
12 me what is it that you saw when the business was
13 open?

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: When the
15 business was open I did not witness anyone
16 standing outside, hanging out. It seemed to be
17 clean. There was no trash outside as well. And
18 it did, there was traffic from the locals coming
19 in and, you know, I'm sorry, coming in and
20 purchasing items.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So about,
22 approximately how long did you observe the
23 establishment for? Your visit.

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: About 20 to
25 30 minutes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And
2 did the Agency conduct any record search for this
3 establishment?

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes. So
5 there was no noise complaints. And my lead
6 investigator, she reached out to OUC and they
7 came back and they had 56 calls of service from
8 January of 2023 till now. And out of those 56 --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I'm sorry,
12 go ahead.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. I'm
14 --

15 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- go ahead and
17 finish it.

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: And out of
19 those 56 calls there were 50 alarm calls, and
20 there were three miscellaneous calls, one bench
21 warrant call, one disorderly call, one domestic
22 violence call, that was it. And there was no
23 active violation related to any of these calls.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I see that
25 there is a, that this establishment does have an

1 investigative history. What, I mean, what it is
2 that the investigative history shares? What's
3 shared by the investigative history of this
4 establishment?

5 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So they
6 have, in February of 2024, last month, they had a
7 settlement agreement violation, but it was a
8 warning. And then in 2019 they had a no ABC
9 manager. That was September of 2019. And then
10 July of 2019 they had sale to minor. And then in
11 November of 2018 they had a no ABC manager as
12 well again.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: And that was
15 a 750.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
17 are there any exhibits attached to your report?

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And can you go
20 through the exhibits please?

21 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Okay. I
22 have about 44 exhibits, if I'm not mistaken. Or
23 29. So the first exhibit was from the Protestant
24 stating that they would be representing the party
25 of five and their reasoning, which was peace and

1 order and quiet. This is the correspondence with
2 it.

3 And Exhibit 2, this is my email to Mr.
4 O'Keefe. And --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

6 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: -- wanted
7 him to know my availability.

8 This is the GI claim. This is where
9 the school sits. So if you can see D.C., let me
10 go back up, you see Wildflower is within the 400
11 feet radius of King Convenience, and the other
12 school, Ketcham, is not, it's on the outside of
13 the 400 feet. And then these are the stores that
14 are with alcohol licenses that are within the
15 1,200 feet.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I want to add
17 --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- just name
20 the exhibits once we're going through, as we go
21 through --

22 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: This is
23 Exhibit 4.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
25 thank you. Go ahead.

1 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: 4 you have
2 Union Liquor, DC Food Market and Good Hope Deli
3 and Market. And then you have of course King
4 Convenient on the inside.

5 Then you have Exhibit 5, which is the
6 outside of the front of King Convenience. So
7 they do have signs, you know, saying no
8 loitering. And no yelling as well to keep the
9 noise down. If you notice, they do have a camera
10 from MPD monitoring the unit. Monitoring the
11 area. And this is the bus stop that's all
12 speaking about on the left-hand side. The speed
13 limit at the top of it.

14 Exhibit 6 is a closer view of the
15 street sign. It's a little dark because it's a
16 copy.

17 Exhibit 7, this is northbound going up
18 16th Street. And King sits on the right.

19 This is Exhibit 8, southbound going
20 down to Marion, now called Marion Barry. Still
21 on 16th Street.

22 This is Exhibit 9, eastbound. As you
23 can see, there are the homes, residential area.

24 Exhibit 10, this is westbound, again,
25 the homes.

1 Exhibit 11 -- 11, sorry, we are inside
2 of King Convenience.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is it
4 that, what is it that Exhibit 11 shows? What are
5 we looking at?

6 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Looking at
7 the food items that they sell. They sell a lot
8 of, right here is the food items. So the snacks.
9 You have the drinks as well at the bottom
10 shelves. Grocery items.

11 And then Exhibit 12 is just a closer
12 picture of some of the food items. The chips.

13 Exhibit 13, more food items. As well
14 as the refrigerator in the back. One of the
15 refrigerators in the back.

16 Here is a close picture of one of the
17 refrigerators on Exhibit 14 where they offer
18 grocery items, like I said, eggs, milk, coffee,
19 meat products. Dairy products as well. Other
20 dairy products.

21 Exhibit 15, these are more so of the
22 paper items, as far as toiletries for the
23 community. So you have toilet paper, paper
24 towels, white gloves. And another refrigerator
25 in the back.

1 Exhibit 16, again, more goods. So you
2 have the cups and the paper plates, as well as
3 pet food, as well.

4 Exhibit 17, more pet items. And then
5 you have the bread. And then also for the
6 infants, the children, you have baby wipes.

7 Exhibit 18, here's a closer picture of
8 it. Feminine products as well for the women in
9 the community.

10 Exhibit 19, they also have hair
11 products as well for the women in the community.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

13 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Exhibit 20,
14 there's another shot of more hair products, and
15 another freezer.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

17 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Then Exhibit
18 21, they have juice, nonalcoholic beverages.
19 Sodas and juices.

20 Exhibit 22 is just another closeup or
21 more of the nonalcoholic beverages that's not in
22 the refrigerator.

23 Exhibit 23 are the alcoholic
24 beverages. Mainly wines and beers.

25 Exhibit 24, another closeup.

1 Champagnes, wines.

2 Exhibit 25 as well. With the beers
3 and the wine.

4 Exhibit 26 as well, another closeup of
5 the same products.

6 And then Exhibit 27, they also have a
7 ATM as well for the community to use, and also
8 their patrons.

9 Exhibit 28 are, this is notes that
10 were taken from my lead investigator that was
11 given to me of her interaction with the owner.
12 And what she observed.

13 And then Exhibit 29 is from the OUC
14 Office of the calls of service. This will be
15 Exhibit 29 to -- these all few pages will be all
16 the same from OUC.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: And that's
19 it.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, are you
21 familiar with, you can close your screen. Are
22 you familiar with what's considered a B store?

23 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, does this,
25 as the Investigator who went to observe, who went

1 to look at this during the investigation, was
2 this a good representation of what you consider a
3 B store is?

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, I do.
5 They sell wine and beer, as well grocery items as
6 well. So I would consider this to be a great
7 example of being a B store.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
9 right, thank you. All right, any questions by
10 any other Board Members? Okay, there is none.
11 Mr. Mpras?

12 Any questions, Mr. Mpras?

13 MR. MPRAS: Yes, Mr. Anderson. Thank
14 you. Investigator Millington, you stated that
15 you're from that area, is that correct?

16 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

17 MR. MPRAS: So do you still live in
18 that area?

19 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, I do.

20 MR. MPRAS: And aside from visiting
21 the King Convenience Store for your ABRA
22 investigative report, have you had occasion to
23 ever shop there before?

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I personally
25 do not. I live further up, closer to the Alabama

1 Avenue --

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

3 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: -- area, so
4 I have not personally shopped inside. I have
5 been through that area but not shopping.

6 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Having been through
7 that area, can you give us your opinion as to the
8 condition of the exterior of the King Convenience
9 Store?

10 In your report you stated that you
11 found it, it was well maintained, it was clean.
12 Is that, would that also be your observation in
13 passing through that area?

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, that
15 would be my observation as well. I will say that
16 any of the times that I've seen people loitering
17 it was not in front of King Convenience, it was
18 more so down the block, or the middle of the
19 block of King Convenience.

20 MR. MPRAS: SO more towards Marion
21 Barry Avenue?

22 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

23 MR. MPRAS: Okay, great. Now,
24 Investigator Millington, you stated that you
25 weren't able to reach Mr. O'Keefe, correct?

1 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Correct.

2 MR. MPRAS: Now, quick question for
3 you here. If you were, if you had been able to
4 reach Mr. O'Keefe and, you know, discussed this
5 situation with him, would that in any way change
6 the facts as you described and presented in your
7 report?

8 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I don't
9 think it would change the facts of what I found,
10 it would add to because it would be his opinion
11 and his findings.

12 MR. MPRAS: So the only addition would
13 be his opinion?

14 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

15 MR. MPRAS: Great. And you said you
16 visited the establishment four separate
17 occasions, correct?

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

19 MR. MPRAS: Now, you've touched on
20 noise. In your report there was no noise,
21 correct?

22 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Correct.

23 MR. MPRAS: You didn't observe any
24 loitering, is that also correct?

25 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: That is

1 correct.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And can you please
3 comment on the condition of the surrounding area?
4 Did you find, was there a lot of liter, was there
5 no liter, was it well maintained?

6 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So in the
7 area it was actually well maintained. I didn't
8 see any trash outside on any of the streets
9 that's going northbound, southbound, eastbound
10 and west, on 16th and on U Street. I did not
11 observe any trash outside.

12 MR. MPRAS: And is there any way for
13 the Applicant to know when you will be conducting
14 your inspections?

15 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: No. Unless
16 I give them the heads up that I'll be coming
17 through. But most times it will be a popup.

18 MR. MPRAS: And have you given, did
19 you give them a heads up in these four inspection
20 instances?

21 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: No.

22 MR. MPRAS: Now, okay. And how would
23 you say the King Convenience Store interacted
24 with their customers? Was there any interaction,
25 no interaction, good interaction?

1 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So I
2 personally didn't view it, but my lead
3 investigator, Dantzler, she had. And she said
4 that there was a rapport between the customers
5 and the owners, and also the employees at King
6 Convenience.

7 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

8 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: By first
9 name basis.

10 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And is this a
11 positive rapport?

12 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Positive,
13 yes.

14 MR. MPRAS: And when you conducted
15 with inquiry with MPD, is it true that there were
16 no crimes attributed to the King Convenience
17 Store?

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, there
19 were no crimes. There was no crimes committed.
20 There was, like I said, a bench warrant call,
21 there was a disorderly call and one domestic
22 violence within the years time frame. But any
23 active related violations there were none.

24 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And is it possible
25 that the King Convenience Store address was used

1 as a point of reference for those calls and they
2 were not directly required to respond there?

3 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: There is a
4 possibility. The 56 calls were for the 1536 U
5 Street, but because it is a land, considered to
6 be probably a landmark for that area, yes, I
7 would say yes.

8 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Investigator
9 Millington, thank you very much for your time, I
10 have no further questions.

11 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Okay, thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe?

14 MR. O'KEEFE: Investigator Millington,
15 thank you for taking time to participate today
16 and for all the effort that went into putting
17 together this report.

18 My first question is related to the
19 purpose of the investigative report itself. Can
20 you please provide an explanation for why this
21 investigative report is generated as it relates
22 to serving as evidence in this case today for the
23 Board to consider?

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So this
25 investigation is presented because of the protest

1 that was going against the renewal for their
2 alcohol license. So with that being said, we, as
3 Investigators, have to go in and give all of the
4 facts and the findings to make sure that both
5 parties are being heard. And, you know,
6 presenting to the Board what we are finding.

7 MR. O'KEEFE: So the document, well,
8 I guess the question is, does the Board use this
9 document in the contents whether it's opinion or
10 facts and figures to make a determination about
11 the application renewal?

12 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

13 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay. You mentioned
14 that the investigation was conducted by you and
15 another individual from ABCA that was not you.
16 What was the name of that other investigator, and
17 is it referenced in the official report?

18 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, it's
19 referenced. She, her name is Felicia Dantzler.
20 She also did the DC Market, I think that's it, DC
21 Market this morning.

22 MR. O'KEEFE: Oh, could you please
23 spell her name?

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: First name,
25 F-E-L-I-C-I-A, and then last name is, D-A-N-T-Z-

1 L-E-R.

2 MR. O'KEEFE: Great. Thank you for
3 that clarification.

4 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

5 MR. O'KEEFE: Section 2A of your
6 report states that you attempted to contact me as
7 the designated representative by email on
8 3/13/24, is that correct?

9 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

10 MR. O'KEEFE: Section 2A also states
11 that as of 3/13/24, the same day, I had not
12 responded. Indicating that you gave me
13 approximately one day to respond to the request,
14 is that correct?

15 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Additionally, you stated
17 in response to a question from Mr. Anderson that
18 a separate investigator had reached out to me
19 regarding this specific application. How was
20 that outreach conducted by the other
21 investigator, and is it the investigator that you
22 just referenced?

23 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, that's
24 the investigator that I referenced. She reached
25 out on March 11th, if I'm not mistaken, to talk

1 about both of our cases. Stating that they were
2 together at the time.

3 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay. So there is no --
4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: --
6 protesting the protest.

7 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. So the
8 investigator reached out without clarifying
9 between the two protest hearings, they just
10 reached out for a blanket response, is that
11 correct?

12 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes, she
13 reached out to get a response. Yes.

14 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay. Know that the
15 only, so the only official documented outreach
16 within the report itself is the March 13th
17 outreach that you're referencing?

18 MR. MPRAS: Objection. The --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is the
20 objection?

21 MR. MPRAS: -- representative is
22 testifying.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think it's --
24 I'm going to overrule the objection. It appears
25 to me that he's asking a question, so I'm going

1 to give him the benefit of doubt. If the Witness
2 can answer the question she can, if not let's
3 move on.

4 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there a
6 question or are you --

7 MR. O'KEEFE: Is there -- yes. I'll
8 rephrase it if it's helpful. Within Section 2A,
9 or anywhere else in the report, does it state
10 that the outreach was conducted on the 11th, as
11 you stated, and that I, as the representative,
12 had two, 48 to 72 hours to respond?

13 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: In Section
14 2? I'm sorry, give me one second so I can just
15 make sure. No. In Section 2 I only stated what
16 I did, which was reaching out to you and didn't
17 receive a response back.

18 MR. O'KEEFE: And that, in the same
19 day, correct?

20 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Yes.

21 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay, thank you for
22 clarifying. Section 4 of the report states that
23 the establishment was only monitored for times
24 due to time constraints and a short turnaround
25 and sick leave. Can you please clarify, is there

1 any requirement that more than four visits to the
2 premises need to occur before you can make any
3 type of assessment, and if there is not, can you
4 please explain why did you feel the need to
5 include this footnote in bold letters within the
6 report?

7 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: So there is
8 no requirement of how many days or how many times
9 we are, I'm sorry, mandatory to come to monitor
10 the area and the establishment. I wanted to put
11 it in the report because of the turnaround time.
12 When the report was given to me I personally was
13 not in office, I was out sick for a week. So I
14 just wanted to make that be known that if I was
15 in office I would have had more time to have more
16 visits to monitor the area better.

17 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you for
18 clarifying.

19 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: And the
20 establishment.

21 MR. O'KEEFE: You noted that on, in a
22 statement earlier that on multiple occasions of
23 those four visits that the establishment was not
24 open, is that correct?

25 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Correct.

1 There, well -- yes, correct. Two times the
2 establishment was open out of the four.

3 MR. O'KEEFE: So based on these
4 closures do you believe that you were able to
5 sufficiently observe store operations and
6 document these findings sufficiently?

7 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: I believe
8 so. Like I said, if I had more days to do
9 monitoring, then I would have a more rounded out
10 idea. But from my findings, yes, I feel like
11 that was enough. Because there is some
12 establishments that even though they're closed
13 they still have people loitering out front of
14 their businesses. And this location did not.

15 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay, thank you very
16 much for your time. I have no further questions.

17 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: All right,
18 thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
20 thank you. Any redirect questions by the Board?
21 All right, hearing none.

22 Thank you for your testimony, Ms.
23 Millington, have a good day.

24 INVESTIGATOR MILLINGTON: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Mpras, do

1 you have a witness you wish to call, sir?

2 You're on mute, sir, if you're
3 speaking.

4 MR. MPRAS: Excuse me, Mr. Anderson.
5 I would like to call Nisa Harper.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Harper.
7 Where is Ms. Harper. Do you have a camera you
8 can turn on, Ms. Harper?

9 Ms. Harper, can you raise your right
10 hand please? Do you swear -- I can't see your
11 hand, ma'am.

12 MS. HARPER: Oh.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
14 affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
15 truth?

16 MS. HARPER: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
18 sir.

19 MR. MPRAS: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.
20 Good afternoon, Ms. Harper. Would you please
21 spell your name for the record?

22 MS. HARPER: Sure. It's N-I-S-A, last
23 name, H-A-R-P-E-R. Nisa Harper.

24 MR. MPRAS: And what is your current
25 address?

1 MS. HARPER: 2011 16th Street,
2 Southeast, Apartment Number 1.

3 MR. MPRAS: And how long have you
4 lived at that address?

5 MS. HARPER: Four years.

6 MR. MPRAS: And how, what is the
7 distance between your residence and the DC, and
8 the convenience store?

9 MS. HARPER: I'm right next door to
10 it.

11 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

12 MS. HARPER: It's to my left if you
13 walk outside of my building. Directly next door.

14 MR. MPRAS: Very good. Thank you. So
15 how often do you typically visit the store?

16 MS. HARPER: Almost every day, if not
17 every other day.

18 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Okay. Well, in
19 your many visits, have you ever witnessed any
20 disorderly conduct or problems related to the
21 operation of the store?

22 MS. HARPER: No, I haven't.

23 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And in your
24 experience in visiting the store, how would you
25 describe the overall atmosphere and operation of

1 the store?

2 MS. HARPER: It was pleasant. As I
3 said, I'm in there often --

4 MR. MPRAS: All right.

5 MS. HARPER: -- so it's pleasant,
6 clean. I'll have comments, but to answer your
7 question, pleasant, clean. We have a, I have a
8 relationship, like many of the other parents,
9 with Sam and Curly. It has what I need.

10 MR. MPRAS: So, great. And so, do you
11 have a, you said you have a relationship with
12 them. To your knowledge, do any other neighbors
13 and residents have the similar relationships with
14 them?

15 MS. HARPER: We do. Sam and Curly in
16 the store. A lot of parents go to the store.
17 Our kids may attend Ketcham. I have a child at
18 Ketcham. That's one of the schools. We go to
19 the store often because it's convenient. So we
20 get something before school, after school, and
21 things of that nature.

22 MR. MPRAS: Okay. So you don't have
23 any fear of going in there or taking your child
24 in there?

25 MS. HARPER: No, not at all. Not at

1 all. They're very supporting. I know
2 Commissioner White had stated some issues with
3 certain Ketcham parents, but most of us walk our
4 kids to the school. You'll see constant traffic,
5 before school, after school of parents. And like
6 I said, I live right next door.

7 I've also, I would like to add that
8 they helped like, when I wanted to put books in
9 there to give out to the community, they allowed
10 me to do that. So there were books in the store.
11 When there are events, they help with the
12 communities, with the families. They help with
13 the nonprofits that come through there. I've
14 been a part of that, and witnessed that also.

15 MR. MPRAS: So do you consider them a
16 part of the community?

17 MS. HARPER: Absolutely. Without a
18 shadow of a doubt.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And I wanted to ask
20 you, have you noticed any loitering in front of
21 the store or around the store?

22 MS. HARPER: No. Commissioner, what
23 Commissioner White was speaking to, Jamila White,
24 what she was speaking of is, she's also my
25 Commissioner for my area also. What she's

1 speaking of, in my opinion is, African-Americans
2 in general, which she is one, we're communal. So
3 at times, it has nothing to do with the store.
4 When it's warmer, Black people, African-
5 Americans, tend to congregate outside more. And
6 like she stated, that area, that outside
7 perimeter, is a hotspot but it has, it's not the
8 store.

9 Like the interviewer had stated that
10 there was no traffic. She did not witness
11 anything around the store at that time.

12 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And you found, you
13 said you found the store to be clean. Does that
14 include the exterior area around the store?

15 MS. HARPER: Yes. Yes. They make a
16 habit, and they will sometimes employ, because I
17 live in the community and I know this, they will
18 sometimes employ some of the men, the older men
19 from the community, to sweep that area and clean
20 up that area.

21 MR. MPRAS: Okay. In your opinion, is
22 the presence of the King Convenience Store a
23 positive or negative impact on the neighborhood?

24 MS. HARPER: It's very positive. Any
25 convenience store that decides to take a, make an

1 investment in what people consider a risky area,
2 it's a convenient need for a lot of families
3 because of the convenience.

4 And there's constant, people coming in
5 the store. This one, and the one on W Street
6 because there's a need there. We have a demand.
7 You know, it's filling a need for us.

8 MR. MPRAS: Okay, thank you. And,
9 let's see. Okay, lastly, I mean, is there
10 anything else you'd like to add about your
11 experience with the King Convenience Store?

12 MS. HARPER: I've had a great
13 experience. The people in the community, I
14 represent other parents.

15 I'm not saying that what Commissioner
16 White said wasn't true, because she talks to
17 people also. What I'm stating is, there are a
18 lot of parents like myself who have children who
19 go to the different schools, Ketcham included,
20 and that store, and the one on W Street, fills a
21 need for a lot of us.

22 And what I think is being spoken of,
23 spoken about, is the, what's happening a block
24 away. Like that. And that's a community issue
25 that is being worked on as the neighborhood goes

1 through this transition. So that's pretty much
2 what I wanted to add.

3 MR. MPRAS: Well you seem to have a
4 lot of knowledge about the neighborhood. Would
5 you believe that would, the congregating would
6 still be going on if the King Convenience Store
7 were not there?

8 MS. HARPER: Oh absolutely.

9 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

10 MS. HARPER: Absolutely. Yes. And
11 that's reflective of, in my opinion of course,
12 what D.C. is going through as a whole in trying
13 to get a grasp on some areas in what's happening
14 with D.C. And it's a community issue.

15 The corner store is, like Commissioner
16 White said, in the heart of the community. But
17 what's happening with Ward 8 being a low-income
18 ward, it's not reflective of the corner stores
19 it's reflective of the other issues that we, as a
20 community, have to solve together.

21 MR. MPRAS: Right. And one last
22 question, I believe, is do you feel the store is
23 adequately stocked with food stuff, sundries and
24 other items you may need? As far as convenient
25 stores go.

1 MS. HARPER: Absolutely. I would say,
2 I'm a pretty healthy person, I would say it's
3 always can be, there can always be an increase of
4 more options of fresh fruits and vegetables, but
5 I wouldn't go there, and the other parents
6 wouldn't go there if it didn't have what we need.
7 Absolutely.

8 MR. MPRAS: Great. Thank you, Ms.
9 Harper. No further questions from me. I
10 appreciate your time.

11 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe?

13 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Hi, Ms. Harper,
14 thank you for taking the time to join today. I
15 just have one question. You mentioned on
16 multiple occasions that this store has supplies
17 that parents appreciate and that they need. Can
18 you please clarify how the denial of a liquor
19 license would impact the ability for parents to
20 access the supplies that you're referencing?

21 MS. HARPER: That's a good question.
22 So to clarify, there are, we, with them having
23 their liquor license, that's also convenient, I
24 didn't add that part, with it being right there.

25 We would still have the other need,

1 the other items in the store. We would still
2 need that. It doesn't necessarily, but what I'm
3 also stating, it doesn't necessarily impact, what
4 I'm also stating is that that is a need also that
5 we tap into.

6 But the corner stores are not the
7 cause nor the issue of what is happening, we're
8 obviously neighbors, of what is happening, in my
9 opinion, in our community. So to shutdown
10 certain aspects of it, that's my answer. I was
11 about to go on another tangent. That's my
12 answer.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. O'KEEFE: No, that's great. Thank
15 you very much. I appreciate your time.

16 MS. HARPER: Okay, thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
18 by --

19 MR. O'KEEFE: No further questions.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, thank you,
22 Mr. O'Keefe. I came to that conclusion. Any
23 questions by any Board Members? Yes, Mr. Grant.

24 MEMBER GRANT: Yes, Ms. Harper, thank
25 you for being with us this afternoon. And thank

1 you for your testimony.

2 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

3 MEMBER GRANT: I wanted to ask you a
4 couple of questions, just for my confirmation.
5 So you live directly next to the establishment?

6 MS. HARPER: Correct.

7 MEMBER GRANT: Correct. Okay,
8 correct. Do you have any financial interest in
9 the establishment?

10 MS. HARPER: Other than as a consumer?

11 MEMBER GRANT: Right.

12 MS. HARPER: No.

13 MEMBER GRANT: Okay.

14 MS. HARPER: No.

15 MEMBER GRANT: All right. So I asked
16 one resident earlier who testified in favor of
17 the other establishment that was before us this
18 morning, and I'll ask you the same question.
19 Given the fact that you don't have any financial
20 incentive with this establishment, given the fact
21 that you live next door as a resident, what is it
22 that drove you to come here today to wait to be
23 able to testify this afternoon, given the fact
24 that you could be at work, you could be anywhere,
25 what drove you to come here today to testify?

1 MS. HARPER: Well, I'm a former social
2 worker, I'm an advocate in general. I'm an
3 advocate. I only advocate about issues that I
4 think are beneficial to the community. Whether
5 it's housing, whether it's education, whether
6 it's the convenience store. That is a need that
7 a lot of families have that I see continuously
8 being kind of striped away because of a certain
9 perception.

10 So when I was talking to, actually
11 both owners, because they're both very friendly,
12 they just happened to mention it and I said
13 myself, I said, oh, I'd like to be a part of
14 that, I live here, I'm a speaker. I would like
15 to be a part of that because I would like to add
16 my voice to ensure that it can remain, if it was
17 off the table.

18 MEMBER GRANT: Got it.

19 MS. HARPER: But that's something I do
20 with a lot of issues, not, not -- so that's my
21 answer.

22 MEMBER GRANT: Thank you. That's my
23 only question, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant.
25 Yes, Mr. Short.

1 MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon, Ms.
2 Harper.

3 MS. HARPER: Hi. Hello.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You have been in
5 the neighborhood you say four years?

6 MS. HARPER: Right.

7 MEMBER SHORT: And you have children
8 that live and go to school there at the
9 elementary school down the street from you?

10 MS. HARPER: And a high school.

11 MEMBER SHORT: And a high school.
12 Which high school is that?

13 MS. HARPER: It's not in the District,
14 but it's Anacostia.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And there is a
16 junior high school next to Anacostia, right?

17 MS. HARPER: Right.

18 MEMBER SHORT: What is that?

19 MS. HARPER: That's Kramer Middle
20 School.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So your children
22 would be able to just go from the elementary
23 school to the junior school and then to high
24 school if you stayed in the neighborhood?

25 MS. HARPER: If I made those choices.

1 That's another -- That's another online -- Yes.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Okay then. I'll get
3 back on our subject matter.

4 MS. HARPER: Okay.

5 MEMBER SHORT: I do appreciate you
6 telling us or informing us that you are a social
7 worker.

8 MS. HARPER: Former social worker,
9 yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Former social worker.
11 And so between the two cases we've heard today in
12 your neighborhood there are a lot of social
13 issues.

14 Do you feel qualified to associate
15 those issues with this license that we are here
16 today talking about renewing?

17 MS. HARPER: Well my answer --
18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MEMBER SHORT: Does it have any
20 bearing?

21 MS. HARPER: Well my answer to that is
22 what I stated prior, which is the convenient
23 stores have no bearing on what is happening
24 within the community in the heart of Anacostia.

25 It's not adding to the issues as I

1 see, and the issues are there and they are
2 complex and they are not new, but all that to
3 say, I don't believe the convenient stores have a
4 bearing on what is happening.

5 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well how many
6 years have you lived in Washington D.C. period,
7 the District of Columbia?

8 MS. HARPER: Okay, good question. I
9 have lived in Washington D.C. ten years. Now I
10 was raised in Alexandria but my mother worked,
11 attended church, and came into D.C. regularly and
12 I have a lot of family in D.C.

13 So I have lived here as a resident ten
14 years in different parts.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Are you aware that some
16 certain parts of Northern Virginia used to be a
17 part of the District of Columbia?

18 MS. HARPER: I have heard that, yes.

19 MEMBER SHORT: You've heard it?

20 MS. HARPER: Yes.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Do you believe it?

22 MS. HARPER: Absolutely.

23 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, all right. Okay,
24 that's all I have of this witness, Mr. Chair.
25 Thank you very much for your testimony.

1 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you for being a
3 good resident of the District of Columbia.
4 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

5 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
7 O'Keefe, any questions based on the questions
8 that were asked by the Board?

9 MR. O'KEEFE: No, none at this time.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Mpras?

12 MR. MPRAS: No, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Ms.
14 Harper, thank you very much for your testimony.
15 You are free to go.

16 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a great
18 day.

19 MS. HARPER: You all, too. Bye-bye.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thanks. Mr.
21 Mpras, do you have another witness?

22 MR. MPRAS: Yes. Andrew Lanier.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can we elevate
24 -- Mr. Lanier, do you have a camera turned on,
25 sir?

1 Mr. Lanier?

2 Are you there, Mr. Lanier?

3 MR. ORELLANA: Just sent a request to
4 unmute.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 All right. Mr. Lanier, unmute yourself, sir.

7 All right. Mr. Lanier, can you raise your right
8 hand, please?

9 MR. LANIER: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
11 affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
12 truth?

13 MR. LANIER: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
15 sir.

16 MR. MPRAS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

18 MR. MPRAS: Good afternoon, Mr.
19 Lanier. Would you please state your -- I'm
20 sorry, spell your full name for the record.

21 MR. LANIER: Andrew, A-N-D-R-E-W,
22 Lanier, L-A-N-I-E-R, Sr., S-R period.

23 MR. MPRAS: Now, Mr. Lanier, what is
24 your current address?

25 MR. LANIER: 1517 U Street, Southeast.

1 MR. MPRAS: Thanks. Mr. Lanier, what
2 is the approximate distance between your address
3 and the King Convenient Store?

4 MR. LANIER: Three houses.

5 MR. MPRAS: Okay, great. And how long
6 have you lived at your current address?

7 MR. LANIER: I lived at 1523 U Street
8 for 18 years, so I've been over here since 1969,
9 so I've been here for another approximately 25
10 years.

11 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Thank you. And,
12 sir, how often do you visit the King Convenient
13 Store?

14 MR. LANIER: Every day.

15 MR. MPRAS: Every day, okay. And
16 during your daily visits have you ever witnessed
17 any disorderly conduct or problems related to the
18 operation of the King Convenient Store?

19 MR. LANIER: No.

20 MR. MPRAS: And in your experience how
21 would you describe the overall atmosphere and
22 operation of the store?

23 MR. LANIER: The operation and
24 atmosphere of the store is nice. They have good
25 owners. They are understanding if you don't have

1 something and you're honest and, you know, they
2 make sure everything is okay and you'll get it.
3 They keep everything clean.

4 I mean it's just sometimes it's just
5 hard to keep riff-raff from around the store,
6 which they do because the police presence has
7 been up and a couple of the people in the
8 neighborhood said something about it and you all
9 don't live around here so you don't need to be
10 around here, so the block is primarily clearer
11 now.

12 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And so is it your
13 opinion that the store is well maintained and
14 well managed?

15 MR. LANIER: Yes.

16 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And -- Hold on a
17 second, please. And have you observed, you know,
18 any type of loitering around the store?

19 MR. LANIER: I mean in the community
20 that we live in loitering is everywhere. I mean
21 they stand around, there's a bus stop right
22 there, and you ask them to move, they're waiting
23 on the bus.

24 The police come up and say something
25 to them. You can't say nothing, there's no

1 loitering. You hear there is no rule that we
2 can't stand right here on the corner.

3 But somehow or another I'm glad that's
4 all cleared up, but other than that the store had
5 nothing to do with no loitering around the store,
6 in and out.

7 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how would you
8 describe the condition of the store, the
9 exterior, is there trash, is there no trash, is
10 it clean, not clean?

11 MR. LANIER: I mean it's clean. I
12 mean you can come to work in the morning and
13 sweep the sidewalk and make sure everything is
14 clean when you open it up but that doesn't stop
15 people that are walking past the store just
16 throwing their garbage on the store because they
17 done took all the trash cans.

18 MR. MPRAS: Now -- Give me a second
19 here. Now, Mr. Lanier, in your opinion is the
20 presence of the King Convenient Store a positive
21 or negative impact on the neighborhood?

22 MR. LANIER: It's a positive.

23 MR. MPRAS: And in your own words and
24 opinion why do you feel it's positive?

25 MR. LANIER: That store has been there

1 since I've been, was born, and from that store
2 they were hire the little teenagers that, you
3 know, working there through the summer, come and
4 clean up and give them a little allowance money,
5 and it's always been a family ordinary store.

6 MR. MPRAS: So would you consider them
7 a member of the community?

8 MR. LANIER: Yes.

9 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And do you consider
10 the store vital to the neighborhood?

11 MR. LANIER: Yeah, it's valued -- It
12 has -- It is valuable to the neighborhood because
13 you have a lot of senior citizens that lives in
14 this area on this block that can't walk all the
15 way up the hill to other stores and get around,
16 so the store is very convenient.

17 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And can you
18 describe the nature of your relationship with the
19 owners of the store and the staff?

20 MR. LANIER: Yeah. I look at them --
21 Sammy and Curly I look at them as my brothers.
22 They are very nice, they're respectful, they have
23 a nice family, and they just, you know, just
24 trying to help other people. Everybody is trying
25 to help everybody.

1 MR. MPRAS: And would -- Do you
2 support the renewal of their liquor license?

3 MR. LANIER: Yeah, I support it. I
4 hope they get it. I mean they do sell beer and
5 wine. They're not selling hard liquor. All that
6 out there that they talking about liquor bottles
7 and all that, that's down the street.

8 Stop getting 16th and U and 16th and
9 Good Hope on Marion Berry Avenue twisted and
10 mixed up. 16th and U don't sell liquor.

11 MR. MPRAS: Sir, are you saying that
12 the real problem is at 16th and Marion Berry?

13 MR. LANIER: Right.

14 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Mr. Lanier, do you
15 have anything you would like to add regarding the
16 King Convenient Store?

17 MR. LANIER: I feel like they should
18 be reinstated, their alcohol and liquor license.
19 I think they shouldn't be a target because of
20 their nationality.

21 MR. MPRAS: Thank you, Mr. Lanier. I
22 have no further questions.

23 MR. O'KEEFE: Who made that statement?
24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe,

1 the witness is testifying and that's his opinion,
2 and we all have opinions. So the Board will take
3 --

4 MR. LANIER: Well first of all --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
6 Lanier. I'm sorry, Mr. Lanier, hold on, sir.
7 There is no question pending, so thank you, Mr.
8 Lanier.

9 Mr. Mpras, do you have any other
10 questions for this witness?

11 MR. MPRAS: Mr. Lanier, there was
12 something you wanted to say, what was that?

13 MR. LANIER: No. I was -- He threw me
14 off. He just threw me off with butting in. He
15 just threw me off, that's all. Other than that I
16 have no problems with them.

17 They are very nice people. They keep
18 a well maintained and clean store. They have
19 hired me to do some work at the store. There's
20 no -- They don't have rodents running all around.

21 They don't have holes and leakings and
22 mildew all in their, you know, containers, so
23 it's really a pretty clean store.

24 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
25 Lanier. I appreciate your testimony and I have

1 no further questions for you at this time.

2 MR. LANIER: Okay. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
4 Lanier. Mr. O'Keefe, do you have any questions
5 for Mr. Lanier?

6 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes, just one. Mr.
7 Lanier, do you consider the sale of alcohol at
8 this store to be beneficial and vital to the
9 community?

10 MR. LANIER: First of all selling them
11 beer and wine in a convenient store is all over
12 the world. Yes, it is convenient because you
13 don't have to walk down to the corner to the
14 other mess.

15 I took like -- I feel like this, I
16 feel that you move into a neighborhood because
17 you got a home cheaper than what you wanted to
18 pay, but when you come into a neighborhood where
19 people have been here for over 30, 40, or 50
20 years and you're trying to change something
21 because you don't like something, you need to
22 talk to the community and stop trying to close
23 stuff down and get rid of things.

24 You don't go -- You have to come
25 outside into the community. If you didn't want

1 to live around here, I'm sure before you moved
2 around here you came around here and you seen
3 what was going on.

4 Well it's still -- Four years ago it
5 was terrible around here. It had nothing to do
6 with the corner store. Half the people and the
7 riff-raff that was around here four years ago
8 when you moved around here it's a whole different
9 crew.

10 There's no murders, no shootings, no
11 none of that going on right now too tough on this
12 corner. They don't even hang on this corner.
13 But, you know, you just say that there's a whole
14 lot of loitering, there's not a whole lot of
15 loitering.

16 You have a bus stop right there. You
17 have people going in and out of the store. The
18 store do not stay open late hours at night, by 8
19 o'clock they close. They open up about 9:00 or
20 8:00.

21 So how much trouble do you think
22 that's going to cause for you to cause them to
23 lose something that they're feeding their
24 families with and making sure they are providing
25 for the community so we don't have to go outside?

1 Why do --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MR. O'KEEFE: Was your question
4 directed at me, sir?

5 MR. LANIER: Yeah, I'm talking
6 directly to you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,
8 gentlemen. Mr. O'Keefe, you are asking a
9 question. Please --

10 MR. LANIER: I answered his question.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think one of
12 the things that you have to do, Mr. O'Keefe,
13 please do not ask open-ended questions, ask more
14 pointed questions so the witness will not have an
15 opportunity to answer open-ended, sir, okay.

16 MR. O'KEEFE: Understood. I have no
17 further questions at this time. Thank you for
18 your time.

19 MR. LANIER: Of course not.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
21 Thank you. Mr. Lanier, hold on one minute,
22 please.

23 MR. LANIER: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
25 by any Board Members of Mr. Lanier? Go ahead,

1 Mr. Grant.

2 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Lanier, thank you
3 for being here today, your patience, and also
4 providing testimony and feedback on your
5 experience.

6 MR. LANIER: Okay.

7 MEMBER GRANT: I had a couple of
8 questions. You mentioned that you have a really
9 strong relationship with the store owners. You
10 have referenced them as being something like
11 brothers, is that correct?

12 Mr. Lanier, could you hear me?

13 Mr. Lanier?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Lanier, I
15 can't hear you, sir. I think you probably
16 pressed the mute button on your phone.

17 MR. LANIER: Is it good now?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

19 MEMBER GRANT: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're back.

21 Go ahead.

22 MR. LANIER: Okay.

23 MEMBER GRANT: I am going to re-state
24 the question just for the record.

25 MR. LANIER: Okay.

1 MEMBER GRANT: During your testimony
2 you referenced the owners and the management as
3 being like brothers to you, is that correct?

4 MR. LANIER: That's correct.

5 MEMBER GRANT: Sure, okay. Thank you.
6 You also mentioned that I guess at periods of
7 times you were employed by the establishment, is
8 that correct?

9 MR. LANIER: That's correct.

10 MEMBER GRANT: Okay. Given your
11 relationship with the store owners, and in
12 particular the financial interest that you had in
13 the past with the store owners, do you believe
14 that you provided testimony today without any
15 bias based on those previous employment
16 opportunities you've had with the establishment?

17 MR. LANIER: No, there's nothing
18 biased about it. They -- It's a good
19 relationship and there is nothing that I would
20 tell you if I could say anything bad towards them
21 or negative towards them because they're not that
22 type of people.

23 MEMBER GRANT: Okay. All right, thank
24 you. No further questions, Mr. Chair.

25 MR. LANIER: All right.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
2 Grant. Any other questions by any other Board
3 Members?

4 Mr. O'Keefe, any questions of the
5 witness based on the question that was asked by
6 the Board?

7 Mr. Mpras, any final questions, sir,
8 any redirect?

9 Mr. Lanier, thank you very much for
10 your testimony, sir. You are free to go. Have a
11 great day.

12 MR. LANIER: Okay. Thank you. You,
13 too.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
15 Mpras, do you have another witness you wish to
16 call?

17 MR. MPRAS: Yes, sir. I would like to
18 call the owner of the venue, Seyoume Wourkneh.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Wourkneh,
20 can you raise your right hand, please. You can
21 take your phone off mute, sir. Unmute your line,
22 sir.

23 Do you swear or affirm to tell the
24 truth and nothing but the truth?

25 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
2 Orellana, can you please help me with Mr. Lanier?

3 All right. Your witness, sir.

4 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Good morning, Mr.
5 Wourkneh. Would you please spell your full name
6 for the record?

7 MR. WOURKNEH: My name is Seyoume --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, I need you
9 to raise your voice, okay. I know -- You might
10 have a soft voice, but I need you to raise your
11 voice and speak it clear.

12 MR. WOURKNEH: Okay. First name,
13 Seyoume, S-E-Y-O-U-M-E, last name Wourkneh, W-O-
14 U-R-K-N-E-H.

15 MR. MPRAS: And, sir, what is your
16 position with the King Convenient Store?

17 MR. WOURKNEH: I am a business owner
18 of King Convenient Store.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And can you tell us
20 how long you have owned the King Convenient
21 Store?

22 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. More than 14
23 years.

24 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And -- Excuse me.
25 I would like to ask you a few questions now about

1 the operation of your store. Do you have a
2 camera surveillance system at your store?

3 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

4 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how many
5 cameras do you have?

6 MR. WOURKNEH: Let's see, more than
7 14.

8 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

9 MR. WOURKNEH: In the store.

10 MR. MPRAS: And do these cameras
11 record?

12 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

13 MR. MPRAS: For how long?

14 MR. WOURKNEH: For --

15 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And, sir, how do
16 you handle your trash, do you have a trash pickup
17 contract?

18 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Mr. Anderson, I
20 would like permission to share my screen, please.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Orellana,
22 can --

23 MR. WOURKNEH: The trash company is --
24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold

1 on. Hold on, sir. Hold on. Hold on, sir. Hold
2 on, sir. Mr. Orellana, can you please give Mr.
3 Mpras the ability to share his screen.

4 MR. MPRAS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Go
6 ahead, sir. Mr. Wourkneh, I need you, sir, to
7 please stay stationary, okay. While you are
8 testifying please stay stationary, please do not
9 move, okay.

10 MR. WOURKNEH: Okay.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. MPRAS: Now --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

14 MR. MPRAS: Thank you very much. Now,
15 Mr. Wourkneh, is this a copy of the work order
16 for your trash removal company?

17 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes, KMG.

18 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how often do
19 they come and pick up the trash?

20 MR. WOURKNEH: A week three times.

21 MR. MPRAS: Okay, great. And, Mr.
22 Wourkneh, do you have a contract with any pest
23 control service?

24 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

25 MR. MPRAS: Great. And is this a copy

1 of the service agreement with your pest control
2 company?

3 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

4 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how often do
5 they come to your store?

6 MR. WOURKNEH: Every month.

7 MR. MPRAS: Every month?

8 MR. WOURKNEH: Every month.

9 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Thank you very
10 much. Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter
11 Exhibits 2A and 2B into the record.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe?
13 Without objection.

14 MR. MPRAS: Thank you. Now, Mr.
15 Wourkneh, there has been testimony regarding the
16 cleanliness of your store. I would like to know
17 from you how often do you clean around your
18 store, the exterior?

19 MR. WOURKNEH: Every morning.

20 MR. MPRAS: Every morning, okay.

21 MR. WOURKNEH: Yeah, before we open
22 the stores --

23 MR. MPRAS: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. WOURKNEH: -- we'll clean up the
25 outsides.

1 MR. MPRAS: Okay, right. And -- Okay.
2 Now, Mr. Wourkneh, if you can see this photo can
3 you tell me what you see?

4 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. 16th.

5 MR. MPRAS: I'm sorry?

6 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes, this is U Street.

7 MR. MPRAS: Right. Is this your store
8 in the photo?

9 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

10 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And is this the
11 front of the store?

12 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

13 MR. MPRAS: Great. Thank you. And
14 what do -- Can you please read what the signs
15 that you have posted say?

16 MR. WOURKNEH: There's no loitering.

17 MR. MPRAS: And the other one?

18 MR. WOURKNEH: And no noisy.

19 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

20 MR. WOURKNEH: I'm sorry.

21 MR. MPRAS: Thank you. Now let me
22 make this a little smaller. Okay. And what are
23 we looking at in this picture?

24 MR. WOURKNEH: This is on 16th Street.

25 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

1 MR. WOURKNEH: The station.

2 MR. MPRAS: Mm-hmm. And this is a
3 side of your store?

4 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes, on the side.

5 MR. MPRAS: Okay. All right. I'm
6 sorry. All right. And this picture?

7 MR. WOURKNEH: Yeah. This is 16th
8 Street, yeah.

9 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Okay, good.

10 MR. WOURKNEH: The side of the store.

11 MR. MPRAS: And what are we seeing
12 here?

13 MR. WOURKNEH: That's a back yard.
14 That's the cans, the trash cans.

15 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Is this area fenced
16 in and enclosed?

17 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

18 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

19 MR. WOURKNEH: Every day.

20 MR. MPRAS: Now what are we looking at
21 in this picture?

22 MR. WOURKNEH: I can't see it.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Mpras, are
24 you able to --

25 MR. MPRAS: I can rotate it, yes, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- re-size?

2 Yes.

3 MR. MPRAS: I'll re-size it and
4 rotate. My apologies.

5 MR. WOURKNEH: Oh, that's next --
6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
8 on a minute, sir. I see you are stretching your
9 neck to -- All right, hold on. Okay. All right,
10 go ahead now.

11 MR. MPRAS: Please continue.

12 MR. WOURKNEH: The -- and --

13 MR. MPRAS: And is this the back of
14 your store?

15 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

16 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And what are we
17 looking at here?

18 MR. WOURKNEH: That's the inside of
19 the store.

20 MR. MPRAS: Okay. One second and I'll
21 rotate that. Okay. And this picture?

22 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. This is inside
23 the store.

24 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And this one?

25 MR. WOURKNEH: And the same thing,

1 this is inside of the store.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And this right
3 here?

4 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes, that's the
5 register.

6 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And this picture
7 facing away from your store where is it, what
8 does it show?

9 MR. WOURKNEH: That's 16th Street, U
10 and 16th Street.

11 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And is Good Hope
12 Road at the end near the bus stop?

13 MR. WOURKNEH: And Good Hope Road.

14 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. WOURKNEH: I said Good Hope Road.

16 MR. MPRAS: And is this a picture of
17 your neighborhood also?

18 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. That's in front
19 of a house.

20 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Great, thank you.
21 Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter Exhibits 3A
22 through K into the record.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe,
24 any objection?

25 MR. O'KEEFE: No. No objection.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
2 objection.

3 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Now, Mr. Wourkneh,
4 what type of -- Has any criminal activity
5 happened in or around your store that has been
6 directly attributed to your store?

7 MR. WOURKNEH: No.

8 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Mr. Chair, I would
9 like to enter -- Excuse me. Okay. I would like
10 to enter Exhibits 1A, 1B, and 1C depicting the
11 criminal activity around 1535 U Street, which is
12 the address of the King Convenient Store, showing
13 that there has been no criminal activity at the
14 King Convenient Store or in the immediate
15 vicinity.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe?

17 MR. O'KEEFE: No objections at this
18 time.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
20 objection.

21 MR. MPRAS: Thank you.

22 Okay. Now, Mr. Wourkneh, is this an
23 accurate photograph of the exterior of your
24 store?

25 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

1 MR. MPRAS: Okay. I would like to
2 enter that as Exhibit 4A, a Goggle Maps photo of
3 the exterior of the store.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe?

5 MR. O'KEEFE: No objection.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
7 objection.

8 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Thank you very
9 much.

10 Okay. Now, Mr. Wourkneh, what steps
11 do you take to verify the age of a patron
12 attempting to purchase alcohol in your store?

13 MR. WOURKNEH: Say it again, please.

14 MR. MPRAS: What do you do to make
15 sure that anyone buying alcohol in your store is
16 21 or over?

17 MR. WOURKNEH: Firstly I have a sign
18 that shows the people who can buy alcohol and we
19 see the age on the ID.

20 MR. MPRAS: Okay. So do you always
21 check IDs when making an alcohol sale?

22 MR. WOURKNEH: Say it again.

23 MR. MPRAS: Is it store policy to
24 always check IDs when selling alcohol?

25 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

1 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
3 on, Mr. Mpras. Are you still -- Okay, good. Go
4 ahead, sir.

5 MR. MPRAS: Thank you. Now were you
6 ever contacted by any of the Protestants prior to
7 them filing a protest against you?

8 (No audible response.)

9 MR. MPRAS: Did anybody contact you
10 and say we have a problem with you and we are
11 going to protest?

12 MR. WOURKNEH: No. No.

13 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Okay, all right.
14 Now do any of the Protestants shop in your store?

15 MR. WOURKNEH: No.

16 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And if somebody had
17 approached you stating that they had concerns
18 about your store would you be willing to listen
19 to them?

20 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

21 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Now, Mr. Wourkneh,
22 is there anything else you would like to add
23 about your commitment to the community,
24 responsible alcohol sales, and your desire to
25 maintain a positive presence in the District?

1 MR. WOURKNEH: Say it again, please,
2 sir.

3 MR. MPRAS: Sir, is there anything
4 else you would like add about the operation of
5 your store and your commitment to the community
6 and responsible alcohol sales?

7 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. We strictly
8 follow the Washington D.C. law, but mainly we do
9 our work responsibly.

10 MR. MPRAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
11 Wourkneh. I have no further questions for Mr.
12 Wourkneh.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe,
14 any questions for the witness?

15 MR. O'KEEFE: Hi. Yes, just one
16 question, sir. I would like to share my screen
17 if that's possible.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Orellana,
19 can you allow Mr. O'Keefe to share his screen.

20 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. O'KEEFE: I'm sorry. Give me just
23 one second --

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

25 MR. O'KEEFE: One second, I'm just

1 pulling it up. Thank you. Mr. Wourkneh, can you
2 please describe what we are viewing in this
3 photo?

4 MR. WOURKNEH: On 16th Street. No, I
5 mean U Street in front of the --

6 MR. O'KEEFE: Are we looking at a view
7 of the front of your store in this photo?

8 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes.

9 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And do we
10 clearly observe trash on the ground in this
11 photo?

12 MR. WOURKNEH: But -- So we cannot
13 clean up every hour or two hours or three hours
14 because we work inside the store, right. So
15 after closing when you see the big trash you
16 sweep, you pick it up, but the whole thing I mean
17 we clean up in the morning.

18 Every morning it's clean. Before we
19 open the store we clean up outside. So maybe
20 this trash is after the 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

21 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. I have no
22 further questions.

23 MR. WOURKNEH: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

25 Thank you. Mr. Wourkneh, let me ask you a

1 question. What are your hours, what time are you
2 open and what time do you close?

3 MR. WOURKNEH: 7:00 a.m. and 12:00
4 a.m., but after pandemic, after 2020, the
5 business is slow so no one moved around here
6 after 9 o'clock.

7 So we stayed in here -- We tried to
8 open like until 10:00, 11:00, but nobody came in
9 the store, so --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what time do
11 you open now, sir, and what time do you close?

12 MR. WOURKNEH: We open 7:00 a.m. and
13 we close at 9:00 p.m.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Any
15 questions by any other Board Member? Go ahead,
16 Mr. Grant.

17 MEMBER GRANT: I want to thank you for
18 being here with us and thank you for your
19 patience. My question is specific to your
20 relationship with law enforcement or your desire
21 to have a relationship with them.

22 I know one of the complaints has been
23 challenges around the crime in the surrounding
24 area, and even if the crime is not happening in
25 your establishment I just want you to speak if

1 possible to your willingness to develop a
2 relationship with the law enforcement agencies
3 that oversee responding to crime.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did you hear
5 the question, sir?

6 MR. WOURKNEH: It's for me?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

8 MR. WOURKNEH: Can you say it again,
9 please?

10 MEMBER GRANT: Yeah, I can repeat it
11 for you.

12 MR. WOURKNEH: Okay.

13 MEMBER GRANT: So given the concerns
14 around crime in the surrounding area can you
15 speak to your willingness to develop a
16 relationship with law enforcement agencies if you
17 have not already developed a relationship with
18 law enforcement agencies that are tasked with
19 responding to crime in the area?

20 MR. WOURKNEH: Yes. Even our cameras
21 we share them for Southern District police so
22 they can see everything.

23 So for outside the hangout of people,
24 maybe they stop on the bus station, and when they
25 are walking up, the people, they are going

1 together and they stand and they look like
2 standing like one minute or something.

3 So when they stand in front of the
4 store they tell us, they'll tell them, we are not
5 arguing with them because they know that this is
6 a business, and so they know it.

7 They are not hangout-ers like an hour
8 or two hours or something, just one minute or
9 they're talking to each other and they left, but
10 there is no problem around this store.

11 MEMBER GRANT: Okay. That's my only
12 question, Mr. Chair. Thank you all.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Grant. Any other questions by any other Board
15 Members?

16 Mr. O'Keefe, any questions of the
17 witness based on the questions that were asked by
18 the Board?

19 MR. O'KEEFE: No. Thank you for your
20 time.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Mpras, any
22 follow-up, any redirect?

23 MR. MPRAS: No, sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir,
25 for your testimony today. Have a great day. Mr.

1 Mpras, is that your last witness or do you have
2 another witness?

3 MR. MPRAS: Let me check. One second,
4 please.

5 No. So we had two others listed but
6 I don't think they were able to remain with us,
7 so Mr. Wourkneh will be our last witness and we
8 will rest our case.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see. I see
10 that your client has disappeared. I'm not sure
11 if he realized that if you want him to remain or
12 he left, but I just want to add that.

13 MR. MPRAS: Well his business partner,
14 Mr. Sera, is still logged on, is a co-owner, and
15 they are watching, so --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was just --

17 MR. MPRAS: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was just
19 pointing out because he had disappeared from the
20 screen, so --

21 MR. MPRAS: All right. He's back.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it was just
23 an FYI, sir, okay.

24 MR. MPRAS: Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And

1 so you rest, is that correct?

2 MR. MPRAS: Correct. And we have no
3 more --

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you rest at
6 the appropriate time, it is exactly two hours.
7 So we are going to take a 10-minute break. It's
8 3:31. We will come back at 3:41 and then Mr.
9 O'Keefe you have one witness and then you will
10 wrap it up.

11 I think that we are going to complete
12 this case even before the timeline that I had
13 proposed, okay. So we're in -- So we're on a --
14 We're off the record.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 went off the record at 3:31 p.m. and resumed at
17 3:41 p.m.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on
19 the record.

20 Mr. O'Keefe, do you have a witness you
21 wish to call, sir?

22 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Ms. Laneice
23 Moore.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is Ms.
25 Moore? Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate Ms.

1 Moore. Ms. Moore, can you turn your camera on,
2 please?

3 Ms. Moore?

4 Do we know what's going on with Ms.
5 Moore?

6 MR. ORELLANA: I'm not sure.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?

8 If Ms. Moore -- Mr. Orellana, is Ms.
9 Moore there?

10 MS. MOORE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?

12 MS. MOORE: Yes, sir, Chair. I'm
13 sorry, I was attending to my grandson.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Are
15 you able to testify now, ma'am?

16 MS. MOORE: Yes. Hold on just two
17 minutes, please.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
19 ma'am.

20 (Pause.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?

22 MS. MOORE: I'm trying to start a
23 video.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well you did.
25 I don't know what you did, but I saw you for --

1 MS. MOORE: Oh, here we go.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 Okay, Ms. Moore. Can you raise your right hand,
4 please. Well, now you're gone. I don't know --
5 Yes.

6 All right. Ms. Moore, can you raise
7 -- Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and
8 nothing but the truth?

9 MS. MOORE: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Will you
11 promise me that you'll be able to, that your
12 grandson will not testify during this hearing,
13 ma'am?

14 MS. MOORE: Yes, sir.

15 (Laughter.)

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go
17 ahead, Mr. O'Keefe.

18 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you, sir. Ms.
19 Moore, would you please begin by spelling your
20 first and last name for the record?

21 MS. MOORE: Sure. It's L-A-N-E-I-C-E,
22 M-O-O-R-E.

23 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And could
24 you please share your address as well?

25 MS. MOORE: It's 2315 Green Street,

1 Southeast, Apartment 4, Washington D.C. 20020.

2 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And can you
3 please give an overview of the role that you play
4 as an elected official in the community?

5 MS. MOORE: Yes. I am the ANC (audio
6 interference) --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
8 Moore, you are breaking up now.

9 MS. MOORE: Can you hear me?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am, I
11 can hear you now.

12 MS. MOORE: Okay. I am the ANC
13 Commissioner for Single Member District 8A-04.

14 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And can you
15 please speak to any concerns that you have about
16 trash, loitering, or crime outside of the King
17 Convenient Store that we're discussing today?

18 MS. MOORE: Okay. I am going to be
19 honest. Actually that area on, down that way,
20 from 16th/U and W -- No. U, V -- U and 16th, I
21 mean on Marion Berry Avenue, they cleaned that
22 area up pretty good.

23 MPD has been working with the
24 community and we have been working with the
25 community as well to keep the area clean. So

1 since I've been here eight years it has improved
2 a lot, you know, there is no loitering.

3 Even though there is litter that's
4 like after hours. They're -- You know, people
5 don't hang out like they used to. So actually
6 this store I really don't have any issues with
7 it, just the same problem is the sale of the
8 alcohol.

9 MR. O'KEEFE: Thank you. And at this
10 time, Commissioner Moore, are you supportive of
11 the license renewal?

12 MS. MOORE: No, sir, I am not.

13 MR. O'KEEFE: Okay. Thank you for
14 your time. I don't want to keep you too long. I
15 have no further questions at this time.

16 MS. MOORE: Okay. Yes, sir. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're not done
19 with you yet, Ms. Moore. Mr. Mpras?

20 Mr. Mpras, you're on mute, sir.
21 That's the main reason why I don't mute myself,
22 okay.

23 MR. MPRAS: There's landscaping going
24 on outside and that's why I have been keeping it
25 on.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Hello, Ms. Moore.

3 MS. MOORE: Hi.

4 MR. MPRAS: Okay. Can you tell me how
5 far you are located from the King Convenient
6 Store?

7 MS. MOORE: King, I am three blocks
8 away from King Convenient Store.

9 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And how often do
10 you frequent or do you shop there?

11 MS. MOORE: No, sir, I do not.

12 MR. MPRAS: Have you ever been in
13 there?

14 MS. MOORE: Yes. When I first moved
15 to the area, yes, I have.

16 MR. MPRAS: So that would be
17 approximately eight years ago?

18 MS. MOORE: I stopped in 2016. I
19 stopped in 2018, stopped shopping in the store in
20 2018.

21 MR. MPRAS: Okay. All right, okay.
22 So, okay, and you said in your testimony just now
23 that you have no issues with the store, but can
24 you tell us why you are not supportive of the
25 liquor license renewal?

1 MS. MOORE: I feel as though that it
2 does contribute to the peace and noise and quiet
3 and (audio interference) --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore, I
5 lost you now.

6 MS. MOORE: So, again --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, you're --

8 MS. MOORE: Can you hear me?

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am, I
10 can hear you now.

11 MS. MOORE: Okay. Mr. Mpras, could
12 you repeat your question, please?

13 MR. MPRAS: Sure. You said that you
14 have no issues with the store but you are not
15 supportive of the renewal of their liquor
16 license, could you please tell us why?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?

19 MS. MOORE: I'm here. I just lost
20 your for a minute.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. No, you
22 can speak, ma'am, yes, go ahead.

23 MS. MOORE: Okay. Shoot.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am fine
25 without the video, ma'am, as long as I can hear

1 you.

2 MS. MOORE: Okay. Once more again,
3 Mr. Mpras, I'm sorry.

4 MR. MPRAS: Ma'am, could you please
5 tell us why you are not supportive of their
6 liquor license renewal being that you have no
7 issues with the store?

8 MS. MOORE: It's just the same issue
9 that I had with the other store, D.C. Market,
10 just it -- It just has a negative impact on the
11 community.

12 You know, my concern as a resident
13 (audio interference) --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?
15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore?
17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Moore,
19 can't hear you, ma'am.

20 MS. MOORE: Yes. What is going on?
21 Can you hear me now?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am, I
23 hear you.

24 MS. MOORE: I got to get all the way
25 up in the screen. Okay. I just -- It's the same

1 issues that I had with D.C. Food Market. It just
2 contributes to the issues and the concerns that
3 we have in the community as far as the crime and
4 the drug activity. It's just contributes to it.

5 You know, some of us community members
6 would like a change in the community for the
7 better, you know. We just tired -- I get tired
8 of seeing young girls walk the street taking
9 their kids to school and they got beers in their
10 hands and it's so early in the morning.

11 It's just not a good look and we just
12 need a change in the community. I mean I'm
13 sorry.

14 MR. MPRAS: No. You said it's a
15 negative impact, could you elaborate, please,
16 could you give us maybe specific dates or details
17 about any incident that you have witnessed?

18 MS. MOORE: Oh, what's -- The beating
19 of the young man that was outside the store, the
20 police officer had beat that young man. We was
21 going on our way up the street -- Okay, okay,
22 okay.

23 So I did -- That's the only incident
24 that -- That's the only incident that I have
25 witnessed, that was the beating of a young man

1 outside the store by MPD.

2 MR. MPRAS: Okay, understood. So
3 since it was the police we wouldn't necessarily
4 categorize that as a crime, would we?

5 MS. MOORE: Huh? Yes, because one of
6 the officers committed the crime, so I don't get
7 that question.

8 MR. MPRAS: I'll withdraw the
9 question. Now you mentioned impact about crime,
10 are you aware of any official crime statistics
11 from MPD that show a relationship between the
12 store and criminal activity?

13 MS. MOORE: No, sir. I don't have the
14 crime statistics at this time, no, sir, I do not.

15 MR. MPRAS: Okay. And so can you
16 provide us, ma'am -- Okay, you already answered
17 that question. So, Ms. Moore, I really don't
18 have any more for you. Thank you very much for
19 answering my questions and your time.

20 MS. MOORE: Yes, sir. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
22 by any Board Members?

23 All right, Ms. Moore, thank you very
24 much for your testimony today.

25 MS. MOORE: You're welcome.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you kept
2 your word and your grandson did not testify.

3 MS. MOORE: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You both have
5 a great day, ma'am. Thank you for being here.

6 MS. MOORE: You, too. Thank you very
7 much you guys. Have a good day.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. MOORE: Mm-hmm.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe, do
12 you rest?

13 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Mr. Mpras,
15 you have five minutes to do a closing and as I
16 stated earlier this morning in the other case I
17 need the parties to be specific in what it is
18 they are asking the Board to do.

19 MR. MPRAS: Yes, sir. Okay. Thank
20 you Members of the Board for your time and
21 attention throughout the hearing.

22 We firmly believe that the evidence
23 provided today overwhelmingly supports the
24 appropriateness and the renewal of the King
25 Convenient Store's liquor license.

1 Now the owners, Mr. Wourkneh and Mr.
2 Sera, have clearly demonstrated a commitment to
3 responsible alcohol sales and we have heard
4 details about King Convenient Store's operations,
5 procedures, community relations, and as evidenced
6 by the investigative report that was submitted by
7 the ABRA investigator.

8 Now King Convenient Store does not
9 simply sell beer and wine. It serves as a
10 convenient and well-maintained resource for the
11 community offering a wide variety of food
12 products, including a robust selection of non-
13 alcoholic beverages.

14 The store plays a positive role in the
15 neighborhood's economic well-being and unlike the
16 unsubstantiated claims presented by the
17 Protestants there has been no evidence to suggest
18 any negative impact on peace, order, quiet, and
19 public safety.

20 Only conjecture, to the contrary, this
21 establishment has made the neighborhood a safer
22 place and continues to benefit the neighborhood.

23 So it is important to state that it is
24 convenient that no photos, evidence, or neighbor,
25 I mean witness testimony of any type was provided

1 by the Protestants.

2 The opposing arguments lacked concrete
3 evidence and, in fact, there was no evidence. We
4 haven't heard of any documentary reports from law
5 enforcement or ABRA substantiating the concerns
6 being protested about in this protest hearing.

7 The objections raised were purely
8 speculative and failing to paint an accurate
9 picture of the store's responsible operations.

10 Renewing the liquor license for the
11 King Convenient Store is demonstrably in the
12 public interest. It allows a responsible
13 business owner to continue serving the community,
14 provide the convenient options for residents of
15 legal drinking age, and contributes positively to
16 the local economy as well as the District
17 economy.

18 Denying the renewal would not only
19 punish a law abiding business, but deprive the
20 community of a valuable resource and a community
21 member.

22 We firmly urge the Board to consider
23 the substantial evidence presented regarding the
24 responsible operations and positive contributions
25 and appropriateness of the King Convenient Store.

1 The renewal of the liquor license is
2 not only warranted but also serves the best
3 interest of the local residents and the District
4 of Columbia.

5 We respectfully request that this
6 liquor license be approved without any
7 restrictions and we thank the Board Members for
8 their time.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
10 Mpras.

11 MR. MPRAS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. O'Keefe.

13 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes, thank you. Thank
14 you Members of the Board and everyone involved
15 for your time today and for participating in the
16 hearing. We appreciate the opportunity to
17 participate in this process as a resident.

18 As I mentioned in my opening statement
19 I am here representing a large group of neighbors
20 that have expressed concerns about the alcohol
21 license renewal for King Convenient Store.

22 My statements in addition to the
23 statements made by the witnesses that I called
24 today reflect the opinions of a large group of
25 neighbors in the community.

1 My participation today is not solely
2 based on my experience. It is based on the
3 experience and concerns expressed by the
4 signatories for the group of five or more
5 protest.

6 The signatories represent a group of
7 residents that have been in the community for a
8 wide range of time. Some are newer members of
9 the community and some are long-term residents
10 and yet we have shared concerns that I
11 communicated during the hearing today.

12 They also have concerns about the
13 statements made in the ABCA investigative report,
14 in particular the statement summarizing how
15 retail is conducted to me.

16 I have no record of the outreach
17 directed at me and as a result was not afforded
18 the opportunity to truly provide input to that
19 report.

20 They also question the investigator's
21 ability to make a judgement on the business
22 operations based on their statements that the
23 store was closed 50 percent of the time that they
24 visited it.

25 As other witnesses have stated, the

1 King Convenient Store may bring value to the
2 neighborhood through the sale of some of the food
3 and household items available at the market, but
4 I think it has become clear that the witnesses
5 testifying on behalf of the Applicant appear to
6 believe that we are here discussing the overall
7 ability of the store to operate.

8 We are here today discussing the
9 store's alcohol renewal license only, which is
10 completely separate from their ability to operate
11 as a business selling these other goods.

12 The sale of alcohol from this
13 establishment does not benefit the community. We
14 respectfully request that the application for
15 renewal be denied. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. All
17 right, the record is now closed. I had asked
18 before, do the parties wish to file Proposed
19 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law or waive
20 their right to do so?

21 MR. MPRAS: Mr. Chair, once again we
22 will waive so long as the Protestants waive.

23 MR. O'KEEFE: Yes. We also agree to
24 waive. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

1 Thank you. All right, the Board will issue a
2 decision within 90 days. So let me close the
3 record.

4 Okay. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
5 Beverage and Cannabis Board for the District of
6 Columbia in accordance with D.C. Official Code,
7 Section 2575, of the Open Meetings Act I move
8 that ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the
9 purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel
10 on Case Number 23-PRO-00097, King Convenient
11 Store, pursuant to D.C. Official Code, Section
12 2575(b)(4)(a) of the Open Meetings Act and
13 deliberate upon Case Number 23-PRO-00097, King
14 Convenient Store, for the reasons cited in D.C.
15 Official Code, Section 2575(b)(13) of the Open
16 Meetings Act. Is there a second?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
19 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
20 vote on the motion before us now that it has been
21 properly seconded. Mr. Short?

22 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

24 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant. I agree.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.

1 I agree. As it appears that the motion has
2 passed I hereby give notice that the ABC Board
3 will recess this proceeding to hold a closed
4 meeting pursuant to Section 2575 of the Open
5 Meetings Act.

6 As I stated before, I would like to
7 thank the parties for their presentations today.
8 The Board will take this matter under advisement
9 and we will issue a decision on the renewal
10 within 90 days.

11 So let me now close the record for the
12 day. As Chairperson for the Alcoholic Beverage
13 and Cannabis Board for the District of Columbia
14 and in accordance with Title III, Chapter 405,
15 Office of Open Government, I move that ABC Board
16 hold a closed a meeting on March 27th for the
17 purpose of discussing and hearing reports
18 concerning ongoing or planned investigations of
19 alleged criminal or civil misconduct or
20 violations of law or regulations and seeking
21 legal advice from our legal counsel on the
22 Board's investigative agenda, legal agenda,
23 licensing agenda for March 27th as published in
24 the D.C. Register on March 22nd. Is there a
25 second?

1 Is there a second?

2 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant. I second
3 the motion.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has
5 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
6 vote on the motion before us now that it has been
7 seconded. Mr. Short?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant?

10 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant. I agree.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.

12 I agree. As it appears that the motion has
13 passed I hereby give notice that the ABC Board
14 will hold this closed meeting pursuant to the
15 Open Meetings Act.

16 Notice will also be posted on the ABC
17 Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on the
18 electronic calendar on ABCA's website, and
19 published in the D.C. Register in as timely a
20 manner as practical.

21 We are now adjourned for the day. I
22 would like to thank all Members who participated
23 in the hearings today. I would also like to
24 thank both representatives in this case, that we
25 had a productive today.

1 The hearings were on point and very
2 professional, so I want to thank you both for
3 your presentation and your participation today.
4 We are now adjourned for the day.

5 I will now ask all Board Members to
6 return to executive session for further action.
7 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 4:02 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: King Convenience Store

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 03-21-24

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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