DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA<br>+ + + + +<br>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD<br>+ + + + +<br>MEETING

| IN THE MATTER OF: | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | $:$ |
| MAHK Meetings, LLC, | $\vdots$ |
| t/a TBD | $\vdots$ |
| 1806 Vernon Street, N.W. | $\vdots$ |
| License \#116881 | $:$ |
| Retailer CT - ANC 1C | $:$ |
| Case \#20-PRO-00038 | $:$ |
| (Application to Transfer | $:$ |
| to a New Location and | $:$ |
| Substantial Change - | $:$ |
| to Add a Summer Garden | $:$ |
| and Change of Hours of | $:$ |
| Operation, Sales, | $:$ |
| Service, Consumption, | $:$ |
| and Entertainment Inside | $:$ |
| the Premises and on the | $:$ |
| Summer Garden) |  |

Thursday
April 1, 2021
The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:
DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff
AMIR IRANI, ANC 1C
DENIS JAMES, Kalorama Citizens Association
ANDREW KLINE, Applicant's Counsel
KEVIN PUENTE, DC ABRA Investigator
ALAN ROTH, Protestants' Counsel
SIDON YOHANNES, Applicant's Counsel

| C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S |  |  |  |
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10:18 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The next case on our calendar, we now have a protest hearing, Case number 20-PRO-00038. It used to be MAHK, excuse me, MAHK Meetings, LLC. Trade name is to be determined. License number 116881.

Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of the parties? The applicant's counsel is Ms. Yohannes. The protestants are Commissioner Irani, Alan Roth. I think we need Piper Hendricks, Suzanne Lee Farmer. Those are some of the folks that needs to be elevated. And if there are other parties they can identify themselves in the chat, and you can elevate their rights, please.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure. I have a list of names. It's a big list. So, stand by.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you.
MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Roth, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Kline, your rights have been elevated. Ms., I don't know, Mr. or Ms. Pochowski, your rights have been elevated. Cassandra Jones, your rights have been elevated.

Denis James, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Sparks, your rights have been elevated. Mr. or Ms. Hughes, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Bowles, your rights have been elevated. Ms. Kaitlyn Kerr, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Chavez, your rights have been elevated. Ms. Clarke, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Irani, your rights have been elevated. Mr. Puente, your rights have been elevated. Ms. Hendricks, your rights have been elevated. Ms. Farmer, your rights have been elevated.

Mr. Chairman there are more (inaudible) on the line. But I'm not sure if they should be elevated. Mr. Peter Wood, Tamara Lowe.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I, let me (audio interference). So, if you're not speaking, please always mute your line if you're not speaking. Because, since there is a lot of folks on line we're going to have a lot of feedback.

What I'm going to do is that I'm going to call the parties. And once I call the parties, if you have witnesses that are not so far on line, that if you need them to, if you
need their rights to be elevated, please let us know, and Ms. Andrews will elevate their rights.

If you're on line, and if you are going to be a witness, in the chat please state your name in the chat, and Ms. Andrews will elevate your rights. So, this is, there's going to be a lot of parties. And so, we're going to try to do this as efficiently as possible.

So, what I'm going to do is, once I call the different parties, then they can identify who their witnesses are, so that (inaudible) identify yourself for the record by spelling, stating and spelling your name. State your affiliation with this case. And I'll ask if you have potential witnesses.

If you have potential witnesses then
I'll have you identify who the potential witnesses are. And at that time their, if their rights have not been elevated as yet, then at that time we'll have them elevated.

All right. All right. So, good morning, everyone. This is a protest hearing that we're having. This is an application for the transfer to a new location, and substantial change application to add a summer garden, and a
change to hours of operation, sales, service, and some entertainment inside the premises, and on the summer garden.

So, where we are today, so what I'm going to do, I'm going to let, let's have everyone identify themself for the record. So, let's start with the applicant. I'll start with the applicant's representative. And the applicant's representative can let me know who the rest of the parties are. So, is that you, Mr. Kline, or is that you, Ms. Yohannes?

MR. KLINE: That is me, Chairman. Good morning, Chairman and --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning. MR. KLINE: -- Members of the Board. Ms. Yohannes is here with me also. KJ Hughes is the principle of the applicant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on, Mr. Kline. You're not listening to me. So, I need you first and foremost to identify yourself for the record, please.

MR. KLINE: Yes. Andrew Kline, Counsel for the applicant. First name is spelled A-N-D-R-E-W, last name is spelled, K-L-I-N-E.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

And who, so what, then what I'll have you do, Mr. Kline, since there's a lot of parties, so why don't you introduce, tell me who the folks are. And then once you call their names, then they can introduce themself for the record by stating and spelling their names.

MR. KLINE: Okay. The applicant, the principle of the applicant is KJ Hughes. Mr. Hughes, are you on?

MR. HUGHES: Yes. Good morning.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, can you please say and spell your name for the record, please?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. My name is
K.J. Hughes, H-U-G-H-E-S, as in Samantha.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Yes. And as I mentioned earlier, Sidona Yohannes of the Veritas (inaudible) Law Firm is assisting me, and is also on today. Ms. Yohannes.

MS. YOHANNES: Hello. Sidon Yohannes, here also on behalf of the applicant. S-I-D-O-N, Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Yes. Would you like us at this time to introduce the witnesses as well? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Yes, please.

MR. KLINE: Okay. I don't know that they're all on. But Japer Bowles.

MR. BOWLES: Hello. My name is Japer Bowles, he, him, his. Japer Bowles is spelled J-A-P-E-R, B-O-W-L-E-S. And I'm an ANC Commissioner for 1C07, representing in my own capacity.

MR. KLINE: Peter Wood.
MR. WOOD: Peter Wood, essentially the same. P-E-T-E-R, W-O-O-D. I'm currently Commissioner of ANC103, but representing myself.

MR. KLINE: Dr. Tamara Lowe. I don't know if she's on yet. Dr. Lowe, are you on? If not, then we'll introduce her. Because she is working today. And --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. (Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She's on the line.

DR. LOWE: I'm here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell
and state your name for the record, please?
DR. LOWE: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a minute. You can lower your camera a little bit, please, so we can see your face. Okay. That's fine.

DR. LOWE: Can you see? Okay. I'm working, sorry. My first name is Tamara, T-A-M-A-R-A. My last name is Lowe, L-O-W-E.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

MR. KLINE: And Geoffrey Sparks. He I do not believe is on yet. I think he told me he'd join about 11:00 a.m. So, he is not yet on. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, that's fine. All right.

MR. SPARKS: I'm here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
MR. SPARKS: This is Geoffrey --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Mr. Sparks.
MR. SPARKS: Yes. My name is spelled
G-E-O-F-F-R-E-Y, S-P-A-R-K-S.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
right. Let's go with, is that it, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yes, it is at this time. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, fine. So, let's -- All right. So, who's representing the ANC, the full ANC? Do we have one?

MR. IRANI: Yes. Hello. Please. Good morning, Chairman Anderson and Members of the Board. My name is Amir Irani. That's spelled A-M-I-R, I-R-A-N-I. And I'm Chairperson of ANC1C. And I represent the ANC in this matter.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm sorry, what's your first and last name, please? I didn't hear. Give your first and last, and then spell them for them, please.

MR. IRANI: My name is Amir Irani, A-M-I-R is the spelling. Irani, I-R-A-N-I.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize. And --

MR. IRANI: And I'm Chairperson --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You broke up. So, I thought it was one name. I apologize. All right. And I'm taking notes of, all right.

MR. IRANI: Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear you. Do you plan to call any witnesses?

MR. IRANI: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. IRANI: Yes. We do plan on calling witnesses. We have submitted a joint PIF, and that's a joint PIF on behalf of all protestants, including ANC1C, KA, the neighborhood association, the two abutting protestants, as well as the group of 23 represented by Alan Roth.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, that's
fine. So I'll have then Mr. Roth, if I understand that he's the designated representative. So, I'm going to ask preliminary issues. And then you can, but it's my understanding at this moment that he's the designated representative of all the group. So, I'll have him --

MR. IRANI: That's correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- identify
himself. And then we'll ask preliminary who else is here. So, Mr. Roth, can you identify yourself for the record, please?

MR. ROTH: Yes. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My name is Alan, A-L-A-N, Roth, R-O-TH.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, you are, and who are you, sir?

MR. ROTH: I'm representing the group of protestants that we've been calling the Vernon Street protestants, for purposes of this case.

And I've also been designated for purposes of this morning as a representative of the two abutting protestants, Ms. Farmer and Ms. Hendricks, and Mr. James, who is a president of the Kalorama Citizens Association.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now, can you introduce, so, can you call the names of the parties, and once they're called their names then I'll have them identify themself by spelling their names. Who are the parties that you're representing, sir?

MR. ROTH: When you say parties, do you mean the list of all of the Vernon Street protestants? Or do you mean the abutters and the

## CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All the people

 who you think will testify today on your behalf.Are they all here on line?
MR. ROTH: I think they are. But let's see. First, Cassandra Jones.

MS. JONES: Cassandra Jones, C-A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A, J-O-N-E-S.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Who else, sir?

MR. ROTH: Kaitlyn Kerr.
MS. KERR: Hi. That's spelled K-A-I-T-L-Y-N. And last name is spelled K-E-R-R.

MR. ROTH: Alek Pochowski.
(Audio interference.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Pochowski, can you, we can't hear you.

MR. ROTH: Alek, your microphone is not really working very well.

MR. POCHOWSKI: Is this any better?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
MR. POCHOWSKI: Okay. Yes. This is Alek Pochowski, A-L-E-K, P-O-C-H-O-W-S-K-I.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
MR. ROTH: Suzanne Farmer, also known as Lee Farmer.

MS. FARMER: Good morning. Suzanne is spelled S-U-Z-A-N-N-E. Farmer is $F$ as in Frank,

A-R-M-E-R.
MR. ROTH: Laurie Clarke.
MS. CLARKE: Laurie Clarke, L-A-U-R-IE, C-L-A-R-K-E.

MR. ROTH: Gus Silva-Chavez.
MR. SILVA-CHAVEZ: Yes. My full name is Gustavo Silva Chavez, G-U-S-T-A-V-O, S-I-L-VA, hyphen, C-H-A-V-E-Z.

MR. ROTH: Piper Hendricks.
MS. HENDRICKS: Good morning. Piper
is P-I-P-E-R. Hendricks, H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S.
MR. ROTH: And Denis James.
MR. JAMES: Hi. I'm on, I'm not sure if I'm being heard or seen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. I can hear you, sir.

MR. JAMES: Okay, great. I discovered earlier that $I$ got a really murky image that, at least I can see everybody else. So, I'm Denis James, President of the Kalorama Citizens Association. We're a party to the case. And we have agreed that Alan Roth will support and lead the case to save time for the Board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
MR. ROTH: Denis, can you spell your
name?
MR. JAMES: Oh, yes. D-E-N-I-S, J-A-M-E-S.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that it, Mr.
Roth?
MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. All right. Mr. Puente, can you identify yourself for the record, please?

MR. PUENTE: Yes, sir. ABRA
investigator Kevin Puente, K-E-V-I-N, P-U-E-N-TE.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you. All right. Are there any preliminary matters that the parties wish to bring to my attention? And I'll start with the applicant first. Are there any preliminary matters?

MR. KLINE: No, we don't have anything, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, Mr. Roth, can you now explain to me, because you're now -- All right. Can $I$ have, Ms. Jones, can you mute your phone please?

So, if $I$ call your name out it's because your line has, $I$ can see whose line is
open. So, if I, normally I'm just going to be general. But since Ms. Jones, she sent her screen, so $I$ can tell. But I'll just ask if you'll please mute all your phones, your lines. Because we're going to have feedback.

All right. So, Mr. Roth, can you tell me, you informed me that you're now the designated representative for the group. So, explain how the case is going to be presented, please, sir.

MR. ROTH: With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropriate if Mr. Iran, on behalf of the ANC testified or made a statement on behalf of the ANC. Because I'm not personally authorized by vote of the ANC to represent them

But I am authorized to represent that other protestants. And so, although we filed a joint PIF, because we're sharing the same exhibits, and we have the same basic issues in the case, he can make a presentation on behalf of the ANC.

I assume he would be subject to cross examination by Mr. Kline. I would then present the rest of the case on behalf of the other
protestants, call our other witnesses. And if we could proceed that way, that would be acceptable to us. I hope it would be acceptable to you and to Mr. Kline.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, that's fine. So, Mr. Irani, let me then, what, let me know what is it? How do you present your, what are you proposing to, how to move forward today, sir?

MR. IRANI: I do have a, excuse me. So, I have a prepared statement and testimony to provide to the Board, along with some exhibits to share, to present the views of the ANC on this case, Chairman Anderson.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And so that's, so your, so you'll be the only person testifying on behalf -- I'm just saying, in your individual capacity you'll be the only person testifying on behalf of the ANC? And then Mr. Roth will call the other witnesses. Is that correct?

MR. IRANI: That's correct, yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you know that $I$, you're going to be, in order for you to testify I'll put you under oath. You can testify
in the sense of make your statement. And then, you know, that will be subject to cross examination by Mr. Kline and Mr. Roth, if he so desires. Are you aware of that?

MR. IRANI: I understand.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
as long as you, because, and that's fine.
Because you are, the ANC is, the ANC has
standing. So, you are a party. So, you are welcome to testify. You are welcome to call witnesses.

And I appreciate the fact that the parties have, rather than having separate cases presented by each side, $I$ appreciate the fact that the parties have worked to streamline the process.

And I know that, because we're doing these hearings virtually we have been limiting the amount of witnesses, and limiting the amount of time that you have to do the case. But I know that the parties had asked for extra time and extra witnesses, and the Board had agreed to do that.

This might take all day. I hope it doesn't take all night. But the Board will be
here. But I will just ask all parties to be mindful that we're all here. We're all sitting. We're all sitting in front of a computer screen. And last week we had a, was less parties. We had a protest hearing that started at 10 o'clock in the morning, and we were on line, the Board was on line until 6 o'clock, without any break. So, I'm hoping that this probably will last -

I'm just letting people know that the time commitment it's going to take today, that it will take, it is going to take most of the day. No matter how much we streamline it, it's going to take most of the day.

I, unless all the parties agree we probably won't have a scheduled lunch break. But what I'm going to suggest that we do, and let me explain the way the process is going to work. The parties will have five minutes.

Let me ask, Mr. Irani, do you wish to make an opening statement? Or is it just, you just want to testify? Which, let me know which one it is.

MR. IRANI: I would just like to testify.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. That's fine. Thank you. So, Mr. Roth, so, Mr. Kline, you will have five minutes to do an opening statement. And then Mr. Roth will have five minutes to do an opening statement.

Once both parties have done their opening statements then the Board will call its witness, Mr. Puente. And Mr. Puente will go through his report that $I$ believe everyone should have access to that report.

So, Mr. Puente will go through his report. The Board will question Mr. Puente on, concerning the contents. Ms. Jones, can you please put your, mute your -- Yes.

Ms. Jones, now you're going to be in trouble. Because you're one of the people -You see, I'm looking at my computer screen, and I can see the highlight around your face. So, when I see the highlight around your face it tells me that your microphone is open.

So, for the other people who are not in the center of my screen, they're kind of safe, because I can't call their name. But because you are directly in front of me I can always see when your screen highlights. When your, when the box
highlights in yellow, I'm sorry, in blue, so it tells me that your phone is unmuted.

That's why, okay. And just, I'm not picking on you. But as I said, you're in the center of my screen. And I can always see when that box highlights. So, I just wanted to let you know that.

All right. So, after the Board presents, so, Mr. Puente will testify. The Board will ask questions of Mr. Puente, of his report. After all the Board Members have had an opportunity to ask Mr. Puente questions, then Mr. Kline will have an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Puente of his report.

After Mr. Kline has had an opportunity to ask Mr. Puente of his report, then Mr. Roth, you will have an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Puente of his report.

I do not, $I$ don't believe that I'm going to ask, have each side, $I$ don't, we're not going to have recross of the Board's witness, because I think that that's going to stretch the process out too long.

So, all right, so once the Board has, the Board will have an opportunity to ask final
questions of its witness. So, after that the Board will dismiss his, its witness.

We probably will just be off the record for about ten minutes for people to refresh themself. So, we'll probably take a ten minute recess at that time.

People can stay here. Just for people to, if they have to run to the bathroom and do something like that, we can do that. So, I'll take a ten minute break at that time.

Then the applicant will present its case. And so, Mr. Kline will call his witnesses. We'll run through the witnesses. Mr. Roth, you'll have an opportunity to cross examine Mr. Kline's witnesses. Mr. Kline will have an hour and a half to present his case.

I will ask you both, do not spend a whole lot of time. Don't spend a whole lot of time cross examining Mr. Kline's witnesses if, unless you have to. Because that takes away, that's going to take away also from your time. I just want to let you know that. But that would also take away from your, the 90 minutes that you have to present your case.

All right. So, after the applicant
has presented its case it has 90 minutes. Then I will have Mr. Irani, he will make his statement. He'll present his case. He'll make his statements.

Mr. Kline will cross examine him, and then Mr. Roth can cross examine him if he so desire. The Board will cross examine him. And then I'll give, depending on the Board's questions, and I might give another round of recross of Mr. Irani.

Once Mr. Irani has presented his case, as made in his statement, then Mr. Roth, you can present your case. And as you see, Mr., and then Mr. Kline will have an opportunity to cross examine your witnesses, okay, if they so desire.

Once the case has been presented, once the protestant has presented his case, then I'll give each side another five minutes to wrap up, and we'll come to, the case will be over.

So, we will see where we are today. So, what we'll, are there any questions by anyone before we start?

MR. ROTH: Yes.
MR. KLINE: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.

Yes, sir. Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Kline. Let me go with the applicant first. Yes, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I have concerns about the testimony of Mr. Irani. It would seem to me that he's not in a position, as he expressed, to express the views of the ANC. The views of the ANC are expressed by the full ANC after a vote, and in writing.

It would seem that we are here for a contested case hearing. And that his statement should be in the nature of factual testimony. He should testify as to that, and not the views of the ANC.

Because under the statute the ANC expresses its views in a very specific way. And that requires a vote of the majority of the Members of the ANC in order to approve the views that might be expressed by the ANC. And he, that authority can't be delegated, in terms of one individual then expressing the views of the ANC.

So, I have no idea of the nature of his statement. But $I$ have those concerns that it go, that it not go far afield of what we're here to do today, which is have a contested case based on facts that will be presented to the Board, and
then the Board make a decision on this.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Mr.
Kline, if I'm incorrect, but it's my understanding that standing was provided to the ANC. That the ANC had a vote. If this information is incorrect, please let me know.

But it's my understanding that the Agency granted standing to the ANC, because they had followed the proper procedure to be a partner to this case.

And so, therefore, it is my understanding, if I am correct, someone please correct me, that Mr. Irani was designated as the spokesperson for the ANC. So that he, I don't see why he cannot speak for the ANC.

In the witness list it appears that there are two other ANC members who are, will testify on your side today. And they have made it clear that they are speaking in their individual capacity. But Mr. Irani can speak on behalf of the ANC.

And of course, you are, because he's going to make his statement, you do have the opportunity to cross examine him, and to bring out all the points that you just made.

So, I think at this juncture I'm not going to, at this juncture, sir, 1 believe, $I$ don't have an issue with Mr. Irani. Because, as I said before, unless you can let me know that there was not an ANC meeting that voted to protest this matter, and that the ANC did not designate Mr. Irani as the spokesperson for the ANC to represent its interest, then I see no reason to not, 1 see no reason to object to any testimony that he provides.

And that you will have the opportunity to cross, to vigorously cross examine him to bring that up, if that's what you want to do, sir.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, two points, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
MR. KLINE: One is, no, we don't dispute whether he's authorized to be here or to be the party representing the ANC in this proceeding, which normally would give him the right to call and cross examine witnesses, and present evidence, and so on, and so forth.

Our quarrel is that him being so designated does not give him any more rights than
any other party. And what we're here today to do, in my understanding and my experience, is to hear evidence.

And if he's going to express views or opinions, or I don't know what they are, then I would just ask that he be cautioned that that's not what we're here to do.

What we're here to do is to put on evidence, which would be proposed statements of fact, or evidence that goes to the merits of the proceeding, and not particular viewpoints. That's number one.

And number two is, his authority is constrained by the resolution that was passed by the ANC. He can't go beyond that resolution. And just because he's appointed to represent the ANC, that doesn't give him carte blanche to do anything, and make any statements, and make presentations, and give viewpoints that go beyond the four corners of the resolution that appointed him as the representative.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Mr.
Kline, I don't know what Mr. Irani is going to --
MR. KLINE: Nor do I.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know
what his statement is. And so, we'll leave that for when he presents himself. And you can object or cross examine him. And I know that you will vigorously cross examine him.

So, we'll let that issue, I'll take your objection under advisement. It can be raised later on in the hearing. It can be raised later in the hearing.

Before we start let me ask a question. Mr. Roth, are you an attorney, sir?

MR. ROTH: I am an attorney. But I have not actually practiced law in a setting like this in a very, very long time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, the reason why I asked, Mr., and this is much more relaxed. So, and my only reason for asking is that $I$ have expectations for attorneys. I mean, we're trained differently. So, I know what can occur and what can't occur.

So, if you were a lay person, if you said that you were a lay person, then I'll be a little bit less informal with you. Because I'll say, you know, because you're a lay person you don't know the rules, or you don't know.

But you're an attorney. So, I like
the disclaimer that you gave, sir. I like the disclaimer that you gave, and I will take it for what it's worth.

But I enjoy when I have attorneys here. Because it makes things go smoothly. And I don't have to explain to certain people why I'm doing certain things. And that's why I asked. I try to be just as, I'm more hard on the attorneys because I know they know better. And, but the lay persons then I'll be more relaxed.

And so, I'm saying that if Mr. Kline, if we have a lay person and Mr. Kline objects, then I need to explain to the lay person why Mr. Kline is objecting. But as an attorney you will know. It's just from that perspective, sir. That's why I asked.

MR. ROTH: I understand. And, Mr. Chairman, speaking of that, can I raise a preliminary matter with you?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
MR. ROTH: I gave notice yesterday to the ABRA staff and to Mr. Kline, and to Ms. Yohannes. But I wanted to raise an objection to one of their late submitted exhibits.

And I don't know whether you want to
hear that now, or whether you want to wait until they try to introduce their exhibit. Because I think it might entail a little bit of oral argument.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, if he, if Mr., the exhibits aren't in the record. And so, in the presentation of this case if Mr. Kline decides that he wants to utilize this exhibit, or even if he wants to move this exhibit into evidence, then you can make the arguments why that we, the Board, should or should not allow this document into evidence.

And so, you can raise that at the time that he decides. And he might decide that, based on your objection, your oral objection right here, he might decide that, you know, that I'm not going to, let me not do that. So, but we'll wait to see whether or not it becomes an issue later on in the hearing. Okay?

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you.
MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, if I may.
(Audio interference.)
MR. KLINE: -- in response to your comments to Mr. Roth, about his abilities. I've known him a very long time. Show him your mercy.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For the lay persons here, you see why I say that I have, I'm harder with attorneys. You see. I just want to let you, I want to let the lay person see. I'm an attorney. Mr. Grandis, Board Member Grandis is an attorney.

So, there are four attorneys who are involved, at least that I'm aware of, that are involved today in this hearing. But for the lay persons, you see why I have a different standard for attorneys. Just wanted you to know that. Okay. Thank you very much. All right.

So, we'll have open. And you have five minutes, Mr. Kline. All right. Thank you.

MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. Good morning. We are very happy to be here, sort of virtually speaking, I guess, for a hearing on the evidence of this case, to determine whether it's appropriate, this premises is appropriate for issuance of a license.

And the record, your records will reflect that the applicant has survived the filing of two applications, the first of which
was dismissed, because it was determined that the premises is in the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, even though the applicant had previously checked with the Agency, and was told that it's not.

After six legal briefs, totaling over 100 pages of legal argument, in an attempt to prevent us from being here today to have this case heard on the merits, we're here, after a year and a half of effort.

And then, we, the evidence will show at the conclusion of the case that this premises is indeed appropriate for the issuance of a license.

According to what you will hear, what was told to the investigator, and you will hear from testimony or you'll read in the investigative report, these protestants don't just have a couple of concerns. And they don't, according to the PIF they don't just seek proscriptions on this license. They want this license completely denied.

Now, you'll hear testimony from both the investigator and from the witnesses that they have concerns about noisy people on the patio, the smell of smoke from the sidewalk, people
putting, potentially putting trash into the condominium, neighboring condominium's trash area, bright lights from the summer garden, the use of Vernon Street to, for patrons to leave the premises, the fear that the patrons will be noisy and disruptive, that there's going to be a backflow of car sharing drivers waiting on Vernon, that parking is a terrible issue with respect to this small premises, and that only local traffic is supposed to use 19th, between Foran (inaudible) and Columbia Road, that the trash bins are going to be a problem, that's going to cause rat problems, that they're concerned about noise from music, from DJ, concerns about delivery trucks, and concerns about trash trucks.

And I think I've covered most of, well, perhaps not. We'll leave it to the Board and to others after the conclusion of the hearing to determine what might be the motivation for these protestants, in terms of such a vigorous protest of this license.

But our evidence will show that K.J. Hughes, he principle of the applicant, has been responsive to neighborhood concerns, has taken
steps to address their concerns.
And the size and the nature of this establishment will not have a negative effect on peace, order, and quiet, and the other negative effects that are claimed by the protestants.

And at the conclusion of the hearing we will respectfully request that you grant the license without restriction. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Kline. Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Board Members. As you know, my name is Alan Roth, and I'm a resident of Vernon Street, where this application was filed.

I represent more than 20 residents of our street who are the protestants in this case. And as we said earlier, for the sake of efficiency I've also been designated by the abutting protestants, and Mr. James, on behalf of the Kalorama Citizens Association, to carry the ball here for them today.

As you'll hear in the testimony,
Vernon Street is a narrow, quiet, one block long, one way street that's (audio interference) somebody's on. Vernon Street is a narrow, quiet,
one block long, one way street that's tucked between 18th and 19th Streets within the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, but near the informal Florida Avenue boundary between a mostly residential section of Adams Morgan to the north, and a mostly residential section of DuPont Circle to the south.

Last year the Board upheld our contention that the applicant's premises are located within the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, meaning that the applicant could not obtain a new tavern license there.

Within one week of the Board's order the applicant instead acquired out of safekeeping the tavern license once used to operate Chief Ike's Mambo Room on Columbia Road.

The issue now before the Board is whether the transfer of that license to this location on Vernon Street, and the applicant's planned operations there are appropriate under the statutory criteria.

And likewise, whether the substantial changes sought by the applicant are appropriate for this new location, namely expanded hours of operation and entertainment, both inside and
outside the premises, the addition of a summer garden right under the bedroom and living room windows of a neighboring condominium, and a sidewalk café in the same small space, as the evidence will show, that the applicant plans to store its trash and recycling.

This applicant has no prior ABRA history. And for that reason, under the Board's legal precedents, in order to sustain its burden of proving appropriateness the applicant must prove, and I'm quoting here from ABC case law, that its future operations will satisfy the reasonable expectation of residents to be free from disturbances and other nuisances, not just whether the application complies with the minimum requirements of the law.

In such cases the Board evaluated each, evaluates each unique location according to the particular circumstances involved to determine the prospective effect of the establishment on the neighborhood.

The evidence today will show the numerous adverse effects of this proposed location transfer and substantial changes would have on peace, order, and quiet, on trash and
litter, on parking, on vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety, on real property values, and particularly under Section 25.314 of the statute, on residents immediately adjacent party to a residential zone.

And we're sure Mr. Hughes has his own perspective on what he's done to get to this point. But the protestants have a different perspective.

We see a man so relentless that for two years he's been running through flashing yellow lights, and even red lights that to a reasonable business person would have said, stop. Or at the very least would have said, hit the brakes, slow down, think. Instead, he just kept plowing ahead.

If this project were a car it might be called reckless driving. And if Mr. Hughes were out on the open road perhaps no one would care. But he's not out on the open road.

He bought a row house. It may be zoned mixed use. But it's right next door to a residentially zoned condominium where people live, work, and sleep.

It's across the street from houses
where people live and sleep, on a one block, one way street that's zoned entirely almost residential.
the only other mixed use lots on this street are three other quiet buildings to his east, and Lucky Buns, a restaurant on the opposite corner, which at least closes early, and makes very little noise, despite the trash and vermin problems it's caused for this Board and the neighborhood.

Mr. Hughes may have had some sort of vision here. But his neighbors shouldn't suffer because he ignored all those flashing lights, and made reckless choices about how to spend his money.

His dream should not become our nightmare. And for all these reasons we believe his application should be denied. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Roth. All right. The Board will then call its first witness. We'll call Mr. Puente. Mr. Puente, can you please state and spell your name for the record, please?

MR. PUENTE: Investigator Kevin
Puente, K-E-V-I-N, P-U-E-N-T-E.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente, can you tell us where you're currently employed?

MR. PUENTE: The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is your role with the Agency, please?

MR. PUENTE: Investigator.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long have you worked with the Agency?

MR. PUENTE: Six years.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
right. And are you familiar with this case?
MR. PUENTE: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how did you become familiar with this case?

MR. PUENTE: I conducted a protest investigation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Did there come a time that you wrote a report regarding your investigation?

MR. PUENTE: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you have a, are you able to share this report with the Board?

MR. PUENTE: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can you do that, please? Ms. Andrews, can you give him the opportunity to share his screen, please?

MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Investigator Puente, you now have the rights to share your screen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Also, Mr. Puente, can you identify the document that we're looking at, please?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is my protest report.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when was it done?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: March 2021.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Now, sir, can you tell us, can you go through your report then, just share with us what information were you able to gather regarding your investigation?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. I was assigned the Protestants' investigation of a Class CT application, transfer to a new location and substantial change for MAHK Meetings, LLC, trading as TBD, hereby referred to as MAHK

Meetings.
MAHK Meetings is located at 1806 Vernon Street NW, Washington D.C. MAHK Meetings applied as a new tavern and is requesting a sidewalk café, a summer garden, and live entertainment.

MAHK meetings requested a total occupancy load of 50 with seating for 30 patrons and a summer garden with 30 seats.

The application to transfer to a new location and substantial change for MAHK Meetings was submitted by the owner, K.J. Hughes.

The application is being protested by ANC-1C being represented by Chairperson Amir Irani, the Kalorama Citizens Association being represented by Denis James, the abutting property owners, Suzanne Farmer and Piper Hendricks, and a group of 23 being represented by Alan Roth and Laurie Clarke.

I spoke with all the protestants involved in this protest and they all voiced the same policy concerns: adverse impact on the peace, order and quiet of the residence in the surrounding area, residential parking, real and current pedestrian safety, real property values,
trash and litter.
All the protestants are concerned about Vernon Street being a one-way street and how the establishment was planning to have patrons exit onto Vernon Street and the possibility of car sharing companies picking up patrons right outside on Vernon Street and causing a line of car-sharing companies out front on Vernon which could possibly lead to honking horns and people yelling and other disruptive noise.

The protestants also were concerned about the effect of outside smoking on the summer garden and how it could affect several of the residents in the condo building next door. Many of the residents have living rooms and bedrooms right near the summer garden where it's proposed at.

Several of the residents have some breathing problems when it comes to smoke. So they'd have to close their windows immediately if someone walks by, and they smell smoke.

The residents and the protestants are very concerned about the summer garden and the possible effects it will have at nighttime,
especially once the sun sets, if people are noisy and music and bright lights.

Many of the protestants are concerned about the placement of the trash cans on Vernon Street which is supposed to be in the proposed sidewalk café area and how that could lead to rat and vermin issues and the possibility of a trash truck blocking Vernon Street which is one-way.

Vernon Street is a tricky
intersection. At Vernon and 18th Street NW, it turns right onto 18th Street. And there's an intersection there. Many cars will stop in that intersection and block the traffic from Vernon Street.

I conducted a walkthrough of the establishment with the owner, Mr. Hughes. Mr. Hughes owns the building and has four floors. The first two floors will be part of a licensed establishment. The third and fourth floor will be the office space and residential.

Mr. Hughes advised me that he was going to have a summer garden on Florida Avenue, NW side, that will be overlooked by a barbershop on the first floor. The first floor will also have a coffee shop, a bar area with a small
retail space.
The second floor will be a speakeasy. Mr. Hughes has advised me that it will be upscale. All the patrons will be seated down. People won't be standing.

Mr. Hughes advised me that patrons will enter the establishment through Florida Avenue NW. In order to get to the speakeasy, they'll be escorted by a staff member up a narrow stairwell. Patrons will then have to exit onto Vernon Street because of that stairwell and the flow of traffic.

Mr. Hughes also showed me that he installed double drywall in most of the establishment to help mitigate any noise issues.

MAHK Meetings is in a mixed-use for zone according to the GIS. Mixed-use zones provide for mixed used development that permit a broad range of commercial, institutional, multiple-dwelling units, residential development at varying densities.

According to the District of Columbia GIS, there are 31 licensed ABC establishments operating within 1,200 feet of MAHK Meetings. Out of the 31 establishments, 10 have
entertainment endorsements, 11 have settlement agreements, 14 have sidewalk café endorsements, and 6 have summer garden endorsements.

According to the District of Columbia GIS, there are no schools, public libraries, or daycares within 400 feet of the establishment.

A total of 18 establishments are restaurants, 5 are taverns, 1 is a B-store, 4 are A-stores, 1 is a hotel, and 1 is a wholesaler-B. The proposed hours of operation, alcoholic beverage sales, service/consumption and live entertainment for inside the premises will be Sunday to Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

The proposed hours of operation and alcoholic beverage sales, service and consumption, of live entertainment for the summer garden will be Sunday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

The proposed hours of alcoholic beverage sales, service and consumption, for the sidewalk café will be Sunday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

I monitored the establishment ten times from February to mid-March. I did not
observe any ABRA violations since the establishment was closed and under construction.

There is one metro bus stop in the vicinity of MAHK Meetings located at 18th Street NW and California Street NW. The bus stop serves the 90 and 96 lines going north and south directions along 18th Street NW corridor and east along U Street NW.

MAHK Meetings is located at 1806 Vernon Street NW. And there is no parking for vehicles on sight. There is one public parking garage located in the area. That is located at 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW.

The Florida Avenue NW block spanning from the 1800 through the 1900 block offers on-street meter parking. The parking is valid for four hours from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Vernon Street, spanning from the 1800 block, offers on-street time parking from Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. as well as Zone 1 and 2 permit holder parking.

Vernon Street NW from 19th Street NW to 18th Street NW is a one-way street that has
only a right turn on 18th Street NW.
On Friday, March 19th, 2021, I received a report from the Office of Unified Communications. There was no calls for service for 1806 Vernon Street NW. That's it, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente, there's some exhibits attached to your report, sir. So can you please identify the exhibits that are in your report please?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. So Exhibit 1 is the letter from ANC-1C. Exhibit 2 is the protest letter from the Kalorama Citizens' Association. Exhibit 3 is the protest letter from abutting property owner, Suzanne Farmer.

Exhibit 4 is a protest letter from abutting property owner, Piper Hendricks. Exhibit 5 is the protest letter from the Group of 23.

Exhibit 6 is a set of documents $I$ received from Mr. Roth which shows the zoning for the area along 1806 Vernon Street NW and 18th Street NW.

Exhibit 7 is the rendering of the establishment that $I$ received from the applicant. Exhibit 8 is the zoning map that $I$ received from
the District of Columbia, Department of Zoning.
Exhibit 9 is the GIS map of the ABC establishments within 1, 200 feet. Exhibit 10 is the GIS map of schools within 400 feet.

Exhibit 11 is a picture of the establishment on the Florida Avenue NW side. Exhibit Number 12 is the photograph of Florida Avenue NW side as well where the proposed summer garden will be.

Exhibit 13 shows the picture of the establishment in relation to the condo building and the summer garden. Exhibit 14 shows the proposed summer garden area as well. Exhibit 15 is a photograph of the front entrance.

Exhibit 16 is a photograph of the exit onto Vernon Street NW along with a proposed sidewalk café area. Exhibit 17 is another photograph of the proposed sidewalk café area. Exhibit 18 is a photograph of the bus stop on 18th Street NW and California Street NW.

Exhibit 19 is a photograph of the parking garage at 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW. Exhibit 20 is a photograph of the parking on Florida Avenue NW in front of the establishment.

Exhibit 21 is another photograph of
the parking on Florida Avenue NW. Exhibit Number 22 is a photograph of the parking on Vernon Street NW.

Exhibit 3 is a photograph of the public parking on Vernon Street NW. Exhibit 24 is parking on Vernon Street NW.

Exhibit 25 is a sign that shows Zone 1 and 2 permit holder parking on Vernon Street NW.

Exhibit Number 26 is the intersection of Vernon Street NW and 18th Street NW. And Exhibit 27 is another photograph of Vernon Street NW and 18th Street NW.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's it?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's it, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente, before -- let's go back to Exhibit 9.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Again, what is Exhibit 9?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is a photograph of ABC establishments within 1,200 feet of MAHK Meetings.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how close to this proposed site are -- what's close to this in
a sense that -- this vicinity? $I$ know that this says 1,200 feet, but what's close to this establishment? What -- where -- how close is the closest establishment to this?

I'm not sure if on Page 7 of your report is that it would give us a better, better idea how close it is to, how close the other establishments are to this proposed site?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. The nearest establishment that's going to be relatively close to MAHK will be Lucky Buns at 2018 Street NW.

I would say it's from, the property line to property line is no more than 30 feet approximately. Then across from Lucky Buns, there's the Imperial at 2001 18th Street NW.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, what type of establishment is the Lucky Buns?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's a
restaurant. It's mainly sit-down. They have a summer garden outside as well, patrons.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you --
so what is the Imperial?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's a tavern that mainly serves food and drinks as well. They
have a rooftop summer garden.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I see the, I see there are several places on 18th Street. It's -- I see you have 207, 201, 2014, 213. So how close is 203 18th Street, 204, 201, 2000 and 207 to this establishment?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 204 18th Street which is the Duplex Diner, it is on, it's right next to Lucky Buns. So I'll say no more than probably 50 feet from property line to property line.

Then The Blaguard is kind of up on 18th Street on the backside of Imperial. That's probably approximately 50 feet as well.

Then you have Jack Rose at 2007 18th Street NW. That's going up the hill on 18th going north.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. From -you said that you have monitored -- and I'm aware that the establishment is closed and that there are COVID restrictions based on the times you went to monitor the establishment.

But the potential location of this business, can you explain, tell us -- you said you've been working for the agency for nine
years. So can you describe, pre-COVID, this area that this potential business would be established in. You can close your screen too.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. So I worked for the agency for six years.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, 6 years. I was giving you more -- I apologize, Mr. Puente.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 18th Street is a relatively, pre-COVID, is a busy street with Adams Morgan. There's a lot of taverns and bars, especially on 18th Street.

So there's a lot of foot traffic during the summertime, springtime, then especially a lot of car traffic and bus traffic as well especially at the nighttime, after sunset.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let's see if I have anything else for you? I don't have any other questions. Do any other Board members, do they have any questions for Mr. Puente?

MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr. Short.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short,
go ahead.
MEMBER SHORT: Good morning, Mr. Kevin Puente, Investigator, forgive me.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good morning, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: In your report, you said that this location with applicant is now a fine, what was there prior to this?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Prior to the establishment, there was a beauty salon or hair salon that was at that address.

MEMBER SHORT: Was there some reason of another type of alcohol license adjacent to this building or in the same building?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So there was only a hair salon?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: And this address, again, is 1806, 1806 Vernon Street?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: And the -- I'm trying to understand the geographics of the area. So you have Vernon Street and then if you were traveling east on Vernon Street, what is the next
street?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: If you're traveling east on Vernon Street, you'll come up to the intersection of 18th Street, basically at 18th Street NW and Florida Avenue NW.

MEMBER SHORT: So it's a -- and that's -- can you explain the moratorium zone, and how that's affected by this address?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. The item moratorium zone was established as, to allow no new retail license, Class $C$ and CT, CX, DN, DT or DX to be issued for a period of three years from the effective date.

The moratorium zone runs from 1,400 feet in all directions from the intersection of 18th Street NW and Belmont Road NW.

The zone is designed, is physically described as beginning at 18th Street and Vernon Street NW proceeding on both sides of off streets unless otherwise noted.

MEMBER SHORT: So I guess my question is does this address fall within or without the moratorium zone? How does the moratorium affect this address?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I couldn't be
able to answer for you that, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just, hold on Mr. Short. We're having this hearing because the Board had, the Board had ruled earlier that this did not pause within the moratorium. So that's basically why we're having this hearing.

I believe there -- well, I don't think that this does not fall within the moratorium zone. That's why we're having, that's why we're having -- all right, you know what, maybe not. Let me not address that issue. All right. Let me step back.

I don't need Counsel to -- Mr. Short asked a question. Mr. Puente stated that he doesn't, he can't answer the question, so let's move on.

If during the presentation of cases, if that issue is raised then we will raise that later on. Go ahead, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: The reason why I asked that question, Mr. Chair, because my decision would hang very heavily on that decision. And so, the bottom line is this, this barrier and the particular address.

When we start talking about appropriateness, then all of that would matter to me as a Board member, and so the reason why $I$ asked that question. But I'll move on. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Mr. Short, Mr. Short, you can ask your question. I just said Mr. Puente stated that he is unable to answer the question. So I'm saying we can move on. That's all, that's all I'm saying.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Puente, so, again, this intersection is -- I believe your testimony was that this particular area and this intersection is very busy during the summer and spring months and the warm weather months.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And has it always been that way to your recollection?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. In my six years, yes, it's always been that busy especially with the nightlife area in Adams Morgan.

MEMBER SHORT: So, okay, that brings on this question. So would this address be considered to be a part of the nightlife section
of Adams Morgan?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I would say it starts right at the beginning of the Adams Morgan where the nightlife area starts, right there at that intersection. You have multiple restaurants and taverns.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So -- I'll move on from that. Thank you for that answer. And I guess what $I$ would then ask is would peace, order or quiet -- because this is a very busy area, you testified that the traffic is pretty heavy. And foot traffic is pretty heavy. So would this application or applicant be changing anything in the neighborhood that isn't already there?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I would say that the applicant is coming to an area where there's residential buildings on the same block.

I can't speak on the applicant since he doesn't have a history of what he could do or possibly do, but $I$ can say that he will be coming to a lot of residential area on that block.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, not only that block, if my memory serves me correctly about the community, there's mixed residential through in and throughout Adams Morgan with all of their
license fees that we have on our roads of ABRA, they are intermittently residential, commercial. It's a very mixed community I would say. Would you agree with this statement?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I'll agree with that.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And so you have not -- is the building still under construction now? Or has it been completed? Or where is it in the process?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's still under construction. When I was there, they were still doing construction inside.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, to your knowledge, does, has DCRA given the license? Or do they have the application? Or where are they in the city process for opening up a business? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

Outside the establishment on Florida Avenue NW side, Mr. Hughes has all the permits and stuff posted on the outside, so anyone can see it. So, yes.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you for your testimony. Thank you for your excellent report. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Short. Are there any other questions by any other Board members?

I can't see all the Board members, so I have to make sure that everybody -- sorry. Hearing none, Mr. Kline, do you have any questions for Mr. Puente?

MR. KLINE: Yes, I do. Good morning, Investigator Puente.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good morning, Mr. Kline.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q So how far is the proposed establishment from 18th Street?

A I would say it's approximately four buildings down from 18th Street, so I'll say no less than probably 50 feet.

Q Okay. And based upon your examination of the records, the building in which you established is to be located is in commercial. Correct?

A Yes, sir. It's in a mixed use.
Q And how far away is the rooftop of the Imperial?

A It's on the other side of 18th Street. So I would say approximately give or take, 75, a hundred feet.

Q Okay. But there is an active rooftop there?

A Yes, sir.
MR. KLINE: Any idea how many patrons are up on that roof?

A I do not know, sir.
Q All right. Now, turning to some of the details that you report, you indicated that some of these establishments -- we don't really know how many of these establishments are going to reopen at this point, do we?

A No, we do not.
Q And most of them are closed except for carry-out service at this point? Or perhaps, outside dining?

A Yes. This past weekend, I was working. And I observed a lot of people outside dining in the streateries and Adams Morgan, using the rooftops as well.

So just, right now with the COVID, it's hard to tell who's going to reopen fully or no.

Q Now, you said that there were 31 ABC establishments and 10 have entertainment endorsements. But six of those are off premises, 6 of those 31 are off premise establishments, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q So they wouldn't have entertainment endorsements in any event, right?

A No, sir.
Q So it's, basically, 10 of 25 that do.
A Yes.
Q And what about -- you mentioned that there are six summer gardens, what about sidewalk cafes? How many sidewalk cafes are there?

A There are 14 sidewalk cafes.
Q There are 14 sidewalk cafes in addition to the 6 summer gardens?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And the -- you also mentioned that 11 have settlement agreements. Why, in your opinion, is that relevant to work with ordinance to determine today?

A Usually with any protest, I always mention how many establishments have settlement agreements within 1200 feet of the applicant.

Q Okay, now, you -- turn your attention, if you would, to Exhibit 7 to your report.

A Okay.
Q Do you have it here? Did you examine this at all in connection with your report?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And you say on the second and third pages, there are interior layouts of the floorplan from second floor.

A Yes.
Q Hold on, hold on. Hold on. Mr. Puente, can you please share your screen, so we can see what's being referenced because I don't know what? So can you please share your screen? And so, we can see what's being referenced please. All right. Thank you, sir. So that would be the second page, correct, of Exhibit 7?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And up top is shown an outline of the proposed premises, correct?

A Yes.
Q And on the bottom where it says unexcavated area, that is the Carswell Condominium building, correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So this drawing shows that the -- and on top is the barbershop, right, barbershop area here, to your knowledge?

## A Yes.

Q So this drawing shows that the barbershop area is not actually adjacent to any residences in the Carswell building, correct?

A Yes.
Q And indeed, there's also stairwell and other buffers --

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chair, Mr. Chairman? I'm going to object to this line of questioning

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
MR. ROTH: -- Mr. Puente. He's not the authenticator or author of this document. And this document is not within Mr. Puente's expertise to interpret.

MR. KLINE: I'm not asking him to interpret it. I'm asking him --

MR. ROTH: Well, well you are. You're asking him what the document shows.

MR. KLINE: That's part of his report.
I would assume that if it's part of his report, then that's what it shows.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Kline, you or Mr. Hughes gave him the document, but he is not an expert in what the document shows.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I would ask that you instruct Mr. Roth to direct his comments to you and not to me.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, yes

MR. ROTH: Well taken, Mr. Chairman. Investigator Puente is a very experienced investigator, but he is not an engineer or an architect.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, I do hear your concerns. I'm going to overrule the objection. The reason I'm going to overrule the objection, this is an exhibit in Mr. Puente's report.

If he's unable to answer, I, I believe he can -- I don't know why he included this documented in his report. I don't know where he got it from.

And so, if he's able to respond to the question that's been asked by Counsel, he can to the best of his ability. And I will -- you can cross-examine.

You'll get an opportunity to cross examine him on this document and to prove your point, sir. But this is an exhibit in his report. And I believe that makes your client just asking him regarding one of the exhibits in his report. So I'm going to overrule your objection. So go ahead Mr. Kline.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: May I also ask you to ask Mr. Puente to scroll further down to the bottom left-hand corner of this document so that you can see the note at the bottom left-hand corner.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, one of the things that you can do, Mr. Roth, is I, I just asked Mr., I just asked Mr. Puente to share his screen, so we could see.

I would ask that on that question is more or the comment is $I$ would ask that you on the cross examination, you'll again refer to this document. So then, if there are certain things that you want Mr. Puente to scroll down to and if you want Mr. -- I'm sorry, Mr. Puente to read on the record then you can do that, sir, at, during cross examination. So let's move on.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
Kline.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Investigator Puente, we were finishing up Page 2. And I believe what I asked you is this seems to indicate that there were no residences in the Carswell adjacent to the barbershop area.

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. All right. Turning to Page 3, now you did take a tour of the space in the construction, correct?

A Yes.
Q And when was it for?
A March 15th.
Q Okay, so relatively recently. And on the top of what's shown on Page 3 of Exhibit 7 is that the, to your knowledge, the intended layout of the second floor of the building where the speakeasy is to be located?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And to the bottom where it says limit to Unit 3, fourth floor elevation, 120 to 29, 5, plus or minus, is that, that's the

Carswell, correct?
A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And in the top part of the drawing, there's an area, there's two areas in blue where it says limit to common lobby and limit to common stairwell, were you able to observe those areas under construction when you were there?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And those areas are buffers between the outer wall of the building in which Mr. Hughes's business is to be located and the area in which the speakeasy activity will take place?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. All right. Thank you. Now, if you would, would you turn to Exhibit 21, a photograph? Okay. In the, to the right lower center, there's some blue objects there in the distance.

A Yes.
Q Can you identify what those are?
A Those are recycle bins or trash cans.
MR. KLINE: Okay. And I'm going to ask now that, Simone, if you could put up in
protest of Exhibit 10 --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going Yes, hold on, Mr. Kline, I -- okay. You, if you want to share your screen then we need to take that ability away from Mr. Puente. And then, we'll share your screen, so you can pull up an exhibit. So are you --

MR. KLINE: Fine.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- so are you trying to share your screen by referencing a document for Mr. Puente to talk to justify it.

MR. KLINE: Yes, I want to show him one of the, one of the paragraphs.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any --

MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. I'm not sure I understand what's going on here.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. --
MR. KLINE: Yes. Did you -- I have it up. Could I have the --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on one minute, please hold on one minute.

MR. KLINE: Sure.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente just testified, and we went through his documents.

Now Mr. Kline is bringing up one of the exhibits, one of his exhibits that he wants Mr. Puente to testify to.

MR. ROTH: Exhibit what, I'm sorry.
MR. KLINE: It's actually protesting his Exhibit 10.

MR. ROTH: You're talking about your historic zones map?

MR. KLINE: No, I'm talking about the protest of your exhibit --

MR. ROTH: Oh, I'm sorry --
MR. KLINE: -- protest of Exhibit 10.
MR. ROTH: Yes, okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms. Andrews, can you get -- I'm sorry, whose documents, sir, are these now? Are these yours, Mr. Kline, or are this Mr. Roth's documents?

MR. KLINE: It is a protestants' exhibit --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Mr. -I'm sorry, Mr. Kline. We do not have the ability to bring up that document, so you --

MR. KLINE: Oh, I have it up. If I can share then I can --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I, I'm sorry.

Hold on a minute please. So when I said you have to, if you have those documents then you need to ask permission to share your screen, so you can provide the document.

But our IT person does not have the ability to just pick a document to share on the screen.

MR. KLINE: I understand. I have it ready to share if $I$ can be given privileges. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I -- so Mr. Puente, can you please, please close your screen? And Ms. Andrews, please give Mr. Kline the ability to share his screen.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby. Okay, Mr. Kline, you can share your screen now.

MR. KLINE: Thank you. Okay, I'm showing you what the protestants marked as Protest Exhibit 10.

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, your screen hasn't been shared yet.

MR. KLINE: Oh, well, let's try this again. Can you see it now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we can see your screen, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Okay. Investigator

Puente, do you see Protest Exhibit 10? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. BY MR. KLINE:

Q Okay. Is this a similar view as to the view on your Exhibit 21?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. So the trashcans and the dumpster that are located there unenclosed, that, those are the trash receptacles for the Carswell, correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And you've viewed them in that location each of the times that you made visits to the establishment.

A Yes, most of the time.
Q Okay. All right.
MR. KLINE: We are finished with that exhibit, and I will surrender --

MR. ROTH: Happy to be of service to you, Andrew.

MR. KLINE: I beg your pardon.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is that, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: I said happy to be of, happy to be of service to you.

MR. KLINE: Well, thank you. Yes. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'll just -- you know, I'm staying out of this one, but it's -- you can close your screen, Mr. Kline. Let's, let's --

MR. KLINE: Yes, I'm working on it.
MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, take your cursor to the very top of your screen.

MR. KLINE: Right.
MS. ANDREWS: And then drop down -very top, all the way --

MR. KLINE: I got it.
MS. ANDREWS: And it should say, should be an option to say stop sharing.

MR. KLINE: Well.
MS. ANDREWS: If you take your cursor to the very top of your desktop, just drag it all the way to, all the way to the top.

MR. KLINE: Oh, got it. Okay. Danke. Great. Thank you.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Ms. Sanchez.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Where are we, Mr. Kline, in your cross-examination?

MR. KLINE: I think I'm almost done.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q In your report on Page 9, you said that it's a medium size establishment. And then, you attached Exhibit 11 and 12 as reference to that. What you're really talking about is the size of the building, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. In fact, the establishment is quite small. Isn't it?

A Yes. It's only the first and second floor.

Q Okay. And the floor space, based upon your visit there, is very small. Is it not?

A Yes.
Q Now, in your meeting or your discussions with Mr. Hughes, he explained the concept to you, correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And he told you the second floor is intended as a speakeasy?

A Yes, sir.
Q In your six years of experience as an ABC investigator, have you come to what is a speakeasy?

A Yes.
Q Okay. What is it?
A It's a, mainly, a discreet location, bar or tavern, within something usually, usually need a passcode or a secret door knock or something to get in. We have quite a few throughout D.C.

Q Okay. So if the business operation conducts itself in such a way as to be noticeable or notorious then that defeats the whole purpose of the speakeasy, doesn't it?

A Yes, sir, because it's usually spread through word of mouth or through a select few people. That's how you get the passcode or the secret knock to get into one of these.

Q And you don't usually find people congregating outside of the speakeasy given the nature of the business, do you?

A No, sir, not the ones that I've been to.

MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. Thank you. I don't have any further questions for Mr. Puente at this time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any questions of Mr. Puente?

MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Good morning. Mr. Chairman, would it be appropriate at this moment just to put on the record and in response to one of Mr. Short's questions that the Board did in fact find that this location was in the moratorium.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Well --

MR. ROTH: I guess I, I guess I just did. But I just wanted it noted for the record because Mr. Short raised the question, and there seemed to be some confusion about it. And it's just a matter of law as opposed to a fact.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
We'll keep moving. Go ahead.
MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. And Investigator, good morning. Thank you for all the work that you did to assemble your report.

Before we get too deep into substance, let me just ask you a few questions to clarify a couple of minor points for the record.

First, and no offense to your photography skills, but just to give the Board an additional perspective on Vernon Street and maybe at a different time of day than Exhibit 24 in
your report, can $I$ have permission, Ms. Andrews, to share my screen? And let me show an exhibit to the Board.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby. Okay, Mr. Roth, you can now share your screen.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Let's hope I can do this. No, I'm sorry. I got the wrong -- those were -- okay.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q So, Investigator Puente, this is Protestants' Exhibit 5 for identification.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 5 for identification.)

Can I ask you to please point out the location we're talking about here?

A Yes, sir. It's going to be to the west of that yellow building.

Q Meaning on the left side of the screen? You're talking about this yellow building here?

A Yes, sir.
MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move Exhibit 5 into
evidence.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: I don't have any objection.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will move Protestants' Exhibit 5 into evidence.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 5.)

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Now, I'm going to take that down. On Page 3 of your report, Investigator, you indicated that you met on March 5th with ANC Chairperson Irani, Ms. Farmer, Ms. Clarke and myself, almost all of the comments there are attributed to one of the four of us except for one that was attributed to Ms. Jones.

And I'm not being critical here. But weren't there actually several protestants from the Carswell Condominium present that day in addition to Ms. Farmer and Ms. Jones?

A Yes, sir.
Q Yes. Would you say they were a pretty lively, talkative group?

A Yes, sir.
Q So is it possible that some of the statements in your report were actually attributable to people other than myself or Ms. Farmer or Ms. Clarke or Commissioner Irani?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Thank you. So moving on to some more substance of issues, is it possible for you to put up Exhibit 8 of your report again?

MS. ANDREWS: One second, I have to give Mr. Puente rights to share his screen. Okay, Mr. Puente, you can share your screen now. BY MR. ROTH:

Q Okay, there we go. So you mentioned that this location is in a mixed-use zone.

A Yes, sir.
Q Would you agree that it is immediately adjacent to this residential zone including immediately adjacent to the Carswell Building, the Carswell Condominium right here and to all of the rest of Vernon Street over here?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Is it possible for you to reduce the zoom there?

A Keep going?

Q Okay. So you can see that, would you agree that, in fact, this entire area is residential in nature?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Now, you listed on Pages 7 and 8 of your report, 31 ABC establishments that you found within the 1,200-foot section applicable to this case.

Most of those 31 establishments are located on 18th Street itself including on the corner of 18th Street and some of the residential side streets.

Now based on your knowledge as an investigator and based on the zoning maps that you reviewed, even where these mixed-use zones protrude into residential side streets like Vernon, are any of these 31 ABC establishments located on the fourth lot in from the corner like this one is?

A No, sir.
Q Are any of them located on the third lot in from the corner --

A No, sir.
Q -- in any of these mixed-use zones?
A No, sir.

Q On the residential side streets, are any of them located even on the second lot in from the corner?

A No, sir.
Q Thank you. Now, let's turn to Pages 4 and 5 of your report. Can you scroll back there?

A Okay.
Q When Mr. Hughes said the coffee bar -I'm sorry. I have to go on Pages 4 and 5.

A Right here on the bottom.
Q There we go, when Mr. Hughes, let's see -- yes, when Mr. Hughes, here at the bottom, said the coffee bar which served pastries and other various food for patrons, was he more specific than that about what kind of food?

A No, sir.
Q Did he say there'd be a menu?
A Yes, from what I recall, there'll be a small menu. People come in to grab something to eat. If they're there to get their hair cut or moms are there bringing their children, they can grab something while they're waiting.

Q Okay. And when he told you that -let's go to the next page. When he told you that
patrons will be "seated the entire time and not up congregating in spaces", did you have any reaction to that?

A Oh, yes. I asked him about that. He stated he's not looking to have a nightclub upstairs in his speakeasy. It was more of a sit down, casual, upscale. There's not going to be people dancing or standing the entire time.

Q All right. Investigator Puente, in your professional experience as an ABRA investigator, $I$ understand that he's saying there's no dancing because he put that on his application.

But how often have you come across Class CT establishments in which patrons are drinking and remain seated the entire time as he said and do not stand up and congregate in open spaces?

A Usually in my six years, I've wrote a few cases where I've come to places, and they don't have a dancing endorsement.

So they'll be in violation of their ABC license. So usually, we try and get the place into compliance. If they want to have dancing or people standing, -- well, let me
rephrase that, if they want to have people dancing, then they got to get a dancing endorsement.

Q I'm asking a different question. I'm assuming there won't be dancing. But Mr. Hughes said people would be seated the entire time and not up congregating in spaces.

How often have you ever seen a tavern in which people are seated the entire time and not up congregating in spaces?

A I come across it quite a bit of times when people are standing, socializing, depending on the atmosphere and the mood inside the establishment.

Q Okay. Thank you. Did Mr. Hughes mention anything, or did you say anything during your walkthrough indicating an area where the establishment would store its inventory of beer, wine, or liquor?

A No, sir, because there was a lot of wood, a lot of construction tools and stuff laying around.

Q Did he mention anything about where he plans to store this beer, wine or liquor?

A No, sir.

Q Okay. Your report doesn't mention anything about where the applicant plans to put its trash and recycling. Was that discussed or mentioned during your visit?

A I don't think I discussed it with Mr. Hughes. I don't recall, not on this, sir.

Q Okay. Did he discuss where delivery trucks would park when he gets deliveries?

A No, sir.
Q On your various visits to the area, all of your entries indicate "not much parking available". Based on your experience in Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle as an ABRA investigator, were you surprised by that?

A No, sir, because of the area, Adams Morgan, how busy it is.

Q One other question about the 31 establishments on Pages 7 and 8, you listed that 11 settlement, 11 of those have settlement agreements.

A Yes, sir.
Q Based on our research, we found that Lucky Buns, Jack Rose, Spacey Cloud, Dance Café, and the Bottle Shelf, also have settlement agreements. Personally, I think it's possible
that Buca di Beppo has had one since the early 2000s --

MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth is testifying.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll, sustained. Let's, let's as the question, Mr. Roth.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q All right. Is it possible that your list of 11 was incomplete?

A Yes, sir. It's possible.
Q Okay. Finally -- I won't ask you to pull up that engineer's diagram, again, that Mr. Kline showed as an exhibit. I'll just ask you this. Are you aware that Mr. Hughes owns the entire building?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Do you know what instructions Mr. Hughes gave the engineer, if any, in the drawing of that diagram?

A No, I do not, sir.
MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. I have no further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
Puente. Can you close your screen please?

All right. Do we have any questions off Mr. Puente based -- does the Board have any other questions to ask Mr. Puente?

All right. Since the Board doesn't have any other questions to ask Mr. Puente, thank you very much, Mr. Puente, for --

MR. KLINE: I have one based on Mr. Roth's question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was not going to --

MR. KLINE: I thought we were doing this.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Part of the problem, Mr. Kline, if I give you an opportunity to ask, then I have to go give Mr. Roth an opportunity to cross, to ask a question but, all right --

MR. KLINE: I'm happy to have you --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. All
right.
MR. KLINE: I want to ask one question. If he has additional questions based on my one question, have at it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know that Mr.
-- but I need to decide if I was going to -- all
right. But -- all right, I'll give you an opportunity to ask one or two questions, and Mr. Roth then will be, will have an opportunity to ask questions. Sorry. So go ahead, Mr. Kline. RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. KLINE:

Q Yes. Investigator Puente, in your Exhibit 8 with any math, Mr. Roth made a point that none of the other establishments are the fourth one in that are licensed.

Aren't there a number of buildings that house ABC license establishments that are found on this map that are immediately adjacent to the residential zone? And the third or fourth lot in would be deep into the residential zone, and, in fact, this is the only one where the fourth lot in is commercial property?

MR. ROTH: Objection. I don't even understand Mr. Kline's question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Mr. Kline -- sustained. Mr. Kline, if you have a question please be -- because I agree with Mr. Roth. So if you have a --

MR. KLINE: That's okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- question --

All right.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Investigator Puente, in response to a question from Mr. Roth, you indicated that this location is the only lot that's deemed a license that's the fourth lot in, correct?

A Yes.
MR. ROTH: That's not what my question was.

MR. KLINE: Well, he seems to think so.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have the opportunity to -- hold on, Mr. Roth, you're going to get an opportunity to ask a question. So ask the question, Mr. Kline. If Mr. Puente can answer, yes, he can. If not, well, let's move on.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman? Mr.

## Chairman?

MR. KLINE: Mr. Puente --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on, hold on. Yes, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, my objection is that Mr. Kline is raising a question that is putting words in my mouth that were not spoken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. Mr. Kline, can you please rephrase your question and ask the question again, sir, please.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q I'll just ask a different question. Investigator Puente, aren't there a number of buildings on 18th Street that house licensed establishments that back up immediately to property that's in residential?

A Yes, sir.
MR. KLINE: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Kline. Mr. Roth, do you have any, do you have any questions that you wish to ask? Any final questions you wish to ask here?

MR. ROTH: No. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Puente, for your testimony.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. It is, it's 12 o'clock, so let's take a -- we'll be off the record for ten minutes.

And then, once we come back on the record, then the applicant will present his case.

So I'm not saying please do not log off, we'll just, we'll be off the record until 10 minutes after 12:00. All right? Thank you.

MR. KLINE: Thank you.
MR. ROTH: Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 12:02 p.m. and resumed at 12:12 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Kline, are you ready to call your first witness, sir?

MR. KLINE: Yes, I am.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who's your first witness?

MR. KLINE: K.J. Hughes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes?
MR. KLINE: Actually, before I do that, I'm going to ask the Board to take an administrative notice.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Of what, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: I ask the Board to take administrative notice of the fact that there was a previous application for a new tavern license at this address, and the Board determined that
the location is within the moratorium zone, and subsequently this transfer application was filed. I just want to clear the record up on that because I know Member Short had some questions about it, and I thought it would be helpful to just let the Board take administrative notice of that fact, perhaps confer with Board's counsel, but that's what happened.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board will get clarification as at least for, hold on.

MR. ROTH: I'm in agreement with that Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So we'll take administrative notice of that from a factual perspective.

MR. KLINE: I just think it makes the record clear and everybody's on the same page.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. All right, Mr. Hughes, can you raise your right hand, sir, please?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Your witness, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. DIRECT - APPLICANT

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Hughes, say your full name please.
A K.J. Hughes.
Q And you are, what's your connection to this application that the Board is considering today?

A I originally entered into a lease at the, well, I'm the applicant.

Q Okay. You're the applicant. And what's, tell the Board what your background is.

A I'm a lifetime entrepreneur. I haven't had a W2 job since Blockbuster in high school. I currently run a business management company. Ironically, it's called Relentless Management Group, and we handle logistics and management for athletes and entertainers.

And I am an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Business School. I graduated from there with both my management degree, undergrad, and also my MBA. During this whole ordeal, $I$ went and got a whole other degree since 2019. So I graduated last year with my MBA from the University of Maryland.

Q Okay. So that's an MBA in management?
A Well, it's a Master's of Business

Administration, yes.
Q Okay. And so essentially you have a sports marketing company. Is that what your business is?

A No. It's a business in logistics management. I handle the business of athletes and their teams. So, you know, all of their off-the-court and field opportunities, we handle their budgeting and finance and logistics of, you know, opening and closing these businesses, running these businesses. So I have quite an extensive background in running businesses for other people and for myself.

Q And you've been quite successful at that?

A Yes, despite all that is stacked up against us, yes.

Q So why would you want to get into this business?

A Cause I'm a native Washingtonian, and the first time I ever had Caribbean food was in Adams Morgan, and I lived on Harbor Street, and my mom on Connecticut Avenue and a hair salon called Shelton's Hair Gallery through the '80s and most of the '90s. My grandmother's a

Washingtonian and was a nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

So service is just in my genes, and so I saw this property, and I thought that, you know, it was an existing salon, and, you know, I wanted to kind of reinvent the barbershop.

Q Okay. So turning to that, tell the Board, what's your concept here?

A Well, you know, the barbershop has always been in place of commune for not just the black community but, you know, a lot of different communities. And so, but there is a lot of missed opportunity in the barbershop. There's a lot of, kind of, dead, wasted opportunity. You know, you're waiting. There's nothing to do while you're waiting. You know, barbers are, you know, kind of, you know there's a lot of talking and a lot of community, but there's not really opportunity to kind of connect all those things together.

And so, you know, as an entrepreneur you pivot, and you're inspired by a bunch of things, and so over my years in traveling with, you know, different athletes and celebrities to different countries and different, you know,
communities, you know, the barbershop is one thing that exists all over this world. You know people see their barber more than they see their doctor.

And so the way that we tried to design this was, you know, we wanted to add these kind of areas of community. We wanted this to be kind of a third place. And so then the, you know, in the spirit of the pandemic is where we really got creative because, you know, we said well let's kind of, you know, mix this up so that we have opportunities for everybody.

I didn't just want to have a barbershop cause that's only men in it. I didn't want to just have retail for men because that's doubling down on men, you know. And so in this community there was, you know, very little retail. It's also very little coffee options or not as many as other communities, and so, you know, I thought that that was a combination that would be both beneficial to the community and beneficial to (inaudible).

Q So before we turn away from the barbershop, is the barbershop just a place where you get your hair cut? Is it anything different

-     - 

A No.
Q -- from a hair salon, or a cuttery or any of the other names that are used to describe a place where you get your haircut?

A Yes. I mean, absolutely not. I mean the barbershop is the beginning of everything, $I$ mean, quite honestly. Think about it. For us men, I mean everything great starts with a haircut. So, you know, especially for, like I said, in the black community the barbershop is a place of commune. It is a safe place. It's, I don't know, a place where we can show up and be us and, you know, be our true authentic selves. And so there is not a place in DC like what, you know, we're building. Yes, there are barbershops, and there are hair salons, but there's nothing like this.

Q Okay. So now turning further in terms of the concept, this building is four stories, correct?

A Yes.
Q And you anticipate using the first and second floor for the business?

A Yes.

Q And what will be on the third floor?
$A \quad$ The third floor is our internal office. That's where our GM and staff will like, even people working on the first or second, will have a breakroom on the third level. That's also where we will store our retail. We'll store, you know, your backbar items, liquor storage will be there, but it's mainly like our administrative kind of office space.

And then on the fourth floor, is a two-bedroom, two-bath that was previously, the previous owner was operating it as an office space. I believe there was a nonprofit that was there even though it was residential $C$ of 0 . So we stayed true to the $C$ of 0 that was currently there. We developed it to a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment with a rooftop that looks directly onto the Washington Monument.

Q Okay. So turning back to the first floor, which is primarily the barbershop, what's the activity that will go in there?

A We have a four-seater barbershop, and we have one, two, three, four, five, about six bays of retail, and we have a coffee bar that's about four to six seats.

And so the coffee bar and entrance will be kind of your waiting area. You know, people will peruse the retail. And then your barbershop is kind of the front-facing, street-facing kind of attraction, so to speak.

There's also a courtyard area that we had redeveloped by a gentleman by the name of Todd Schneider, and Todd is a concrete extraordinaire. He's done work at the White House. He's done work at a couple of the Smithsonian's, so we're transforming the old XYZ Salon as far as the shrubbery, and it just didn't look appealing. And we turned that into the concrete courtyard area that will be welcoming to, you know, passersbys and to patrons of the establishment.

Q Okay. At this point, well, actually, let me ask you this. And on the second floor there will be a speakeasy, correct?

A Yes. The second floor will --
Q And what's that --
A -- be a speakeasy.
Q What's that concept?
A Well, you know, again, from a, you know, in the prohibition era, 1920s Harlem, you
know speakeasies popped up as kind of this secret place to, you know, get commune, have a drink, imbibe, and again, you know, specifically, I mean I can only speak to, like I said, my life experience and my culture, but you know in the black community speakeasies in Harlem, you know, were kind of some of the first black-owned businesses in New York.

And so the speakeasy concept kind of, again, we wanted the extension of this third place, and we wanted the flexibility and the opportunity to be able to attract more of the community. And so, you know, with the character of the community and the character of this building in mind, the concept that we came up with was a speakeasy.

So one of the mirrors in the barbershop doubles as a door, so attendants have the ability to hit a button, and that button then opens up this secret doorway, and you know, we have this kind of dramatic entrance upstairs to the speakeasy.

Q So the public, and to those who may live in the community, what's the profile of the speakeasy?

A Um --
Q Is it high profile, low profile, visibility?

A Again, zero visibility. The way it has been designed is for it to be a complete secret.

MR. KLINE: Okay, at this time, Mr. Chairman, we have a video tour of the premises that I know Mr. Roth has an objection to, but I'd like to, if he still intends to pursue that objection, I'd like to have that discussion so that we can move to the video tour if the Board deems it appropriate to do so.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit is this?

MR. KLINE: Exhibit 13.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 13 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, it's my understanding you have an objection to Exhibit 13. What's the nature of your exhibit?

MR. ROTH: Okay, I --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of your -- hold on. What's the nature of
your objection, sir?
MR. ROTH: Yes, I do have an objection, Mr. Chairman. This video is created and prepared in preparation for and is part of settlement discussions. It's a 12-minute video, but it was shown to the parties in what was really a discussion that occurred on Zoom that consumed more than an hour and a half.

And in this discussion on Zoom, the video that you are being asked to view, was stopped and started multiple times over the course of that hour and a half during which time the parties held discussions about this video.

Now, as I said before, I haven't been a practicing lawyer in the courtroom in DC for many, many years, so I'm not up on DC Rules of Evidence and in the absence of access to Lexus or Westlaw, I hadn't been able at home to research DC evidence case law.

But I have been able to do some research on the corresponding Federal Rules of Evidence 408, and I found at least three federal circuit cases and one District of Maryland case that basically says that, at least under Federal Rule 408, the protection that's accorded to
settlement discussions also extends to material prepared by or for the parties in their effort to reach a settlement but that includes internal memoranda, reports, expert opinions, depositions, and a wide range of other materials. And I would think that a video like this falls under that protection.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chair, if I may?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: The video is factual. It is a walkthrough of the establishment. There is no audio. The audio will be given by testimony. We, too, have looked at the Rule 408, and it is not meant to exclude material that's otherwise discoverable, and it's not meant to include material that's otherwise verifiable by independent examination. We would direct the Board's attention to Pyne v. Jamaica Nutrition Holding, 497 Atlanta.2d 118.

So we don't agree. I mean that would mean that as an applicant showed plans to another party during the course of settlement discussions that those would somehow become inadmissible or if they shared their menu that that would somehow become inadmissible.

It seems to us somewhat preposterous, frankly, that a video that has no discussions concerning settlement and was merely, and indeed if I voir dire Mr. Hughes, he'll say that he invited everyone to come view this in a public meeting.

And I don't argue that this was a public meeting. I'm not taking that position, but he did invite everyone to come. So it was his intention because he could not give a physical tour of the premises to everyone because of COVID, this was a substitute for the physical tour, and that's all it is.

And it doesn't have anything to do with settlement discussions other than it happened to possibly, although Mr. Hughes would testify those were not settlement discussions. If they were, his counsel would've been involved.

MR. ROTH: Well, Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth, go ahead.

MR. ROTH: First, under the law pertaining to, I know we're in DC evidence law and not 408, but under the cases pertaining to 408, it's a distinction between evidence
admissible in court versus evidence that's discoverable. And those are two different rules. Second, requiring about, we're not talking about menus or plans, which an applicant or litigant may have prepared for completely other purposes or independent purposes. We're talking about an item that was prepared and made specifically for the purposes of a settlement discussion. And this video was prepared specifically for purposes of a settlement discussion, which was held between Mr. Hughes and the parties.

Now why Mr. Hughes chose not to have his lawyers present is a matter for Mr. Hughes to discuss with his lawyers, and it may be because Mr. Hughes was not interested in paying for his lawyer's time to conduct settlement discussions while he was in discussion with the parties, but he certainly had settlement discussions in that hour and a half.

It seems to me that the policy underlying this rule of evidence is to encourage the parties to have free and open discussions, not to have the materials that are prepared for purposes of those discussions then turned around
and used against them.
But if that's going to be the ruling, then I would like to be able to take the material that was discussed in that settlement discussion, much of which appears in the original Exhibit 3 that I probably would have objected to in the beginning and which apparently Mr. Kline is not planning to use today and be able to use some of the excerpts from that exhibit as some of my evidence because there are plenty of prior inconsistent statements that Mr. Hughes made in that video, and I want to be able to turn around and use them against Mr. Hughes.

MR. KLINE: I think Mr. Roth hit the nail on the head. If Mr. Roth were intending to use this information, perhaps, and we don't concede this, then it would be our privilege to assert, not Mr. Roth's. This is our information. We're not seeking to use information that was provided by Mr. Roth or any of the other protestants, in which case his objection would make sense. This is our information.

And to the extent that there's a privilege, which we vehemently dispute that there's any privilege because the facts are that

Mr. Hughes created this video as a substitute for live tour. He invited the entire community at a public meeting to attend and that was his purpose, which was to give a tour of the establishment via video because he was unable to do it in person.

And that was the only intent. So to the extent that there may have been discussions concerning settlement, we do not seek to introduce those. We do not seek to use those. The only thing we're doing is using a video tour that was created in lieu of a live tour.

Now Mr. Hughes could have just gone and recreated it, but it seems to me that's absurd. It doesn't in any way, and let's go back to the purpose of excluding settlement discussions. It's so the factfinder, in this case the Board, is not prejudiced by offers the parties may have made, concessions they may have made, discussions about the give and take of reaching an agreement. This doesn't reach any of that. This is entirely factual. It is a video portrayal of the interior of the premises under construction, and it's the opportunity for the Board to see for itself what this place is all
about in a format that we believe is more informative than static photos.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Kline.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kline is trying to have it both ways. That is not the purpose for which this video was made. This was not a meeting open to the general public. It was the protestants who were at this meeting online, and yes, it was a virtual meeting because we're in the middle of COVID, but if the same tour had been conducted among the same five people, the discussions that were held in that real tour would not be admissible. The fact that the tour was conducted via a video and those five people were online with Mr. Hughes does not make the video any less material prepared for the purposes of settlement discussions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you, Mr. Roth. For the non-lawyers that are on this hearing, and I know that most people are saying what are they talking about because I don't understand. And that's one of the reasons why I stated earlier that I'm more strict with lawyers because they're going to make objections,
and they're going to give reasons to give an objection.

Mr. Roth, one thing I just wanted to, this is an administrative hearing, so we do not necessarily adhere to the strict rules of evidence that you are quoting.

The proffer that was made, I'm going to overrule the objection, and I'm going to tell you why I'm going to overrule the objection. The proffer that's made by Mr. Kline, he is, the video is providing the Board a tour of the facility.

You are correct that settlement discussions are prohibited in these proceedings, but the proffer that was made is that this is a video that's going to provide the Board and the audience for them to see what the establishment looks like so in a sense. I'm going to overrule your objection and I'm going to allow the video to be shown.

All right. So, Mr. Kline, you're able, Ms. Andrews, just please allow him to share his screen, and so Mr. Kline, you can play the video, sir.

MR. KLINE: Great. And during the
course of that, I'll be asking questions of Mr. Hughes, so he can describe what it is you're looking at.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It is your witness, and so, therefore, you can stop and play whichever, however, you so desire, sir.

MR. KLINE: All right. Great. Thank you very much.

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, you can share your screen now.

MR. KLINE: Great. All right. Are you all able to see it?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, Mr. Kline.
You're not sharing your screen.
MR. KLINE: All right, let's try again.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think, Mr. Kline, and maybe, okay, fine. You're now sharing your screen so now you can go to the exhibit.

MR. KLINE: Great.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're not sharing your screen, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: I'm not? It says I am.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you were before but now I'm seeing, you clicked something,
so now we're not seeing your screen. So you need to go back on. All right.

MR. KLINE: All right, I'm going back.
Is it on?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir. We're not, well, you did for a minute. I don't know what you did to stop it, so I think Ms. Andrews is giving you the opportunity to share your screen, so I think you need to go to where the icon on your computer to share your screen. You did it previously, but I'm not seeing --

MR. KLINE: Yes, I'm doing it, but I can't seem to find the content that I'm looking for to share. Oh, that's --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
You're able to share your screen, so now you can find the content that you wanted to share, sir.

MR. KLINE: Okay. Do you see it now?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we don't see it yet, but maybe if you like press the play button.

MR. KLINE: Oh, it says I'm sharing. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, you are sharing, but you need to access the document now
and press play, play I believe.
MR. KLINE: Well, I am and it's not working. All right, well, Mr. Roth may prevail. MR. HUGHES: Mr. Kline, I have the same video. Would you like me to try to share my screen?

MR. KLINE: That would be wonderful. We would appreciate that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so Mr. -- I'm sorry, who was speaking?

MR. HUGHES: Mr. Hughes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews, can you please get Mr. Hughes the ability to share his screen please. So close your screen Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Yes, will do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, Ms. Andrews, could you please give Mr. Hughes the ability to share his screen please.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby. Okay, Mr. Hughes, you can share your screen now.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. All right
stand by, let me make sure that $I$ have the correct file. One second, please. Just a second, it's pulling it up now, and then I'll
share.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you still there, Mr. Hughes?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, I'm here, and the video is 12 minutes long, so it's, I wasn't prepared, so it's about 40 percent complete. It needs to download because I wasn't prepared to play it, but it's downloading. So it says about 40 more seconds, my apologies. Sixty-five percent complete, stand by, just giving you an update, sorry. Twenty seconds. All right, it's loading. Share my screen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, gentlemen, we've been waiting a while for this video to --

MR. HUGHES: So now I'm sharing my screen. So let me know if you guys can see my screen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, all right, so play the video. All right. Go ahead.
(Video played.)
MR. HUGHES: Can you hear me as well?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, we can. All right, Mr. Kline, go ahead sir.

BY MR. KLINE:

Q All right, what are we looking at Mr. Hughes?

A This is the trash can of the Carswell Condominium. This is the trash location.

Q Okay.
A This is the Carswell Condominium. This, can you see my mouse?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
MR. HUGHES: Okay this is, I believe this here is the Carswell Building here. This is the proposed establishment. The speakeasy will be on this level here. The barbershop will be here. This outdoor area that you see here is the courtyard or summer garden.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Now what's on the right?
A On the right hand side is Florida Avenue.

Q No, on your screen, what are we looking at?

A Oh, sorry. This is the rendering of what the space will look like when it's done. So this is the barbershop picture window. This is all the concrete that I spoke to you guys about from the award-winning concrete contractor, and
this is the summer garden area where the concrete, the concrete here is. You'll see, so there will be no fixed seating in this area. So this is the barbershop, four seats there.

Q Okay. Do play loud music out there?
A No.
Q Okay. All right, and what are we looking at in the moving video now?

A This is your entrance. All of this will be what it is to the right as it's finished. To the left is the Carswell Building. Those are some of the windows that overlook the courtyard area.

And that's, you know, a part of why we invested what we did in making it look the way it looks is because it was overlooking, you know, people's residences and what it looked like before was, you know, I can't believe they would, you know, that they even exist, which it's much better than like it was before.

So this is entering the property. We're entering the barbershop. So this is what it'll look like on the right when it's done. On the left is what it looks like now.

Q And you have some shirts hanging up.

What does that represent?
A That's the retail, the retail
offerings that we'll have.
Q And this is the proposed design that we're looking at on the right?

A Yes.
Q And the --
A And the back here you see the coffee bar. Go ahead.

Q Go ahead.
A In the back here you see the coffee bar with a couple of seats, coffee bar by day but, you know, again, we wanted this to be an establishment where, you know, folks can, you know, kind of build community and that's done through, you know, different offerings. So we'll have cocktails, you know, premium cocktails down there, beer, wine, you know, and the likes.

Retail bays, this is your Vernon Street exit here. This is where Vernon Street backs into it. You can see the floor plan here. Where my mouse is, is Florida. Where my mouse is here is Vernon, and so this is an exit to, you know, Vernon Street side. This is below grade.

Q Okay. And have you been in the

Carswell Condominium? Keep the video where it is.

A Okay. I've never been --
Q Have you been in the Carswell Condominium?

A No, I've never been inside the building, no.

Q Okay. All right.
A This is what the establishment looked like on the right from the view toward Florida. So that's, the video on the left is walking toward that view. I have a four-seater barbershop up front. Again, you see trying to depict, you know, what it would be like on a real day, which is a couple of people waiting outside, eat-in floor plan. So this is the first floor and then this doorway here doubles as a mirror during the day, and this will be your speakeasy entrance.

Q And how will that be controlled?
A There's a button on the wall that you can control with, so the staff will be able to control with their iPhone.

This is the Vernon Street Exit. This is the bathroom for the first level. That's
where security cameras will be. This is what it's looking from the Vernon Street side. All of this is being redone, so it's under construction right now, but the camera will be outside there as well.

So this is, you know, I tried to depict somebody getting coffee and then walking out to Vernon Street. All right there's 18th Street. This is your sidewalk café tables. You know, based on conversations with the community, I am ditching that idea. I mean $I$ thought that would be cool to have a couple of seats out there for people to enjoy their coffee, but I'm not allowed to have sidewalk café and trash in the same place, so this will be where our trash is. So there will not be a sidewalk café.

Q Okay, so for the record to be clear, you're not proceeding, per the request, for a sidewalk café endorsement?

A No, we're not. This is going to be our trash area, and we're landscaping it that way.

Q And what are you going to do? Is your trash area going to look like the one on the other side on Florida Avenue that we see at the

Carswell Building? Is it going to look like that?

A No, it will be more contained like it is over at other establishments. It will be contained. It will be designed specifically with landscaping, shrubbery to kind of hide the, you know, the trash cans and such.

Q Okay. So it will be some sort of enclosure?

A Yes.
Q Okay.
A So this is the Carswell Building. This is Vernon Street. And then now you'll get a view of, kind of, you know, if you walked, if you lived on Vernon, you come down and get a coffee, you walk down steps, you know, hopefully we'll have a sandwich board out there and invite you in with some coffee, you know, ability to walk in, grab coffee.

Again, the goal was to kind of make this a place where the community, you know, felt comfortable. It was designed, you know, with the various interests of the community in mind. This is back of house storage area.

Q Separating --

A That's a very small, that's where --
Q Is that where your alcohol will be stored?

A No, we'll have some alcohol there but mainly coffee. That's our sink and, you know, dishwasher and stuff will be back there.

And so this is the speakeasy entrance now. We're going to go upstairs. Security camera will be here where this wire is, and then another security camera.

And so this, you know, dramatic entrance, all this will be plaster, white. The steps will be backlit. So it's a dramatic entrance, you know, to something that's secret. When you get up top, this is your bar area here, about six seats here for your bar area. And so the idea of a speakeasy is, you know, you enter into the secret establishment through this, you know, whole dramatic entrance of a secret door.

And, you know, that's a part of the experience. You know, that's what it was in 1920. That's what a speakeasy is. And so that's a part of the concept. And I think, you know, even when you look back to the history of
speakeasies in Harlem in 1920s, they were in nondescript locations. They weren't in your downtown, you know, hustle and bustle. They were nestled in places that you wouldn't think that they would be, you know, to hide detection.

Q Now, what kind of, you've applied for an entertainment endorsement. Where's the dance floor?

A Well, no, we don't have a dance floor, but you know, again, culturally, you know, DJ has been, you know, a part of, you know, black culture forever. And so, you know, we want the ability to have a DJ because that's what really controls the vibe. That's what controls the setting, and so we want the ability to have a DJ. As you can see, you know, there's no, there's only one, two, two speakers in the establishment. So, even with a DJ, you know, the music is the music. It doesn't, the DJ doesn't make the music louder per se, no matter what happens. The music played indoor or DJ it, you know, the vibe of the DJ, the entertainment of the DJ is what, you know, is what we're looking for.

We won't have any live entertainment.

If you can look and see, it's just extremely too small. This is only 749 square feet. It's extremely small for live entertainment. This is your powder room and bathroom.

Q So, let me interrupt you. So just so we're clear, the only reason that you've applied for an entertainment endorsement is that you will have a DJ playing the music rather than having preprogrammed music?

A Yes, that's what we would like. This is what it will look like on the right. These are the booths. So it's only two booths. Each fit between four and six people. And this is areas where a couple of tables will be there.

These windows will be designed in a way where you can see light inside but it's only a shadow.

And so now turning toward the exit of the establishment, this exit leads to a common area, a common stair, and the exit will then, you exit out onto Vernon Street in a, you know, like I said in a historical speakeasy fashion, which is one entrance and once exit.

And also, you know, with COVID and, you know, we met with several firemen, EMS
professionals and with COVID, you know, having one entrance and one exit is the best way to kind of operate. So that's definitely something we --

Q Do you have any plans to monitor your patrons when they leave the establishment onto Vernon Street?

A Yes. We have security cameras on all of the exits and entrances and, you know, we'll be open seven days a week and so our staff will be monitoring that from that third floor office.

Q So just to be clear, the security camera system is not just recording for later reviewing, you're actually going to have people monitoring it real-time?

A Yes, our staff will, we have a big, you know, flat screen T.V. This is the Carswell courtyard where, you know, they hang out there. And so, yes, the T.V. will be in the manager's office, and there will be somebody there monitoring that. I can't state for, like the exact, you know, hours, but there will be somebody there monitoring it on a routine basis, yes, absolutely.

Q And at closing time, will you have a staff member available to police the exiting of
patrons on Vernon Street?
A Yes, again, everything is being true to form speakeasy-wise. You know, we want this to be a secret. There will be a staff person that kind of ends the night. Thank you for coming. You know, please exit to your right. Please stay quite.

And that's just the high level of service that we want to bring as well. And we're talking about a cocktail bar, you know, with, you know, quality cocktails at a price that's, you know, probably above-average. So we want to be able to make sure that we, you know, provide that quality experience as well. So, yes, there'll be an usher or staff person to make sure that, you know, people are exiting quietly and safely.

Q Okay. And there's been some questions asked about traffic patterns. What is your intention with respect to shared rides, Uber, Lyft, et cetera? Do you have any specific plans for that?

A My staff and I have been researching with Uber and Lyft, and there is a way through those companies. They have community liaisons who will work with businesses to be able to block
certain addresses from being pick-up zones and direct them to other areas. And so we're researching that capability so that folks can be picked up on Florida Avenue.

The other thing logically, you know, we're not advertising Vernon Street as an address, right? The address for our establishment is 1807 Florida Avenue. So that's where people would get, if they took Lyft, they would get dropped off there. They would be dropped off at 1807. That's the only address that they would know.

And so in terms of the speakeasy, we're not advertising it at all. Like even on our website, it's basically a hidden cocktail glass that you would need to find on the website to even know that it's there. And even then, no address or nothing is going to be described. So this is truly going to be a word of mouth establishment that, you know, the only thing that you would know is the 1807 Vernon Street, I'm sorry, 1807 Florida Avenue.

Q So in terms of shared rides, assuming that you could work that out with the shared ride companies, where would you have people picked up?

A On Florida.
Q On Florida?
A Yes.
Q And what about 18th?
A I wouldn't, that wouldn't be, if we were able to designate, you know, if I think, you know, if we're able to work with them and designate an address, it's going to be 1807 Florida Avenue.

In terms of 18th Street, it is a popular and well-populated, well-lit space, so I mean, I think logically if you're leaving the establishment and you see a different street, just like in New York, you know, you go into a cab in the most, you know, in the area where most people are.

And so I think, you know, people will gravitate toward 18th Street to be able to hail a ride, a taxi or call Uber.

Q All right. I think you can stop sharing now. Now previously we looked at an exhibit to the investigator's report, which we can put back up if need be, but what $I$ want to ask you is on the second floor is where the speakeasy will be, is there a buffer as shown in
these drawings between where the activity will take place in the speakeasy and the Carswell Condominium Building?

A You know there's a common stair that takes you up to the, you know, the from Vernon Street side there's a common stair. It goes right to a lobby, a common area and the speakeasy is there to your left with a door, and up the steps is your third level office, and the fourth floor residential.

So, yes, there's a common stairway that creates a lane where on this side of the wall is Carswell, on this side the speakeasy, and then there's a common area here where those walls do not touch.

Q Okay. And did you also undertake some soundproofing efforts there, sound mitigation?

A Yes, a considerable investment was made to a sound consultant who is one of the best in the world. I'm surprised that he even took this job, quite honestly. And, you know, their recommendations were taken, you know, probably triple what we -- no, sorry, five times more than what we had planned to spend on drywall insulation as it meets to their recommendation.

Q Okay. I'd like to direct your attention to Exhibit 2. I can pull it up and share it, Mr. Chairman, if that's the easiest. That I think I can do. It was just the video I was having difficulty with.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 2 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms. Adam, I'm sorry, Ms. Andrews, can you please give Mr. Kline the ability to share his screen, please?

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, you can share your screen now.

MR. KLINE: Great. Thank you. There it is. Is that it? I thought --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you're sharing your screen, Mr. Kline, but there's no document. So what document are you sharing?

MR. KLINE: Yes. No, I got it. I'm sharing --

MR. HUGHES: You need tech support, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: I know, I know. I'm going to have a hire somebody. I'm having some
trouble.
MR. HUGHES: All right. I can see your screen now.

MR. KLINE: All right, good. Now let me find my exhibit. Here it is.

MR. HUGHES: All right.
MR. KLINE: All right, here we go.
MR. HUGHES: Yes.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Let me look at that one. Here we go. This is what I'm looking for. All right, Exhibit 2, can you identify it, please?

A This is a rendering that I have shared with constituents and stakeholders, vendors, community members, everybody, any and everybody, really.

Q All right we're going to blow through this pretty quickly. What are we, what is this rendering?

A This is your summer garden on Florida.
Q Okay.
A That is an idea of what it would look like at nighttime in terms of the illumination, which these are low voltage, you know, low wattage lights that really are security measures
so that it is not super dark because we have high end, you know, material and high-end retail. So this really is a security measure, and it also is, you know, is beautiful.

Q And where the people are standing, that's a big picture window?

A That is a big picture window, yes, where we can see in and out; they can see in and out, yes.

Q Okay. And this is --
A The daytime view of the same thing.
Q So this is the summer garden area?
A Yes.
Q Nighttime?
A Yes.
Q What are we looking at here?
A This is your four-seater barbershop, which the public will be able to see from the street from Florida. That's just details that we've added. All of this is custom, custom woodwork. We have custom colored, you know, chairs. This is all custom.

Q This is what we saw in the video before?

A Yes, retail offerings. This is a
coffee bar, cocktail bar, just, you know, for drinks.

Q So it's the same thing?
A Same thing, yes. That's your hair wash station. And this is just a rendering of, you know, people perusing kind of in the space, what it would like if you were in the space. And this is kind of the transition between night and day. You see somebody walking up steps.

Okay, this is your speakeasy, walking up the steps. This is your speakeasy bar. This is a view from the Florida side looking toward the Vernon side. This is your lounge area or your seating area. These are your banquettes/booths. There's only two of them. Three of them, I'm sorry. This is looking in from Vernon to Florida. This is your third booth. This is your powder room, powder room.

Q Okay.
A And I think that's it. You got to go all the way up to the top.

Q All right. All right, now there's been some concerns raised that you're going to have a negative effect on real estate values. Have you looked into this at all?

A Yes. I've heard that. I heard that floating around. I don't know how that's possible in terms of, yes, I don't know how that's possible when I'm committing, you know, I'm committing to --

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: Objection. Mr. Hughes is not an expert on property values.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, you can't object to his answer. You have to object to questions that have been asked by Mr. Kline.

MR. ROTH: Well --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He can give his opinion. He can give his opinion, and the Board will take it for whatever it's worth. So I'm going to overrule your objection. You can answer the question, Mr. Roth -- Mr. Hughes, if you can. Go ahead.

MR. HUGHES: From what I know about property values, they depend upon the things around them. So if, you know, if you're committing a certain amount of capital expenditures to improve a certain property, that then has an effect on the other properties around
it. So I may not be an expert, but I've owned real estate, and I know how property values work.

So, no, I don't believe that we're causing any adverse effect. If anything, we're raising the property value by all of the things that we're doing in terms of upgrading the irrigation and drainage on Florida side and the greenery that we're putting on our rooftop residential. If anything, we're improving it.

And there's a couple, there could've been a couple of properties on the block that are up for lease will start to sell as well. So I think, Andrew, did you admit those?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, you answer questions, sir. You don't ask questions. You just answer questions, please, sir. You only answer on your proposal.

MR. HUGHES: Sorry about that.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Hughes, did you do any research concerning properties that might be available for sale in the neighborhood? It's a yes or no question?

A Yes.
Q Okay. What did you look at? How did
you do that?
A There's a for sale sign on the door. There's an advertisement in 1812 Vernon Street -Q Okay.

A -- like, what is it, like a realtor's stake in the ground.

Q Okay. And did you go try to find the listing for it somewhere?

A I did. Ironically, I would like to be a resident, so that $I$ could have a vote. So I looked that up.

Q I'm going to show you what we've marked as Applicant's Exhibit 11.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 11 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe Ms. Andrews has to give you the ability to share your screen. I'm not sure if she noticed it.

MR. KLINE: I'm going to try to do this more smoothly this time. Let's see what I'm looking at? Okay. Is this one of the listings that you found? Mr. Hughes?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, you're on mute.

MR. HUGHES: Sorry. Yes, this is the listing that I saw, yes. BY MR. KLINE:

Q All right. Is there something that you observed the way that the property is marketed?

A Yes. It speaks about the nature of the community being close to restaurants, bars, and shops. It also shows photographs of the surrounding community highlighting the access to establishments like mine or my proposed establishment.

Q Okay. I'm showing you Exhibit 12. Can you see that exhibit, Exhibit 12?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 12 for identification.)

A I do, yes.
Q Okay. Is that something else that you found?

A I think that's the neighboring building. It's right, maybe one or two buildings down. Yes, that's another one that I looked at as well.

Q And you --

A It's 1822 Vernon.
Q -- I'm sorry.
A 1822 Vernon Street.
Q Is there anything that you observed in the marketing of that property?

A Within the description of the property it speaks about the closeness of the restaurants and bars. I think this one specially says taverns, I believe.

Q Okay.
A But I may be mistaken. So, yes, the closeness of, the spirit of the neighborhood is that it is close to and walkable to entertainment through dining and bars.

Q Okay. Now turning to Exhibit 8. Can you see that now?

A Yes.
Q Can you identify what that is?
A I believe this is my scope of work or the review from the sound consultant, Arup (inaudible), where they go through, you know, it's basically a scope of work or proposal from them.

Q Okay. And did you have this work done?

A Yes, I did have this work done.
Q So you accepted this proposal?
A I did accept this proposal, yes.
Q And what was the purpose of this work? What is it they were doing for you?

A At the recommendation of our design architect, our goal was, again, to be as secretive as possible. With, you know, being secretive you need to be able to mitigate loud sound. Also, you know, in terms of closeness of residential, we wanted to be overly cautious and overly commit to sound mitigation mainly because we wanted, you know, we want this to be, again, speakeasy true to form and so a part of that is not being able to hear anything from the outside. So this was something that was done in the spirit of keeping our establishment a secret.

Q How much did you spend on this?
A I believe their price was $\$ 7,500$ just for the consulting and the recommendation. But the recommendations themselves were added to our proposed budget in that column, in that line-item for insulation and drywall, it quintupled, so.

Q Okay. So what was the approximate, that amount that you spent on soundproofing?

A If you include the consulting fee, I would say somewhere between $\$ 50,000$ and $\$ 60,000$.

Q Okay. All right. I do not have further questions at this time, and I would make Mr. Hughes available for cross-examination and questioning by the Board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, your questions of Mr. Hughes.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Hughes. So, let's sort of go back to the beginning, here. Excuse, me.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
K. J. HUGHES

BY MR. ROTH:
Q So, in April 2020, you bought a tavern license out of safekeeping from within the moratorium zone. Right?

A Correct.
Q And by that time, you attended a January 2020 ANC 1C meeting with your attorney Ms. Yohannes where the ANC voted to protest your first application for a new tavern license at these premises, right?

A Yes.
Q And then, after three months of legal
proceedings here at the ABRA Board, the Board upheld the ANC's and these protestants argument that your building is located in a moratorium zone.

So, when you bought this current tavern license out of safekeeping, you are already aware that your neighbors were concerned about a tavern being into a row house on your street weren't you?

A I want to say that, no. I have a lot of neighbors. So no, I wouldn't say that.

Q Well, your immediate neighbors, neighbors across the street in the ANC.

A No. People in the ANC, no. I wouldn't say that.

Q The ANC voted four to zero to two to protest your license. And a group of 20 plus protestants filed a motion to dismiss. But you aren't aware of any concerns?

A I was aware of their concerns, yes.
Q Yes, okay, fair enough. Yet, after you bought this license, you just keep moving ahead with your project, right?

A Okay.
Q And you had your architect, keep
drawing up plans for your combination speakeasy café, retail space, barbershop, office and apartment, right.

MR. KLINE: I'm going to object on the grounds of relevance, Mr. Chairman. I'll let it go with that. But I'm not really sure where we're going in terms of relevance.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth?
MR. ROTH: It's relevant to the fact that Mr. Hughes is, testify, Mr. Kline opened the door to this by having Mr. Hughes testify to all the work that he's put into this project.

And now, he's taking the position that he's done all of this work. And I'm just trying to explore the same issues that Mr. Kline raised here.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to -go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: I mean, the issue that we presented was, measures that were taken to be responsive, concerns that were raised. That's all. I mean, this isn't a popularity contest. It's a question of whether this premise is --

MR. ROTH: I'm not asking questions about popularity. I'm asking, I'm talking about a
timeline.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm going to overrule the objection. Go ahead, Mr. Roth, ask your question. This is cross-examination. So, go ahead, sir.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q After he bought, after Mr. Hughes, after you bought the license, and after these experiences in early 2020, you had your architect keep drawing up plans, fear -- combination of all of these different pieces of your building, right?

A In addition to speaking to Amir Irani and the rest of the community.

A That wasn't, that wasn't a question. Just in April, in April --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.
Please allow him to answer the question. All right?

MR. ROTH: I'll ask my question.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, please listen to the question that's been asked. Please answer the questions that's been asked. And Mr. Roth, please allowed him to answer the question, sir. All right?

If you need him to answer a certain way, sir, you get to ask him more pointed questions. On more pointed questions, though, you put him in a box.

So, he can only answer it one way, but if you could ask a open ended question that he's going to answer to the best of his ability, so. But allow him to answer the question, sir.

All right. Go ahead. If you're, if you're not done answering the question, then, go ahead, Mr. Hughes. And if not, Mr. Roth will ask another question.

MR. ROTH: I think he answered the question.

> BY MR. ROTH:

Q Mr. Hughes, yes or no, you hired a contractor in April to do your demolition and construction work, correct?

A No, I didn't hire them in April. I hired them before that.

Q Okay. But at that point, you hadn't even filed your new application with ABRA for a location transfer or for your substantial changes, yet, had you?

A No, I don't recall. Say it, you said,

I haven't --
Q I had not yet even filed your new application with ABRA for a location transfer or for your substantial changes, yet, had you?

A No. Because the previous ruling didn't denied my application. The previous ruling said that $I$ needed to do a couple of things and said it was the moratorium. But he said I needed to, I had the ability to subdivide. So no, I didn't, I didn't apply for my transfer at that time, no.

Q Were you so confident that the Board would grant everything you wanted that two months before you even filed an application and knowing the opposition that you faced that you thought it was wise to make those kinds of financial commitments?

A I don't know what you want me to say about that. Was I was so confident? I mean, I did my due diligence. I'm a businessman. I have an MBA. I spoke to all the powers that be.

I spoke to ABRA, got a document from ABRA that said that I was outside the moratorium. And then, turn around and have it ruled and I was in the moratorium. So, I mean, I don't know what
else you expected me to do, Mr. Roth. What are you?

MR. ROTH: Well, let's do this. Can I share my screen please?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews can you give Mr. Roth the ability to share his screen, please?

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Roth, you can share your screen now.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Let me ask you this first. Before you even bought the buildings, hadn't the previous owner of the building. Mr. Walsh passed on to you the previous summer a suggestion from Commissioner Irani that you consider a--

A You broke up. You said, I'd do what? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on, Mr. Roth. You, something happened in those questions. So, please repeat your question, please.

MR. ROTH: All right.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes before you even bought the building, hadn't the previous owner of the
building, Mr. Walsh, passed on to you the previous summer, the summer of 2019, a suggestion from maybe --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mute your line, please.

MR ROTH: Maybe that's why I'm breaking up.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's right. Mr. Roth, hold on. Mr. Kline, can you mute your phone please? Mute your line, please, Mr. Kline. All right go ahead, Mr. Roth.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes before you even bought the building hadn't the previous owner of the building, Mr. Walsh, passed on to you the previous summer a suggestion from Commissioner Irani that you consider applying for a restaurant license instead?

MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance.
MR. ROTH: Commissioner Irani
doesn't --
MR. KLINE: Well, wait, stop Mr. Hughes. Let the, let me -- hold on.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, if there's an objection --

MR. HUGHES: I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's a stop. Mr. Roth will argue, Mr. Roth, then I will direct what the nature of the objection and whether to answer the question. What is the nature of your objection, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Relevance, I mean, somewhat? We're here with it on the tavern application. I mean, I don't know. What this has to do with anything?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth? Why is this relevant?

MR. ROTH: I think it's relevant to Mr. Hughes's state of mind because this is -part of Mr. Kline's and Mr. Hughes's case is that he is put in an enormous amount and money into this project.

And he is essentially throwing himself on the mercy of the Board now to say, I've done all this work to mitigate the neighbors' and the residents' concerns. And I think is relevant for the Board to know that he has done all of this at his own risk after being warned ahead of time that he was doing this at his own risk.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'm going
to overrule the objection. He can answer the question. But we all know -- all right, I'm going to overrule the objection. The witness can answer the question if he can answer the question. But let's move on. All right.

MR. ROTH: Neither the previous owner --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, answer the question if you can. If you can't answer the question, then, let's move on.

MR. HUGHES: We can move on. I can't answer the question.

MR. ROTH: All right. Let me show you -- I got to go back here, again. Might need, Ms. Andrews, I might need your help here.

MS. ANDREWS: How can I assist you, Mr. Roth?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on Ms. Andrews. Mr. Roth, you are sharing your screen. It is now up to you to go to the exhibit that you want to.

MR. ROTH: I'm trying. All right. We've got it. We got it. Let me show you Protestants Exhibit 17 for identification.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to
document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 17 for identification.)

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Does this refresh your recollection, Mr. Hughes?

A About what?
Q About Mr. Walsh's warnings to you?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on a minute, hold on. Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: Yes?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there a question pending? $I$, I'm not quite sure what you're asking him. But I think you there --

MR. ROTH: The question --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Hold on, sir.

MR. ROTH: Yes?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the question you're asking him? And then, what exhibit do you want him to reference to?

MR. ROTH: Protestants Exhibit 17. And the question was, before Mr. Hughes even bought the building, hadn't the previous owner Mr. Walsh, passed on to him, the previous summer, meaning 2019, July 2019, a suggestion from

Commissioner Irani that he consider applying for a restaurant license instead? And I'm just asking if this refreshes his recollection.

MR. KLINE: He said, he said -objection. A recollection as to what? The question is, what was, what was passed on to him, was told to him by Vincent Walsh, not by Mr. Irani.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm going to sustain the objection. So, look here, I'm going to sustain the objection, so.

MR. ROTH: Okay. All right. Well, we'll move on. Ms. Andrews, how do I back out of this now? Stop sharing.

MS. ANDREWS: Would you like to stop sharing your screen?

MR. ROTH: There we go. Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Recall it? Mr. Hughes, do you recall you and your attorney Mr. Kline making a presentation over Zoom about your proposed establishment at the ANC's Agency and Public Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 8th?

A Okay. I don't know. I mean, this has been a two year process. I've had a lot of
conversations. I don't recall the specific conversation, though.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, yes or no, sir. Either you do or you don't. Please answer the question to the best of your knowledge and ability, sir.

MR. HUGHES: I don't recall the specific conversation, no.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Do you recall showing the ABC committee and the community, basically, the same renderings that you submitted today as Exhibit 2?

A Yes. I said earlier that I shared with a bunch of people.

Q All right. Do you recall getting a lot of questions and hearing a lot of concerns expressed that night, both from neighbors in the closed off condominium next door, as well as, neighbors across the street?

A What's the lot? So, I don't know what a lot is.

Q Several.
A I don't know several. Some people said some things, yes. A couple of questions, two questions, five questions, yes there were
questions.
Q Okay. At the time of that July 8th meeting, you hadn't begun any, any major build-out, yet, had you?

A We got our, yes, but, I mean, no. We hadn't begun to build-out but you can't build. But you can't build without months of work of architectural plans. So no, we hadn't. We build, we stared to build major? I don't know a major means.

Q Well, would you disagree with me if I told you that your DCRA permits were approved on June 26th?

A Oh, okay. If that's what you -- yes, sure.

Q All right. So as of that July 8th meeting, if you didn't know it before, you certainly knew after that meeting, didn't you that your neighbors were concerned about your hours of operation, the potential for noise, crowds, traffic, trash, loitering, and commercialization of a residential street, didn't you?

A You know, a few people that, you know, yes, a few people who have a difference of
opinion.
Q All right. So let me ask you this, in terms of occupancy between banquette seats, booth seats, moveable bar seats, and any other seats that you have available on both the first and second floors combined, how many seats do you currently have designed into your space in total?

A I don't know that offhand. I'm rather wait for my CFO to determine what my occupancy is.

Q Well, that's not a question of your CFO .

A I don't know offhand. I don't know offhand.

Q You don't know offhand how many seats you currently have designed into your space?

A No, I don't. So there are seats actually in the space? I do not have, I don't know what offhand, no.

Q All right. I'm going to play you an audio clip. I have to share my screen again. From that July 8th meeting.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 47 for identification.)

Question, no, we will not turn Vernon Street into a commercial zone, we're not looking to attract any attention to Vernon Street because that would detract from our vision of making this a speakeasy, a private, you know, hush establishment that, you know, you only know if, you know.

We don't plan on publicizing. We're not using flyers. We're not using promoters. You know, we have soft music. We're not, you know, we're not turning Vernon Street into any hustle, you know, a bustling, you know, bar area.

Like that would be completely opposite of what we are attracting. And I think that was the reason why I wanted to, you know, show you the renderings.

Because, you know, we have 30 seats. That's another thing too. Because you think about, actually, the coming and going. That's 30 seats in that space, no more, no less.

Mr. Hughes, is that your voice?
A Absolutely. Could you play the whole clip, though?

Q That's the clip I have. That's the clip that's been entered into evidence.

A There's still a minute or there's still seconds left on the clip, though.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, you don't ask questions, sir. You're under cross-examination.

MR. HUGHES: All right. That's the entirety?

MR. KLINE: Objection. It has not been entered into evidence at this point.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It is not in evidence, correct. Just hold on. Mr. Hughes, you're under cross-examination, sir. Mr. Kline asked you a question. It is now Mr. Roth's ability and opportunity to ask you questions, sir.

I need you to answer the question to the best of your ability, sir. If there's, if there is a recording that's in evidence and if there's more to it than that, it is up to your attorney, sir, if he's so fit, will play the rest of it, sir.

Mr. Roth will play whatever portion of whatever recordings that he has. And he will ask you questions, sir. And it's, your job, sir, is to answer the question to the best of your
ability. If there is a problem with the question that's been asked, sir, your attorney will object.

Both attorneys will give me reason of the nature of the objections, sir. And then, I will instruct you whether or not you should or should not answer the question. Am I clear, sir?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. My apologies.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It might be stressful for you, sir. Being cross-examined, is always stressful, sir. But I need you to, to the best of your ability, answer the questions that are been asked of you. Okay?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may have misspoken when I said, entered into. I meant submitted for evidence. But, Mr. Chairman, at this time with Mr. Hughes having identified that as his voice, I'd like to have Exhibit 47 admitted it evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: I would want to voir dire
the witness on before agreeing or objecting to its admittance.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, what's the purpose of the document? What's the purpose of you submitting this document? Is it, is it to -- I know that you asked him a question and I know that you asked my question.

I initially you asking my question, I believe, around seating. Mr. Hughes has just stated that he's not aware based on, on he's going to wait until his CFO gives him his occupancy.

You then, you have a recording asking him if it's his voice. And he clearly articulated what the seating was. Are you submitting this document as to impeach the witness's testimony? I mean, I'm just asking for the purpose.

MR. ROTH: For two purposes. One to communicate that he informed the community that we would 30 seats, no more, no less. And secondly, he indicated that he had no desire, no intention to commercialize Vernon Street.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm going to admit the document. I'm going to admit
-- what exhibit is this again? I'm sorry.
MR. ROTH: It's Exhibit 47.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm moving Exhibit 47 into evidence.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 47.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, let's move on.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Now, Mr. Hughes, are you now prepared to confirm that you will not have more than 30 seats in the establishment combined first floor and second floor?

A No, I'm not an expert on occupancy. I'm really shouldn't have -- I misspoke.

Q This is not a question of a certificate of occupancy, which is a different question for DCRA. This is a question for the limitations on your license.

The number that you put on your ABC license application was 30 seats. Are you now saying that you're asking the ABC Board, contrary to your application to the ABC Board for more
than 30 seats?
A I'm asking for whatever my legal occupancy should be, is what I'm asking for.

Q So contrary to what's on your ABC application, you are now asking for something other than what you put on your ABC application and which you signed under oath?

A Is there a question?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's a question.

MR. ROTH: There's a question mark at the end of that.

MR. KLINE: Objection. That's not when he's, he testified to at all. It's a mischaracterization of his testimony. He has indicated that he's not sure what the ultimate number will be.

So, how can you ask him whether he's now, whether he misstated what he said before, when he's not even clear on what his final number is going to be? Could be, could be less than that. He's not clear. He's asked and answered it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. If Mr. Hughes, if you
can ask the question, you can. If not, let's move on. So, are you, answer the question, sir. MR. HUGHES: Can you restate the question?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Hughes, you signed an application to the $A B C$ Board asking for 30 seats. Are you now saying that contrary to the document that you signed, that is not the number you're asking the ABC Board to approve?

MR. HUGHES: I'm, right now, I'm not asking the ABC Board for anything. You can -- my application stands. I signed it. It stands as it is. I didn't revised it. I didn't.

MR. ROTH: I'm trying to get clarity on this.

MR. HUGHES: There's no clarity needed. I signed it. That's what it is. MR. ROTH: So you're are you now saying that you're limiting the number of seats you're asking the ABC Board to approve to 30? MR. KLINE: Objection. Asked and the answered.

MR. ROTH: I don't think it has been answered.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's move on.

MR. KLINE: Maybe not to your satisfaction, but it's been answered. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Let's move on.

MR. ROTH: I think, at least, I've gotten to where we are. I just want to say, I've got where we're stayed. The application is 30. Everyone is aware that the numbers that would be on a license, if issued, will not exceed what is in on a certificate of occupancy. Okay?

So let's be clear. If you're asking him, if you're -- then, there, maybe I think you need to ask a different question, Mr. Roth. I know where you're getting so that you're probably, you're asking the question improperly. That's one of the reasons why you're not getting the answer that you need. So if you want to rephrase the question, and one more time, if you want to rephrase the question, and ask it. If not, we're going to move on. But I know where you're going. But you're not asking the question. So that's, so it's asked and answered. So I'll sustain the objection. So you either rephrase it or let's move on, sir.

MR. ROTH: I'll try it one more time,

Mr. Chairman.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes, are you amending your application here today to ask for more than 30 seats in your establishment?

A You have to talk to my attorney. I'm not amending anything. I'm here for a protest hearing. I'm not amending any.

Q Okay. Mr. Hughes, similarly, on your application you asked for an occupancy of 50 is that the number of occupants in your establishment in total, first and second floor?

A I stand by whatever I signed. My application is what I stand on.

Q Okay. We'll stick to that. And you've also requested 30 persons for the summer garden. Is that correct?

A Whatever the application says is what it is Mr. Roth.

Q Okay. And you're still insisting on being able to serve alcohol till 2:00 a.m., six days a week and 3:00 a.m. on Saturday night, Sunday morning. Is that correct?

A I want what is it legally able, the flexibility to run a successful business.

Q Okay. Now, after your comments about not commercializing Vernon Street, having your speakeasy customers exit that late at 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. in the morning, right under residents' bedroom windows on both sides of the street hardly seems like the secret that you say you want it to be does it?

MR. KLINE: Objection, argumentative.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained.
Rephrase that question, Mr. Roth.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Well, Mr. Hughes, you testified that you wanted the speakeasy to be secretive or to be a secret? How is it that by having your customers exit on Vernon street at 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. in the morning, right under residents' bedroom windows, your speakeasy will remain a secret?

A How is it? I mean, what? How are they going to exit Mr. Roth? Do you want them to -- by magic?

Q I asking the questions, Mr. Hughes.
A I understand. What are you asking? How is it going to stay secret when people leave? That's what you're asking me?

Q Yes.
A They're going to be quiet and they're going to leave.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q You know, that for a fact?
A Do I know it for a fact? I mean, I don't know if for a fact, no.

Q Okay. Thank you. And when you said on that audio, that you had no interest in commercializing Vernon Street. And yet, you have customers exiting from a commercial establishment onto Vernon street, how do those two things fit together?

A I never say the word commercialize it. You said that.

Q I think you did in that audio, if I recall.

A I didn't say commercializing, not I didn't.

Q Would you like me to replay the audio?
A You want to, you should, you can.
Q Would you like me to reply the audio?
A Sure. I said, it wasn't going to be hustle and bustling zone. And based on the number of people that was on my application,
people the establishment will not be in droves. They will not be in mass.

They will be the same amount of people that currently exist on the street, that walk their dogs, that smoke cigarettes. They'll be the same, ten more people.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I am tempted to ask your permission to replay the audio. But in the interest of time, $I$ will just state for the record and ask the Board members to go back and listen to the audio themselves. They can hear the word commercialization on Vernon Street. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will take notice of that. Let's move on.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q If they leave out the basement door on Florida Avenue. Won't they also be exiting right under the bedroom windows of people who live in the Carswell on the Florida Avenue side of the Carswell?

A Under? I don't know what under means. Under the window? No, I don't know if they're exiting under people's windows. No, I don't know what that means.

Q Well, did -- in your own video did you
not show the apartments of the Carswell, directly adjacent to the rear yard of your building?

A Yes.
Q And do you not believe that patrons who would leave your establishment through the Florida Avenue door would the exiting under those bedroom windows?

A They would exit onto Florida Avenue.
Q And not through your rear yard?
A Through my rear yard? You're asking me if they exit it, right? They're going to, you're saying, you're saying it, exiting on Florida.

Q They're exiting through your -- if they're exiting through the door of your establishment toward the Florida Avenue side, will they not be walking through that summer garden or through your rear yard under the bedroom windows of the Carswell condominium residents?

A They'll be walking through the summer garden onto Florida. I'm not -- I don't know what under somebody's window.

Q And if they, if they hang out or loiter in your summer garden, will they not be
under those bedroom windows?
A I don't know that to be a fact. I don't know.

Q I don't asking you whether you know it to be a fact. I'm asking a hypothetical.

A I can't answer a hypothetical. I don't know. I don't know what's going to happen when they leave. You just said that in the previous question.

Q Very well. While we're on the subject of noise you applied for a DJ, is that the only kind of live entertainment you contemplate having inside?

A Yes.
Q Where inside the premises would you put a DJ?

A Inside the premises, sir. I'm not sure exactly the location. Okay.

Q Can you explain how paying for a professional DJ for a weekend night fits in with the economics of an establishment as small as you say it will be with as few people as you say.

As upscale as you told Investigator Puente it would be with people not dancing, or getting out of their seats, or congregating in
open spaces, as you told the Investigator Puente.
MR. KLINE: Objection. The question is compound, confusing, and argumentative.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Let's break it, break it up, Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes, you told Investigator Puente that your establishment would be upscale, that people would not be up dancing, that they wouldn't be getting out of their seats, that they wouldn't be congregating in open spaces.

And you've testified that the establishment would be very small. So my question is, can you explain how paying a professional DJ for a weekend night fits in with the economics of an establishment like that?

A Mr. Roth, this is a cultural destination. I don't think you're going to understand this culture. So, you're asking me question about a DJ, you don't understand. So what do you mean, how is it going to work with economics? It's going to provide a setting for cultural gathering.

Q So you're doing this for reasons other
than economics and you're willing to take a loss on it for reasons of culture, not economics.

A If that's your assumption, that's your assumption.

Q I'm not making any assumptions, I'm asking you.

A It's a form of entertainment in the black culture. That's why I'm doing it.

Q I see, okay. Do I understand from your earlier testimony that you're now withdrawing your request for any form of live entertainment outdoors?

A Correct.
Q Okay. I don't think I need to share my screen for this. You've talked about the barber shop. However, many barber shops in the area.

I heard your testimony about the importance of the barber shop in the black community. Along with that, you're hoping they buy a drink at the bar, which you've labeled a café. Is that, is that part of your plan?

A I hope that people do any and everything that $I$ will help them commune.

Q Will you answer my question, please.

You're hoping they buy a drink at the bar?
MR. KLINE: Objection. He did answer it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection

MR. KLINE: It was asked and answered. He answered the question. He doesn't like, he doesn't like the answer. And so, he berates the witness in saying he needs to answer something else.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain the objection you provided. Yes, I'm going to sustain the objection. Let's, let's move on. I --

One of the things that I have not been doing Mr. Roth is, I've not been taking this time, I've had not been taken time away for cross-examination, generally.

So I've not been using that against your time. But I just want to let you know that I have not been using time that's also used for cross-examination.

I've always told folks to make sure they spend more time, because -- but all right. So just wanted to let you know that, sir. All
right.
MR. ROTH: Okay. I appreciate it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I've done that for both sides. I just wanted to let everyone know that. Okay.

MR. ROTH: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes, if your patrons who are out in the summer garden, smoke, or talk loudly on their phones or with their friends, and they're not thinking about the disturbance they might cause to the neighbors whose windows or just across the way is that of no concern to you?

A Is it of no concern to me? What do you mean? Do I care about people quiet, being quiet? Or what do you? Is it of no concern to me? That's not true. no. Yes, it's concerning, yes.

Q Okay. Now, unlike summer gardens that are located on enclosed patios or courtyards, group huts or other areas that can be secured, this one would be accessible to anyone who could walk in there off the street at any hour of the
day or night? Is that right?
A I wouldn't characterize it as any hour of the day or night, no $I$ wouldn't. During operational hours, yes.

Q How about at night?
A During operational hours, yes.
Q Well, if after you're closed, do you plan to secure this summer garden in some way?

A No, I wouldn't imagine that people would sit there it was closed.

Q So if too drunk people wanted to have a lover's quarrel in there at 4:00 a.m. --

A If, Mr. Roth, I don't know.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, can you wait until he asks the question, sir. And if your attorney wants to object, he'll object if he does.

There being no objection from your attorney, wait until he answers the question, asks the question before you answer, sir. Okay? BY MR. ROTH:

Q So again, Mr. Hughes, if the area is not secure, and they see this summer garden back there that you've shown in your rendering and two drunk people want to sit down there and have a
lover's quarrel at 4:00 a.m. in the morning, they could do that right under the windows of the Carswell? Is that correct?

A I can't predict the future, Mr. Roth. I don't know.

Q Do you plant to have wait staff serve patrons in the summer garden?

A Do I? Wait staff? It would be operational. Will make the operational decisions necessary once we get through this process.

Q So you don't have any operational plans yet for that area?

A For the summer garden?
Q Yes.
A Operations plans will be firmed up once we get approval.

Q Sir, how will you make sure patrons aren't spilling out onto Florida Avenue sidewalk with their alcoholic beverages?

A There's a big kitchen window there and there'll be staff monitoring the area.

Q You mean in the barber shop?
A There will staff monitoring the entire property.

Q How will you ensure that patrons
aren't walking away from your premises with a beer or cocktail in their hands once they're standing in a summer garden?

A We will have staff monitoring the area to make sure that we are operating in a legal fashion.

Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen again. Mr. Hughes, showing you Protestants Exhibit 48 for identification. Is this the front yard area where you plan to put your trash and recycling cans for the entire building?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 48 for identification.)

A Yes.
Q Okay. The front yard is also located in public space?. Is that correct?

A I don't know that to be true. If you know that to be true then, $I$ don't know that to be true.

Q All right. Well, let's do this. Before I do that, Mr. Chairman can ask if Protestants Exhibit 48 be moved into evidence?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: No objection.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 48.)

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes, this is the surveyors plat of your property having the front yard over here. I can either ask the Board to take the official notice that this isn't public space, or $I$ can ask you to verify that.

A I'm not an engineer.
MR. KLINE: Objection, objection, objection as to relevance. What does this have to do with an ABC application?

MR. ROTH: Well, if you let me continue, $I$ can bring that out.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think that I'm going to sustain the objection. The witnesses just stated that he does not have expertise in this area.

So I'm not quite sure why we're asking this witness because even before the objection, the witness stated that he does not have any expertise in this area. So $I$ am going to sustain the objection. Let's move on.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q I will ask this question, Mr. Hughes, are you aware of D.C. minutes or regulations that say no empty bottles stored in crates or otherwise in empty crates, baskets, buckets, tubs, cans, boxes, kegs, cartons or barrels shall be allowed to remain in or upon any public space?

A Am I aware of that? You just made me aware of it. So, yes.

Q Okay. If DDOT does not allow you to store any of those things on public space, where would you put those things?

A If DDOT? I'm not prepared to answer a hypothetical question.

Q So you have no backup plan for it?
A Are you asking if I don't a plan of where I want to put my trash or where it's safe to put the trash? Similar to all the other properties where their trash is located.

I have a plan. Do I have a backup plan? Until my first plan doesn't work, do I have a backup plan? I don't know if I, I don't know if we are at that stage yet in this proceeding.

Q Well, Mr. Hughes, one of the relevant issues for appropriateness in this proceeding is how you would handle your trash recycling and so forth.

A And I gave you my answer of how I'm going to handle my trash. And you're saying if that doesn't work, then, what am I going to do? Like that, I mean, you're going to say something if, if, if down the road. Like no matter what answer I give you, you're going to say if, if, if, no matter what I give you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, please, sir. Please answer the question if you can to the best of your ability, sir.

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, I gave him an answer on where we're going to plan on to put our trash.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then you, then let's move on, sir.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you, sir.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Do you plan to use the third floor for the storage of alcohol?

A I previously discussed in my testimony already.

Q Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, you had to answer that question. I don't what the answer is. I don't know what --

MR. HUGHES: Yes, yes, I'm sorry.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Why was that not in your application?
A I can't answer that. I'm not sure.
Q So you're saying here today that the third floor should be incorporated into your license? Is that right?

A In terms of where $I$ plan on storing, my application, I'm saying where, actually, my building's address is 1806 Vernon Street. So that building consists of four floors. So that I need to, my attorney would have to answer that question.

I don't know the procedure. I don't the law. Whether I needed to put it in the application or not. I'm not sure if I needed to put that in the application.

If my application says 1806 Vernon Street, it has four floors, don't I legally have the ability to put my liquor anywhere in the establishment?

Q I'm not going to answer that question for you. I'll leave that to you and the Board.

A Well, I --
Q To determine with the Board.
A Okay.
Q Do you plan to use third floor for any other purpose related to the operation of a licensed premises on the first and second floors?

A This is for an office. Yes, this is the operations office, yes. It's where staff will have a break room. That's where people warm up, and yes.

Q All right. Where do you expect delivery trucks to park when you get deliveries of beer, wine and spirits?

A The same place we park when you get Amazon packages.

Q Where's that?
A On Vernon Street, the same place where you have your packages delivered.

MR. ROTH: Now, you testified about some real estate listings. And I'm going to share my screen again here. Because -- Mr. Chairman, these documents are not shared previously or this document was not shared previously with the
applicant or with the Board.
Because I had no idea who was going to be testifying, because there were no witnesses on the witness list who appeared to be qualified to testify to real estate pricing.

But since Mr. Hughes testified about this particular listing I wanted to know whether Mr. Hughes was aware that the listing that he testified about was originally listed on May 4 for \$510,000.

And that the party who listed it got a contract.

MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth is testifying.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Let's move on.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Hughes were you aware that this property was listed on March 4th for $\$ 510,000$ ?

A No. I wasn't aware of it, no.
Q Where you aware that the contract -that this property had a contract placed on it the following week for $\$ 510,000$ ?

A No. I wasn't aware of that, no.
Q Were you aware that that contract was
subsequently withdrawn?
A No. I'm not aware of that, no.
Q Were you aware that the price of the property or listing price of the property was then dropped to $\$ 499,900$ ?

MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance. There are many reasons why listing prices change and why offers are made and withdrawn. The relevance to this, his testimony was limited to the fact that there were two listings that mentioned, the proximity of nightlife and other services in the area.

He didn't speak to the prices of the individual properties. His testimony was very limited. And this goes far afield of that.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kline opened the door to this line.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, I mean, you're asking the witness to speculate. So I'm going to sustain that. I'm going to, it stated, your last question. He said, he was unaware. I'm going to sustain the objection. And let's move on, sir.

MR. ROTH: All right. I'm almost done, Mr. Chairman, but I want to share one other
exhibit because, again, Mr. Hughes, stating that he was well familiar with property values in the neighborhood.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q And with respect to the same property, Mr. Hughes, are you aware that this same property back in March of 2016 sold for \$500,000?

A No, I was not aware of that.
Q And given the fact that you testified that you're very familiar with property valuation, do you think that a property that sold five years ago for $\$ 500,000$ and today is listed below that price, right next door to your property reflects the fact that all of those bars, and restaurants, and everything else that he spoke of, is a great attraction for the neighborhood?

MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Hughes was not offered --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Let's move on.

MR. ROTH: All right. I have no further questions. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

Please close your screen, sir.
MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any questions of Mr. Hughes by the Board members?

MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd like to answer questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.
MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon,
Mr. Hughes.
MR. HUGHES: Good afternoon, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. In your testimony in your opening, your application you mentioned your business management skills.

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: You mentioned your community ties.

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
MR. HUGHES: You mentioned that you wanted to make an investment in a property and the community.

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And you mentioned your hours of operation. Should your, should this license be granted to you? Again, will you give
me what hours of operation you are requesting?
MR. HUGHES: I believe I would need some help from my attorney just to know exactly what we applied for. I don't know that information -- I don't have it in front of me. Could Andrew Kline, could you answer that? I don't have it in front of me.

MEMBER SHORT: No. We'll wait. I'm quite sure information will come out sooner or later.

MR. HUGHES: Okay. I'm sorry about that. I don't know that exact.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now --
MR. HUGHES: I don't want to misspeak.
MEMBER SHORT: Again, assuming that you get this license --

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: -- for 1806 Vernon Street, Northwest. I don't think -- I need to ask you. In your, in your mind as a business owner and that you have four floors there. Do you assume that you can sell alcohol on all four floors and the roof top?

MR. HUGHES: No, sir, because there's not there's not shown that way either. So the
top floor is residential. So it's not commercial. I can't do anything commercial up there.

MEMBER SHORT: That's a great answer. Thank you.

MR. HUGHES: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: So you would be willing to note that you could only sell alcohol on certain floors if you get a license, correct? MR. HUGHES: Absolutely. Yes, sir. MEMBER SHORT: And even the summer garden you would realize that the law requires that we would have to put, should this license be granted, hours of sales and service on any part of the property or any part of the license?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. I'm aware that you guys have that power.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And would you, are you going into this business wanting to be a good neighbor, a good business person, a good community person, and I'm having a productive business? And no one that's going to cause mayhem in the community?

MR. HUGHES: Most definitely. That's why I bought the building. Mr. Short, I'm also a
constituent. I'm not just a business owner. I'm a property owner, as well.

So it's definitely within my, you know, it's within best interest to be the best neighbor as possible because $I$ have a stake in the community by owning this property.

MEMBER SHORT: You're right. I like to hear that answer. Having a stake in the community and because we were are, or at least I, as a Board member envision that businesses and communities have to thrive together.

The District has proven that. And we see now because they have the, we still have Adams Morgan Day. Have you ever participated in Adams Morgan Day.

MR. HUGHES: I sure have. Yes, I sure have.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And normally, those are pretty orderly or how to you see them?

MR. HUGHES: I see it as a cultural celebration. I mean, I think you know, they are -- I don't want to classify anything as orderly or disorderly. I think that people have fun in different ways in different cultures.

And I think that this is a, you know,
a perfect example of me looking across at several ANC members that don't look like me, and they don't understand what I'm doing, quite honestly.

MEMBER SHORT: I'll just simply say this. Should you be granted this license would you promote through your business and through your involvement peaceful and quiet for the community?

MR. HUGHES: One hundred percent, absolutely. That's the only way -- yes, sir, absolutely. Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And you also mentioned that you were educated in Washington D.C. and that your family has ties associated with education in Washington, D.C.?

MR. HUGHES: Well, I went to elementary school at K.C. Lewis. My Mom graduated from Burdick. My grandmother graduated from Dunbar. So yes, I've been partially educated in the District of Columbia.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, concerning your barbershop, what ties do you have to operating a barbershop?

MR. HUGHES: Personally, I do not have. My partner, one of my partners is a master
barber.
MEMBER SHORT: Good answer also, because legally, you have to have a master barber to be manager of your shop. Okay, that's great answer. On the first floor, where the barbershop is, you would want to have a bar there? On --

MR. HUGHES: Yes. Yes, there's a design for a coffee bar or it's a bar. But they will have alcoholic beverages. And that currently exists in a lot of barber shops. But when I attempted --sorry, go ahead.

MEMBER SHORT: No, you finish your answer, please.

MR. HUGHES: So that, the model currently exists where you walk in, you get some wine, you know, you get a beer, you know, the, what is it called? The Grooming Lounge on M Street.

And when $I$ was doing this research, you know, it was suggested to me that $I$ needed to have a liquor license because $I$ wanted to sell. And when I was --

If you give it away for free, then you don't need a liquor license. And so I thought that it would be, you know, a lot more. I would
have more flexibility to, you know, be in business a lot longer if $I$ was able to sell.

MEMBER SHORT: Do you have any knowledge or do you know of any barbershops or beauty salons in Washington D.C. that have liquor license?

MR. HUGHES: No, I don't know.
MEMBER SHORT: So if you are granted this license, and you were told you could not sell or serve alcohol in the barbershop area, what would, would that stop you operating, having your operation?

MR. HUGHES: That will severely limit the success that $I$ am able to have.

MEMBER SHORT: That wasn't the question. The question was, would you still pursue this license if you weren't permitted to sell alcohol in the barber shop area?

MR. HUGHES: Would I still pursue the license if $I$ was not permitted to sell alcohol in the barbershop area? Yes, I would.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Please just answer me, yes, you would, meaning?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, I would continue to pursue this license if $I$ was restricted from
selling alcohol in the barbershop area. Yes, I still would proceed, this license.

MEMBER SHORT: And $I$ have to do this because $I$ once had a barbers license here in Washington, D.C. for over 40 years. And I do, I did hear your testimony about educational benefits of barbershops and community involvement.

And so having been a barber, here, a master barber for over 40 years in Washington, D.C., we didn't necessarily sell or service alcohol during business hours or after business hours in any barbershop $I$ was associated with.

And those barbershops were quite successful. I met people from all walks of life, doctors, lawyers, and Indian chiefs, and fire chiefs, and police chiefs and the whole gamut.

So, again, I'm glad to hear you saying that your operation of your barbershop could still function if you were granted a license to operate on different floors of your four-story building.

MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So you're asking them to serve and sell alcohol on the second floor,
correct?
MR. HUGHES: Currently, I'm asking for both. But yes, definitely the second floor.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Again, I don't know of any barbershop ever in Washington, D.C. that got a license to sell alcohol. So good luck, good luck you on that one. So, again, I won't even ask that question of you anymore.

I'll simply say to you, now, of the third floor, are you going to sell alcohol, and selling, and service alcohol on the third floor?

MR. HUGHES: No, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Are you going to service or sell alcohol on the fourth floor?

MR. HUGHES: The fourth floor's residential, $I$ cannot, legally $I$ cannot do that there.

MEMBER SHORT: On your rooftop are you --

MR. HUGHES: Which is residential.
MEMBER SHORT: -- expecting to see alcohol. So based on your answers, you're asking this Board to give you a license for a CT on the second floor only of 1806 Vernon Street, Northwest, correct?

MR. HUGHES: No. That's not correct. What I'm asking for the Board to give me a license for the first and second floor.

MEMBER SHORT: I'll ask this question one last time before I decide what I'm going to do as a Board member. Should the Board say you cannot sell or serve alcohol on the first floor, would that affect your license application?

MR. HUGHES: No, it will not affect my license application.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you for your answers. No further questions. Mr. Chairman. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Short. Are there any questions by any other Board members? All right, hearing none. Mr. Roth, do you have any specific questions of Mr. Hughes based on the questions that were asked by the, on the Board? Your questions have to be based on the questions that were asked by the Board members.

MR. ROTH: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Mr. Kline? Mr. Kline?
MS. YOHANNES: Hello, Mr. Chairman, let me chime in here. I'm going have to request
-- seeing you in video.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you said you have to do what? What happened to Mr. Kline? Did he? I know that --

MS. YOHANNES: I, I'm --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.
MS. YOHANNES: Yes. I'm just going to make a request that if you could, you could give us a few minutes, maybe take a brief five minute reset so he can log back in. He's attempting to do so now.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, we're off the record. We're off the record until Mr. Kline get back online. That's one of the, that's one of the unfortunate things that when we do this remotely, $I$ don't know when folks are not there. So we'll, we're on the record -- we're off the record until Mr. Kline get back.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 2:20 p.m. and resumed at 2:36 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. Mr. Roth, can you -can I see all board members, please.
(Pause.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Hughes back on the line?

MR. HUGHES: Yes, I'm here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Kline, so when did we lose you? I know that Ms. Yohannes has been on the line at all times. So, I know that your firm was represented, but did you hear the questions that Mr. Short had asked Mr. Hughes?

MR. KLINE: I did not hear all of them, but Ms. Yohannes filled me in as I was scrambling to find an alternate computer. So, I think I am up to speed.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any questions that you want to ask Mr. Hughes as a result of the cross-examination questions that were asked by Mr. -- by the Board?

MR. KLINE: Are there other board members that have questions?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have moved on, sir. Mr. Roth had an opportunity to recross. He did not. So, you have the final say, sir.

MR. KLINE: Okay. Great. All right.
All right.
CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLINE:
Q So, Mr. Hughes, you're still with us, correct?

A Yes, I 'm still with you.
Q Okay. So, the audio that was played, the audio recording that you heard --

A Yes.
Q -- in your mind, is there anything that you're doing in the operation of this business that is consistent with there being commercial activity on Vernon Street?

A No, not that $I$ - no.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, I don't know what's going on. I can't see you and I cannot -- I can hardly hear you. So, I don't know what --

MR. HUGHES: Well, my video is off right now, but $I$ can still hear you guys.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear you, sir. So, I don't have a problem with not seeing you. You're not clear, sir.

MR. HUGHES: What about now?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Better. Got it.

MR. HUGHES: Sorry about that. So, the
only commercial in relation to -- in relation to this proceeding, in relation to alcohol, no.

We thought that having a sandwich board on Vernon alluding to coffee being available was beneficial to the community because there was no coffee shop there.

The closest coffee shop was a couple blocks away. So, that was the only commercialized plan that we had in terms of our industry.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. And is that crucial to your operation?

A No, that's not crucial to the operation. I think it's, you know, beneficial to the community to know that there's coffee there; but other than that -- I mean, but the other thing, too, is the office space, you could only access it from Vernon.

So, I mean, technically the office space is commercial and you could only access that third floor office, when people are going to work, by Vernon Street.

Q Okay. And aren't there other businesses on Vernon Street to the east of you?

A Yes.
Q What are they?
A They both are massage parlors, I believe. And then one, I think, is an office place. And then I think there -- yeah, that's what I believe.

Q How late are the massage parlors open, if you know?

A I don't know. I don't recall.
Q Okay. Now, I know that you were asked about alcohol in the barber shop area.

Are you aware of other business concepts that are emerging where this is perhaps a bit of a trend?

A Well, that's why I tried to get Mr. Short back on, but I was -- I wasn't allowed to speak to him.

Yes, I am aware of a -- of an establishment that just opened that is a barber shop and has a liquor license, yes.

Q Okay. And what was that establishment?

A The name of it is Scotch and Scissors, I believe.

Q Okay.

A I think it was recently -- got a license within this past -- within the past 60 days.

Q Okay. And you do know they do have a license?

A Yes, because I patronize there. I bought -- yeah, I got some -- I got a beer from there because it's right across the street from my office (inaudible).

Q Okay. Are you aware that some hair establishments give away complementary alcohol?

A Oh, yes. That's been happening. I mentioned -- I mentioned a couple of those, yes. Yes, I am aware.

Q Okay. But it's your preference to be licensed in that area, correct?

A Correct. From my due diligence with the, you know, with licenses and DCRA, they felt that $I$ would, you know, be cutting it too close.

And so, knowing what I know about being a black business owner, we don't have the opportunity to be cutting it close. So, I wanted to go about this the proper way.

Q Okay. And you're aware that by having an ABC license, that gives the ABC Board
governance, or oversight, over the operation of your business establishment?

A Yes.
Q And that would be true for the barber shop area as well?

A Yes, for the portion that was -- yes, yes, that is true.

Q All right.
MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, since I can't, can you share Protestant's Exhibit 11? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews, please give Ms. Yohannes the opportunity to be able to share her screen, please.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
(Pause.)
MS. ANDREWS: Ms. Yohannes, you can now share your screen.
(Pause.)
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. It's not sharing. Sorry.

> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see anything.
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we can now. Go ahead.

MR. KLINE: Is the picture up -- oh, there it is. Okay.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Hughes, can you see the photo?
A Yes, $I$ can see the photo.
Q Okay. So, just to orient everyone, what's the yellow building?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, can you please have the witness identify the document that's just been viewed, please.

MR. KLINE: Yes.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q What are we looking at, Mr. Hughes?
A The yellow building is --
Q No, what's the document? What's the document labeled?

A Well, the document is labeled Protestant's Exhibit 11.

Q Right.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 11 for identification.)

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. So, what's the yellow building?
A That's the premises 1806 Vernon

Street.
Q Okay.
MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, can you zoom in a bit or make a full screen?
(Pause.)
BY MR. KLINE:
Q All right. And then, Mr. Hughes, there are numbers on an awning there.

What are those numbers?
A 1812.
Q And what is that building?
A That is the building of the Carswell condominium.

Q Okay. And what's behind the tree there?

A There is a seating area, a bench area.
Q Okay. Is that always there?
A Yeah. That's always there, yeah. One, two, three, four, five chairs, sir.

Q Is it ever closed off there at any time?

A No, it's not.
Q Is there anything that prevents someone from having a (inaudible) there any hour of the day or night?

A I would -- I would assume not.
Q Okay. Just a couple more questions. In terms of people leaving the establishment, you're going to -- I think we covered this before, but $I$ want to be sure -you're going to take steps to police people leaving the building; is that right?

A Yes, as a matter of service and safety and to, you know, as a good neighbor.

Q Okay. You were asked a whole bunch of questions which seemed to confuse you as to whether people, if they did exit from Florida, which, we understand, is not your desire, whether they would be exiting under people's windows.

Do you remember all those questions?
A Yes.
Q Okay. Isn't it a fact that the exit from the lowest level, the basement level, the ground level, whatever it's called, the barbershop level, the exit is on the east side of the building, the opposite side of the building as the Carswell condominium?

A The Carswell Condominium is -- spans both sides of Vernon Street and Florida. So, when you say "the opposite," I need you to ask --

I need you to ask me in a different way.
Q Okay. I will.
The Carswell is west of your building, correct?

A Correct. On Vernon Street, yeah. Basically, yes, yes.

Q I mean, Vernon and Florida are northsouth, right?

A Yes.
Q And so, it's west of you, right?
A Correct.
Q Okay. The exit from your building is --

A Yes.
Q -- on the ground floor, first floor, barber shop level, whatever you want to call it, that's on the east side of your building; isn't it?

A The entrance, yes.
Q As you're facing the building from Florida Avenue --

A Yes.
Q -- it's on the right, correct?
A Correct.
Q Okay. And the Carswell is on the
left, correct?
A (No response.)
Q I didn't hear you if you answered.
A Correct. Correct. Correct.
Q Okay. All right. And the windows from the Carswell are on the left, the opposite side of the building where people would exit, from the lowest level of your building, correct?

A Correct. Correct.
Q Okay. All right. Now, back to the audio because $I$ did miss something on that.

On the audio you -- when you were asked about that, you said, wait a minute, that's not the whole clip, that's not everything I said. What is it that you were saying about the 30 people in that audio? What's the context?

We heard a very short clip and your -I think your position was taken out of context. What's the context? What were you talking about?

A I was trying to make the point that it's a very small -- because nobody had taken a tour except for, you know, a couple people, but none of the -- none of these people, participants
on this call -- well, the majority of them had not taken a tour, had not seen the space and were giving opinions based on, you know, something that they hadn't seen. And so, I was trying to depict that it was a very small space.

So, in using the number 30 or whatever, $I$ was trying to depict that it was very, very small and that's what the missing part of the clip didn't say.

At the end, $I$ said, this is a very small space, and that's what -- he didn't play that part.

Q And isn't it in the context of how many people might be exiting onto Vernon Street? A Yes.

Q Okay.
MR. KLINE: All right. I have no further questions of this witness at this time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes, please close the screen, please.
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Hughes.

All right. Mr. Kline, do you have any
other witnesses?
MR. KLINE: Yes, I do.
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.
Yes.
MR. ROTH: I was offered the
opportunity to missed questions of Mr. Short, but (inaudible) we'll go fast. Before I --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just hold on. Hold on. Hold on. I want to do some procedural things on moving forward.

When we had the pre-hearing conference -- I'm sorry, at the status hearing I informed all parties that -- initially I informed all parties that they had 60 minutes to present their case.

And one of the things $I$ said when we had the pre-hearing -- the status conference, I said, this includes all direct and cross examination of witnesses. That was what was clearly stated at the status hearing.

Both parties have sent a motion to the Board asking for extra time for us to go back to 90 minutes, and have asked for rather than us having five witnesses -- I'm sorry, that they can
have more than five witnesses. And, hence, there was a joint motion and the Board agreed to do that.

Although I clearly informed all parties that they had a specific time to present their case, and that $I$ also stated to all parties that your cross examination/direct examination would not count against your time -- would count against your time, I have not consistently -I've not been doing that because I had hoped, and I think I did say to Mr. Roth earlier in the proceeding that $I$ would hope that he did not spend most of his time doing cross examination.

But I did not take the time away from him because I -- it has been my practice consistently, in all protest hearings, I have not used the time against parties, but I am going to do that moving forward for both sides.

So, I'm putting both sides on notice that the time you spend for cross examination will be used against you -- against your time because -- I have to do that because if I don't do that, we're not going to end today and we will have -- and when I said "today," I didn't say during business hours.

We have all day to do this, but I need both parties to spend the majority of your time in doing direct examination especially if you have a lot of witnesses.

And so, I am -- so, I'm putting parties on notice that, moving forward, the time that you use for cross examination is going to be taken against your time.

So, you then figure out how you want to present your case and how much time you're going to use to do that.

Is that clear to everyone?
MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, let me -- so, give me a minute. Let me get another phone so I can have another timer so I can start timing the cross examination.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I mean, the only thing that seems unfair is -- I mean, we had Mr. Hughes on the stand for a long time because he's our main witness.

He's the operator, he's the guy I would think you guys want to hear from, and Mr. Roth had unlimited cross of him and their case hasn't started.

So, all of a sudden we find ourselves with the rules changed in the middle of the game. I don't mind complying with the rules, but $I$ don't like them changed in the middle of the game.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, during Mr. Roth's cross examination and during your cross examination -- all right. You know what it is? All right. All right.

You have 28 minutes, Mr. Kline, and I never utilized the timer when you cross examined. I did not use that.

MR. KLINE: I understand that.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. This is what I'm going to do. All right.

I did tell everyone during the status hearing that I'm going to use the time -- that time to limit your -- because I need this to move. All right?

But because I gave Mr. Roth unlimited time to cross examine and I did not use it against his time, it's going to be unfair if $I$ do that to Mr. Kline.

So, I am not -- although that is what I said that $I$ was going to do in the status
hearing, because I was not consistent, I'm not going to do that at the beginning, but I'm telling both parties, please limit your -- please limit the amount of time that you use for cross examination so that we can get to your case in chief.

There are -- I don't know how many witnesses you have -- I do not know how many witnesses you have, Mr. Roth, but if we're going to end this at any reasonable period of time -when I say "reasonable" -- and the Board will have this hearing, we will listen to the case as long as it takes, but please do not spend all of your time in cross examination. Please spend your time doing direct.

All right. So, Mr. Kline, you have 28 minutes and 43 seconds to remain in your case. And so, I'm letting you know that.

When you cross examine, as I have done in this entire hearing, I have not -- I have paused your time.

So, I'm not taking -- I'm not taking any time away from you. I'm just saying that's how much time you have to present your case.

MR. KLINE: All right.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not limiting your cross examination, and I'm just letting Mr. Roth know that -- please let us be mindful because there are a lot of witnesses and we've been doing this since this morning.

And the Board will stay as long as it -- but I do not want, as the evening progresses, that we're going to have witnesses stay that have been here since 10 o'clock this morning and I need to go and then -- so, just you do that as far as your witness is concerned. Okay?

All right. So, as I said before, I'm not going to -- I'm going to be consistent throughout this hearing, but I want both parties to know moving forward in any other hearing that I have, $I$ am going to start sticking to the clock and letting people know, as what was addressed at the status hearing, that the time that you use to cross examine will be taken away from your case.

In this particular case since $I$ have not been -- because it has worked so far. Since we have been doing these hearings, $I$ have not done -- I'm just saying since we've been doing virtually all these protest hearings it has worked, but $I$ now realize that it's not working.

So, I now need to change what I do, but I will do that with other cases, not with this one, since $I$ was not consistent from the beginning.

All right. Go ahead, Mr. -- who is your next witness?

MR. KLINE: Geoffrey Sparks, are you on? Are you available? Ms. Sidon, will you please call up Exhibit 9.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is Mr.
Sparks?
MS. YOHANNES: He did log in. I think he needs to be elevated -- or his rights need to be elevated and he needs to be introduced.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of Geoffrey Sparks if he's there, please.

MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
Mr. Sparks, your rights have been elevated.

MR. SPARKS: Good afternoon.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sparks, can you raise your right hand, please.
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you.
Your witness, Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Good afternoon, Mr. Sparks. What's your profession?

A I am an acoustic consultant.
Q Okay. On the screen is Protestant's Exhibit 9. Can you identify what that document is?

A Yes. It's a $r$ sum that $I$ used for soliciting work through my job at Arup.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 9 for identification.)

MR. KLINE: Okay. I would move Exhibit 9, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth?
MR. ROTH: No objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit No. 9.)

MR. KLINE: And I would ask that Mr.

Sparks be qualified as an expert based on Exhibit 9.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth?
MR. ROTH: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without objections Mr. Sparks is qualified as an expert.

MR. ROTH: Ms. Yohannes, will you please call up Exhibit 14.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Sparks, are you familiar with the project of Mr. Hughes, which is the subject of this hearing today?

A Yes, I am.
Q And what's your familiarity with the project?

A I -- My firm provided consulting to the architecture firm and site work to make recommendations to limit noise transmission.

MR. KLINE: Okay. And I need Exhibit 14, Ms. Yohannes. Do we have that?

MS. YOHANNES: I think I'm sharing it;
am I not?
MR. KLINE: No. We still have the r sum .

MS. YOHANNES: Oh. So, do I need to
stop sharing and then re-share?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. You just move along to the next exhibit, but now you are -- all right.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Exhibit 14.
MR. KLINE: Yes.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Can you identify this document, Mr. Sparks?

A Yes. This was part of -- this was part of the report that we prepared after visiting the site during construction to make recommendations for the sound isolation.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 14 for identification.)

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. Could you briefly walk us through the report and your recommendations and give indication to Ms. Yohannes when you need to move the pages?

A Sure. Sure.
MR. SPARKS: So, Ms. Yohannes, if you would go ahead and go to page 3, our task here was actually to look at -- since they had demo'd
out a whole bunch of the existing interior setup, we had been providing consultant services to the design architect; and we came onsite at this point to look at the -- kind of the bare conditions.

And what we did is we -- in looking at that and then looking at the proposed plans, we then came up with a series of details and recommendations to be implemented as part of the construction process to improve the sound isolation from this property to adjacent properties.

And what you will see is that the area in blue is -- are the areas that we identified to upgrade the partitions -- interior partitions to improve acoustic isolation on both, I believe, the first and second levels.

On page -- if you would go to page 4, again, that shows the areas. And then page 5, this conceptually shows our approach for the interior partitions.

And just what this is showing is that by providing an interior partition that's actually pulled out and separated from the existing brick, you're getting improved isolation
by using additional layers of drywall, as shown, and then filling that cavity with mineral batt insulation.

There's also an improvement by actually holding the studs out so they're not actually touching the brick, but there's actually a slight air space. So, that was the design piece that we provided recommendations for.

There are also additional comments about how to seal up partitions and kind of, you know, get the best out of what you have when you do this type of remediation work.

The next series of photos shown on page 6, and beyond, were details and pictures of conditions that we saw when we were onsite.

So, we saw how they were building it, we made recommendations to make changes, but we also noted that there were areas where the brick seemed to have been, you know, pulled out or there were some gaps in it from over time just by the nature of the -- an older building.

And since we had the walls open, this was a good opportunity to actually go back in and fill in and make sure that the amount of mass in
that brick wall was filled, you know, there was no -- we didn't have any acoustic weak points in it.

So, by taking this action now before we actually filled in these areas, that was the ability to actually make sure that we really got the best out of the (inaudible) assembly.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay.
A This was done, I believe, back in July. This site visit was July 9th, this summer. Q Okay. Is that everything on Exhibit 14 in terms of what you recommended?

A Yes. I should say, then, the last piece are the two additional details around how you fill up when you do have penetrations.

In order -- because we tend to think of sound like water and we're trying to block it. So, we want to make sure that we're sealing things up airtight and getting good, you know, good closure.

So, we had some additional details here that show how to deal with electrical back boxes or other types of penetrations, whether they are ducts or pipes or whatnot.

This is very standard for when you are trying to do acoustic construction and improve the sound isolation from space to space.

Q Great. And you were working with an architectural firm in connection with this?

A Yes.
Q Snarkitecture?
A Snarkitecture.
Q Okay. And did Snarkitecture advise you that this work had been completed?

A Yes.
Q Okay.
MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, Exhibit 7, please.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Sparks, what is this?
A This was -- in addition to our construction recommendations, we performed some additional site analysis to predict and look at anticipated noise levels.

In particular, the task was to understand the audible impact to adjacent properties.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 7
for identification.)
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. And did you come up with some conclusions based upon this analysis?

A Yes. So, with this analysis, what we did is we first established what we thought the noise source would be and we took a conservative approach by actually modeling a pretty noisy environment.

And so, we said, all right, so if we have this type of environment, what are the predicted noise levels on the other side of that wall and into the adjacent properties.

Shall I go on?
Q Go ahead and finish your thought, please.

A Sure. So, what our assumptions were, were in order to be conservative we assumed, you know, what happens when you have up to 50 patrons in the space and then you actually are turning your music up to a level of 80 to 85 dBA, which is equivalent to a pretty loud, ruckus bar.

Another comparison would be that it -imagine standing about three feet from a pretty old vacuum cleaner that's really loud.

So, by using these levels to say that we're kind of -- we're trying to model a loud condition, what do we expect the noise level to be in the adjacent.

And our conclusion, based on our calculations, is that we think there's a -- it's unlikely that there's going to be an audible impact even when driving these high levels in the speakeasy area itself.

Q Okay.
A All right. The other thing I was going to say is that, through our analysis, we also included some additional recommendations which included saying, you know, because sometimes sound will be structure-borne.

And so, we advised the team to do things such as not actually locate and mount loud speakers to the side walls, rather to mount them to the ceiling, because that gives you an additional, what I call, mechanical disconnect as that structure-borne sound will travel through building materials.

And so, by doing that, it was just another step in the process in terms of ensuring that there was minimal audible impact leaving the
space.
Q And is it your understanding that the owner has agreed to comply with those recommendations?

A Yes.
Q Okay. Now, in the last paragraph you indicate that there may be some noise from low frequency.

A Yes.
Q Can you expound upon that a little bit?

A Sure. So, I think that, you know, low frequency is always a challenge when it comes to sound isolation.

So, in the same way that when you hear a truck or an engine even from a distance, what you don't hear is always the really highfrequency stuff, but usually it's kind of that low rumble.

Based on our calculations with, you know, the spectrum of the music at the high 85 dBA level, we anticipate that there's a possibility that you would hear some lowfrequency noise associated with that music.

Q Okay. But there are ways to mitigate
that as well, correct?
A Correct. And so, if that were the case, I think the next steps to, you know, that we would advise would be two-fold.

One, is that you can -- in addition to, you know, we've already moved the speakers off the wall and to the ceiling, it's possible to mount the speakers on spring hangers to even further reduce the structure-borne energy that you're imparting into the building, is one thing that can be done. And so, that's simply rehanging the speakers with springs.

The second piece is you can actually install electronic limiters to the sound system so that they are, you know, no matter -- at the user control no matter how high you turn it up, the system has set maximum allowable noise, you know, sound that it can be generating.

And by setting those limits, you can, you now, the system will never exceed a certain level.

Q Based on what's been told to you in terms of the expected levels of music in the establishment, is it your opinion that these other steps wouldn't otherwise be necessary if
those levels were maintained?
A Yeah. I don't think that the -- those additional mitigation measures would be necessary.

I think it's unlikely that we'll have an audible impact based on how my understanding is of the use of the space in the speakeasy.

Q Okay. If there were issues, that remains another avenue that could be pursued to address those issues; is that right?

A Yes.
MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. I have no further questions. I move Exhibits 7 and 14. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any objections?

MR. ROTH: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So moved. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit Nos. 7 and 14.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're done with this witness, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Subject to redirect, but, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine. Mr. Roth, your witness.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Can I share my screen, please.
MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
(Pause.)
MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you now have the ability to share your screen.

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q So, Mr. Sparks, good afternoon.
A Good afternoon.
Q Going back to the same document, I just wanted to -- let's clarify one thing right at the start, which is you make reference here to 1818 Vernon Street. Just for the record --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, can you please have the witness identify for the record what document you are referencing, please.

MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Sparks, going back again one step, what are we looking at here?

A This is Exhibit 7.

Q Which was?
A This was the sound isolation review that Arup prepared for this project.

Q Okay. And, again, just to clarify a small detail, the memo makes reference to 1818 Vernon Street.

Can we just clarify, for the record, that you were intending to refer to 1812?

A Yes.
Q Okay. So, let's go back to this last paragraph that you were just talking about in somewhat technical terms.

Can I just ask -- beginning with the two sentences at the end, can I just ask you to read those two sentences?

A Starting with "some music"?
Q Yes.
A Some music noise, particularly lowfrequency octave bands, may be audible within the residential apartments especially during periods of low ambient noise from traffic and other external noise sources. Complete mitigation of low-frequency sounds would require additional massive structure, i.e., brick or concrete, and large air spaces, which would not be practically
achievable at the subject site.
Q So, in plain English, isn't your report saying that on a quiet, one-way, mostly residential street after midnight or 1:00 a.m., the bass sounds coming from music could actually penetrate into the adjacent apartments, especially if the bass was turned up by a DJ or on a recorded sound system, even with the sound mitigation techniques that you have recommended in this report?

A Yes, that -- there could be some sound from low frequency that is audible in the apartments.

I think the other --
Q That's fine.
A -- nuance -- okay.
Q And the hypotheticals that Mr. Kline posed about what could be done are not actually within your personal knowledge now because we don't know what might be done; isn't that correct?

A We have not recommended those based on our analysis at this point.

Q Okay.
A If we thought they were necessary, we
would have recommended them immediately.
Q Okay. Thank you. Now, going to Exhibit 14, can you identify this again?

A This is Exhibit 14, which was included with that report as the proposed construction and details for use by --

Q Okay.
A -- the architect and contractor.
Q All right. Would you please read the disclaimer on the cover page here?

A This document was prepared for review by the design team in relation to the party wall sound isolation for Level 1 and Level 2 at 1807 Florida Avenue, N.W., D.C. It is not intended for, and should not be relied upon, by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Q Does that include this ABC Board?
A Yes.
Q Do you actually use the word "soundproof" in your industry?

A There are people who use the word "soundproof" in the industry. I do not use that word.

Q Why?

A Soundproofing -- the use of
"soundproof" is subjective.
Q What do you mean by that?
A Well, I mean that neurotically we all hear and perceive sound slightly differently. And while there are kind of rails around how we listen and how we hear sounds, there's definitely a range about personal perception of it.

Q Why does your report focus on -- or your memorandum and recommendations and predictions focus on D.C.'s noise control decibel level measurements rather than on the ABRA standard in Section 25-725, which prohibits a tavern from -- and I'm reading here from the law -- producing any sound, noise or music of such intensity that it may be heard in any premises other than the licensed establishment, unquote.

MR. KLINE: Objection. The recitation of the statute is incomplete and, therefore, makes the question misleading because there is an exception that follows which is very important given that the building on the opposite side of the condominium that's been discussed during this hearing is in a commercial zone.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain -- I will sustain the objection.

MR. ROTH: No further questions, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can you close the screen, please, and -- please close your screen. Okay.

Are there any questions of the witness by the Board Members?
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Hearing none, all right, thank you very much, sir, for your testimony. You are free to go. Thank you.

MR. SPARKS: Thank you very much. Have a good day.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Do you have any other witness, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yes. Is Dr. Tamara Lowe on the zoom?

DR. LOWE: I'm here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dr. Lowe, can I see you, please.

DR. LOWE: I don't know how to get back
to that screen. I've been seeing faces all day and when I look down, there is black screen and it just says, tap to unmute.

I don't know how to get back to the video. I'm 61 years old, by the way. I'm challenged as well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
Doctor. I can't see you, but I'm going to ask you can you please raise your right hand, please.

DR. LOWE: I'm raising it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

DR. LOWE: Yes, I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Your witness, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Dr. Lowe, I would ask if at the bottom of your screen you see a little button that says, start video.

A Previously it was there. This does not have that at all. That's why I'm a quandary.

All I have is, tap to mute, tap to unmute. And when I tap the bottom, nothing comes up.

Q All right.
A So, I don't know what to say.
Q I understand. I've had my own challenges today. I'm sympathetic.

A Okay.
Q All right. Dr. Lowe, where do you live?

A So, I live at 1811 Vernon Street. I live directly across from Mr. Hughes's building, which I have to say is gorgeous, and I live right next to Lucky Buns.

So, to address some of the issues that were brought up, there's trash all over the street from Lucky Buns.

When they pick up their trash in the front of their building, a regular trash truck comes and what is most notable is that there are blue, used gloves --

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, is there a question coming?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lowe, can you wait for Mr. Kline to ask you a question? I
thought the only question that was asked was where you live.

DR. LOWE: It wasn't. I told you where I live. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Kline. BY MR. KLINE:

Q Thank you, Dr. Lowe. You're aware of the application that the Board is considering today, correct?

A Yes, I am.
Q And what knowledge do you have of it?
A That Mr. Hughes is being denied a liquor license possibly. There are some issues with his verification to have a speakeasy and a bar in a barber shop.

Things that $I$ have heard during the day, as I've been working, have been being questioned.

Q Okay. Did you meet with Mr. Hughes at some point?

A Yes. I was in the street one day and he invited me to come look at his facility.

Q And did you take a tour?
A Yes, I did.

Q Okay. And do you support this application?

A Yes. He should be granted the application. I think he has a good spot to open up a business in the midst of a pandemic and I can't see why we're going to (inaudible) him about this.

Q Okay. Now, what about the concept? You've been listening. So, you've heard a number of concerns about people exiting on Vernon Street.

You live directly across the street. Do you have any concerns about that?

A I do not because, as I was launching into, Lucky Buns has people in and out of there all day long with lines of people and an outdoor setting with quite a few people eating all day.

So, why would it be any different? Why is that acceptable, but it's not acceptable for his patrons to come in and out of his front door? I don't see the difference.

And the massage therapy place with acupuncture has people coming in and out of their front door.

Q Do you have any idea how late the
massage place is open?
A I think they close 9:00, 9:30. The Lucky Buns --

Q Okay.
A -- takes the -- yes, go ahead.
Q Go ahead.
A Lucky Buns's last call for drinks is 1:00 a.m. They stop serving food, like, at 11:00.

Q Okay.
A So, there's people in the street.
Q And you started to tell us earlier your building is right next door to Lucky Buns?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. And do you have any -- have you talked to any of your neighbors as to why it is that they're so opposed to this application?

A Well, my feeling is this is a racist issue. And people don't like to hear that, but it's true because if he was a white man, I don't think we'd be having these problems getting a license.

It's an area I've chosen to live in that is commercial and residential. I'm living there by choice understanding it is also
commercial.
Q Okay. How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

A I've been there for five years, but my unit is owned by my best girlfriend from Harvard. She's an ER doc. She bought it in the early '90s.

So, I've been coming to the area forever. I have a vested interest there. I'm going to purchase her condo. So, I'm staying there.

Q And you're a dentist, is that correct, by training?

A Yes, I'm a dentist by training. I work in cosmetic dermatology and plastic surgery currently.

MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. I don't have any further questions of you at this time.

DR. LOWE: Thank you. I have to work.
MR. KLINE: Wait. Wait.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lowe, hold on.

MR. KLINE: Don't go anywhere.
DR. LOWE: I'm here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth has
some questions for you -- might have some questions for you.

MR. ROTH: I do.
DR. LOWE: My pleasure.

## CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Good afternoon, Dr. Lowe.
A Good afternoon.
Q When did you first meet Mr. Hughes?
A Maybe two months ago. The last -yeah.

Q Okay. So, basically everything you know about this proposed establishment you know from things that he's told you and shown you in the last couple of months; is that right?

A I know what he has shown me and I listened to everything all day today. So, I heard everything everybody said all day while I was working, yes.

Q Okay. Thank you. At any since you've met him, have you ever seen any neighbors across the street at the Carswell hanging out in front of their building or walking their dogs or coming back from a store?

A What's the Carswell?

Q The Carswell. The building at 1812 Vernon Street. The condominiums.

A No, I don't -- I don't see anybody hanging around. They do walk their dogs up and down the street every day.

Q Have you ever crossed the street and tried talking to any of the neighbors there by ringing a buzzer or two or seeing any of them who might be coming home from work or coming home from walking a dog?

A I know I have not reached out to neighbors. I do work a good many hours. I get home late.

So, I wave to the neighbors and I've seen the people walking dogs. I'm quite friendly. But have I buzzed them and asked them any questions? No.

Q So --
A In the city, generally people don't do that.

Q So, everything you know, you just -everything you know from Mr. Hughes, everything he's told you, you've just accepted at face value; is that right?

A I don't accept anything at face value.

I listened to all the arguments posed today and it did sound like a very racist argument against a man who's trying to improve our neighborhood with a new commercial business, will bring us dollars that we need during this pandemic, and I think it's in an attack against his character and the fact that he is black.

Q Dr. Lowe, do you have any idea how many bars, taverns, restaurants in Adams Morgan owned by white business owners have been protested by the ANC or by neighbors over the course of, say, the last two years, five years, ten years?

A Since I've been living there for five years, no. I know that there was protest cases against Lucky Buns because the refrigerator was right by the trash and --

Q I think you've answered the question. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a minute. Hold on, Mr. Roth. Let her finish. She wasn't done answering your question, sir.

MR. ROTH: Oh, okay. I think she answered --

DR. LOWE: Have I researched the protests, $I$ can say, no, I have not. This is my
first time being involved with somebody who's being denied an application.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay. Thank you. And Lucky Buns is located on the corner of Vernon and 18th Street; is that correct?

A Right. Right next to my building.
Q Right. Does your bedroom window face Vernon Street itself or does it face the alley behind the building?

A I face the alley.
MR. ROTH; Thank you. No further questions -- oh, $I$ do have one further question.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q You mentioned that you're a dentist, but that you practice in dermatology; is that what you said?

A My cousin owns Cultura Cosmetic Dermatology and Plastic Surgery. We have two dentists here, two RNs --

Q I see.
A -- two techs.
Q And in what jurisdiction are you licensed to practice dentistry?

A I was licensed in Pennsylvania. I'm
no longer licensed there. And I have a license in Maryland that I'm deactivating because I do not do dentistry at this point. So, why pay $\$ 600$ for a license.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you.
DR. LOWE: Um-hm.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms.
Lowe. Hold on. Are there any questions by any board members?
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Hearing none, thank you very much, Dr. Lowe, for your testimony. Have a great day.

DR. LOWE: Thank you. My pleasure.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have another witness, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yes. I am calling Japer Bowles.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Japer Bowles.
MR. BOWLES: Good afternoon.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, Mr. Bowles?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, your witness, please.

MR. KLINE: Thank you.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Bowles, state your full name, please.

A Yes. My full name is Joseph Japer Bowles.

Q And where do you reside?
A I live at 2426 Ontario Road, N.W. And you're an ANC commissioner; is that correct?

A Correct. I represent 1C07, which is essentially the west side of the Reed-Cooke neighborhood, but to you-all folks, the entire east side of 18th Street.

So, I represent -- or my district represents (inaudible) majority of liquor establishments in 1C.

Q In 1C. Okay. And you're familiar with the application that's pending before the Board for hearing today?

A Correct.
Q And do you support the application?
A I do.
Q And why do you support the
application?
A I support the application in general because $I$ ran twice to get rid of vacant storefronts in 18th Street.

We definitely have continued to have a lot of businesses that are unable to open in Adams Morgan, and then COVID happened and that made it even more of a strain.

So, of course one of the reasons is $I$ was previously the bid representative. I always wanted to work to get businesses in Adams Morgan to invest in the community. That's what I was elected to do.

And then why I'm here today specifically is because I was discouraged by the ANC process that happened last year.

Q And why were you discouraged by the process?

A Yes. So, there were numerous times and opportunities that the applicant was able to present its case, meet with community members, answer questions, and I feel like he did a good job with that.
And it was -- I felt -- I guess throughout the process I felt like -- I guess
looking back I felt bullied, manipulated and lied to.

And I believe that because, through numerous public committee meetings and public commission meetings, it was put upon me by current ANC commissioners, as well as former ANC commissioners, that we would be protesting for a settlement agreement.

And not once, but twice, did the Chair, at least according to ABRA, as well as the Office of ANC, stepped outside his boundaries and filed motions to dismiss.

And, to me, that is -- it breaks my trust in the process and I was really discouraged to see that -- that $I$ was led to believe that we were going to come to a settlement agreement and a community-based solution when they were using my argument and the ANC's resolutions to completely dismiss this applicant, which, according to my research and the opinions from the Office of ANC, as well as ABRA legal staff, motions to dismiss, as well as motions to protest, are different things.

Q Okay. Did you have occasion to meet Mr. Hughes during this process?

A Meet who?
Q Mr. Hughes.
A I did, yes.
Q Okay. And you heard him make several presentations to the community?

A I would say about half a dozen.
Q Okay. In your opinion, was he forthcoming in terms of what he presented to the community?

A I would say more than forthcoming. I would say in the beginning he was a little worried about sharing his space and idea because it is innovative, cool, and he was worried about proprietary issues there, but he did indeed share -- come up front with all of the information to the ANC, as well as different neighborhood associations, including ones that are protesting.

Q Okay. You testified a lot about your previous experiences with the bid and how you support businesses. You also testified that you met Mr. Hughes and heard his presentations.

Are there any specific reasons why you support this application based on Mr. Hughes as a business operator?

A Yeah. Certainly. So, I really like,
obviously, the fact that $I$ was the bid delegate. I know property owners and business owners as well and then -- and I represent, you know, the people that work in those spaces.

I can definitely see that there's a lot of workers that are people of color, black and brown. It's lessor so as managers, and it's negligible as property owners and businesses in Adams Morgan.

So, a senior person who had an amazing record such as Mr . Hughes and has an amazing design, is pumping a ton of money into this property, yeah, $I$ was all on board. It checks all the boxes. It made sense.

MR. KLINE: Okay. I have no further questions of the witness at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any questions for Mr. Bowles?

MR. ROTH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Good morning, Commissioner -- good afternoon, $I$ should say. Feels like morning.

When the ANC's protest resolution came before the ANC last August, the resolution passed by a vote of 6 to 1; is that correct?

A I believe so.
Q And you were the one, right?
A That's correct.
Q In fact, when you tried to offer an amendment, you couldn't even get a second from another commissioner; isn't that right?

A Yes. Could you speak as to what the second was? I'm sorry.

Q You tried to offer an amendment to the resolution and no other commissioner would second your amendment.

MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance.
MR. BOWLES: I can answer this, actually.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr. Bowles. For what it's worth, he said he can answer and I'll overrule. Go ahead.

MR. BOWLES: So, I don't necessarily recall that, but would you be able to recall what the specific amendment was?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. I'm going to sustain the objection because
the witness -- I thought he said he could answer the question. So, I'm going to sustain the objection. Let's move on.

MR. ROTH: All right. I'm going to share -- can I share my screen, please. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Roth.
(Pause.)
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Commissioner Bowles, you said you were very disappointed in the ANC process; is that right?

A Yes.
Q During that same meeting in August, is that your --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. Mr. Roth, can you please have the witness identify the document? $I$ don't know what he's looking at.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q I guess I am asking him to identify the document.

A Yes. The document is --
Q Is that your --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
on. We're having a lot of feedback. So, I need both Mr. Bowles and Mr. Roth, when either of you are not speaking, please mute your phone because there is a feedback between both of you.

So, if you're not speaking and -- you have to remember to unmute yourself, but if you're not speaking --

MR. BOWLES: I got you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thanks. Go ahead. Please identify the document.
MR. BOWLES: Yes. This document is titled, Japer Bowles's Twitter Timeline, August 5th, 2020. It is the Protestant's Exhibit 41.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 41 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Roth.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q And my question for Commissioner Bowles was, was that his tweet.

A The tweet that says, NIMBY meeting from hell, or, I'm not crying, you're crying, or the tweet that says, hey, you --

Q The one that's highlighted in yellow.

A Yes.
Q Okay. So, is your idea of the job of an ANC commissioner to be listening to residents with respect or insulting them in Twitter during the middle of an ANC meeting?

MR. KLINE: Objection. Relevance. Argumentative.

MR. BOWLES: Yeah. I don't think I would even --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, please.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, please. When there is an objection, please don't respond.

MR. ROTH: I'll put it back up.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm --
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, the Applicant's counsel called Commissioner Bowles to testify about how disappointed he was in the proceedings of the ANC.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. ROTH: And Commissioner Bowles is being asked about --

MR. BOWLES: I'm sorry, he can't make that statement --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles.

MR. BOWLES: -- about how I feel. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles. Mr. Bowles, I'll let you know when you can speak. Okay? All right.

MR. ROTH: Commissioner Bowles was asked here about his performance as an ANC commissioner at an ANC meeting at which this resolution was considered.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. Hold on, Mr. Roth. I think some of the problem is that there's no context. I don't know when this was done.

You're asking a question and the question you asked was that he tweeted something in the middle of a meeting.

I don't know that. You haven't established that. I mean, he has stated that this was his tweet.

I don't know when it was. So, I'm going to sustain -- I'm sorry, I'm going to sustain the objection.

If you need to -- if you want to ask him a question regarding this tweet, you need to build some foundation -- a different foundation, sir. He stated that this was his tweet.

I don't know when it was and your question is still basically stating that if it was -- I think, if I remember correctly, if it was appropriate in the middle of the meeting to talk about his constituents.

So, maybe you need to build a little more foundation if you're going to ask this question, sir.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Commissioner Bowles, did you send out this tweet in the middle of the same meeting during which this protest application was being considered?

A Correct. I often tweet live during meetings. That is true.

Q And why did you say, NIMBY meeting from hell?

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to renew my objection as to relevance. I mean, we're talking about social media.

That's what we've evolved to? We're going to be introducing social media comments in a contested case hearing? I mean, it just seems silly.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. The witness has testified that this is his tweet.

You did not object to Protestant Exhibit No. 4 and the witness has stated that this is his tweet. So, he can respond because it is relevant to the case that we're here.

It's not just a tweet that -- it's not a tweet -- it's a tweet regarding the matter that's being -- that we're -- that's in front of us.

So, I believe that he can respond to his tweet the best way he can. So, I'm going to overrule the objection.

Go ahead, Mr. Bowles, and answer the question to the best of your knowledge.

MR. BOWLES: Yeah. Certainly. So, this was a very long meeting. I think the longest meeting of the year with the ANC. There were numerous, $I$ would say, contested projects.

So, I guess it would make sense to give a definition of what "NIMBY" means. NIMBY is not in my back yard.

And my frustration was constantly hearing from people who $I$ actually don't
represent, but folks outside of my single-member district, that would love a concept such as affordable housing or an innovative business idea such as a speakeasy, in general, in Adams Morgan, but not when it's right in there next-door. So, yeah, that's what that tweet was.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q So, your idea of being an ANC commissioner is that it's a good thing when people agree with you, but when they don't, the answer is to insult and ridicule them; is that right?

A If you believe that "NIMBY" is an insult, then yes.

Q Okay. I'll accept that answer. So, on the subject of community engagement, since the July ABC Committee meeting last year, again, at which this application was considered, isn't it you who's been conducting secret discussions with the applicant trying to craft your own idea of a settlement agreement behind the backs of Commissioner Irani, who's the single-member district commissioner here, and --

A I'm so glad you asked.
Q Excuse me -- and the immediately
affected neighbors?
A Yeah. Yes. So, no, $I$ was directed -actually, so neither of our resolutions designates a person to speak on behalf of this ANC. They say "any ANC member."

So, I have gotten direction last year from the single-member representative, Commissioner Irani, to begin to craft a settlement agreement.

There is emails about it and --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. Mr. Roth, are you still there? Okay.

MR. ROTH: I just lost my connection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize. That's why $I$ thought that you lost -- all right. So, go ahead, Mr. Bowles. Go ahead.

MR. BOWLES: What was the last part that you were able to hear, Mr. Roth?

BY MR. ROTH:
Q You were responding to -- you had said -- you were talking about the ANC resolutions. You were talking about your role.

A Correct.
Q You anointed yourself.
A Yes. So, there was no (inaudible).

As a member of the ABC Committee, I'm sure, as this board has seen numerous times, that it takes, you know, a village to get things crafted.

So, it's very common that members at least of the Committee of ANC to work with settlement agreements.

I would no means say $I$ butted in especially in the beginning when $I$ was directed from Commissioner Irani to send over a draft settlement agreement, which I did.

And I would also like to note whenever former Commissioner Guthrie, who -- when former Commissioner Guthrie pretty much bullied me in public at the last public meeting regarding this in August saying that $I$ did try to connive and scheme behind this, he later apologized because he knew that he was wrong and that Commissioner Irani is the one who directed me to do this.

And honestly, this is just one more example of why $I$ feel like this process has been completely in shambles is because you have asked me to do things and then completely switch it.

Q All right.
A And not just me, but also the applicant.

Q Right. We'll hear from Commissioner Irani later.

Commissioner, how far away do you live from 1806 Vernon Street?

A My single-member district borders --
Q No, I asked you how far --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
BY MR. ROTH:
Q I asked how far do you live.
A I don't know, but I believe there's an exhibit that would be able to show that.

Q Yeah. Okay. We'll show that exhibit right here. So, I think you identified before that your address is 2426 Ontario Road.

A Correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Can you please have the witness identify the document, please.

MR. ROTH: Well, I'm not sure the witness --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. It's Protestant's Exhibit No. 40. Remember, we have
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 40
for identification.)
MR. ROTH: Right.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have a court reporter, sir. So, that's why I keep on butting in so you can identify the document for the court reporter. That's all. That's the only reason I'm doing that.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay. Commissioner Bowles, could you please identify the exhibit?

A This is Protestant's Exhibit 40.
Q Okay.
A It looks like a GIS map.
Q Yes. In the upper right-hand corner of that line --

A Yes, that looks like my home address and --

Q (Inaudible.)
A Correct.
Q And in the lower left-hand corner of that line, does that appear to be the address or location of the applicant?

A Correct.
Q And according to the District of Columbia's AtlasPlus Map, how far away from the
applicant's premises does your home appear to be?
A Honestly, $I$ can't read that small font and/or is it by bird or by direction?

Q By --
A It's right across the street. This is so silly.

Q A straight line, how far does your home --

A I don't know. I can't see. It's right -- it's not far. It's a three-minute walk. Three-minute walk.

MR. ROTH: I'll let the record show that Protestant's Exhibit 40 indicates that the witness's home is 1763.8 feet away.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, hold on, Mr. Bowles. Where do you get that calculation from, sir? I don't see -- there has been no testimony to that. I don't know --

MR. ROTH: It's on the left-hand side of the exhibit.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, it says "1763.8 feet." I don't know what that is, sir. It doesn't say that's how far he lives.

There's a measurement that says -- but it doesn't -- there's no -- it doesn't -- the
witness testified that he doesn't know.
I see on the -- at least on my screen on the left, something says "1763.8." I don't know what that reference is so I'm not going to accept that.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on, sir. Sir, $I$ cannot accept that because I don't know what it is.

There is a notation saying -- all that is says, measurement result 1763.8 feet. It doesn't indicate what it's in reference to so I cannot take that assertion.

We can take the assertion that on Protestant's Exhibit, $I$ think, 40 that -- is this 40 or 41? I apologize.

MR. ROTH: This is 40.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- 40 there is two address and there's a straight line, but on that straight line it doesn't state -- the witness stated that he does not know the distance. So, let's move on from there.

I can't take administrative notice -the Board cannot take administrative notice because $I$ don't know what the 1763.8 reference is
and the witness has stated that he does not know how far it is. So, let's move on from there, please.

MR. ROTH: Okay. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you please (inaudible) your screen, please.

MR. ROTH: Um-hmm. I'll try. Bear with me.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Commissioner Bowles, is this your single-member district, sir -- Mr. Kline, can you please mute your phone? And, Mr. Roth, please mute your phone.

Mr. Bowles, where this proposed location is, is this within your single-member district, sir?

MR. BOWLES: It is not. It is adjacent.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, is it the single-member district that's right next to where your district is, sir?

MR. BOWLES: Correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Are you a part of ANC 1C?

MR. BOWLES: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long have you been an ANC commissioner, sir, representing this ANC?

MR. BOWLES: Correct. I was sworn in, in 2019, and I was reelected this past go around. So, two years and four months in.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I don't have any further questions.

Are there any questions by the Board Members?
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do you have -- I'm sorry, no. Mr. Roth, do you have any questions of the witness based on the questions that I asked Mr. Bowles?

MR. ROTH: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Mr. Kline, do you have any redirect of the witness, sir?

MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles, thank you very much for your testimony. Thank you very much, sir.

MR. BOWLES: Thank you for your time.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Kline, do you have another witness, sir?

MR. KLINE: Yes. Peter Wood, please.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is this your last witness?

MR. KLINE: It is.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Just asking. I'm not trying to rush you. I'm just asking.

Mr. Wood -- Peter Wood, where is Mr. Wood?

MR. WOOD: Right here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I don't see Mr. Wood. So, I don't see you. You're not in my screen, but are you (inaudible), sir?

MR. WOOD: Yeah, I'm right here. I can see my video. I'm not sure if that --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, there you are. Now, I see you. All right. Please raise your right hand, sir.
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. Your witness, Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Wood, where do you live?
A I live at 1821 Kalorama Road, N.W., in Washington, D.C.

Q All right. And are you an ANC commissioner?

A I am. This is my first term. I started in January.

Q And what single-member district do you represent?

A That's 1C03, which is immediately to the north of the district for this property.

Q Okay. So, just for clarity sake, you're on the same ANC, as is Mr. Bowles, that's protesting this application, correct?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. And are you familiar with the application that is before the Board today in this hearing?
$A \quad Y e s, \quad I \quad a m$.
Q And how are you familiar?
A I mean, I started as a resident because I noticed last year at the ANC meetings I attended that it was just under discussion.

And then obviously -- or I hope
obviously -- as a commissioner, $I$ have done my best to inform myself about kind of what's going on with the process because it hasn't been entirely clear to me.

Q Okay. And you've heard Mr. Hughes make presentations concerning this application?

A Heard him make many presentations on this application.

Q Okay. And you've also had occasion to meet with him?

A Yes, I did. I -- he offered to the commissioners, if anyone was interested in seeing the property in person or virtually, that we could reach out to him. So, I took him up on that.

Q Okay. And you took a tour of the property?

A Yeah. I made it in person. I felt safe enough in terms of COVID protocol that it was something I could do. It was great. It was a nice trip.

Q All right. And do you support this application?

A Yes, I do.
Q And why do you support it?

A I mean, as a neighbor, I want to see our vacant properties, you know, have a supportive environment to, again, grow other vacant properties into businesses.

And also as a commissioner, I explicitly campaigned on, for lack of a better expression, you know, reversing some of the trends demographically in terms of business ownership of the Adams Morgan neighborhood particularly offering support to underrepresented and to minority business owners. So, I kind of feel I have that obligation to my constituents.

I could be a bad commissioner, I suppose, but $I$ hold myself to that standard to follow up on what 1 promised.

Q Okay. And there was quite a turnover in your commission in this last election; is that correct?

A There was. Of the eight current seats, $I$ believe six of us are new to the position.

Q So, there's -- six of the eight commissioners are new?

A Correct.

Q All right. Have you experienced frustration in terms of how this application has been handled since you took office?

A Yeah. I'd say that it started as just confusion, but $I$ assumed that all parties were acting in good faith.

And unfortunately, I'd say it
developed to be quite a bit of frustration with what's going on not even just in this particular case, but kind of as the precedent it sets for what I think this neighborhood, and the people who work with me, seem to believe this is best for us.

Q What was the --
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: I am going to object to this line of questioning, and I probably should have done it with Commissioner Bowles, but particularly with Commissioner Wood, you know.

When membership on the ABC Board turns over, it does not vitiate every decision and order of a prior ABC Board.

When membership on the D.C. Council turns over, it doesn't vitiate every resolution
and piece of legislation that prior D.C. Councils have passed. This testimony is irrelevant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule. I'm going to overrule the objection, sir.

The commissioner can testify, I think, in spite of the fact that he testified that as prior to him being a commissioner, he was at -he went to numerous meetings of the ANC where this issue was addressed. So, I'm going to overrule the objection.

Go ahead, Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Wood, the question was, what was the source of your frustration in connection with this application?

A Yeah. So, I think that actually is a good segue. My frustration was because I both as a resident and as -- at the time, as a candidate for an ANC position, it wasn't clear to me that this process was ongoing. It seems like it was pretty stagnant.

And even as $I$ was sworn in and became a commissioner, the only -- as far as I've been
able to tell in searching through my documents, the only communication I've had from another commissioner on anything intended to be transparent with this process was from Commissioner Bowles.

So, I had no idea what was going on and it was -- I was alarmed to see that this was still an ongoing matter, which is kind of what led me to try to inform myself better and to try to just, you know, as a commissioner that has, you know, I think, beyond 1C07, which is Commissioner Bowles's district, I have the second highest total of liquor licenses in my district, Adams Morgan.

So, you know, it would be
irresponsible for me not to understand both particular aspects of this case, but also just how it's developing in case something similar would happen in my district or elsewhere.

Q You sat through this hearing today?
$A \quad I$ have.
Q And although the protestant's case has not proceeded yet, you've heard the concerns that have been voiced and through the investigator's testimony as to their concerns and otherwise; is
that correct?
A Yeah. And I believe I even commented during public commentary at an ANC meeting, I definitely level with the concerns of any residents that if there is a threat of a lot of, you know, an establishment that has ownership that is not willing to take the neighbors' considerations to heart, you know, that's something that I think is legitimate.

But I think that I've seen the degree to which those concerns have been, you know, pushed and pushed and pushed is not only disparaging, but kind of contrary to at least what I was elected to do on my platform.

Q Got it. And have you found Mr. Hughes to be responsive in addressing those concerns, in your opinion?

A Yeah. I mean, he's been great. Honestly, I couldn't ask much more for -- I've met lots of business owners in this district and pretty globally just from my line of work and, yeah, pretty high standard. A high bar he sets in terms of just being communicative, being nice, treating you as a person as opposed to a potential enemy.

MR. KLINE: All right. I have no further questions of this witness at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any questions of Mr. Wood?

MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Thank you.

## CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Commissioner, ANC 1C has three committees, right?

A It currently does as far as I know, yes.

Q Yes. And do you serve on the $A B C$ and Public Safety Committee?

A I do not.
Q So, in your three months on the ANC or, for that matter, in whatever previous period of time that you lived in Adams Morgan, have you ever participated in the filing of a protest petition on an ABC establishment?

A Not directly, no.
Q Have you ever participated in a mediation session?

A I have not.
Q Have you ever participated in
settlement negotiations on an ABC establishment?
A I have not.
Q Have you ever actually negotiated a settlement agreement?

A In ANC 1C, no, I have not.
Q Have you ever got to prepare for and participate in a hearing like the one we're having today?

A I -- specifically for ABRA?
Q Yeah.
A No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what was your answer, sir? I didn't hear.

MR. WOOD: I said -- I asked -- I commented that if he was referring to specifically ABRA testimony, this is my first time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Do you have any idea how many settlement agreements had been reached in Adams Morgan over, say, the last ten years?

MR. KLINE: Objection. Objection. Relevance. This notion that a settlement
agreement is the holy grail I would strenuously object to, and it shouldn't be a mark of a good business or a bad business as to whether somebody entered into a settlement agreement.

MR. ROTH: I'm asking --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. I'm going to overrule the objection.

The question was that -- is he aware of how many settlement agreements were -- and the witness can testify yes or no. At least that's the question that's asked.

MR. WOOD: In terms of the specific number, $I$ don't, but $I$ do know that it's fairly common, which is particularly why I became more and more interested and informed myself in this case because $I$ know that a lot of the settlement agreements that $I$ 've paid attention to did not go to this end to make things -- matters incredibly difficult for the applicant.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q All right. Do you know how many protests have been filed over the last ten years in Adams Morgan?

A In terms of numbers, I don't know. If
you can point me to the database to look that up, I'd be happy to.

Q So, when you describe your frustration with the stagnation of the process, your frustration is based upon a complete absence of knowledge apparently about the way the ABC process works, from what $I$--

A I would disagree. I didn't say that I was frustrated with the stagnation. I was frustrated that a period of stagnation that $I$ perceived to be the closure of this process turned out to be a period of silence from what are now my -- or what is now a fellow commissioner of mine who was communicating in absolutely no way and had, on multiple occasions, based, you know, on a person-to-person level, said that they were the sole representative that was voted to represent the ANC, but they had not communicated to the other commissioners, at least myself, what, you know, the ongoings of this proceeding was.

So, I took it in good faith to mean that there as nothing to report. And after doing more investigation, $I$ learned that was quite far from the truth.

So, I found that very frustrating because, you know, I know Adams Morgan to be a neighborhood with a lot of transparency and a lot of good faith. So, I was taken aback to see that wasn't happening.

Q In the three months of time in which you are not a member of the relevant committee. Okay. I'll take that for answer.

At any time in the last three months since you joined the ANC, have you ever walked over to 1812 Vernon Street next door at the Carswell, since you took the tour of 1806, and tried talking to any of the protestants in the Carswell Condominium next door about their concerns regarding this proposed establishment?

A I would say that $I$ have not done that to almost anyone because there is currently a public health emergency. So, I've actually been avoiding in-person contact.

Although, $I$ do have a pretty extensive email list of people that $I$ always have an open door to and every week I have quite a few conversations with residents.

Q But you've never actually communicated with anyone as a protestant in this case?

A I mean, I don't know. I talk to so many people. I don't know who is and who is not. But in terms of --

Q You've never spoke to them about this case?

A I have spoken to many constituents, but I usually keep my --

Q Commissioner Wood --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, can you please allow him to answer the question, sir?

MR. ROTH: Well, he's evading answering and that's why I'm --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, please. You have asked him a question and he's giving you an answer -- hold on, Mr. Wood.

Mr. Roth, you have asked him a question. He's answering the question to the best of his ability, sir.

Can you just please give him a chance to answer the question? Do you have another question you want to ask him, sir?

MR. ROTH: Yeah.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Have you ever asked your colleague, Commissioner Irani, for the names, email
addresses or phone numbers of any of the protestants so you could contact them to talk to them about this case?

A No. I actually was very particularly opposed to that idea because as soon as I became more privy to the details of this, I noticed that Mr. Irani became remarkably defensive any time anyone questioned his proceedings on the matter. So, $I$ did not feel comfortable doing so.

Q I see. Okay. There are eight members of the ANC; is that correct?

A ANC 1C, correct.
Q Okay. And there are two of those eight members testifying here today for the applicant; is that correct?

A As far as I've seen. When you say "members," I think you mean commissioners.

Q Commissioners. Okay.
MR. ROTH: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you.
Mr. Wood, how many ANC meetings have the commissioners -- you've been a commissioner since when?

MR. WOOD: I mean, just this year.

So, about three months. Since January 2nd.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How many
meetings has the Commission had since you've been an ANC commissioner?

MR. WOOD: Let's see. I've been a part of -- formerly as a commissioner --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. No. No.
No. No. No. No. Since you've been sworn in, how many meetings has ANC 1C had since you've been sworn in?

MR. WOOD: Are you talking about general meetings or is that including committee meetings as well?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean ANC public meetings. How many public -- the only meetings -- it's my understanding that the ANC Commission, the only meetings are public meetings.

So, how many public meetings has ANC 1C had?

MR. WOOD: Okay. So, if we're including committee, that's 12 public meetings.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Since you have been sworn in?

MR. WOOD: There have been three that
are the general entire ANC, which is the first Wednesday of every month in 1C.

And then the subsequent three Wednesdays are for the three committees and I'm pretty sure I've attended the vast majority of those, if not all of those.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. WOOD: And the general ANC, I've been to all of those.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, it's my understanding that you're saying that of the eight commissioners, that six of the commissioners are new; is that correct?

MR. WOOD: Six of the eight sworn for the first time January 2nd, to the best of my knowledge.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, when did you know that there was a protest for this case?

MR. WOOD: To the best of my knowledge, I think it was last August-ish. I'm not exactly sure on the specific date or anything, but I know that I was in (inaudible) at the August 2020 ANC 1C meeting specifically on this matter, but that was when I was just a resident.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, since you
have been sworn in as a commissioner in January, has the ANC had an opportunity with the new commissioners to revisit this issue?

Has it been discussed -- I mean, has it been discussed, as an ANC, whether or not they should continue to protest this application?

MR. WOOD: No. We've met multiple times. That's why I mentioned the stagnation being -- developing into frustration because I have no reason to know that there was still a matter at hand especially because Commissioner Irani said he had been in charge of that.

And we multiple times met all of the commissioners to make sure we're on the same page on matters going forward and this matter was never brought up.

And the only email I ever received, at least to the best of my knowledge, on this account is, you know, the $1 \mathbf{1 C 0 3}$ account was, you know, under control with my predecessor, but I've only found one email from Commissioner Irani on this matter, which was specifically replying to the applicant trying to correct some points that he made, but it never went into any detail or (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on, Mr. Wood. You froze for a minute.

MR. WOOD: Sorry about that.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I don't know what happened. You froze. I don't know -- you were speaking and your screen was frozen.

MR. WOOD: Are we better now? How's this?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. WOOD: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you had stopped in midstream. So, I don't know what you were saying.

MR. WOOD: Okay. I'll go back.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: At no time did Commissioner Irani - and then --

MR. WOOD: Yeah.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you froze.
MR. WOOD: So, I mean, he never got into direct contact with commissioners to address this issue, which is why $I$ never thought it was something to ask about.

And then $I$ did see that there seems to be some sort of disagreement regarding a committee meeting that was going to discuss the
matter, but not vote on it.
And then $I$ kind of started to learn more and $I$ realized that there was an attempt to, from the best of my knowledge, to dismiss the entire application, which was completely unexpected to me, and $I$ just tried to get some grasp of what was going on because no one had communicated this to me in any capacity.

And as someone that's one of the eight votes on ANC matters, $I$ thought that was important for me and the other seven people to have some grasp of the matter at hand.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Who's the chair of the ANC? Who's the chair of the ANC?

MR. WOOD: It's currently Commissioner Irani (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All right.
Thank you. All right. Any other questions by any of the Board Members?
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any questions of the witness based on the questions $I$ asked?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: I have no further
questions. Thank you, Mr. Wood.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Wood. Thank you very much for your testimony today.

All right. Do you rest, Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: Just some housekeeping. Formally move Applicant's Exhibits 2, 11, 12 and 13, and Protestant's Exhibits 10 and 11, both of which were previously identified and discussed. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Kline, $I$ don't see how you can move a protestant document in evidence. It's not your document. MR. KLINE: Our PIFF specifically identified that we reserve the right to use any protestant's documents and the document was identified. So, we're moving it into evidence. It's not proprietary.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, sir. MR. KLINE: I said, it's not proprietary.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. You stated that you said your PIFF stated that you're going to rely on their documents or -- is that what you
stated?
MR. KLINE: Let me read it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just asking
a question. I'm not -- I'm just asking a question. All right. I'm just asking a question, sir.

MR. KLINE: In our exhibits we listed 14, and then we listed the investigator report, we listed any exhibit listed on protestant's PIFF.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. So, again, what documents, again, of the protestants, what documents are those?

MR. KLINE: 10 and 11.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any objection to the introduction of No. 2, No. 11 -- Petitioner's No. 2, No. 11, No. 12 and No. 13 being moved into evidence?
(Pause.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're on mute, sir.

MR. ROTH: You overruled my objection to 13.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, 2, 11, 12 I move without objection. And No. 13
is moved with the petitioner -- I'm sorry, the protestant objecting to 13, but I'm still allowing No. 13 into evidence.

And so, the petitioner wants to move No. 10 and 11 into evidence. Any objection to those two documents that -- your two documents to be moved?

MR. ROTH: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, we will move in Applicant's Exhibit No. 2, No. 11, No. 12, No. 13, and Protestant's No. 10 and No. 11. All right. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit Nos. 2, 11, 12, and 13 and Protestant Exhibit Nos. 10 and 11.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the applicant rest?

MR. KLINE: Yes. On that we rest.
Thank you.
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure I moved Protestant's Exhibit 41 when Commissioner Bowles was testifying.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What we'll do, Mr. Roth, why don't you have a list of all the
exhibits that you want to move in.
MR. ROTH: Um-hmm.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And at the end of the case you can then -- we can go through all the exhibits that you want to move into evidence.

So, you still have an opportunity at the end of the case to move that into evidence. Okay?

MR. ROTH: Okay. All right.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm going to do is that I'm going to have Commissioner Irani testify. And once he testifies, then we'll take a short break before I have you, Mr. Roth, testify. Okay?

So, we'll probably go off the record for maybe about ten minutes or so after Commissioner Irani testifies. Okay?

MR. WOOD: Would you mind if I took a 10-minute break right now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani, you want to take a -- I thought -- you weren't on camera. I thought you were taking a break.

MR. WOOD: I was listening intently to my fellow commissioners. That's why I didn't get up.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. No. That's why I was saying that was your break. You were off camera. So, when you're off camera, then you're on break.

All right. It's 4:16. We will be off -- we'll take a five-minute break. It's 4:17. 4:25 we'll come back on. We'll take a break until 4:25. Okay?

MR. WOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at $4: 16 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and resumed at 4:25 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need all commissioners to please upload their cameras please. Thank you. Commissioner Irani, can you

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Tell me.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I feel that you have a guest in the room. Is that person going to testify also, sir?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: He's always here to testify. Hopefully he'll stay quiet at this time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, you know.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: I did take a few minutes to take him out so to make sure. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine. You know, we have to create some levity when we're here so I just have to say that. All right, so you're just going to make a statement/testify and you are aware that you will be subject to cross examination by Mr. Kline and also by Mr. Roth, if he so desires. Are you clear with that?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I am. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that whatever witnesses that you would call, that Mr. Roth would call witnesses on your behalf, is that correct?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: That's correct. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so can you raise your right hand then please? Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so go ahead.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Okay, so I have written testimony. Mr. Chairman and members of the board, my name is Amir Irani. I'm chairperson of ANC 1C.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you to spell your name again for the record, please, okay?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: My name is Amir Irani, spelled A-M-I-R I-R-A-N-I.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead. COMMISSIONER IRANI: I'm the chairperson of ANC 1C, which is the Adams Morgan ANC. I'm also the commissioner for Single Member District IC01, which is the single member district where the establishment is located. So, I am personally very familiar with the area being discussed today. I've been a resident in this SMD for the past 11 years. I was also chairperson last summer when our ANC considered and voted on the protest resolution in the record before you.

I'm here today to present the ANC's views on this case. Protestant's Exhibit 38 contains the minutes of our ANC's August 5, 2020 meeting, at which this application was
considered. After hearing from members of the community and the Applicant's counsel, and after extensive discussion among the commissioners, the ANC voted 6 to 1 to protest this application. The grounds for our protest were the following. An adverse impact on the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood, residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety, real property values, substantial adverse impact on residents in the adjacent residential district contrary to the requirement of DC Code Section 25-314C and finally excessive over concentration of tavern licenses contrary to the provisions of the Adams Morgan moratorium zone.

Chairman Anderson, $I$ ask that
Protestant's Exhibit 38 be made a part of the record.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And all right, that's already in the Board's--I'm sorry is that in the case report that was done by the our own investigator?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: The minutes were there. They were also --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's already in the record. I mean it's already in the record, I
don't need to-it was part of the documents I see that were identified earlier by Mr. Puente, so it's already in the record.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Okay. This ANC vote followed a meeting of the ANC's ABC and Public Safety Committee on July 8, 2020, where Mr. Hughes and his counsel were invited to present their plans and respond to questions and concerns from the community. Due to the public health emergency, that meeting was conducted over Zoom as well as all of our ANC meetings and committee meetings have been conducted over Zoom for the past year during the public health emergency.

In my more than four years on the ANC, my first meeting was on January 1, 2017. I have never seen an ABC application in all of Adams Morgan, much less my SMD, attract this much attention from individual residents and to me, the reason is obvious. No one has ever attempted to locate a bar on the interior of a residential side street. This is, as has been pointed out, a few lots in from 18th Street.

If you look at the list of the 31 ABC establishments in Investigator Puente's report,
you'll see that almost all of them within the 1200 foot section relevant to this case are located on 18th Street or on the outer edges of $U$ Street. There are also two hotels on Connecticut Avenue. In one case, there's a liquor store on the ground floor of an office building on Florida Avenue, near Connecticut Avenue, and there are two CRs in the heart of the busy intersection at question, but I'll talk about those later.

No one has ever attempted to turn a rowhouse on a side street into a tavern immediately abutting the RA2 residential zone that's predominant here. At that July ABC Committee meeting, Mr. Hughes described his business plan. He shared with the ANC and the community many, if not all, of the drawings or renderings that he introduced here today as his Exhibit Two.

You'll note that all of the exterior drawings focus on his vision of the Florida Avenue side of the building, which Mr. Hughes emphasized that night was where he intended to focus the attention of his future customers. Not one of these drawings show the Vernon Street facade.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have to object. We have a written argument that's being read. I am baffled as to how I'm supposed to respond and cross examine what is in essence a closing or opening argument.

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chair, you're muted.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is one of the unfortunate things that $I$ do when I try to mute myself so there is no background noise, I apologize.

As I've stated, Mr. Kline, at the beginning of the proceeding it was clear that Commissioner Irani would be making a statement. That was clear at the beginning of the proceeding. It was also clear at the beginning of this presentation that he was going to make a statement and that it would be subjected to cross examination. So, sir, that's the agreement that we had from the beginning of the hearing. There's no surprise to anyone and so, therefore, I will allow him to go through his testimony, his statement and you will be allowed to vigorously cross examine everything that he has stated, sir, okay? So, let's move on. Go ahead, Commissioner Irani.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In fact, Mr. Hughes made a point of saying that he didn't want Vernon Street to become commercialized and that doing so would actually detract from his speakeasy concept. It soon became evident from these renderings that Mr. Hughes's actual plans for alcohol service were so complex that it was difficult to envision this operation being appropriate for this location.

While he wants you and us to focus on his second floor speakeasy, it's also obvious that the café in the basement is more than just a coffee counter as it has been described. It will also be a bar, which can be entered and exited from both the Vernon Street and Florida Avenue sides of the building. Based on the hours of operation the Applicant has requested, it could operate from 8 a.m. until 2 a.m. weeknights and 8 a.m. until 3 a.m. weekends with patrons milling about and talking outside residences' bedroom windows until the wee hours of the morning, on both the Florida Avenue and Vernon Street sides of the building. Judging by Protestants' Exhibit 27, part of the floor plans approved by DCRA, one
major attraction of the barber shop planned for the basement, will be the ability to get a drink before, during, after a haircut and similarly the plan for a retail space in the same basement, presumably has customers strolling around with drinks in hand while shopping. Chair Anderson, I ask that Protestants' Exhibit 27 be made a part of the record.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is
Protestant Exhibit 27?
COMMISSIONER IRANI: It is the first floor construction plan.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that part of

COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was a part of the exhibits that we all have jointly filed in our PIF.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I can ask Ms. Andrews to give you the ability to share your screen because $I$ don't know what it is.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Sure, sure, okay. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Ms.

Andrews, can you please give Commissioner Irani the ability to share his screen, please, and then can you please bring up Protestant Exhibit No.

27?
MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, Protestant No. 27, yes.

MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Irani, you can share your screen now.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Great, thank you.
Am I? Is anything showing right now on the screen?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: No?
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, would it help if I shared it from mine 'cause I seem to have been able to pull up those exhibits pretty easily?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you're able to and Ms. Andrews can give you that opportunity, that's fine.

MS. ANDREWS: Okay, sure. Stand by.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you can share your screen now.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're looking at No. 27.

MR. ROTH: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you
identify what is Exhibit 27, please?
COMMISSIONER IRANI: So that's the construction plan for the basement level, where you see the barber shop and the coffee counter.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold up. Mr. Kline, do you have any objection to No. 27?

MR. KLINE: I do not.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And since it's your exhibit also, Mr. Roth, I'm assuming that you do not have any objection, is that correct?

MR. ROTH: Correct, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Protestant Exhibit No. 27 without objection has been admitted. Go ahead, Mr. Irani.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 27 for identification and received into evidence.)

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. The

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close the screen, but you'll still have the opportunity to share.

MR. ROTH: Okay.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: And so, will it
be okay if when there are other exhibits to present, will it be okay for Mr. Roth to present those? To put them on his screen?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, just
identify the numbers and I'll ask Mr. Roth if he so pleases to bring them up.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Okay. Thank you. The Applicant has also requested a summer garden with occupancy of 30 in his Florida Avenue facing rear yard. Regardless of what that would involve, occupancy by 30 patrons or 13, this summer garden would sit right beneath the windows of current residents who have lived there for years without bar patrons talking to each other or congregating for happy hours after work or hanging out in the late night or early morning hours, getting a smoke break between drinks. Moreover, it's ironic that the single most logical place the Applicant could have used to store trash and recycling from a speakeasy, a café, a barber shop, a retail space would have been mainly his own back yard on its own private property, but that would instead be turned into a summer garden, making that an 19-hour a day nuisance for neighbors. I'll come back to the
trash issue in a bit.
At the time that the ANC voted to protest this establishment, there was, at best, a lack of clarity as to what Mr. Hughes's actual plans were for exiting speakeasy customers. That in itself was a concern for neighbors on both the front and rear of his building. It has since become evident that he plans to discharge his speakeasy patrons onto quiet residential Vernon Street, even at 2 and $3 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. in the morning. Time and experience tells us that in addition to hanging out in front 1806 Vernon Street after exiting, many patrons will also be calling Ubers and Lyfts to that location right next door to and across the street from sleeping residents. Protestant Exhibits 11 and 15 show just how close these residents would be to the Applicant's front door. Mr. Roth, if you don't mind, would you show Exhibits 11 and 15 ?

MR. ROTH: (Inaudible.)
COMMISSIONER IRANI: That yellow building is the Applicant's building?

MR. ROTH: And --
COMMISSIONER IRANI: And 15. And that's immediately across the street. Those are
all residential buildings and the white townhome is actually a protestant on the matter that's Protestant Laurie Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Roth. I do have another one coming up in a second, so, if you could just keep that up.

I don't mean to suggest that exiting onto Florida Avenue instead of Vernon at those late hours would be preferred by the condo residents who live right above the rear yard. Protestants' Exhibit 12, if you don't mind, Mr. Roth, showing that. It's a photograph showing the Florida side of these two buildings and this picture is comparable to Investigator Puente's Exhibits 11 and 12. These photos show how a stream of inebriated patrons coming out onto Florida Avenue at 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., but potentially hanging out in the proposed summer garden, would be very disruptive to the sleep of those residents on the Florida Avenue side. Those windows on the brown brick building, those are all the condos of The Carswell. Chairman Anderson, $I$ ask that Protestant's Exhibit 11, 12 and 15, the pictures I just showed, be admitted into evidence. Is that necessary for me to do that?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: No objection and indeed 11 is already in.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right so without objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were marked as Protestant Exhibit Nos. 12 and 15 for identification and received into evidence.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's always necessary, Mr. Irani, because although they're in your PIF, unless they're introduced into evidence, then they're not brought from the evidence unless they are moved into evidence, sir.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Understood. Thanks for that.

Together, these photos tell you that this is simply an inappropriate location for an establishment of this nature and complexity. Last August when the ANC voted to protest the application, at least one commissioner, who began our ANC meeting seemingly favorably disposed to the application, actually changed her mind after listening to the discussion. And she voted to
protest the application, saying herself that she wouldn't want to live right next door to such an establishment.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to renew my objection. I'm sorry, I know it's going to be overruled, but this is far afield from any ABC hearing process that I have been involved in in my almost 40 years of doing this, where we have someone up here just simply making argument with, I don't even known what, I don't even know what to say. I mean this is, this is inherently unfair and I'm renewing my objection for the record.

## CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I

 appreciate your objection, Mr. Kline, and for the record, your objection, I'm overruling your objection. Since we have been doing these virtual hearings, Commissioner Irani is not the first ANC representative who has read a statement and his PIF (inaudible) statement has been subject to cross examination by the parties. In a protest hearing that we had last week, it was the same procedure that was followed and as I stated again, Mr. Kline, at the beginning of these proceedings, this is what all the partiesagreed was going to occur, so --
MR. KLINE: We never agreed that was going to occur. I didn't agree. I objected. So, I want to be clear for the record, we did not agree that that was what was going to occur.

MR. ROTH: I did.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You objected and what was--well, I guess that was at 10 o'clock this morning.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize.
MR. KLINE: You said that that was the way it was going to go and I respect the Board's decision, although I don't agree with it. This is not a zoning hearing where we let anything in, but the kitchen sink. This is a contested case, due process hearing. There are no questions. I have no opportunity to object to what testimony is being elicited. We have a written statement that is in essence an argument rather than a statement and the Applicant is being put at a severe disadvantage.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your objection is noted, Mr. Kline, and I'm overruling your objection and, again, you have an opportunity to
cross examine Mr. Irani on everything in the statement that he's making. All right.

MR. KLINE: I understand.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Irani.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My comments thus far have focused primarily on peace, order and quiet issues, including concerns about noise, trash and litter, but please permit me to make one related point before moving on to other issues.

Throughout this process, the Applicant was very hazy about where he planned to place both his trash and the sidewalk café he had been planning. I'm glad to hear that the Applicant is not applying for a sidewalk café because, as you can see from Protestant's Exhibit 8, Mr. Roth, if you'd be so obliged, Exhibit 8, which shows the sidewalk on the south side of Vernon Street including the front of the Applicant's establishment.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 8 for identification.)

There would be very little room for
tables and chairs there without obstructing pedestrian passage of no less than 10 feet width at all points. Similarly, as you can you see from Protestant's Exhibit 10, which shows the Florida Avenue sidewalk in front of where the summer garden is proposed, there is equally little space.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 10 for identification.)

For a time, we thought he might want to use the tiny front yard on the Vernon Street side for his so called sidewalk café, but you can see that area prior to the commencement of the renovation that he recently started in Protestant's Exhibit 9.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 9 for identification.)

I'm glad that that's not the case. It's only just within the last few days this picture is different than what it looks like right now because just within the last few days the Applicant's contractor has begun laying out rebar and $2 \times 4$ 's for the front yard for the
purpose that, up until today, was unknown to me. Actually we have a picture of that, that's Protestant's Exhibit 48.

Back in July, thank you, Mr. Roth, during discussions with the community at our ABC Committee meeting, Mr. Hughes reiterated a request he had previously made to the residences of the Carswell Condos to share their dumpster area. A request those residents had made clear through their silence that they weren't willing to entertain. In lieu of that, he told the community he planned to store the entire building's trash and recycling in a secure storage closet under the front steps, but that location is no longer available because during construction, that space has now been completely taken up by the placement of the building's utility meters. Because he wants to turn his entire rear yard into a summer garden, there'd be no place for trash or recycling there. If the proposed speakeasy, café, barber shop, retail space, office and apartment only have a single small space for trash and recycling on that tiny patch of front yard, which was in Exhibit 48, this will be a rat and rodent heaven and it could
be even worse if you put dirt and other landscaping planting around it. We've had that problem at Lucky Buns at the corner of 18th and Vernon.

Protestant's Exhibit 32, Mr. Roth?
Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 32 for identification.)

MR. ROTH: Sorry.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: I think this came up previously, Protestant's Exhibit 32. This is the DC surveyor's plat showing that the front yard of this property is located in public space and leaving empty bottles, cans and recycling materials, like cartons and crates, is a public space violation of--leaving that on the public space is a violation of 24 DCM, Section 111.3. If the Applicant ever plans to place a sidewalk café adjacent to it, or even on the sidewalk, so that would also violate 24 DCMR, Sections 314.9 and 314.10. I recognize that DDOT, not the ABC Board, is responsible for issuing sidewalk café permits and that DW and the Health Department are responsible for managing trash collection and
health issues, but the ABC Board has the authority and is responsible for deciding whether it is appropriate to allow people to drink in such an environment and deciding at the outset, before a license is issued or transferred to a new location, whether that location is appropriate.

On December 4, 2019, at an ABC Board hearing regarding Lucky Buns, an establishment located on the corner of 18th and Vernon Street, it did become apparent how rats can become rife in a community when an establishment's trash situation is permitted to get out of control.

MR. KLINE: Objection and move to strike.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule your objection, but I know you have a standing objection, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Right, but I mean to preserve the record I feel that I have to move to strike with respect to testimony that is completely inappropriate and under normal circumstances would not be allowed by this Board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board will take it for whatever it's worth, Mr. Kline. Go
ahead, Mr. Irani.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. In that situation, the damage was already done because the establishment had long been in operation, but you can help nip this in the bud today by not allowing it to start.

The inappropriate trash plan that is being proposed at this establishment is just another example of how the Applicant's establishment is not appropriate for this location.

Chair Anderson, I ask that Protestant's Exhibits 8, 9, 10 and 32 be entered into evidence. These are the ones that I just pulled up.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you said 8, 9, 10 and 32?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? Any objections to Protestant's 8, 9, 10 and 32?

MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as

Protestant Exhibit Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 32.)
COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. ANC's resolution also anticipated an adverse impact on residential parking needs and on vehicular and pedestrian safety. It's well known that parking in Adams Morgan is constrained even on the best of days. On weekend nights, parking is almost impossible. Investigator Puente's report on pages 10 and 11 confirms that when he visited on various days and times, there was and I quote, "not much parking available." Even when post COVID enforcement looms, it's difficult to find a metered spot when it's past time to feed the meter. The application states that the establishment is accessible via Metro and bus, but if Mr. Hughes's description of the establishment as upscale to Investigator Puente was correct, then I presume many patrons will be taking Uber, Lyft or circling the neighborhood looking for a place to park their cars, because I doubt patrons will be taking Metro which doesn't run after midnight, much less taking the bus, which also has very limited late night service there.

That brings us back to Vernon Street.

I ask that you examine Protestant's Exhibit 36A.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 36A.)

Thank you, Mr. Roth. That's a resolution that was unanimously adopted by our ANC on January 8, 2020, asking DDOT to conduct a traffic study of the intersection of Florida Avenue and 18th Street and U Street NW. The very intersection into which Vernon Street directly flows into also. You can see that at the bottom of page 1 there, there are a couple of references to Vernon Street and on page 2, there's an entire section devoted to Vernon Street. The ANC asked DDOT to take 30 different actions to make Vernon Street and that entire intersection better and safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike. Protestant's Exhibit 36 is the minutes of the meeting at which this resolution was adopted.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 36 for identification.)

Chairman Anderson, I ask that these exhibits, 36 and $36 A$, be accepted into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: We object. We don't see where they're relevant and these are ANC actions. They're not evidence of anything other than evidence of the action of the ANC. That doesn't mean the action is well founded. It's bootstrap in terms of this is what we think and this is what we think needs to be studied, which is fine. The ANC certainly has the authority to do that, but in terms of that being used as an exhibit, as evidence of something, we believe it's completely inappropriate and we object to its admittance.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Can I say something to that?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Irani.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: One of the grounds of protest is vehicular and pedestrian safety. This is the intersection and this is the street that I'm showing a resolution and the minutes related to that resolution where we, as an ANC, call out how that intersection, and how that street, need improvement and the issues that are there regarding vehicular and pedestrian safety, which is also grounds for this protest.

MR. KLINE: Right, except the ANC is not qualified to make that finding so it's
completely irrelevant in terms of what they found. They can certainly raise the issues and have the issues studied by an appropriate body with expertise, but bootstrapping and saying--and look at the timing of the report as well--but bootstrapping and saying that this is somehow evidence that there's an issue here, is inappropriate.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: It's a concern of the community is what it shows. How about that?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: To suggest that this is not relevant is just completely mistaken. It's relevant from the standpoint of both the ANC, which is entitled to great weight, and from the standpoint of consideration--the Board is entitled to give it whatever weight it wants to give, but the ANC's opinion is entitled to great weight and if the ANC passed a resolution after giving this considerable study, which they did, passed a resolution that has 30 different recommendations, I think the Board is entitled to give it that consideration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
overrule the objection. I'm going to allow it in. The ANC has contested this license, the impact on vehicle traffic and the ANC, this is a resolution where they're asking DDOT, they're saying that there is a significant traffic issue already existing, so this is just a resolution that they're providing to DDOT asking for some changes to be made. I believe that it's relevant to the area that this establishment is asking for us to provide a liquor license. Therefore, I'm going to overrule the objection and allow this document to be accepted. The Board will give it the weight, that's the appropriate weight that the Board so decides, that it should be given. So, I'm going to overrule the objection. I'm going to allow 36 and 36A in the record. Let's move on, all right.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit Nos. 36 and 36A.)

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. I mean, you know, you don't need a unanimous vote at the ANC. I could pull up data and actually have the data in front of me, though we had a unanimous vote on that resolution, you don't need
that to know that the intersection in question is a mess of safety and traffic concerns. According to data from DDOT's Vision Zero initiative, during my time on our ANC, inside this intersection or within 50 feet of it, there have been a significant number of vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist conflicts resulting in, and this is DDOT's data, three recorded injuries to pedestrians, four recorded injuries to cyclists and 14 recorded injuries to drivers and/or passengers. Thus far, nothing has been done to address these safety problems and now the Applicant would add to that list of safety, delivery and traffic issues at the intersection by having inebriated patrons exit at closing time onto Vernon Street. Patrons will also call Ubers and Lyfts, which will then stack up on quiet, narrow, one-way Vernon Street while waiting for a short-timed light. That signal turns into the clogged intersection in question, which is not equipped to handle more than a couple of right turns at a time, meanwhile as other cars start leaving the neighborhood, they find themselves stuck behind a line of Ubers and Lyfts, horns will start honking, people will get impatient,
waking up residents, whose bedrooms face Vernon Street.

When the council put Section 250-314C in the statute requiring especially close scrutiny of applications where proposed establishment would impose a substantial adverse impact on residents in the adjacent residential district, it's very difficult to imagine that the council didn't have a case like this in mind.

MR. KLINE: Objection. He's now arguing law.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani --
COMMISSIONER IRANI: I have one paragraph left, that's it. It's very--not but 10 seconds.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, go ahead, sir. I hear you, Mr. Kline, and as you know, these proceedings are not as formalistic as they are in court and so therefore I'm giving some deference in moving this along, sir. Okay?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I won't dwell on any of the other two protest grounds, except to say that Investigator Puente's report indicates that there are 31 other ABC establishments within a 1200 foot radius of
this one and that certainly seems like an overconcentration as to the impact on real property values. We had hoped to have some expert testimony on that, but perhaps some of the protestants will speak to it. Given limitations on our time and budget, we focused our resources on a transportation expert instead for the reasons I just mentioned.

In short, in summary, we very strongly believe that this is not an appropriate location for this establishment. Thank you very much for your patience and kind consideration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Irani. Mr. Roth, do you have any questions that you want to ask Mr. Irani?

MR. ROTH: I do not. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, any questions you want to ask?

MR. KLINE: Yeah, we do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir. CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Irani, you talked about your concern that patrons of the establishment at the barber shop level would have the ability to get a
drink before or after a haircut or while they're shopping. You mentioned that as a concern, correct?

A I mentioned that, I don't think I called it a concern.

Q Well is it a concern or is it not a concern?

A The concern is the patrons milling about and talking outside residents' bedroom windows until the late hours.

Q Right, but you specifically referenced the first floor of the establishment not being innocuous because patrons would have the ability before or after a haircut to get a drink, wasn't that part of your statement?

A I didn't call that specific part a concern, I said that they would have the ability to get a drink before, after, during a haircut.

Q Right, but people don't typically get their hair cut after about 9 o'clock at night, do they?

A I'm not sure what the Applicant's business plan is for that first level, which is why I included that, but which is also why I specified that the --

Q Can you please just answer my question, which is to your knowledge, do people typically get haircuts after 9 o'clock at night?

A I don't get my hair cut after 9 o'clock at night --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q But you don't hold any knowledge on this topic?

A I don't have that knowledge, no.
Q Oh.
A But typically I think that's a fair thing to say.

Q And, in fact, in terms of shoppers being there for the most part people aren't engaged in too much retail activity, except online, after 9 o'clock at night, are they?

A Sure, I can say, I mean you could have a late night sale so, again, typically I don't do a lot of shopping in retail establishments, I pretty much buy everything online.

Q Okay. Now, you mentioned that there was--you seemed to speak to a lot of people who are opposed to the application. Did you hear from anyone who supported the application?
$A \quad$ The vast majority of people that I've
heard from are opposed to the application. I have heard from at least one person in support of it, correct.

Q Right. And isn't it usually true that the people that you hear from are the people that are opposed to something. Isn't that your experience as an ANC Commissioner and ANC Chair?

A No, not at all.
Q No? So you dispute that human nature that I think most of us are aware of that people tend to come out when they're against rather than support, you don't think that's a phenomenon?

A I think people come out both when they're against something. I mean my experience on the ANC has been that people come out when they're against something and people come out when they're for something, which leads to a lively discussion.

Q The process that you talked about in terms of engaging with the Applicant, did other commissioners participate in this process?

A Yes.
Q Who were the other commissioners that participated?

A The other commissioners were all at
the ANC meeting on August 5th.
Q Well, all of you, however, were appointed as representatives of the ANC in connection with this protest, according to the resolution, weren't you?

A I'm sorry?
Q Your resolution where representatives were appointed on behalf of the ANC, all of you were designated as representatives, weren't you?

MR. ROTH: Objection, Mr. Chairman. That's a misconstruction of the ANC resolution and Mr. Kline is trying now to do exactly what he objected to before, which is misstating the law and misstating what the resolution said.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. KLINE: We (inaudible) I've asked the question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't have the document in front of me and --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on, please, hold on, please. I'm going to overrule the objection and the reason why, Mr . Irani, he's Chairman of the ANC. When a resolution comes to at least the ABC Board it
designates who can, and so Mr. Irani can, ask the question as a chairman as he is the only person who's designated as a person or are the other ANC representatives have they been designated to represent the ANC at an ABC. I mean I think I that's a question that the Chair should be able to answer.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Chair is the one who signs the resolution so I'm going to overrule the objection, so answer the question, sir, if you can.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: ANC-1C, it's typical in our resolutions that they have a line saying, sorry

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani, can you please mute your phone, please? Put your phone on silent because you're going to be testifying for a while. Please put your phone on silent, sir. Go ahead, sir.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Sorry for that. ANC-1C in its resolutions authorizes any commissioner to act on behalf of the commission in proceedings in front of district agencies, boards, and in this particular one, we did have a
line saying ANC-1C authorizes any commissioner to act on behalf of the commission in the proceedings of this protest.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Excuse me, Mr. Irani, I'm sorry to smile and I hope the public realized that I am smiling because you have someone behind you who's acting up, so that's why I'm smiling. I'm not smiling because I'm not taking your testimony seriously, but I'm smiling because of the action of what is going on behind you. So, I do apologize to you, sir. I cannot, the other board members are able to keep their composure, but unfortunately I'm unable to do that so I do apologize, sir, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: No, no, no. No offense was taken. Yeah, there is a line, I hope that answers the question.

## BY MR. KLINE:

Q Right, so $I$ could call it up, but in the interest of expediency perhaps I'll just read it. Protestant's Exhibit 36, which has already been accepted into evidence, states the motion also authorized any commissioner to act on behalf of ANC-1C in this matter. Do you disagree that that's what's in the minutes, 'cause if so, we'll
call it up.
A I believe that's what $I$ just said.
Q Okay. I think you said something about to appear before an agency and it's not unlimited in that way, is it?

A I read that exact word, I read that line.

Q All right. So, given that, I'm going to renew my question about other commissioners participating in this process on behalf of the ANC. Do they so participate?

A So, it is the long held custom -
Q Just answer my question. I don't care about long held customs, we'll move a lot quicker if you just answer my question.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, can't Mr. Kline let the witness finish his answer in the same way that I was instructed to let witnesses finish their answers?

MR. KLINE: Not if it's not responsive to my question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, Mr. Kline, you asked a question and he's answering the question to the best of his ability. If you need him to answer yes or no, then you need to ask the
question in such a sense that he can only answer yes or no. You have asked him an open-ended question and he's answering the question to the best of his ability so, Mr. Irani, please answer the question; if not, Mr. Kline, withdraw the question.

MR. KLINE: It was a yes or no question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please rephrase the question. I'm sorry, please ask your question again, Mr. Kline, I apologize.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. Mr. Irani, did other commissioners participate in the process in considering this application outside of the ANC meetings?

A Yes.
Q Yes?
A Yes.
Q And then how did they participate?
A They inquired. Commissioner Bowles had also attempted a mediation.

Q And is your testimony that they were kept informed of what was going on in this process?

A So, is it my testimony--what was--can you repeat question?

Q My question is did you keep commissioners informed of what was going on?

MR. ROTH: Objection. Mr. Chairman, number one, this line of questioning is
irrelevant and number two, I'm not sure what Mr. Kline is driving at here in terms of the internal workings of the ANC and why this has anything to do with the decisions that the ABC Board has to make in this case.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. I think it is relevant I mean we did have two ANC commissioners who testified on behalf of the Applicant. Mr. Irani has given an extensive statement about the meetings that they have had, so he is opening himself up to rigorous cross examination, so I'm going to overrule the objection and so answer the question to the best of your ability, Mr. Irani.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: So, it's the custom of our ANC for the SMD commission or the chair or the chair of the ABC committee to represent the ANC in matters in general, but specifically this protest matter. I happen to be
both the SMD commissioner and the chair so I did represent the ANC in this matter.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Irani, isn't it true that the ANC was party to motions that were filed to dismiss the application?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the question.

MR. KLINE: Yes?
COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q And you authorized the ANC to participate and be a party to that information, correct?

A Yes, that's right.
Q There was no resolution passed by the ANC authorizing the ANC to be a party to that motion, was there?

A We resolved to protect the application and the procedures that we take to effectuate the protest. We do not bring to the ANC and have never brought to the ANC--I mean it would be very hard for us to take part in any of the district government proceedings if we had to go back for a vote, because we only meet once a month, for
every little procedural thing.
Q Mr. Irani, don't you typically protest these licenses and isn't it the understanding of most of the commissioners that you protest these licenses so that you can extract a settlement agreement?

A We usually and in every single application, and I've negotiated dozens of settlement agreements now, come to an agreement with Applicants.

Q So it's quite unusual to take the position that the application should be completely dismissed because typically the understanding when the application is protested is that you'll be seeking a settlement agreement, correct?

A No. As I was saying, we voted to protest. There was a motion to dismiss. We voted to protest based on, well the first time around, based on the Adams Morgan moratorium zone and we signed onto a motion to dismiss and that effectuated that protest because the building is in the Adams Morgan moratorium zone and that was ruled favorably by the ABC Board. I believe that's doing my duty as an ANC commissioner to
sign on and attend those hearings.
Q So you don't see any difference between a protest that seeks to enter into a settlement agreement to impose some conditions and one which seeks to completely deny an application. To you there's no difference?

A We seek to enter into settlement agreements with every Applicant, every single Applicant.

Q Well how can you enter --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr. Kline, can you let him finish?

MR. KLINE: Sure.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let him finish please.

MR. KLINE: Yeah, sorry.
COMMISSIONER IRANI: During those negotiations or as the ABRA process, as the ABC process unfolds, deadlines come up. I still will take actions to effectuate what the ANC has voted to do, which is to protest and while still, you know, trying to reach a settlement, which I have spent more time on this particular application trying to reach a settlement than any other,
probably by 10x.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q But how can you enter into a settlement agreement if the application's dismissed? Aren't those two mutually exclusive goals?

A Like I said, as the ABC process unfolds, different things come to light, different deadlines and we may file different procedural motions, but also it could before, it could be after these motions, try to enter into a settlement agreement which is exactly what happened here. Both before and after, we tried to enter into a settlement agreement before and after different motions.

Q But you agree dismissal of the application would negate the opportunity to enter into any settlement agreement, wouldn't it? There wouldn't be anything to settle, isn't that correct?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to renew my objection. The period of time that Mr. Kline is discussing is long past. There have been a long series of settlement discussions since the period of time that Chairman Irani
entered into or joined this motion to dismiss, which the Board denied. Other than trying to question Commissioner Irani's or Chairman Irani's bona fides as a commissioner and a chairman, I don't know what point Mr. Kline is trying to make.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I would -
MR. KLINE: If I may -
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You may answer, Mr. Kline, go ahead.

MR. KLINE: Yes. Mr. Irani is here. He purports to be a visser (phonetic), in my opinion based on -

MR. ROTH: I object --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. KLINE: May I finish, please?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, let Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Of the ANC, he reads a statement that's full of argument. The resolution that was passed, which I'm going to get to in a second, on January 8, 2020, specifically references that this protest was filed to try to negotiate a settlement agreement and then he goes rogue apparently, because you
didn't have any authority, and he says, well that's just the normal course. We seek to dismiss the application and when we've talked about entering into a settlement agreement. So, we also heard from two commissioners who very much questioned what's going on here so I think it's appropriate, particularly when we have Mr. Roth and Mr. Irani tendering that this ANC is entitled to great weight. So, I think these issues are important and need to be explored.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. I'm going to overrule the objection. Go ahead. I'm actually looking, go ahead, I'm looking at--

MR. KLINE: All right, I'm going to withdraw my last question and I'm going to ask you, Mr. Irani, isn't it true that your minutes that we were talking about before from January 8, 2020, Protestant's Exhibit 36, state, "Commissioner Guthrie (phonetic) explained that protesting the application would allow ANC-1C to be able to negotiate a settlement agreement with the owners" and then he proceeds to describe the basis for the protest. Isn't that what the protest was all about?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Could I ask you a question? Just want to get some clarification, Mr. Kline. Isn't there another ANC resolution that was done August 7, 2020?

MR. KLINE: Yeah, there are a number of them. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But wouldn't the resolution from August 7, 2020, since it was after January, wouldn't that be the relevant resolution that we're talking about?

MR. KLINE: Sure, but $I$ think what one has to look at here is the pattern and we had two ANC commissioners who $I$ concede were not commissioners at the time, who've complained about not being kept informed, not knowing what was going on. We also have a motion that was filed reportedly by the ANC to dismiss the application and that seems to be contrary to the spirit of what the ANC intended. And then we have the ANC here today joining in a PIF suggesting that the application should be completely denied.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess, just my confusion, $I$ don't understand why we're complaining about something that was done in

January when we have another resolution that was done subsequent to that, that was done. I think our time is better spent --

MR. KLINE: I'll move on.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On discussing the resolution that was done in August. I don't know why we're spending time on a resolution that was done in January of 2020 where we have another resolution by the ANC that was done in August of 2020, and so I--
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right, okay.
Thank you.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q I'll move on at this point. You talked about trash storage and you said that there was a request made by Mr. Hughes presumably to use the trash area, the dumpster, of the condominium, correct?

A Yes.
Q And you said that they made clear through their filings that that request was unacceptable, correct?

A I'm sorry, one more time.

Q You said that the condominium made clear through its filing that Mr. (inaudible) was denied.

A Correct, yes.
Q They didn't even think it was appropriate to respond to his request?

A I can't speak on the Carswell Condominiums' behalf there.

Q You don't find it odd that they never even responded to his request?

A I believe that they did have, except -- now I don't get into the negotiations of the settlement agreement, but there were discussions about the trash area and other things amongst protestants, so -- but what I was specifically referring to was in my statement, which seems to be what you are talking about was back in July, and at that time the -- Mr. Hughes had reiterated his request of wanting to put his trash in the Carswell Condominiums, which he didn't have an appetite for.

Q Okay. You had some very dramatic parts to your statement about Uber and Lyft vehicles stacked up, and the unavailability of parking in the neighborhood. How many Uber and

Lyft vehicles do you think were going to be needed, and how many parking spaces do you think are going to be needed to service this tiny little establishment with 30 seats that we toured earlier today by video?

A If I just want to be direct and answer your question, $I$ don't know how many Uber and Lyft vehicles will be needed to service the establishment.

Q Okay, so you don't have any idea whether it is going to put any strain on Vernon Street, or on 18th Street, or on Florida Avenue, do you?

A I said in my statement was that we already have an issue as evidenced by the ANC resolution that was passed that was evidenced by the ANC resolution that was passed as evidenced by the three pedestrians that have had -- that have been hit by a car, the four cyclists that have been hit by a car, the 14 other injuries there that that intersection is a problem, and that the -- and that Vernon Street emptied into that intersection, and that Ubers and Lyfts coming down Vernon Street are going to exacerbate that problem.

Q Did you hear Mr. Hughes's testimony that it was his intention to make an effort to have those pick ups made on Florida Avenue and 18th Street?

A I did hear that's part of Mr. Hughes's testimony.

Q Okay, and do you -- do you not believe that he will make those efforts?

A I think what I was saying is not passing judgment on whether my belief of him making those efforts or not. I would hope that he does make efforts, but as $I$ was saying it is a very unsafe intersection even before I knew anything about the establishment and what was going on with Uber and Lyft and Mr. Hughes's plans for that building. In Florida it is even worse, I mean, Florida has very congested roads one way either direction. So I hope that he does make plans like that, but I don't know how effective those will be.

Q So we have an empty commercial building where this application has been filed for. At some point it is going to be occupied, correct?

A My understanding was that it was
occupied prior to Mr. Hughes finding the building. Perhaps not all the floors were occupied, but it wasn't completely vacant.

Q Right, but right now it is unoccupied, correct?

A Yes, that is right.
Q So when that building is occupied for some use, then presumably there are going to be some transportation needs, correct?

A There is ongoing transportation needs.
Q Is that yes, agreement with what I said?

A Yes, there are ongoing transportation needs.

Q Okay, and if it is a business other than an ABC licensed establishment you have little ability as an ANC to pressure or press the owner to take any steps to mitigate what the effects might be from another business there, isn't that correct?

A We have whatever avenues are available to us, but --

Q What are those in the absence of an ABC license.

A We have that resolution to try to
improve this intersection to DDOT's attention, right, to try to improve the situation, the safety situation. So that is one of the things that we can do, and we have done, to continue to push on it.

Q Improving the situation with the benefit of the residents on Vernon Street as well as the businesses on Vernon, wouldn't it?

A That is correct.
Q Assuming that this business is open, this would be one of the businesses that would be intended to benefit with these recommendations, correct?

A As would everyone, I would hope that everyone can stay safe.

Q Now, do you have any particular interests on Vernon Street? Do you own any property, or have any interests -- equity interests in any real estate on Vernon?

A I don't have an equity -- I have an equity interest in a business, but -- if that is what you are referring to.

Q What business is that?
A That is Unwind.
Q What does that business do?

A On the corner of 18th and Vernon in Florida.

Q What does Unwind do?
A That is a wellness center.
Q Given that what we have heard from the protestants, that an ABC license at this location is, and I will paraphrase, the worst idea in the world, don't you have a conflict of interest if that is your belief?

A I have never -- I don't -- maybe I am not understanding -- I don't believe I have a conflict of interest, and if you would like to rephrase your question you can go ahead.

Q Did you disclose to the ANC when these matters were being considered that you have a business on the corner, which is what, three doors down from this establishment?

A Like I said, I have an equity interest. I am not the operating partner in that business.

Q Okay, then I will rephrase my question. Did you disclose to the ANC that you have an equity interest in the business three doors down which might or might not be affected by an ABC license at this location?

A I did not disclose that $I$ have an equity interest in the business, because I don't believe that it was relevant to this. $I$ have an equity interest, not an operating partner in that business, and $I$ have had it for a hand full of years.

Q Well, if you have an equity interest, if the business does well you do better, and if it does worse you do worse, correct?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, objection, that is asked and answered. I mean, it is ridiculous.

MR. KLINE: I will move on.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: The point has been made. Ms. Yohannes, can you being up Exhibit 11, please?

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
(Pause.)
MR. KLINE: I am not sure if Ms. -- the standards are -- does Ms. Yohannes still have the ability to share her screen, or do you need to give her the ability?

PARTICIPANT: She has the ability to
share it right now.
MR. KLINE: All right, thank you.
No, I'm sorry, Protestants Exhibit 11.
MS. YOHANNES: Can you see it?
MR. KLINE: Yes, thank you. Can you number that, please?
(Pause.)
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. Mr. Irani, The Carswell has seating in a couple of areas in front of its building, doesn't it?

A Yes.
Q Isn't it true that the seating areas to the left is the smoking area?

A I have no idea.
MR. ROTH: Objection. How would Mr. Irani know that?

MR. KLINE: I don't know if he does or doesn't. We will find out when he answers my question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am going to overrule the objection. If you can answer, Mr. Irani, answer. If you can't you can't.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I have no idea.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. Lastly, you testified about your concerns that 2:00 a.m., at closing time, inebriated patrons would be leaving the establishment. How is it you conclude that the patrons leaving this particular establishment will be inebriated when they are leaving the establishment?

A How is it that $I$ can conclude that? $I$

Q Yes, do you have any evidence to believe that the clientele that is going to frequent this establishment is going to tend to be inebriated when they leave?

A People go to a bar to drink, so -it's, yes, people come to bars to drink, so -and when leaving to be inebriated. This is my common experience, and I have saw them walking up and down 18th Street.

Q Okay. Do you go to bars (inaudible)?
A Yes, $I$ have been.
Q Do you always leave inebriated?
A I always leave having had a drink.
Q Okay, but do you leave inebriated?
A Sometimes.

Q Sometimes. Okay, fair enough. That is all I have. Thank you. COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you a question, Mr. Irani. From what I gather, the ANC voted in January to protest the proceedings. The ANC voted in August to protest the proceedings, but the ANC changed in January of 2021. Did the ANC ever reconsider whether or not there would -whether or not -- from what I was told you had six new members off the ANC. Was it ever discussed with the new ANC whether or not they wanted to protest the application?

MR. KLINE: No, no member or commissioner has brought that forward. Commissioner Bowles and Commissioner Wood, who testified today had the last months to bring forward a resolution to drop the protest, but nothing was ever brought forward.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: No, but I am asking a different question, sir. I am saying it is a completely different ANC. From what I am told there are six new members.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So it was the
old ANC that voted -- and I am not (inaudible) I am just asking a question, because it is the resolution of the ANC, but I was just asking you since the decision was made in August of 2020 to protest it, the matter, and in January you had basically -- you had a completely different ANC with the exception of yourself and Commissioner Bowles. Did you thought that it was important to bring this to the attention of this ANC to see if it supported moving forward with protesting this application?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: No, I did not, because this is -- it just happened now. This was the second time it has happened where there are ANC actions that have occurred in a prior ANC, and we have a new ANC, and I carry out my duties as have been assigned to me from the prior ANC.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any other questions by any other Board member?

Hearing none, Mr. Kline, do you have any questions of Mr. Irani based on the questions that I asked?

MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you.

Mr. Roth, do you have any questions of Mr. Irani based on the questions that $I$ asked?

MR. ROTH: Yes, just a couple of short ones.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Commissioner Irani, Commissioner Bowles was appointed the chair of the ABC Committee in this current ANC, was he not?

A That is correct.
Q He did put on the agenda of the ABC committee meeting in, I believe it was -- was it early January or early February this particular item, did he not?

A I think it was early January, or early February, yes.

Q So there was the opportunity to discuss this matter at the ABC committee meeting, which was publicly noticed and with the commissioners on the ABC committee, and members of the public did and would have had the opportunity to discuss this if they wanted to. Is that not right?

A That is correct, they did.
Q As a result of that discussion if Commissioner Bowles wanted to bring a resolution
to the full commission he would have had that opportunity as recently as the March ANC meeting, is that right?

A Yes, absolutely.
MR. ROTH: Thank you. No further questions.

MR. KLINE: It is not important, but I am confused. I thought the question that was asked if -- are you stating that this new commission did discuss this issue? Is that your testimony, because I was confused. I thought you were saying that his new commission did not discuss it. I am just trying to get clarity.

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes. I think the confusion is because I was referring to and answering your question at a full ANC meeting of all the commissioners, which is held monthly. Then what Mr. Roth was just referring to was the ABC committee meeting, which is staffed by three commissioners, Mr. Bowles, myself, and Commissioner Klem. Commissioner Bowles had put this on -- put this establishment on the agenda of that meeting. He put discussion of the -- our -- I'm sorry, not discussion, an update or discussion of this matter on the agenda. A lot
of members of the community, including -- as well as the applicant came to that meeting.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what happened at that meeting?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Members of the community, I gave an update on the settlement agreement negotiations, and members of the community and the applicant voiced their opinions and concerns.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what decision did the --

COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was just -there was no action.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it was on the agenda, but there was no -- it didn't -- there was -- it was discussed, but no decision was made. Is that what you are saying?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was -- maybe if I put it more -- it was an update, and not -there was not a proposed action. It was an update on the settlement -- or on the establishment, on this license. So there was no proposed -- there was no resolution put forward, and there was no proposed action there. It was all the sides just talking.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So there was talk, and as the result of the talk then it is, like, okay it is still on the table that we are not going to change our position from August to protest this establish. Am I correct then?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: Presumably, I mean, an opportunity was there to change it, but nothing had happened, nor was it even discussed with a resolution coming forward or anything like that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The reason why I'm asking is because you have a completely different ANC, there are six new members, and this is an active case within the ANC, and you had a meeting in January, and I am not discounting the resolution, I'm not discounting -- I just want to be clear I am not discounting the resolution that was left in the record from August that stated that the ANC was protesting this license. I am not discounting that, and I am not stating that it has no -- it is not the position of the ANC. I am not -- that is not my position. I was just curious by saying since you have six others -- six new members was there any discussions regarding this issue, regarding this
issue since it was an active case moving forward, and if there was a conversation at the -- at least at the ABC Board level why -- that was just a curiosity on my part. Mr. --

MR. KLINE: I feel compelled to follow up --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, I am fully aware that by a Board member asking a question it opens the round robin again, so you don't have to worry about that, so --

MR. KLINE: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Does any of the Board members have a question based on what the question that was raised before I allowed Mr. Kline to ask questions?

No? All right. Go ahead, Mr. Kline. COMMISSIONER IRANI: Go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Yes, thank you.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Irani, isn't it true that Peter Woods attempted to bring the (inaudible) office the full ANC meeting and you ruled him out of order?

A No.
Q That's not true?
A No, I don't --
Q I can call him in rebuttal if we need to.

A I'm sorry?
Q We will call him in rebuttal if we need to. You are saying that didn't happen.
$A \quad$ That he attempted to do what?
Q To raise the issue concerning this protest, and you ruled him out of order and wouldn't let him speak.

A No, that is not true.
MR. KLINE: Okay. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any questions (inaudible)?

MR. ROTH: No. Thank you, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Since you are the witness in the hot seat, Mr. Irani, do you have any final comments that you want to make?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: I just want to say that there has been a lot of talk about process, and I do want to just say that I have followed all the long held customs of our ANC. I followed
process, helped vote at duly noticed meetings, and this matter has been socialized and voted on amongst all commissioners of the prior ANC, and amongst -- to the extent that it could be of an old matter that was coming to an end on this new ANC, so -- and also that -- I just want to point out that the vote was six to one. The single commissioner that voted against was one of the commissioners that was here today testifying on behalf of the Applicant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you, Mr. Irani.
So, Mr. Roth, how many witnesses do you have, sir?

MR. ROTH: Well, I was hoping to call eight. I did not anticipate that Mr. Kline's cross was going to go as long as it did, but I hope we do get to all eight. I will try to be as efficient and brief with all of them as I possibly can be, because my questioning of the eight is not anticipated to go on very long.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Mr. Roth, with all due respect to Mr. Kline I am going to put this on the record you cross examined his witness for almost, maybe, an hour, okay. I just
want to say that, so just to be fair to everyone your cross examination of Mr. Kline's first witness did take a substantial time. That is one of the reasons why I proposed something, but I had to withdraw it, because it was not fair to all the parties.

Okay, let's have --
MR. ROTH: I appreciate your indulgence, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have an hour and a half to present your case, and I will stop -- once cross examination starts $I$ will stop the clock, and I will start it back up once you -once -- for you to do direct, so you have an hour and a half, and I am pressing the start button with your first witness, sir.

MR. ROTH: I hope we still have Ms.
Cassandra Jones on the phone.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll state that Ms. Jones was very excited to testify. As soon as she realized that it was your case she starts on her (inaudible). We started this hearing and I had to call her to say don't use her telephone, and so she kind of -- but anyway, I digress.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I still have a hour and a half left. What about Mr. Ryan's testimony? That does not count against the (inaudible)?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is a separate -- Mr. Kline --

MR. KLINE: Unbelievable.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline. MR. KLINE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The ANC is a protestant with given standards to protest this matter. The Citizens Association, these are the protestants in this case, ANC 1C, the Kalorama Citizens Association, and I think the (inaudible). If this matter went the way it would have gone the ANC would have had an hour based on this joint motion that all of the parties signed, agreed to, the ANC would have had 90 minutes to present its case, the Kalorama Citizens Association would have had 90 minutes to present its case, and the (inaudible) would have had 90 minutes, but $I$ was told at the beginning that the parties had jointly agreed that Mr. Roth would have been the designated representative for all the group, but the ANC wanted to make a
statement, and (inaudible), but this is now the opportunity to present their case, and they have their 90 minutes as was anticipated as per -since they do have standing since each of the group has standing as a -- my understanding as a courtesy to us they decided that they are going to roll all of their cases into one. If I read that incorrectly please correct me.

MR. ROTH: I am going to endeavor to get this in less than 90 minutes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Mr. Roth, I -- one thing that I will say, when we have -since I have been chair, I allow everyone to speak. We ask that somewhat limited, because we all have been sitting in front of the computer -it is 10:00, well, at least before since 9:30 this morning, but, sir, you have 90 minutes to present your case. Mr. Kline did come in probably 93 or 95 minutes to present this case (inaudible), so I would say that initially when I told him that he only had a certain amount of time he was able to come in about 95 minutes in presenting his case, so I am hoping that you will be -- I will stray beyond the 90 minutes barely. I want to let you know that if I did so -- but
since he was wrapping up I allowed that occur, so, yes, he has 90 minutes to present his case, sir, so let me -- all right, so Ms. -- Ms. Jones, right?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, now you can keep your microphone open until you are done testifying. Thank you.

I think Mr. -- there is feedback, but what I will ask is that you, Mr. Roth, if you are not speaking -- (inaudible) whenever you are not speaking, okay?

MR. ROTH: I don't think it is coming from me. Ms. Jones, it may a little bit of feedback from your end, but we will do our best.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. Go ahead, sir.
MR. ROTH: Okay there, Ms. Jones?
MS. JONES: I'm fine. I am just
cutting the phone off to make sure it is not my -- I am not causing a problem, so I am ready.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q There we go. All right. Good afternoon Ms. Jones. Can you please state and
spell your full first and last names for the record?

A Cassandra Jones, C-A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A, J-O-N-E-S.

Q Thank you. Are you one of the protestants in this case?

A Yes.
Q Do you own a condominium unit at the Carswell at 1812 Vernon Street, N.W.?

A Yes, I do.
Q What year did you first move into that building?

A 1970.
Q Was it a condominium or a rental building back then?

A Rental.
Q Can you give the Board the short version of how you were able to own the unit that you are living in now? Let's make it the short version.

A I'm going to make it the short version. Once the unit was renovated I moved into Unit Number 4, and I continued to rent until the owner decided he wanted to actually sell this unit. At that time I decided to purchase the
unit January of 1999.
Q So you have been living in your present unit the last 22 years, is that right?

A Not exactly. I first was a renter, and $I$ stayed in the unit for 9 years as a renter, and as an owner for 22 , so $I$ have actually lived in this unit for 31 years.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Ms. Andrews, can I get permission to share my screen?

MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by. (Pause.)

MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you can share your screen now.

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Ms. Jones, I am going to show you protestant's Exhibit 12, and I am going to ask you to describe for the Board what see here.

A I am looking from the back of the building. I see 1812 Vernon Street, and next to it 1806 Vernon Street.

Q Can you point out which apartment are your sliding doors and windows?

A I - -
Q Let me put it this way, let me move my
cursor over here, and I am showing the sliding doors and windows on the first floor of 1812 Vernon Street. Am I pointing to the correct --

A That is correct. The sliding doors that are next to the two windows, which is one bedroom, and then the single window is the larger bedroom, but also it may be important to note on Florida Avenue I have three windows that also go along with the single window for the larger bedroom.

Q Okay, so based on -- let me back up a second to say have you watched or listened in on ANC meetings or ANC committee meetings about this Tavern application?

A Yes, $I$ have.
Q Based on what you have seen and what you have heard, what are your concerns about Mr. Hughes's supposed summer garden, and how its operation would affect you?

A It would have a major impact on me. I have been here for a while, and I have seen the community change, but $I$ never thought that $I$ would be living next to an establishment like that that will disrupt my livelihood and my peace and harmony in my home.

Having an establishment next to me on a residential street with a garden where people will be drinking, and they will have loud conversations, and you know when you drink that level goes up higher with conversation, and smoking. I understand there will be no music, so that is a real good thing, but with the smoking, I have a problem with smoke because my throat becomes very irritated with smoking, even with the least amount of smoke. Unfortunately, with all of that I know my pressure is going to go up, because of the activity and what I am going to be subject to, the noise and the smoking. I feel it is unfair to me and the rest of the -- I am speaking for the rest of the tenants in this unit. To me it shows a lack of consideration for your neighbor, when it was a nice peaceful environment and all of a sudden we are going to be exposed to all this energy next door. I haven't lived this long, and to live in this building just to be subject to that environment. Like I said, I know when you are drinking, we all know that the noise level will increase.

Now, the hours of operation for the gardens are from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00, seriously,
really, that is between 17 and 18 hours that I am going to be subject to -- no only me, all of us are going to be subject to. At 9:00 I am normally settling down to relax. The hours are just too long for anyone to be subject to the proposed garden environment. I think we -- I don't know if we really -- I think we kind of answer this, because $I$ was also concerned after 1:00 when they close. How you can be sure that all the people leave the garden and not just hanging around the garden still communicating and talking, or people passing the garden says, well, yes, I can hang out here now after partying up and down 18th Street. That is a problem for me. One of my -- I know you say I am not supposed to ask questions $I$ guess.

Q You can make a (inaudible) or hypothetical.

A I am just wondering what am I supposed to do. Am I supposed to actually leave my environment, my home until after 1:00 until all this activity has ceased? If it gets to unbearable as far as me getting rid of my unit. I don't know anybody would like to live next door to that kind of environment, yes, garden might
look pretty to look out on, but the people that are going to congregate in there, and the noise is just going to be overwhelming. I am not the only person in that room that is going to be affected with the noise and the music, or the environment next door. Most of the units in here bedrooms point to Florida Avenue, even the walls on the front. Their bedrooms would have at least one window that is going to apply to Florida Avenue, and they are going to be able to hear this noise as well.

Q We will hear from some of those witnesses later on.

A Okay. Living on 18th Street is a huge part of the lifetime investments of some of us who are making this our final home.

Q Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jones, we appreciate that. Let me ask you another question, do you own a car?

A Yes.
Q Where do you park it?
A Good question. As you know, it is hard to park on Vernon Street, and because of my disability and stuff $I$ no longer can part two or three blocks away to find a parking space. I
actually have to pretty much sit here on Vernon Street to get a parking space, or parking within a block of Vernon Street. Sometimes that means I could be sitting there for 30 to 40 minutes, up to 2 hours.

Q Okay. What is the furthest distance away from -- what is the furthest distance away from home you would have to walk in order to park in say, like, the last 2 years?

A Within the last 2 years I pretty much try to park on Vernon Street because of my disability. I can't walk a long distance, as a matter of fact, $I$ can't even walk up Vernon Street, one half of Vernon Street without getting into pain, feeling pain.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much.
I have no further questions.
MS. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Close your screen, Mr. Roth. Mr. Kline, do you have any questions?

MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am just going to ask you a question, Ms. Jones. MS. JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You were saying that your window face Florida Avenue, right? Is that correct?

MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So tell what do you look at when you look through your window?

MS. JONES: Right now I am in my living room. I am looking at 18 Florida Avenue.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is outside, what's there?

MS. JONES: Right now it is some traffic, cars.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: (Inaudible), when you look through your window from Florida Avenue what is it that you see? Explain to me -I know -- I believe that Vernon is more residential. I am trying to found out, Florida Avenue, is that a commercial strip, I mean, what -- when you look through your window on Florida Avenue what do you see? Do you see? Do you see other homes, or do you see businesses? What do you see when you face Florida Avenue? That is what I am getting at.

MS. JONES: Homes, from where I am, homes. I can see one little place where they
deal with phones across 18th Street, but behind me I get a better view of Florida. There is some network where they deal with taxes. It is another little establishment. I am not sure what they do, because I never see anybody there. They keep renovating it, but I never see anybody there. The rest of the street is all homes. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On Florida Avenue? That is what I am asking, Florida? MS. JONES: Right.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. MS. JONES: From where I am sitting. Of course, there's one, two, three businesses right off, but I can't see them, not really, on my side, but they are very quiet. There is no music, or people really socializing and stuff. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, fine. Any other questions by any Board members?
(Pause.)
(Simultaneous speaking.) MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon -- or good evening, Ms. Jones. How are you? MS. JONES: I'm fine. MEMBER SHORT: Ms. Jones, I know your
neighborhood well. I work at the fire station there at 1617 U Street.

MS. JONES: I know exactly what you are talking about.

MEMBER SHORT: That was back in the 70s.

MS. JONES: Yes, I was here.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay, and I know the neighborhood quite well, and I use to frequent the Hilton Hotel quite a bit whenever the President was there, or they had big events. Now they have built a brand new building behind the Hilton, correct?

MS. JONES: Right.
MEMBER SHORT: All right, and that obstructs your view from the Hilton, but at any rate along Florida Avenue you are saying they have mainly residential properties, correct?

MS. JONES: On the part where I am.
MEMBER SHORT: Yes.
MS. JONES: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: I understand. Then on 18th Street, you're looking at 18th Street right at the corner of 18th and Florida there is a couple of residential apartment building there,
correct?
MS. JONES: Right.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And then going down U Street there are -- on the south side of the street there are $I$ guess three story homes.

MS. JONES: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: Red brick homes.
MS. JONES: No, --
MEMBER SHORT: The point $I$ am trying to make, because $I$ don't want to take too long, the point $I$ am trying to make is what the Chairman was trying to ask you is to describe your community, and what you say is 80 percent -- what you see out of your window is it 80 percent, or approximately 80 percent residential?

MS. JONES: I was going to say yes.
MEMBER SHORT: That is what the
Chairman was trying to get you to say, because he doesn't know your neighborhood like some of us know your neighborhood, so he was trying to get you to say what you see out of your window, and what $I$ was trying to help bring out is you see mostly residential, which has been like that for the last 50 years or longer.

MS. JONES: Yes, absolutely.

MEMBER SHORT: In fact, Vernon -- when I was working in that area Vernon Street was a very high profile street. It was a little uppity, it was.

MS. JONES: Oh, back then before I came here, yes.

MEMBER SHORT: Yes, and because the Hilton Hotel use to kind of part their guests on Vernon Street, and the neighborhood was so strong back then that the community told Hilton, no, your people cannot part on Vernon Street. I remember that very well, but at any rate that's just for some who don't know your neighborhood, and it has changed somewhat since they started the (inaudible), and a few other things, but it has mainly stayed residential --

MS. JONES: Right.
MEMBER SHORT: -- on your end of 18th and Florida Avenue.

MS. JONES: Exactly, yes.
MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all I have Mr. Chair. Thank you for your 31 years, Ms. Jones, Thank you.

MS. JONES: You're welcome.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
questions by any of the Board members?
Mr. Kline, any questions of Ms. Jones.
MR. KLINE: No, thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any questions of Ms. Jones?

Mr. Roth, you are on mute.
MR. ROTH: No, thank you, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jones, thank you very much for your testimony. Thank you very much for your testimony, ma'am, all right?

MS. JONES: You're welcome. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
Roth, do you have another witness?
MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Kaitlyn Kerr.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Kerr.
MS. KERR: Hello.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, please.
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. Your witness Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: I'm trying to find Ms. Kerr on the screen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She is there, sir.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay. Good afternoon, Ms. Kerr. Can you please state and spell your first and last names for the record?

A Sure, my first name is Kaitlyn. That is spelled K-A-I-T-L-Y-N. The last name is Kerr, K-E-R-R.

Q Thank you. Are you one of the protestants on this case?

A Yes, sir.
Q Do you live at the Carswell Condominium at 1812 Vernon Street?

A Yes, sir, I do.
Q When did you move in there?
A I moved in in November of 2019.
Q Do you own or rent your apartment?
A I am a renter.
Q Okay. I am going to share my screen and show you what's marked as protestant's Exhibit 11, and ask you what you see there?

A Sure. On the right hand side is 1812 Vernon Street, which is my building, and then on the left hand side is the (inaudible) establishment that we are discussing today. I am
assuming important to point out that on the left hand side of the blue awning is a set of windows behind that tree, and that is my bedroom window.

Q So what I am circling here with my cursor --

A Yes.
Q -- would be your bedroom window.
A Yes.
Q Okay. Before you rented this unit had you been to the Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle Neighborhood before?

A Yes, many times.
Q Were you familiar with the 18th Street Corridor?

A Yes, I would say I am very familiar with the 18th Street Corridor.

Q You were still comfortable renting this unit even with that knowledge.

A Yes, I was. My experience with the 18th Street Corridor was that most of the activity was concentrated on 18th itself, specifically in between Columbia and (inaudible) I would say. So when I was looking at apartments, this apartment being on a side street, and not next to any of the bar
establishments I was comfortable still renting the apartment.

Q You said you moved into your apartment when?

A In November of 2019.
Q And when did you learn that someone had applied for a tavern license in the building next door?

A I actually saw an article online about it in January of 2020, and then after that learned more information from my neighbors about it.

Q Have you watched or listened in over Zoom on any of the ANC or ANC committee meetings about this pending tavern license application -location transfer application?

A Yes, $I$ have.
Q Based on what you have seen and heard, what are your concerns about the impact that this establishment would have on you?

A My main concern is the noise that would be caused by the people that are exiting the establishment out onto Vernon Street, especially while they are waiting for any kind of Uber, cab, ride shares, or just in general
congregating there after leaving the bar. I am not exactly sure what those hours specifically are going to look like, but $I$ do know that they will be serving alcohol, that's why we are here. People will be possibly leaving drunk. They are not going to be concerned about controlling their volume, or their noise level, they will be exiting next to and then waiting on the residential street that is basically below slash right next to my bedroom window, and it is within ear shot of my bedroom window. So depending on how late this establishment is open, how late they are letting people exit, or telling people to exit, $I$ am concerned that the noise of those people exiting is going to wake me up. I am generally worried about will 1 be able to fall back to sleep, like, will $I$ be able to get a good night sleep especially when $I$ have to get up for work in the morning on the week nights, and the effect of that on my general overall quality of life is the best way to put it.

Q Thank you. Now, the application asks for closing time at 2:00 a.m. on week nights, 3:00 a.m. on weekends.

A Yes.

Q How do you know you will be able to hear patrons talking out on Vernon Street if you are sleeping at 3:00 a.m. in the morning?

A Well, 1 can hear them when $I$ am sleeping at, like, 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. in the morning. I can hear pretty much all of my neighbors outside when they are taking their dogs out, or going out to their car, or meeting each other on the stairs. I have been able to hear that the whole time I have lived here, most recently while they have been doing construction next door on the stairwell. I have been able to hear the conversations between construction workers, and that is all at conversation level, like, no one is shouting, no one is yelling, this is all just at a conversational normal level for me to -- to be talking to each other and I can hear that very clearly.

Q Now, would you be happy if instead of all the customers exiting out the Vernon Street door at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning they all exited out the Florida Avenue side through the rear yard?

A Honestly, no that would not make me happy, because that would just affect my
neighbors who have their living areas and their bedrooms facing out onto Florida Avenue. That would affect them in the same way, so, no, that would not make me any happier.

Q You are a good neighbor. Ms. Kerr, do you like your apartment now?

A Yes, I do. I really like my apartment.

Q Are you on a fixed term lease, or a month to month?

A My lease right now is month to month.
Q So putting aside this Tavern application, do you have any plans to leave your current job or move out of town, or move out of your apartment for any other reason?

A No, I no plans of doing any of those things.

Q If this tavern application were granted and the Applicant is permitted to transfer his license next door to your apartment do you know what you would do then?

A I would seriously start to research moving into another apartment. Before this I was in a living situation that unfortunately had a lot of noise outside of the window the early
hours of the morning, and it was very frustrating and very exhausting, and really affected my quality of life and well-being, so $I$ am not really willing to put myself, or to stay in what could be a similar situation again.

MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, please close your screen.

MR. KLINE: He can leave it up. That would expedite things actually.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
Okay, leave it up.
Your witness, Mr. Kerr. I'm sorry, your witness, -- you see that is why I like to look at folks. Your witness, Mr. Kline. I apologize.

MR. KLINE: Long day, Mr. Chair.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Ms. Kerr, I am looking at (inaudible) 11, you printed out your window behind the tree. There is a seating area there, correct?

A Correct.
Q That the smoking area for the
building, correct?
A I would not consider it a smoking area for the building, no.

Q Where is it that people smoke?
A Usually when I have seen someone smoking is down at the bottom of the stairs.

Q Are you familiar with the bucket that seems to live there that people sit their cigarettes butts in?

A Yes.
Q Okay, and where does that live?
A I believe it usually is at the top of the stairs on, like, that concrete landing place.

Q Okay, so the people that smoke in the building that's where they go to smoke.

A No, like I said, the people that smoke in the building are normally smoking at the bottom of the stairs.

Q Okay. Did you ever meet the owner of -- the Applicant, Mr. Hughes?

A No I have not met him.
Q Were you aware when you rented your apartment that you were immediately adjacent to a commercial zone?

A I know that on the back side of the
building on Florida Avenue there used to be a hair salon, I believe, and I know that that was there, but as far as the part of the building that faces Vernon Street, I was under the impression slash I wasn't told any differently that it was residence, like, an apartment or a condo, or something along those lines.

MR. KLINE: Okay, thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Close the screen, please.

Do we have any questions of Ms. Kerr by any Board members?

All right, thank you, Ms. Kerr.
All right, any -- Ms. Kerr, are you still there?

MS. KERR: Yes, I am still here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any re-cross of Ms. Kerr?

MR. ROTH: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Re-direct of Ms. Kerr? All right, thank you very much, Ms. Kerr, for your testimony.

MS. KERR: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are excused.

MS. KERR: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, you have another witness.

MR. ROTH: Alek Pochowski if he is with us. I know he was at work, and then the workday is over, so I am hoping he stuck with us. There he is.

MR. POCHOWSKI: I am here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Pochowski, can you raise your right hand, please?

MR. POCHOWSKI: Yes.
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Your witness, sir.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Pochowski. Can you please state and spell your first and last names for the record?

A Yes, my name is Alek Pochowski, A-L-EK, P-O-C-H-O-W-S-K-I.

Q Thank you. Where are you employed?
A Kittelson \& Associates.
Q You want to spell Kittelson for the record, please.

A K-I-T-T-E-L-S-O-N.
Q Thank you. Showing you Protestants' Exhibit 45 for identification. You recognize this document?

A Yes, that is my resume.
Q How long have you been employed at Kittelson?

A Since 2006, about 15 years, (inaudible).

Q Okay. What do you do there?
A I am a transportation engineer and planner. I do a lot of traffic studies, transportation studies, safety, curbside management, small area plans, livability studies, and corridor studies. Over half my work is in the District, and then $I$ do -- the other half is around the country.

Q What degrees do you hold and in what fields?

A I have an undergrad in civil engineering from Iowa State University. I have a masters in city planning from Georgia Tech, and a masters in civil engineering with a transportation focus from Georgia Tech.

Q Do you hold any professional licenses?

A Yes, I am licensed as a professional engineer in the District, Maryland, Virginia, and Nebraska.

Q Okay. In the course of your work have you had occasion to become familiar with the District's Columbia Street Transportation Network design planning process?

A Yes.
MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you.
Mr. Chairman, I would move Protestants' Exhibit 45 into evidence, and based on Mr. Pochowski's answers and the contents of his resume $I$ would ask that he be admitted as an expert in traffic in traffic safety, traffic operations, transportation engineering, and transportation planning.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 45 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline.
MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without objection, so Mr. -- the resume is in the record, and Mr. Pochowski is an expert, meaning that he can give his -- he can render expert opinions.

Go ahead, sir.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 45.)

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Now, Mr. Pochowski, showing you Protestants' Exhibit 46, and let me enlarge this. Can you identify this document?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 46 for identification.)

A Yes, that is a multi (inaudible) circulation document that we put together. It is just multi (inaudible) circulation, curbside uses, along with functional classification, and level of traffic threat in the area.

Q Can you explain what information you gathered to create this graphic?

A Yeah. We took a lot of data from the District's Department of Transportation from open data. So we took their functional classification system, which assigns local collector and arterial roads. We used the level of traffic stress data from DDOT, which looks at how
comfortable a roadway is from a bicycle perspective. We use Google Street View and just our understanding of the area to do the curbside uses or establish the parking or the curbside regulations on the curbside. As well, we looked at the pedestrian movements, the vehicle movements, and then we put in some daily traffic volumes and other just intersection observations as well.

Q Okay. And that yellow rectangle near the center, that's the premises at 1806 Vernon Street or 1807 Florida Avenue. Is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Okay. Now can you please describe for the Board what this graphic is intended to show?

A Yeah. So from a functional classification perspective, it shows that Vernon Street is identified as a local street. Florida Avenue is a minor arterial. Local roads are really intended to serve short trips at low speeds, along with local travel for pedestrians and bicyclists, people walking and biking. They're intended to provide direct land access, residential land uses. Large trucks would be expected to use local roads only occasionally,
like a moving truck for instance. Conversely a minor arterial is really intended for longer trips, higher speeds, and more commercial activity than a local street is.

And then the level of traffic stress is how comfortable roadways are for people biking. So level of traffic stress on Florida Avenue for there for instance is uncomfortable, which really indicates high traffic volumes, high speeds. Conversely Vernon Street you see it's blue, so level of traffic has declined, which makes suitable for anyone, an 8-year-old for instance, low speeds, low volumes, more comfortable for kind of the casual rider to be on a bike on that street.

Q So in your professional opinion, how would you describe this intersection?

A Yes, the intersection of Florida Avenue, Vernon Street, U Street, 18th Street intersection heavily congested. It's a complex intersection with many multimodal conflicts. There's skewed angles, which leads to potential safety concerns, turn restrictions. And then yes, many identified safety concerns as well.

Q And again, in your professional
opinion, what are the practical implications of what you see here for the idea of Uber and Lyft drop-offs and pick-ups both on Florida Avenue and on Vernon Street in the vicinity of this proposed establishment?

A Yeah, I think Florida Avenue, you would expect Uber and Lyft pick-ups and drop-offs. It's more compatible to use Florida's minor arterial. Vernon Street from a local street perspective, I think you would expect occasional Uber and Lyfts for picking up and dropping off people who live there. But from a commercial perspective, that would -- there would be a lot more Uber, Lyft activity than you would expect from a (audio interference) street.

Q You were breaking up there at the end, Mr. Pochowski.

A Sorry about that. So you would expect only a few or occasional Uber and Lyfts on Vernon street. Obviously there would be some of that, but it would be really residential use only. So the occasional uses. For the commercial use, you would see a lot more Uber, Lyft activity. And I think that activity in particular, the circulation would have to go down Florida, up

19th, across Vernon, then make the right turn only out would lead to the potential additional congestion at that Vernon Street, 18th Street intersection with a right turn only there.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Just a couple.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q In terms of Vernon Street, in addition to moving vans, there would be trash trucks. Correct?

A Right.
Q And overnight delivery vehicles.
A I would not expect overnight delivery vehicles with the lack of commercial --

Q You would?
A No, not on Vernon Street.
Q You wouldn't expect Amazon trucks on Vernon Street with people accepting delivery of packages?

A No, not overnight. I think there's a difference from a loading perspective of
commercial areas and residential areas. In residential areas, deliveries tend to be during the daytime. Whereas commercial tends to be -especially retail commercial tends to be overnight. Office commercial also tends to be for daytime uses.

Q Right, but moving trucks wouldn't be at night either, would they?

A Right. Moving trucks would be during the day.

MR. KLINE: Fine. Okay, I don't have any other questions.

MR. ROTH: Can I get re-direct?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
Roth. I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by any board members? Since $I$ can't see, so that's why I was asking you to close your screen. So $I$ can look to make sure that $I$ have -- that $I$ can see my board members, so I'm not sitting here waiting trying to figure out if they're trying to ask questions. All right, hearing no questions by no board members, okay, you can re-direct, sir.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. Pochowski, with regard to moving trucks, does the District have any regulations with regard to moving trucks and how they're supposed to be positioned?

A Yes. Yeah, moving trucks in terms of the usage of the curbside space, you have to apply for the permit 72 hours in advance. And then you put up those signs that you see where they restrict the usage. So yeah, from that perspective, they absolutely do. You also are not obviously allowed to park a moving van in the middle of the street to load and unload, but you're not allowed to double park there. So you have to apply for -- to have the moving truck, you have to apply for those curbside -- the signs that restrict the parking there 72 hours in advance.

Q Thank you. With regard to garbage trucks, I'm not expecting you to be personally familiar with which particular premises on Vernon street do or don't put their garbage out on the curb, but is it -- Why don't I let you answer the question of to what extent on a local residential -- primarily residential street, garbage trucks
are an issue in terms of traffic control?
A Yeah. Just because they are so seldomly on the street, 1 mean it's -- you have recycling maybe once or twice a week, garbage in some areas once or twice a week. So there might be four trucks a week compared to with respect, about a thousand vehicles per day on the street. So four compared to 7,000 is just not a large volume of vehicles.

Q And do you happy -- I don't know whether you looked at this in terms of drawing it here on your diagram or not. But do you happen to know whether or not there's an alley behind Vernon Street that allows for trash pickup?

A I don't know that.
MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
Pochowski. Thank you very much for your testimony. You're excused. Do you have another witness, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: Yes, Ms. Suzanne Farmer.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer.
Ms. Farmer? Ms. Farmer? Ms. Farmer? Ms. Farmer?

MR. ROTH: Do I need to -- Do I need to contact her or do you see her?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe Ms. Farmer is on a personal matter and she's telling us to hold on a minute, I believe. I believe that's what she said. I can't hear you now, Ms. Farmer. Are you ready to speak to us? So I believe that's -- I can see Ms. Farmer. I believe she's telling us that we need to hold on a couple of minutes for her to be available.

MS. CLARKE: Could we take a five minute bio break?

MS. FARMER: Can you guys hear me now?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Hold on.
MS. FARMER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, who was asking for a break?

MS. CLARKE: This is Laurie Clarke. I just wondered if we could get a bio break soon.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Clarke, you can take a break. You can put us on -- You can put us on mute and close the camera and take your break, ma'am. You can do that because I mean, Mr. Roth is the attorney. So you can take a break if you need to, ma'am. I don't believe
that we're going to take a break right now. But you can take a break if you need to, ma'am.

All right, Ms. Farmer, can you raise your right hand please? Are you ready?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Your witness, Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Thank you. Good afternoon, Ms. Farmer.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Can you please state and spell your full first and last names for the record?

A Sure. It's Suzanne Farmer, S-U-Z-A-N-N-E F-A-R-M-E-R.

Q Thank you. And again for the record, can you state where you live?

A I live at 1812 Vernon Street in Unit 23.

Q And are you one of the abutter Protestants in this case?

A I am, yes.
Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen again. And you'll (audio interference) exhibits. And I'm going to show you Protestant's Exhibit
11. And can you tell the Board what you see here?

A So this is an image looking at the Carswell, which is the red brick building on the right and then the proposed establishment in 1806 Vernon is the yellow building on the left.

Q And can you point out which window at 1812 Vernon is yours?

A So on the second floor, it's the four windows that are just, $I$ guess on the left side of the car as well. So the two windows over on top of the entry and then the two windows to the left of that.

Q Okay. So using my cursor, I'm pointing to these two and to these two. And for -- I guess to help orient the board members, we heard from Ms. Kerr who said her windows were down here in the first floor. So your windows are immediately above hers --

A Correct.
Q -- and then to the right of those. Is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct.
Q Okay. And I'm going to move to a different exhibit. And ask you to identify --

This is Protestant's Exhibit 13 for identification. And I'm going to ask you to indicate what you see here.

A This is the walkway at the back of the Carswell that exits onto Florida Avenue.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 13 for identification.)

BY MR. ROTH:
Q And can you point out which window in that courtyard --

A Yes.
Q -- is your --
A Right, that narrow space. So the second window up is my bedroom window.

Q Okay.
A It's right there.
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I move this Exhibit 13 into evidence.

MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 13.)

Q Okay, thank you. Now Ms. Farmer, on the Vernon Street side, your window appeared to be one floor above the doorway at 1806 Vernon Street. And Mr. Hughes testified that his speakeasy would be located on the same level as that doorway. On this Florida Avenue side, your window over here appears to align with the middle of that second floor. Can you explain why that is?

A So it could be. I don't know for certain. But you've got a lot of topography going on there. Right? So you're at kind of the end of the hill that goes up 18th Street. Vernon is also on a hill, but then Florida is a little bit flatter. So I assume it's just kind of the way the building -- they don't actually align actually. Right? Because you're not on a flat --

Q Right. And Mr. Hughes also testified that he planned to store alcohol on his third floor. And according to his diagrams, do you recall what was between your unit and his third floor?

A A wall. Right? Like the exterior
building walls.
Q Yeah.
A Yeah.
Q Yeah, okay. We'll come back to that in a second.

A Okay.
Q How long have you lived in your current unit at the Carswell?

A For five years almost exactly -- March 2016.

Q Okay. And is that the only unit you've lived in at this building?

A No, I previously rented for three years.

Q And what was that other -- Where was that other unit?

A That was Unit 24, which is directly above Ms. Jones's unit.

Q Okay. So showing you again Protestant's Exhibit 12, which Ms. Jones identified before. You're saying that would be this unit here.

A Right.
Q Okay. Who lives there now?
A So Gus Silva-Chavez and Anica

Landreneau now live there.
Q Okay. By the way, going back for a second to this exhibit. Have you measured the distance between --

A I've gone out there with my (audio interference).

Q And what was that distance?
A It's a little over six feet.
Q Okay. Please tell the Board why you're protesting this application.

A So basically $I$ don't feel that a liquor -- a late-night liquor serving establishment is appropriate in this location. I think you've got -- And one of the big points right here, right? You've got little over six fee of distance between residence who's living room windows -- that's what those sliding doors are, the living room windows. And then bedroom windows are directly overlooking the summer garden.

I believe the hours that they are proposing is until 1 o'clock in the morning, I believe, all week. And then also a 2:00 a.m. closing and a 3:00 a.m. closing -- 2:00 a.m. during the week, 3:00 a.m. on week nights for the
interior. Just you know, a lot of us have office jobs. We have to be up in the morning. And I think there's multiple -- I think it's a very challenging location to have --

And you know, one of the points too and I think it was brought up earlier when talking about kind of the nature of the street, the businesses that have been kind of in that mixed use zone are kind of quiet, daytime businesses. It's a very different thing to be talking about having patrons leaving at $2 o^{\prime}$ clock and 3 o'clock in the morning.

Q Okay. Mr. Hughes claims to have installed very expensive sound mitigation measures. Are you concerned that those will be insufficient with -- We have some background noise here. Are you concerned that those will be insufficient to protect your peace and quiet in your apartment?

A The report has a line in there that says that they can't guarantee that no sign will be audible. And I guess that's my big concern is kind of if we end up in a situation where, you know, sound does make it through, that would affect my living room and bedroom walls abut.

Right? So my ability to kind of peaceful enjoyment of my apartment and being woken up by sound, I think everyone knows that when it's particularly quieter outside and you're trying to sleep that those kinds of noises can be disturbing.

Q Do you have any personal experience living next to a bar that closes late?

A I do. When I was in my twenties, I lived in Galway, Ireland and I lived next to a pub. And I think one of the interesting things there too, right, is what we used to call an "old man's pub." So it was actually a fairly quiet pub where you had a lot of -- mostly middle-aged local people. But when they would leave late at night and they would stand underneath my bedroom window while they were waiting for their taxis, I would be awakened by their conversations.

Q Now you live close to a big intersection as we've seen in that previous exhibit. And that intersection has several ABC establishments around it. And they're all licensed to have full legal hours for alcohol service. What makes them different from this applicant?

A So none of them are on the interior of a residential street. And you know, the vast majority of them actually are on the other side of 18th Street and don't abut residential buildings at all. I believe Duplex and Lucky Buns abut the building that's directly across the street from us. They also serve food and so they're more active kind of earlier in the evening. They don't tend to be very active late at night. So I think that's a big difference is the request for closing at 2:00 and 3 o'clock in the morning.

Q Thank you. And then finally, let's talk about traffic patterns at this intersection. Let me go back to Mr. Pochowski's exhibit. In fact, let me see if $I$ can do a -- Excuse me. Let's use this one instead. Do you recognize what this is?

A Yes. That is an aerial --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. ROTH: Let me identify it as -Let me identify as Protestant's Exhibit 37. And Ms. Farmer, go ahead and describe what this is.

MS. FARMER: So this is an aerial photograph showing the intersection of 18th

Street, Florida Avenue and U Street.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 37 for identification.)

MS. FARMER: You can see that there's a lot of -- a lot of streets coming in through this intersection.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q And do you recognize the street here that I'm --

A Yes.
Q -- putting my cursor over?
A That is Vernon Street.
Q Okay. And as a resident, how familiar are you with traffic patterns at this intersection?

A I'm very familiar, both as a driver and a pedestrian.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put Exhibit 37 into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, any objection?

MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 37.)

BY MR. ROTH:
Q So please explain to the Board what you see as the likely effects on pedestrians and vehicle traffic than having the Applicant discharge all his remaining patrons from Vernon Street -- I guess, Vernon Street door at closing time.

MR. KLINE: Objection. She's being asked for an opinion. She hasn't been qualified as an expert and I don't think she is an expert.

MR. ROTH: Well, Mr. Chairman, she's a neighbor who's lived here for several years.

MR. KLINE: That doesn't give her expertise.

MR. ROTH: I didn't ask for her expert opinion, I asked for her personal opinion.

MR. KLINE: Her personal opinion is irrelevant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to let the witness -- The Board will give it due weight. You can answer -- I'm going to overrule their objection. You can answer the question,

Ms. Farmer.
MS. FARMER: Okay, sure. So I think others have testified that this is a pretty intersection. You can see that basically what you have is like you've got 18th Street going southbound and there's a crosswalk. Right? And there is a stop light there. So the cars coming southbound on $18 t h$ are supposed to stop there. So they will have a red light. There's a red light -- So the cars on Florida are going -- I'm talking with my hands and you can't see what I'm pointing out.

So basically there's a -- basically theoretically, right, the way it's all timed is that you would have this empty spot for the cars turning right from Vernon Street. They don't have the green to keep going. Right? So they have to turn and stop. So there's room for three or four cars, right, assuming everything works perfectly. But frequently the cars that are coming southbound on 18th Street do not stop at that stop light north of the crosswalk, they keep going. So they fill in that space. So that means that the cars trying to turn right off of Vernon Street can't actually get in. Right? And
so you end up getting a backup.
And I've seen this happen, you know, I've lived here as I said, you know, a total of eight -- if I'm doing the math right, five year and then three, so eight years. I see this happen frequently. I've experienced myself when I'm driving, right, and I get particularly stuck behind somebody who is unfamiliar with the intersection. And then you start to -- it gets even worse, so they don't actually -- you know, if you're familiar with it, you know you basically merge when you can. Right? Like you don't wait.

And then there's also, you end up with lots of people like -- because their nav tells them they can do it, they kind of try to get into that left turn lane to make the left onto Florida. And so they won't move until that pocket opens up. And so it -- people get very frustrated. They start honking their horns.

Once they're frustrated, you also sometimes see them not really paying attention to the fact that pedestrians have a walk signal. And so there's kind of opportunities for conflict. You know, people basically almost
hitting pedestrians. So I've seen this happen. I've experienced it myself as a driver and as a pedestrian.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay, thank you. Have you looked at any of the plans or renderings for this establishment?

A I have.
Q Up until today when Mr. Hughes testified about putting his trash and recycling on the front yard, had you ever seen any expressed provisions for trash and recycling on any of these plans?

A Not on the plans.
MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yeah, I have a few.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Ms. Farmer, are you a smoker?
A I am.
Q And you tend to sit in the seats in front of the building under the window of where
the previous witness lives. Isn't that correct?
A During the day when I have coffee or something like that, I go out onto the street. I do though when I have a glass of wine -- I sit on the concrete area. I don't sit in the seats that are directly in front of Kaitlyn's window.

Q Okay. But you sit in the seats under the cortical or awning that's the entrance to the building?

A (Audio interference.)
Q Okay. And you've heard testimony from people complaining about smoke, including from Ms. Jones from passersby?

A And I, you know, this is one of those things that's kind of -- right, I understand that this is something that is -- I'm not being a very good neighbor by doing it. Right? I understand that. I try to be respectful. I don't light up a cigarette when I see my neighbors coming. I wait until they go inside. I'll sit and talk to them sometimes for -- you know, people will stop and we'll talk for 30 to 45 minutes and I'll wait until they go back inside.

When you brought up the little ash can that we have, the reason that's there is so I
don't litter. Right? So that I'm able to kind of keep my butts out of the street. And so yes, I smoke. I do what $I$ can to be considerate about it. And you know, maybe I should quit.

Q I express no opinion on that.
A Yeah.
Q Given the number of butts accumulated in that pail, you're not the only smoker that congregates there, are you?

A I'm the only regular smoker that sits there.

Q Okay.
A Have you been -- you've been like looking in the pail?

Q I'm not here to answer any questions. (Simultaneous speaking.)

A Like you've been like wandering up onto peoples porches and opening, you know, what looks like a citronella candle?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer, Mr. Kline is the one who asks the questions.

MS. FARMER: I know. I know. I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. MR. KLINE: All right. So if we can
pull up Protestant's Exhibit 4 please. Ms. Yohannes, can you do that?

MS. ANDREWS: Stand by.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay, give me one minute.

MS. ANDREWS: Okay. Ms. Yohannes, you can share your screen now.

MR. KLINE: Protestant's 4. There we go.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 4 for identification.)

BY MR. KLINE:
Q All right. Ms. Farmer, you indicated you've lived in the neighborhood, I think since March of 2016. Is that correct?

A I actually originally moved to the neighborhood in 2004. I've lived here on and off since 2004.

Q Okay. So you're pretty familiar with what's up and down the street on 18th Street. Correct?

A I am.
Q And you recognized the bottom middle of this exhibit, the little flag that denotes
this premises -- this proposed premises next to your building?

A Yes.
Q And you said that this was the only spot that was interior on a residential street. Was that your testimony?

A For a late night alcohol serving establishment --

Q Yeah.
A -- as far as I'm aware.
Q Okay. And looking up 18th Street and they're numbered -- the lots are numbered 814, 813, 815, 35, 30, 46, et cetera. There are a number of late night serving alcohol establishments in those locations, aren't there?

A Sorry, where are you pointing to?
Q I am -- Can you see my cursor?
A I cannot actually.
Q You can't. No, because I'm --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q So do you see the MU4 --
A Yes.
Q -- in the middle of the -- the middle of the page?

A Yes.

Q To the left of that, all the yellow shaded lots that have numbers.

A Right.
Q Yeah.
A So you're talking about basically like north of California Street.

Q Exactly.
A Okay.
Q Yeah. Aren't there a number of late night serving ABC establishments between there and further north, all the way up to Columbia?

A I actually think that block has a lot of more like -- like my vet's in that block, I think. Right? But also that's not a residential street.

Q That's not my question.
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: First, what's the objection?

MR. KLINE: Is Mr. Roth going to answer for her? What are we doing?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you haven't -- you haven't asked a question.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Ms.

Farmer, Ms. Farmer, hold on, hold on. You have an objection, Mr. Roth. What's the nature of your objection?

MR. ROTH: Yeah. Mr. Kline, number one, is trying to confuse the witness. And number two, $I$ have an objection to the form of the question because when he says "a lot". What is "a lot"?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't believe that -- I don't believe that the witness is confused. I think the witness is familiar with the area. She's responding to the best of her ability. So I'm going to -- I'm going to overrule the objection. I mean I believe based on the testimony so far, the witness is -- she is familiar with the neighborhood. So I'm going to overrule the objection. She can answer -- answer to the best of her abilities. If she cannot, she can say she can't -- she can't answer the question. So let's move on.

Mr. Kline, what was the question? And Ms. Farmer, you can respond.

MS. FARMER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's the question, Mr. Kline?

BY MR. KLINE:
Q The question is between California Street, north of Columbia Road on the west side of 18th Street, are there a number of late serving alcohol establishments?

A So you're talking about all the way up to Columbia Road, which is more than is shown here. Correct?

Q (Audio interference.)
MR. ROTH: I object, Mr. Chairman. Again, the relevant area for purposes of this hearing is 1200 feet from the location of this establishment. It is not all the way up to Columbia Road.

MR. KLINE: What does that have to do with anything?

MR. ROTH: If Mr. Kline wants to confine his question to the area just beyond Kalorama Road, his question is perfectly acceptable, but not all the way up to Columbia Road.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection because Mr. Kline is asking a question. The witness is responding. She's the one who's expanding the zone.

MS. FARMER: Well I was just trying to understand.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold on, hold on. Hold on, Ms. Farmer.

MS. FARMER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will let you know when you can answer.

MS. FARMER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm going to overrule the objection.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman -- Mr. Chairman, she did not -- she did not expand the zone. Mr. Kline asked a question about one specific block between California and Wyoming Avenue. She attempted to answer the -- She attempted to answer the question. But then Mr. Kline asked a different question that took it all the way up to Columbia Road.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I think -I'm not familiar with the area. I think she said oh, are you talking about -- I believe Ms. Farmer responded to the question and she said, are you talking all the way up to -- up to -- all the way up to California? As I said before, I'm going to overrule the objection. It's a long day. Let
her answer the question to the best of her ability and let's move on.

MR. ROTH: I would just like to be able to state clearly for the record that the relevant area in this case -- the relevant section in this case is a 1200 foot section. Mr. Kline had the opportunity early on under the regulations right after the protest -- right after the status hearing -- I'm sorry, right after the roll call hearing to note a different area if he wanted 600 feet or 1800 feet. By his not objecting to anything other than 1200 feet, the regulations say he was deemed to have chosen 1200. We had amongst ourselves a serious discussion among the Protestants as to whether we wanted to choose a different section -- a different area -- a different locality and we decided that we would accept the 1200 foot section that under the regulations, Mr. Kline was deemed to have chosen. And that section ends just north of Kalorama Road.

MR. KLINE: What does that have to do with my question?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. KLINE: I have no idea what that
has to do with my question.
MR. ROTH: This case is not about all of Adams Morgan up in the so-called entertainment district beyond Kalorama Road all the way up to Columbia Road.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, I don't believe this is a question that's been asked. So as I stated before, I overruled -- I overruled the objection. Let's go on. If the witness can answer the question, she can. I mean I think that the nature of the questions that are being asked, the Board will -- in making its determination, the Board will listen to the testimony. And if the Board believes that certain testimony is not relevant, then it will not be a part of our determination. But I think for the purpose of this witness, the witness can answer the question. Now let's move on please. So Mr. Kline, ask your question. If the witness can answer the question, she can. If she cannot, then let's move on.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q The question is -- Isn't it true that there are a number of establishments up and down 18th Street that are late serving alcohol
establishments that abut residential properties and abut properties and residential? That's the question.

A Okay and to clarify -- Can you clarify what you're talking about, which blocks you're talking about?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms.
Farmer. He said up and down --
MS. FARMER: Up and down.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Ms.
Farmer. Ms. Farmer.
MS. FARMER: I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. He said up or down 18th Street. That's what he said. Yes or no or you don't know? He doesn't need to clarify.

MS. FARMER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: His question was up or down 18th Street. That's the question that he asked, ma'am.

MS. FARMER: There are several. They tend to be on the corners of 18th Street. They are not in the interior blocks.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q Okay. But the effects of an
establishment that abuts residential property is the same if it's on the corner or if it's up the block, isn't it?

A There is a difference in terms of where the doorway is.

Q Yes or no question. (Simultaneous speaking.)

A Then the answer is -(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. ROTH: Asked and answered.
MS. FARMER: It's not the same.
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Why are they not the same?
A Because the entrances are not right underneath peoples bedroom windows. The entrances are on 18th Street.

Q The entrances are on 18th Street. But you testified that your concern about noise coming through the wall, aren't you? Isn't that what --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
A I did. I am concerned about that, yes.

Q Okay. But that would be the same with respect to an establishment that fronts 18th

Street and backs up to residential property. Isn't it?

A I assume so, yes.
Q Okay.
A I mean I think there's negative impacts to both --

Q I don't have a question pending. Thank you.

A Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have another question, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: I do not think so. No, I do not. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Mr. Roth, please -- Sorry, are there any questions by any board members? Hearing none, any re-direct, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: No, sir. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Ms.
-- I forgot your name. It's been so long. I apologize.

MS. FARMER: Farmer.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer, I apologize. Thank you very much for your testimony.

All right, do we have another -- do we have a -- do we have another witness, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: Hopefully Ms. Clarke is back from her bio break.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms. Clarke?

MS. CLARKE: I'm back.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
All right Ms. Clarke, can you raise your right hand please?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Your witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q I was going to say good afternoon, Ms. Clarke, but now it's good evening. Can you please state your -- state and spell your full name -- first and last name for the record?

A Laurie Clarke, L-A-U-R-I-E C-L-A-R-K-E.

Q Thank you. And where do you live?
A 1813 Vernon Street.
Q Where is that in relation to the applicant's proposed establishment?

A Directly across the street. My door looks directly into their door.

Q Thank you. And are you a protestant in this case?

A Yes, I am.
Q Do you own your own home?
A Yes.
Q How long have you lived there?
A Twenty-one years.
MR. ROTH: Thank you. Ms. Andrews, can I share my screen?

MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. Okay Mr. Roth, you can share your screen now.

MR. ROTH: Thank you.
BY MR. ROTH:
Q So I'm showing you Protestant's Exhibit 15. I've lost track of whether it's for identification or not. But can you describe what you see here?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 15 for identifation.)

A Sure. I see the Vernon House Condo on the farthest right. My house, which is the white house in the middle, and then my immediate
neighbor on the left.
Q Okay. And by the way, since we had testimony earlier from other Vernon House residents, do you know of any Vernon House resident that is another Protestant in this case?

A Yes, I do. Marcus Mirror (inaudible)

Q I think you're on mute.
A I'm not. Can you hear me? I'm not on mute.

Q Now I can.
A Okay, I'll move closer. Can you hear me now?

Q Yes.
A Okay. Marcus Mirror who lives in the Vernon House, $I$ know is a Protestant.

Q Okay, thank you. And let me try to show you a different exhibit. This is Protestant's Exhibit No. 7. And tell me what you see here.

A It's the view directly from in front of my house -- my stairs -- The yellow building is the licensed establishment and the Carswell Condominium is the building to the right.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to
document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 7 for identification.)

MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move Exhibits 7 and 15 into evidence. I'm candidly not sure whether 15 was already in or not.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. ROTH: I think 15 was.
MR. KLINE: No objection to 7. Not clear what 15 is at this moment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Fifteen is a picture from across the street, I believe where Ms. Clarke lives.

MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so without objection 7 and 15 are in the record.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit Nos. 7 and 15.)

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Thank you. Ms. Clarke, have you watched or listened in on ANC meetings or ANC Committee meetings about this tavern application or seen any architectural plans and drawings for what the Applicant is proposing here?

A Yes to all of those.
Q Okay. Based on what you've seen or heard yourself or reviewed on paper, what are your main concerns about how Mr. Hughes proposed operations would affect you?

A I have two main concerns; noise due to the potential for 30 or more people who might have been drinking for several hours leaving the two doors on Vernon Street, which would be directly below my bedroom window. From the traffic, from ridesharing from patrons leaving late night/early morning from there. And the potential for backups that could lead to noise of honking horns, et cetera. And late night taking out the bottles from the establishment and putting them in the trash, which would be right out in front of that building, again directly across the street from me where my bedroom windows are.

My other main issue is the trash itself because more trash means more rats. And we have a problem in the neighborhood with rats. It makes it hard to use my front yard. When there's more rat activity, we have to dodge them coming into the house and frankly pay more for an
exterminator.
Q Where is your bedroom in relation to Vernon Street?

A It races directly onto Vernon Street.
Q On what floor of your house?
A The second floor -- So directly -almost directly across looking to the speakeasy.

Q Okay. Now you live just a few doors down from -- there's a restaurant on the corner, then there's that small condominium building in-between you and the restaurant. What's the difference between what you can already hear from establishments on 18th Street or people leaving other establishments near that intersection as compared to what the applicant is proposing?

A Noise generally isn't a problem. I don't really hear much from Lucky Buns, the Imperial. I do hear Jack Rose's roof deck in the summer, but they're a very considerate neighbor. And they close down at 11 or 12 o'clock, about the time I'm going to bed. So it's not an inconvenience, it's background noise.

Q Some people might say that for a person who lives in the city in a busy neighborhood near a busy intersection, people who
live in this section of Vernon Street either where you are or across the street at the Carswell are too sensitive about noise issues. As it relates to Mr. Hughes's business plans, how do you respond to that?

A I'm a city dweller. I've lived in DC for 30 years. I've lived on this street for 21 years. I'm pretty immune to most noise. It's background. There's a difference between background noise and invasive noise and a difference between daytime and nighttime, especially nighttime when I'm sleeping. People leaving directly from that Vernon side of the street underneath my bedroom at 2:00 in the morning on week nights and 3:00 in the morning on weekends is an invasive noise. And it's going to be -- wake me up. And it's going to be disturbing.

Q Now you also mentioned trash and rodent issues. That restaurant on the corner that you mentioned is called Lucky Buns. Correct?

A Yes, it is.
Q And today isn't the first day that you've testified before the ABC Board, is it?

A No.
(Audio interference.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- but for what it's worth, go ahead. Go ahead. So I'll overrule the objection. But --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a minute please. This is about this establishment. Okay? Please do not let us go way off the rail to talk about Lucky Buns.

MR. ROTH: It will be a quick answer. And I think Ms. Clarke will tie it in very quickly.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
MS. CLARKE: Yes, I will. The question was about why we protested. It was poor trash management, which led to rat issues. I'm concerned because Lucky Buns is diagonally across the street from the proposed establishment. And we will have a problem with rats between these different areas.

But I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Board because it made a difference what the Board did with Lucky Buns. They imposed some restrictions. Made them move
the trash. Have it picked up on a regular basis. Enclose it in a fence. And move the outdoor refrigerator down in the basement. And that did help and I appreciate it. It also restored my faith in that citizens who have a legitimate concern can come to this Board and have it heard. And that we're talking to people who understand what other people go through. It's not just a numbers game.

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Ms. Clarke. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close your screen. Any questions for Ms. Clarke, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yes. Ms. Yohannes, can I get Protestant Exhibit 10 please?

MS. YOHANNES: Pulling it up.
MS. ANDREWS: Stand by. Ms.
Yohannes, you can now share your screen.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Ms. Clarke?
A Yes?
Q You indicated grave concerns about rats and rodents. Does the trash configuration
shown in this photograph give you any concerns with respect to the trash with respect to rats and rodents?

A I don't spend much time on Florida Avenue.

Q That's not my question to you. My question to you is based on what you observe in his picture, do you have concerns with the configuration of the trash storage giving rise to a problem with rats and rodents?

A What I'm seeing in that picture is two trash cans with the covers closed. It's what happens in the neighborhood. It does not raise any particular red flags to me.

Q All right. Are there other businesses that don't have trash enclosures around their trash areas?

A Other businesses? I think we're talking about the condos. Is that what you're considering a business?

Q I asked you about the businesses, yes.
A Okay. The only business on Vernon Street is the Lucky Buns and they now have a trash enclosure.

Q Okay. I didn't ask you about Vernon

Street specifically. I asked you about the neighborhood. Aren't there other businesses that have trash enclosures?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, for somebody who's been trying to confine the questioning on our side, now Mr. Kline is extending his questioning to all businesses in the neighborhood. Why don't we talk about all businesses in the District of Columbia?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, let's -- We're coming to the end. It's been 12 hours so far. We're coming to the end of a long day, so let's -- I'm going to overrule the objection. If she is able to answer the question, she is. If not, let's move on. So are you able to
answer the question, Ms. Clarke?
MS. CLARKE: I haven't really paid attention to whether there's other trash enclosures.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q How far are you from Jack Rose, about 75 feet?

A I'm bad at judging distance. But you if look out my window, I can look directly onto
their roof deck from the third floor of my house. Q Okay. So pretty close, correct?

A Yes.
Q Have you ever been in the establishment?

A Yes.
Q Do you have any estimate as to what the capacity might be?

A It's not huge. I don't know.
Q It's a lot more than 30 though, isn't it?

A I've only been on the first floor and the roof deck. The first floor wasn't pack when I was there. I would say it's somewhere in that neighborhood. I mean it's not hundreds, 30 to 50 maybe.

Q And you're not disturbed by the patrons leaving Jack Rose at closing time. Is that your testimony?

A I'm not disturbed by it. I'm a city person. I'm used to noise.

Q Okay, but you're -- but you're concerned about this establishment. Have you been here for the whole hearing? Have you been here all day?

A Yes, I have except for my quick bio break two minutes ago.

Q Okay. And you've seen the tour of the establishment?

A Yes.
Q And you're aware that the interior is relatively small, isn't it?

A From what we've heard, there's debate about the number of seating. But we heard about 30. And 30 people coming out that front door directly under my window at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning is a lot of people, especially if they've been drinking and their voices may be louder standing and waiting for rideshares. I'm concerned about that. That's not typical and we're talking seven nights a week.

Q Okay. So when you say directly under your window, that's not actually correct. Is it? You're across the street. Right?

A It's directly under my window being that direction.

Q Okay. But just to be clear, you're across the street. Right?

A I'm across the narrow one-way street from it. Yes, that's correct.

Q All right. So to say that's it's "under your window" is an exaggeration, isn't it?

A No, it's directly under my window, the direction where they're coming -- people will be coming out of there onto the sidewalk.

Q Okay. And do you believe that those people would have occasion to cross the street to the sidewalk in front of your building?

A I do. I have a brick wall that I built that's just the right height for a bar. And people who actually happen to come down Vernon Street late at night love to stand there and talk or sit on my front step and talk. Which is not a problem except when it's very late at noise because noise carries.

MR. KLINE: All right, I don't have any further questions for this witness.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
Kline. Ms. Yohannes, please close your screen.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions for Ms. Clarke by any board members? I hear no. Any re-direct, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: No, sir. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Clarke,
thank you very much for your testimony today. Have a great day. You can take as many breaks as you now require. Thank you.

All right Mr. Roth, how many -- just how many more witnesses do you have, sir (audio interference). I have three, but we're moving pretty quickly through them.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you are. I'm just trying -- I'm just looking at -- You still have 39 minutes. I was just trying to -just for me to try to figure it. So I believe that you will make us all proud that you'll come under your time. So just for my own record, I just wanted to see how many more witnesses you had. All right, who's your next witness, sir?

MR. ROTH: Gustavo Silva-Chavez.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now you just know you're going to make my life interesting now. And as you mentioned the name, the name flew away from my -- from in front of my eyes. So I cannot look at the time and figure out how to pronounce it. So I'm sorry, can you say the name one more time for me again please?

MR. ROTH: Why don't we -- We'll say Gus Silva-Chavez.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
Silva-Chavez, can you raise your right hand please?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Your witness, Mr. Roth.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay, thank you. Mr. Silva-Chavez, can you please state and spell your full first and last names for the record? Maybe slowly for everybody's sake.

A Yes. My full name is Gustavo Arturo Silva-Chavez. G-U-S-T-A-V-O A-R-T-U-R-O S-I-L-V-A hyphen C-H-A-V-E-Z.

Q Thank you. And are you one of the Protestants in this case?

A Yes.
Q And is your wife also one of the Protestants?

A Yes, she is.
Q What's her name?
A Anica Landreneau A-N-I-C-A
L-A-N-D-R-E-N-E-A-U.
Q Okay, thank you. I'm going to share
my screen again. And I'm going to move to Exhibit 12. And I'm going to blow the screen up. And you're looking at Exhibit 12. Can you tell the Board what you see here?

A Yes. On the left side, that building is the Carswell. And as we heard before, the first set of sliding doors is Cassandra's unit. Our unit is the one above that.

Q That's Ms. Jones that you were speaking of?

A That's correct, yes. An our unit is the one above that one.

Q Okay. so the second set of sliding doors upstairs on the second floor is yours.

A Yeah.
Q And the windows to the left of those sliding doors is yours?

A That is correct, yes.
Q Okay. How long have you lived there?
A So I've lived there since 2012.
Q And your wife before you?
A Since July 2019.
Q Okay. What do you do for a living?
A So I work from home and I am a consultant. And I work on global warming issues,
specifically on international forest issues. And what I do is I do research and I provide -- I provide advice to NGOs, governments, and the private sector on policies to reduce global deforestation.

Q Before the COVID pandemic, did you work in an office or did you work from home?

A From home.
Q After the pandemic is over, do you expect to continue working from home?

A From home, yes.
Q Do you have what you would call regular work hours or irregular work hours?

A My hours are pretty irregular because I work with a lot of folks all over the world. I have to work, you know, multiple time zones. And a lot of times have to react to what's happening in terms of, you know, are there any forest fires in the Amazon or forest fires in California? So yeah, my work hours are pretty regular.

Q Irregular, you're saying?
A Correct, yes.
Q Okay. Have you watched or listened in on ANC meetings or ANC Committee meetings about this application or seen any other plans or
drawings about what Mr. Hughes is proposing here for his establishment?

A Yes. Early on in the process, we received a copy of the preliminary ideas back when the concept was a coffee bar/barber shop. But since then, my understanding is that the concept expanded to include live music, DJs, an outdoor beer garden and late hours of operations with entrances on both Vernon and Florida. And up until today, I had not seen anything since those preliminary drawings.

Q Okay. And based on what you've seen for it and based on what you've heard today, how would his proposed summer garden and his hours of operation affect your ability to work from home?

A Well you know, so again it's the same concerns that other folks have talked about. You know, during the day, you know, the noise -the outside noise is going to be a primary concern. And then as people drink and especially towards the, you know, later hours, that noise is going to be an issue. We know that, you know, drunk loud people leaving right under our bedroom is going to be a problem. And then you know, calling Ubers, honking their horns at 3:00 a.m.
on Vernon. That's going to be a problem. And then you know, some of the issues that other folks talked about in terms of, you know, delivery trucks, trash storage and removal.

Q Apart from work and sleep, what do you like to do at home in your spare time?

A I like to cook. Before COVID, we liked to host friends. I like to read and listen to music and I play guitar.

Q And describe how the noise coming from patrons drinking in the summer garden would affect those hobbies of yours.

A Well you know, if things go poorly and you know, the noise is pretty bad, I think it's going to impact, you know, if we're able to have friends over. Because we're going to be in the situation where, you know, that noise is going to be a problem. You know, reading, listening to music, playing guitar, finding it enjoyable if we have, you know, a noisy summer garden next door. So that's going to be a bigger problem.

Q Do you and your wife generally keep the windows open when the weather is nice or do you keep the windows closed and rely on air conditioning?

A We usually keep them open. But especially the last year since construction started, the combination of the noise and the dust has forced us to keep them closed.

Q Okay. So put aside the construction. Assume that one day the construction will be over. Again, would you generally keep the windows open when the weather is nice or would you keep them closed and rely on air conditioning?

A We prefer to keep them open. My wife and I both work in careers that are focused on environmental issues and we try to limit our energy use. (Inaudible) a financial benefit to reducing your energy bills and the benefit of having fresh air, especially in the spring, fall, and summer nights that are not too muggy.

Q And how would the summer garden affect that?

A Well I mean, you know, if things are not going well, we're not going to be able to keep our windows open.

Q Okay. I'm going to show you one more exhibit. And it blows up. Tell me if you recognize -- This is Protestants Exhibit 14 for
identification. Tell me if you recognize this.
A Yes, that is the --
Q Describe it for the Board.
A So that is the backside of 1804 Vernon Street. That's the side facing Florida Avenue.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 14 for identification.)

Q And what is 1804 Vernon Street or what do you see here? Describe it for the Board.

A So for the last probably year, there have been some tenants there. And you know, they hang out frequently outdoors. You know, they're pretty good tenants. You know, they hang out for, you know, smoke breaks or to make phone calls. And you know, when I'm in my living room office, you can just hear the phone calls. You know, they don't have to be yelling. They can have regular, normal, you know, volumes and you can hear them easily. And you know, when they started, you know, having groups, you know, the volume gets louder.

Certainly, you know, on a nice afternoon and especially on the weekends, they tend to have more people over. And you know,
they like to drink on that table. And you know, they have certainly had parties where they play music and it gets louder. And you know, it gets, you know -- So that's in the two buildings over from us. And you know, we can smell the smoke.

We can hear the music really loud and we can hear the conversations really loud. And that's just, you know, their parties probably -I don't think they've ever had more than ten people in that little area.

Q And how often would you say that occurs?

A You know, it depends on the weather. You know, certainly over the last year because of COVID, it went down initially. But then in the last several months, they started to congregate again. You know, if it's raining, they're pretty quiet. On a nice day, you know, they can definitely hang out there for a while. But you know, to be fair to them, you know, they're pretty good about taking it inside, you know, usually around 10:00.

MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move this Exhibit 14 into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without objection.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 14.)

MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do you have any questions for Mr. Silva-Chavez?

MR. KLINE: Yeah, a few.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. Silva-Chavez, two of your concerns with this application is your understanding that the establishment will feature live music and have a beer garden. Is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And you indicated that you're concerned about people honking their horns at 3:00 a.m. What evidence do you have the people are going to be honking their horns at 3:00 a.m. because of this establishment?

A When they're calling for Ubers and

Vernon is a one-way street. And Ubers get into the front of Vernon and folks are either, you know, still inside having conversations not getting into Ubers and either Ubers drivers/Lyft drivers or other drivers that are trying to get through can't get through, the honking is going to start. This happens right now even without, you know, this establishment and no doubt it's going to happen.

Q So it happens right now. It's a product of living in a city, isn't it?

A Yeah. And you know, I was born in Mexico City. I'm used to big cities. I've been coming to Adams Morgan for the last 25 years. I have no problems with city life. So I'm totally comfortable with that. But this is going to make things significantly worse when this is happening right next door on a one-way street that is residential.

Q Have you met Mr. Hughes?
A No.
Q You have not met Mr. Hughes?
A No.
Q So you don't have any reason to believe what he commits to, he will do. Do you?

A What is the question?
Q The question is, $I$ mean is there any reason for you to believe that he's untrustworthy in terms of commitments he makes to the community?

A Well his record with what he has been doing for the last, you know, since this process has started has not been good. He has not been forthcoming with that his plans are. He had started with, you know, I'm going to do one thing, then I'm going to add another thing. And you know, it hasn't been a good track record, so no.

Q Didn't Mr. Hughes come to the community over a year ago and make presentations as to what his plans are there?

A And he kept changing his story.
Q Okay. So your position is you don't trust him. Is that what you're saying?

A I don't know what he wants to do.
Q Were you here for the testimony today?
A Yes, I've been here -(Simultaneous speaking.)

Q Is there anything confusing about what he wants to do from his testimony today?

A No.
Q But you still don't know what he wants to do?

A Some of the answers were not super clear.

MR. KLINE: I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions for Mr. Silva-Chavez by any board members? Any re-direct, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. SilvaChavez, thank you very much for your testimony today.

MR. SILVA-CHAVEZ: All right, thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're excused. Mr. Roth, do you have another witness please?

MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Ms. Piper Hendricks.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Piper Hendricks.

MS. HENDRICKS: Hello.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Piper Hendricks, can you raise your right hand please?
(Witness sworn.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Your witness, Mr. Roth.
MR. ROTH: Good evening, Ms.
Hendricks.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q Can you please state and spell your full first and last names for the record?

A Yes. Piper Hendricks, P-I-P-E-R H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S.

Q Thank you. And again for the record, can you state where you live?

A 1812 Vernon Street in the Carswell, No. 33.

Q And are you one of the abutter Protestants in this case?

A I am.
Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen here and go to a different exhibit. I'm going to show you Exhibit 11. And ask you to point out to the Board or tell the Board what you see here.

A I see our building, the Carswell on the right. And then the building where the proposed business would be to the left in (audio
interference).
Q And can you point out which window at 1812 Vernon Street is yours?

A I can. It's easiest to count from the top. Just down one and then I'm the third -third one there. You can almost see my window box, but not quite. So I'm second from the top.

Q Or to put it differently, if Ms. Kerr's window is the one behind the tree, yours is on the third floor up. Is that right?

A Right. It's Ms. Kerr, then Ms. Farmer, then me.

Q Okay. Again, that appears to be two floors above the doorway to 1806. And Mr. Hughes says his speakeasy would be located on the same floor as his doorway. I believe he also testified that he planned to store alcohol on this floor, the floor above that. So let's turn to Exhibit 13. I think we can (audio interference). And on the rear side of the building, can you point out which window is yours here?

A Well if we want to do the same, it's easy from the bottom. It would be Ms. Kerr, then Ms. Farmer, then me on the third floor.

Q And on this side of the building, your window appears to align more directly with that same floor that Mr. Hughes is proposing to have his office and store alcohol. Is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. How long have you lived in your current unit at the Carswell?

A Since 2005.
Q Okay. Have you watched or listened in on ANC meetings or ANC Committee meetings about this application or seen any architectural plans or drawings for what Mr. Hughes is proposing here for his establishment?

A Yes, I attended some online. And I've seen plans (audio interference).

Q Thank you. And based on what you've seen and heard, what are your main concerns about his proposed operation?

A My concerns overlap some of what's been mentioned already. But my main concerns are really the noise and smoking. And then also potential impact on the value of our units.

Q Okay. Why don't you go into more detail first on the noise issue?

A Yeah. Well it's been, you know,
readily apparent with the construction just how close -- the building is right next door. Concerned about when people are coming and going, having it be louder. I, like many of my neighbors like to keep my windows open. And so that can be, you know, we just -- we hear things a lot more with the windows open and having people around. Obviously there's coming and going during the day normally in this area, but not concentrated so late in the evening as the proposed hours are.

Q Did you hear the testimony earlier from the applicant's acoustics and noise expert?

A I did hear that, yes.
Q And what impact did that testimony have on you so far as its impact on your apartment?

A Well, you know, it's a mix. I appreciate that it sounds like there's been a lot of effort made and a lot of, you know, looking at what mitigation could happen. It's hard to say what the impact of that actually will be. I mean I think what caught my attention is that there's just no guarantee it will be completely noise proof. And as someone who -- my bedroom wall and
where I work now both, you know, share the wall with the building next door. So I think if it's not totally quiet, that I'm mostly to be in a position where I'm going to hear that through the walls.

Q Thank you. What do you do for a living and do you work from home?

A I do. Yeah, I work a non-profit called IHEP or the Institute for Higher Education Policy. And we're all working entirely remotely right now. And then most likely will stay as a mix of things. I think there's a lot of unknown coming out of the COVID era, but most likely we'll continue to work from home.

Q So how would outdoor activity and the proposed Florida Avenue summer garden or during the day in front of the applicant's Vernon Street basement entrance affect your ability to work from home?

A It would be distracting. I have windows as you just saw, both the front and the back. So having noise would be challenging for work.

Q And smoking, how would that be a problem for you?

A I'm really sensitive to smoke. I hate it. My dad told me growing up, like if you can smell it, that means you're smoking too. So whenever there's any smoke, I immediately shut the windows.

Q You mentioned you work in the public interest or non-profit field. So how long have you been doing that?

A Since 2008.
Q And without meaning to get too personal here, do you have any other significant assets besides the equity in your condominium?

A I do not, no. My condo is my only -only main investment.

Q So what do you see as the financial ramifications for you if Mr. Hughes's establishment turns out to be problematic for you in the ways you've described?

A Well, I mean that would be -- that would be significant for me. You know, if I ever wanted to move or sell, that would -- if the price is to go down, then that would significantly impact an investment that I've had since 2005 and impact where I'd be able to go from here.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close your screen. Mr. Kline, do you have any questions for Ms. Hendricks?

MR. ROTH: He's on mute.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're on mute, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Rookie mistake, I apologize.

CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Ms. Hendricks, I think I missed this. Your back window faces that little alley?

A Yes, sir.
Q And your front window, that faces Vernon?

A I do, yep. It's the same layout as Ms. Farmer downstairs. I have four windows facing Vernon and the one window facing the back of Florida.

Q Okay. So your apartment overlooks where Ms. Farmer enjoys her cigarettes, doesn't it?

A That is correct, yes.

Q Okay. So that's already an issue for you.

A It is. It's interesting though listening to the earlier testimony, I've never seen anybody else smoking out there other than Lee. And as much as I like her as a person, I do hate the smoking. So I'll shut my windows when she's out there.

Q Got it. Have you been involved in this process for very long?

A I have. I haven't been the most active, but I've been part of this.

Q Have you met Mr. Hughes?
A Not in person, no.
Q But you've met him over Zoom?
A We met over -- We met over Zoom. The first contact $I$ remember having is a phone call. And then we had a Zoom when we talked about settlement discussions.

Q Is it your position that you want this license denied?

A I want to be able to still live here and be able to work and sleep here.

Q So is it your position you want this license denied?

A I don't think that $I$ would say that. I don't. I mean I think that it's -- I'm frustrated by this entire case. In the middle of COVID, it's been really, really difficult. I think the -- I understand that the concept is really cool. And it would be something that I would want to see. I'd want to visit. You know and I heard earlier, Commissioner Bowles testimony about having empty storefronts on 18th and I wholeheartedly agree. It makes me sad to see a lot of places that are empty right now in my neighborhood. And I would love to see something go in any one of these storefronts. It's just really hard to have it be right next door.

Q Understood. You've seen Mr. Hughes make a number of presentations. Is that correct?

A I know the one when we had a settlement call recently. I don't know about presentations beyond that, but there have been different calls --

Q Okay.
A -- that I've been on. Yeah.
Q How long have you known about what his concept is?

A The first I remember ever hearing about any of this was definitely before COVID when we had -- there was a -- And I'm not going to get the terminology right. But there was a meeting, a neighborhood something where people went. And I remember I did not go, but I remember neighbors here trying to go and then having a hard time finding the location. That was before March of 2021.

Q '20.
A Yes, yes. Gosh. Before March of 2020. And then I remember seeing some of the plans during the -- you know, over the course of different communications and meetings and things after everything went virtual.

Q So when did you first learn what the concept is?

A I think probably sometime last year, yeah.

Q That hasn't changed at all, has it?
A The concept?
Q Yes.
A Not to my knowledge, no.
MR. KLINE: Okay, great. I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, any questions by any board members of Ms. Hendricks?

All right, Mr. Roth, any re-direct?

## RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Just one, just to be clear. Ms. Hendricks, this is not a storefront on 18th Street, is it?

A No, it is not.
MR. ROTH: Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hendricks, thank you very much for your testimony. You are excused. Thank you very much.

MS. HENDRICKS: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you have any more witnesses?

MR. ROTH: How am I doing on time, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I don't want to tell you because -- How many more witnesses do you have?

MR. ROTH: I have one.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have 22 minutes and 40 seconds, sir.

MR. ROTH: I'll be wrapped up long before then. I don't know about Mr. Kline's cross.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is your next witness?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Denis James.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. James, you are -- you look almost like a ghost, so I'm not quite sure -- why that your screen shows you the way it does. I just want to let you know because it's not fuzzy, so something your camera or stuff. I can see you, but I just want to say that you are -- I just wanted to let you know that. Yes, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, can I say some of us are congratulating Mr. James for having spent time on the phone with Ms. Andrews figuring out how to use Webex on his phone.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Well I just wanted to say I've seen -- I've seen the picture all day. So I didn't know if it was something that you could do to be more in focus, but anyway. But anyway, can you Mr. James, can you please raise your right hand please?
(Witness sworn.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you.

MR. JAMES: Am I being heard? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. I can hear you.

MR. JAMES: Okay, great. Thank you. Sorry about the image, it was explained to me that it's something about my screen protector and it just makes things not in focus. But I can see everybody else nicely focused.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right, that's fine. Go ahead.

MR. ROTH: Good evening, Mr. James. DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Would you please state and spell your first and last names for the record?

A First name Denis, D-E-N-I-S, last name James, J-A-M-E-S.

Q And in what capacity are you testify here today?

A As a person of the Kalorama Citizens Association.

Q You want to spell Kalorama for the record?

A Sure. K-A-L-O-R-A-M-A.

Q Okay, thank you. And is the Kalorama Citizen Association or KCA for short, a Protestant in this case?

A Yes, we are.
Q Okay. How long have you been involved in dealing with ABRA and ABC matters on behalf of the KCA?

A Since the year 2000.
Q And during that period, can you estimate approximately how many ABC license applications, renewals, and substantial change requests you've been involved with on behalf of the KCA, either in the form of settlement agreements or full protest hearings?

A Well I expected this question was coming, so I did a little figuring on all the different establishments that we've had over the years and there's been an awful lot of them. Generally we have about 65 establishments -- 65 to 70, it varies. So anyway, I believe that I've been involved on behalf of KCA in at least 130 licensing matters and I believe that 120 or so led to a settlement agreement or an amendment to a settlement agreement. And that just seven in
that 20 years went to a protest hearing including this one.

Q And roughly speaking, percentage wise, how have those been divided between restaurant licenses and tavern licenses?

A It's about --
MR. KLINE: Objection as to the -objection as to relevance. Who cares what Mr. James protests? This is completely irrelevant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. Answer the question, Mr. James if you can -- if you can answer it.

MR. JAMES: So it's approximately 35 tavern matters and 95 CR matters -- restaurant matters.

MR. KLINE: I'm sorry. Mr. James, I'm sorry. I didn't catch that answer.

MR. JAMES: Okay. So 35 CT tavern matters and 95 CR restaurant matters. And we don't have any nightclubs in Adams Morgan. We have a lot of places that kind of act like nightclub, but we don't actually have any nightclub licenses or any CT's and so forth.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Okay. And as between restaurant and
tavern licenses, has the KCA been particularly concerned about one category of licensees more than the others?

MR. KLINE: Objection, relevance. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is that relevant, Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: I'll move on to the next question. Have there been distinguishing features that separate tavern licenses from restaurant licenses in the community that have caused the KCA to be more concerned about one as opposed to the other?

MR. KLINE: Objection. Same
objection. What the KCA is concerned about is not what this hearing's about. This hearing is about whether this premises is appropriate for the issuance of a license to this applicant. What the KCA cares about or thinks about is concerned about as much as evidence is completely irrelevant.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. KLINE: -- protest every license application. Why is it relevant? They're concerned about everything.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I'm going
to overrule the objection. Answer the question, Mr. James if you can.

MR. JAMES: I need to go back in time a little bit.

MR. ROTH: Don't go too far back, Denis.

MR. JAMES: I won't. I won't. I'll wrap it real quick. In the year 2000, the ABC Board granted the first Adams Morgan moratoriums and we only had three taverns in the neighborhood at that time. And upon its renewal in 2004, there was a little gap in the language which allowed restaurants to switch to taverns. And 15 additional establishments went through that gap. And they've all been adjudicated and most of them still exist and operate today. But those were largely the establishments that were giving the neighborhood problems with loud noise, you know, entertainment activity without -- in some cases without permission. So we watch very carefully the tavern situation and we still have some problematic taverns. It's not an automatic. We have some really good taverns that serve a lot of food as well.

But it's sort of a dividing line in
the neighborhood. The neighborhood has repeatedly said through the ANC and through civic groups like KCA that we don't any more taverns to be issued because of the problematic things that happen.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Mr. James, what in particular in the distinguishing aspect of food service that have you found makes tavern licensees particularly either problematic or not problematic?

A Well if you're busy serving food, you're less likely to be busy, you know, disturbing the neighbors. And a lot of these taverns that we have do have entertainment, but along the way, we manage to get settlement agreements that they would serve some amount of food, usually less -- in fact I think in all cases less than what a restaurant is required to serve, but substantial amount of food. So it's kind of a little balancing act. And we think that the service of food tempers the perhaps less neighborhood friendly aspects of entertainment and, you know, unbridled drinking in the neighborhood.

Q Either Mr. Hughes or Mr. Kline, I'm
not sure which has pointed to the Imperial diagonally across the intersection at 18th and Florida and Vernon Street as an example of a tavern that they'd like to be compared to. Can you describe what kind of food service the Imperial offers even with a tavern license?

A This is just based on what I've heard and read. I haven't had a chance to go there because of the pandemic. But my understanding is that it's a full menu --

MR. KLINE: Objection. If he doesn't have personal knowledge, then he shouldn't be testifying about it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. BY MR. ROTH:

Q All right, I'll let that go. With respect to this particular Applicant's plans and based upon -- Well, let me back up. Have you attended or listened in on any of the ANC's or ANC Committee meetings regarding the applicant's proposed establishment or reviewed any of the any of the applicant's architectural plans or drawings?

A Yes, I have. I've attended every single thing except the one video tour that was
set up in-person. I mean it was sort of an inperson, as well as a video by Zoom. And I didn't have Zoom installed, so $I$ couldn't see that. I've attended all the ANC meetings.

Q All right. What have you seen or heard about the Applicant's plan that cause you concern?

A The late hours, the desire to have patrons outside on the Florida Avenue summer garden until late hours -- you know, very late hours, 1:00 and 2:00 a.m. And any activity on the fronts where -- you know, we understand that it's a commercially zoned property. But it's a vast chance from what has ever been there in the past. And so exiting that way because it's Mr. Hughes's business plan and then sort of guaranteeing you're going to disturb your neighbors deep into the night, that just doesn't seem very neighborhood friendly. So I consider that to be problematic.

The DJ entertainment, while not anywhere near a full entertainment endorsement, could still be problematic depending on the volume. You know, music is music live or DJ.

And it can be loud or controlled properly.
Q Okay. And just for the record finally, does the KCA have members who live on Vernon Street?

A Yes, we do.
MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions, Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good evening, Mr. James.

MR. JAMES: Hi.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. KLINE:
Q Mr. James, how many people were at the meeting where KCA vetted to protest this ABC license?

A Our executive committee is permitted under our constitution to vote ABC protests. And all five members of our executive committee were present.

Q So the five of you decide whether you're going to protest an ABC license?

A That's correct. We're the leadership of the organization and our constitution. We
made a special change so that we wouldn't have to, you know, depend strictly on our regular business meetings so that we could just have the executive committee handle these matters. It's a pretty common sort of thing for a civic group to have a board or an executive committee handle such work.

Q Now you've been involved in this protest since the beginning. Is that correct?

A Yes.
Q And you've heard Mr. Hughes's various presentations or several of them?

A Yes. I think I've heard just about everything that he's said publically.

Q And when did you first become aware -When was the concept first explained to you?

A Well at an ANC meeting, there was a full business meeting. And I believe it was -the first placarding, which was not permitted to proceed by the board. But that wasn't known at this point. But Ms. Yohannes with your firm was there with the licensee and it was talked about. And $I$ raised the issue that this was within the moratorium zone and a new tavern could not be permitted.

Q At that meeting, you were told about the concept of a barbershop downstairs and a speakeasy upstairs. Correct?

A I'm not certain about the barbershop, but I'm certain about the speakeasy. In fact I think I said there's no such thing as a speakeasy in the ABC Code, so that's going to make it a little difficult to proceed. It's not like it's licensed (inaudible), but anyway, go ahead.

Q All right. So you've known -- you've known about this application for quite some time and the concept for quite some time. Correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And Mr. Hughes has been forthcoming in terms of what his plans are there also. Correct?

A Well, $I$ don't think he's been universally forthcoming because you know, I know I'm not supposed to talk specifics of mediation, but what we've heard --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q Then let's not talk about mediation at all because that would be improper.

A Well and it would be improper, but we heard different things there than we've heard in
the public speaking. So I don't think I'm talking about anything out of school.

Q Now Mr. James, you've been doing this a long time and you've been involved in some 130 licensing cases. Correct?

A I think so, yes.
Q So it's not unusual to hear different things in mediation than you hear in the public, is it?

A I'll grant that.
Q Okay, thank you. Now the Imperial, that's about 75 feet away, correct, from this establishment?

A I think it might be -- it might be about 100 feet away --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
A -- but roughly.
Q And KCA did not oppose full hours for that establishment, did it?

A Well, there's always a detail about these things. The license that was transferred there already had full operating hours. It was transferred from Bourbon, which was north of Kalorama Road. So Mr. Thomas, the owner, transferred that license down because he wanted,
you know, the full hours, plus the tavern facility wouldn't have to deal with food percentage. But it turns out to be repeatedly a good food establishment.

Q And the KCA didn't oppose that. You did not oppose him moving that license in that location and being approved for full hours. Correct?

A We protested. We came to a settlement agreement. The ANC was involved also.

Q And one of your big issues with this establishment is the hours, isn't it?

A It is. (Simultaneous speaking.)

Q -- you're unwilling to agree and you still oppose full hours for this establishment. Correct?

A Correct because it's right next to residents.

Q Now Mr. James having done 130 or 120 settlement agreements or whatever it is, many of the establishments in Adams Morgan are adjacent to residents. Aren't they?

A They're close, but they're not adjacent and there's not one that abuts.

Q There's not one that abuts?
A With the possible exception of Lucky Buns.

Q What about up the street on 18th Street on the east side of the street, aren't there residences behind Roofers Union and all of those establishments up there?

MR. ROTH: I'm going to renew my -I'm going to renew my objection here of going all the way up to the entertainment district in Adams Morgan.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to hear of any specified entertainment district in Adams Morgan.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on, Mr. Roth.

MR. KLINE: And Mr. James has testified not just with respect to the settlement agreements or licensing protests in this whatever 1200 feet that Mr. Roth seems to be hung up on. But throughout the entirety of Adams Morgan and the consistency of their actions and their statements are certainly open to impeachment based upon other properties within the jurisdiction of KCA regardless of whether that
area had any ultimate bearing on the statutory area to be considered by the Board in judging this first.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I'm
going to overrule the objection. So Mr. James answer the question. And Mr. Roth, can you please mute your phone please? I need everyone if you're not speaking to please mute your microphone. I can hear when you're shuffling the papers. That's one of the reasons -- That's why I try to always mute my microphone also because when -- Also you, Mr. Kline, when you're not -when you're not asking questions and as lawyers, we're shuffling papers, we can all hear that. So I just wanted you to know that. So Mr. James, answer the question please.

MR. JAMES: Except for Lucky Buns, I don't believe that there is one on premise establishment, especially ones with late hours that have a party wall with a residence zone in the whole of Adams Morgan.

BY MR. KLINE:
Q But there are many simply that are simply across the alley. Correct?

A What's that?

Q There are many that are simply across an alley. Correct?

A That's true.
Q Okay.
A Yes, I hear you. I agree with that.
Q Now isn't it true that one of the reasons you said that Imperial is entitled to full hours and Mr. Hughes is not is because they have a track record?

A I don't believe I said that today.
Q I didn't say today.
A Okay.
Q Isn't it true that you said that?
A Yeah, I believe I might have said that in a public meeting. There is a track record there. Mr. Thomas -- Bill Thomas, the owner, you know, has been in the neighborhood since the year 2000 and has largely been a very responsible operator. And we're pleased to see that he's using a tavern to sell a lot of food. And he's not particularly close to residents.

Q So Mr. Hughes whose bio you heard earlier is a business school graduate and an accomplished business person, your position is he lacks the requisite track record for KCA to be
able to approve full hours as has been approved for other operators. Is that correct?

A I disagree -- I disagree strongly with your statement -- your characterization. If Mr. Hughes would have come in with a reasonable proposal about hours, I think we would have -- we wouldn't be here today.

Q A reasonable proposal like the one for Imperial?

A Again, Imperial was transferred a license that already had the full hours. Can you imagine -- I think you'd probably be amused at somebody taking a case like that to this board and asking them to take away the full hours when they have a nice investigative history.

Q It was a different location then.

## Correct?

A The Imperial license?
Q Yeah, that it was transferred to a different location -- to the Imperial, its current location. Correct?

A Correct.
Q And it's by your estimation 100 feet and by the investigator's estimation, 75 feet from those that claim that they will be affected
by Mr. Hughes's licensed establishment. Correct?
A Yes.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q I think you answered my question. I'm about to ask another one. So the difference would appear to be your opinion or KCAs opinion as the case may be as the quality of the operator. Correct?

A No, I believe it's based on the placard and what was asked for and the location.

Q Well the placard in this case asked for full hours, correct, in the case of Mr. Hughes's application?

A Yes, and that's what we're objecting to and the -- you know, the entertainment endorsement I don't believe was limited -- I'm not certain about that. I'd have to double check the placard.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q And the placard for the Imperial also asked for full hours. Correct?

A Yes. That was stating -- As you know, such transfers, it states what the hours are on it, not that they're asking for it.

Q Well, but it's the same review
process. Isn't it?
A Not quite.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
A A new license is a different thing than an existing license being transferred.

Q But they were both transfers, correct, to new locations?

A I beg your pardon. You're correct. I was thinking of the first time that Mr. Hughes applied for a tavern.

Q So I'm going to ask you again, the only real difference is your opinion as to the -or KCAs opinion as to the bona fide of the operator. Isn't that correct?

A No. No, it's not correct. As I said before, it's to do with the proximity to residents in a residence zone. And the totality of what's being sought by the Applicant.

Q So 75 feet away or 100 feet away as the case may be is not a problem, but this establishment, which is still in a commercial zone is a problem in the view of you or the KCA because of its location. Is that your testimony?

A No, not really. I think you're twisting it around. You know, it's a
pre-existing tavern transfer for the Imperial into an area where there's not -- the block face, which contains the Imperial doesn't have one resident. It's nothing but commercial. That's our problem in Adams Morgan. You know, it's --

MR. KLINE: I don't have a question pending, Mr. James. I don't have a question. You don't have license to ramble. I don't have a question pending. And indeed, I have no more questions, so thank you.

MR. JAMES: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any questions by any board members? I'm hearing none.

MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Mr. Chair -- Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short. MEMBER SHORT: I won't prolong this much longer. I've met Mr. James over the years and I just had some questions to ask him based on his testimony. Good afternoon or good evening, Mr. James.

MR. JAMES: Good evening, Mr. Short. It's great to be able to see you. I'm sorry you can't see me.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay, it's been many years. Let me say this to you, in Adams Morgan, in the cases you've brought before us and as stated in your testimony and the questions of the attorneys present with us, when you have a person that puts an application or a licensee that asks for a CT license and he wants -- or they want -the licensee wants an entertainment endorsement and DJs in a CT, I didn't see a menu today. Maybe I missed it, but I didn't see a menu today from the applicant. Maybe it was there and I didn't see it.

I didn't see a lot about a kitchen or cooking area in this licensees drawings today. So what happens when you have a CT -- I didn't see any tables or chairs on the drawings or on the walk-through. So in your experience or your -- since you've been coming before this Board and working with the Kalorama Citizens Association, when you see a CT application or a person comes in and says they want to have a restaurant and lacks certain things as I mentioned; cooking facilities, menus, they want to have entertainment endorsements, what does that normally -- what does that normally wind up being
in the community? Is it an asset or does it become a problem?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. I just want to -- Mr. Short, I appreciate you asking questions, but remember this is a CT that's being requested. It's not a restaurant that's been requested with some --

MEMBER SHORT: I'll withdraw that
remark. A CT -- a CT licensee who wants entertainment endorsement. You did hear that, didn't you, Mr. Chairman? And he also wants -did you see much of a kitchen today, anybody? Well, I guess I'm asking Mr. James.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All I was trying to do, Mr. Short, is to clarify the record. It's a CT and the law doesn't require -the law does not require that a CT have -- Those are not necessarily requirements for a CT because they are a tavern. I just wanted to clarify the record. You can ask your -- you can ask whatever questions you want to ask.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MEMBER SHORT: I know we've had a long day and you're the last one $I$ want to get into a discussion about this because we have some
business to take care of later on. And I'll talk to you then if it's okay. But --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. Go ahead, Mr. Short. Ask your question.

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. James again, when CTs become problematic, what are the normal reasons why they become problematic to the community normally?

MR. JAMES: Well I believe that it's because the owner -- the Applicant is trying to do a nightclub kind of operation without actually seeking a nightclub. In Adams Morgan, nightclubs are not allowed because of our moratorium. So if, you know, there's no attempts to serve food because taverns actually do need to serve food, it's just not a measurable amount stated in the law. So you know, to me it's something to watch. You can have a great operator who handles it just right or it's possible you could have an operator who's just trying to go nightclub without the benefit of a nightclub license. And it's a fine line. But the later you go, the more entertainment you have, the less food you have, we would expect -- we wouldn't be surprised if there were problems down the road.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's all I have. And thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to ask that question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank
you, Mr. Short. Any other questions by any of the board members? All right, $I$ just wanted to make sure I didn't miss anyone. Mr. Kline, any re-direct? Any re-cross based on the questions asked by Mr. Short?

MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, no.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Kline. Mr. Roth, re-direct to wrap this up? RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Very briefly, Mr. Chairman because there's been so much discussion about the Imperial. I just want to give Mr. James the opportunity to make clear what we're talking about here. Mr. James, are you able to see exhibits on your --

A Yes.
Q -- screen?
A Yes.

Q Okay. Because there have been numbers thrown around, 75 feet, 100 feet and I'm not sure that either Mr. James or Investigator Puente or Mr. Kline or myself actually know how many feet the Imperial is. But, Mr. James, can you point out which lot number the Imperial is?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit is this please?

MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. This is Protestants' Exhibit No. 2.

MR. JAMES: If you can make it just get a little bit bigger I might be able to read it. Sorry. It looks like Lot No. 21 or perhaps it might be 23. It's really hard to see.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 2 for identification.)

MR. ROTH: You were right the first time. It's Lot No. 21.

MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth seems to want to testify today.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The witness -the witness stated that -- the witness stated that he believed that it was Lot No. 21. So he
did testify and then he changed. So I mean, I'm going to -- We're at the end of the proceeding. This is the last witness, I believe. I'm not sure yet, but we'll see. So I'm going to overrule the objection. Go ahead, Mr. Roth. MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify the record, Mr. James is looking at an exhibit on his little phone and he's difficulty seeing the clarity of the numbers on the screen. But again, Mr. James, just to be clear so that there's no question in the record, can you describe where the Imperial is located?

MR. JAMES: It's diagonally across from the establishment in question, across the remaining part of Vernon Street where there's three more buildings and the width of the sidewalk. And then diagonally across the intersection of 18th and Florida and actually a little tiny bit of $U$ Street there. So you know, it's across the street from Lucky Buns and Duplex Diner as well.

BY MR. ROTH:
Q Would it be correct to say that it's on the corner of 18th and where $U$ and Florida come together?

A Yes.
MR. ROTH: Okay. That's all I have. I just wanted to clarify its location for the Board. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, please close your screen. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. James for your testimony. Do you have another witness, Mr. Roth? Mr. Roth?

MR. ROTH: No I don't, Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You still have nine minutes and 16 seconds left. All right, thank you for that. All right, do you rest?

MR. ROTH: Yes, I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And I guess before -- Mr. Kline, do you wish to call a rebuttal witness?

MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you wish to call a rebuttal witness?

MR. ROTH: No. No, sir. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, did you move all the documents into evidence that you wish to -- that we have had testimony on that you wish to move into evidence?

MR. KLINE: Yes, I did. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, did you move all the documents into evidence that you wish -- that we have had testimony on that you wish to move into evidence?

MR. ROTH: I think the one that I missed, Mr. Chairman was Exhibit 41.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was Exhibit 41?

MR. ROTH: That was the screenshot of Commissioner Bowels Twitter timeline.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do you have any objection?

MR. KLINE: I object on the grounds of relevance. I don't see why social media pronouncements are relevant to this proceeding.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to object to -- I'm going to object. The witness testified and the witness did identify that it was his social media tweet and it was regarding the matter that we are here today. So I will -I'm going to allow Exhibit 41 over the objection of the Applicant to be moved into evidence.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit No. 41.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right? All right. I'm going to give -- Each side is going to have five minutes to close. So what I'm going to do, it is 8:26, we're going to take a ten minute break. And when we -- after the ten minute break, then the parties will each have five minutes to close their case.

What I want from each side, with Mr. Kline, $I$ need you to specifically tell the Board what it is that the Board -- you're requesting from the Board in a sense that $I$ know what was -it appears that there might have been some changes that were -- Based on your testimony, there might have been some changes that was different from the placard. So I'm just -- I want -- I want in your closing for you to specifically tell the Board what it is that you are seeking.

Mr. Roth, in your closing, I need you to be specific in telling the Board what you're seeking. Are you seeking that the Board not approve this license? Or are you -- or maybe in the alternative, if the Board approves the license, are there restrictions? I'm not saying the Board -- whichever way the Board is going to
rule. I'm just saying in your closing, I need both sides to be clear what it is that they are requesting from the Board.

All right, it is 8:28. We'll be off the record until 8:40. So at 8:40, we will come back on the record and we'll do closing. All right? Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 8:27 p.m. and resumed at 8:39 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, we're back on the record. Can I see all my board members so we can wrap this up? Are you ready, Mr. Kline with your closing?

MR. KLINE: Indeed I am.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. You have five minutes, Mr. Kline.

CLOSING ARGUMENT - APPLICANT
MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, members of the Board. It's been quite a while since we've spent a full day together. And we appreciate what you do, your diligence, your attention to these cases, which are important, we know to the community, but also to the business people who file applications.

This is a black-owned business. The Applicant is an educated, professional, successful black man who bought this building in Adams Morgan with an innovative creative concept. He testified and he told you about his concept of a barber shop, which he believes is culturally significant and important to him. He's a native Washingtonian. His mother had a beauty salon not very far away. And from our standpoint, he testified to you truthfully, honestly, and has been forthcoming.

Several witnesses testified that he made numerous presentations to the community. The Applicant's witnesses testified about how he engaged with the community, he listened to concerns -- and we'll talk in a minute about how he did so -- in an effort to try to satisfy this community. But for whatever reason, we have a large number of Protestants who now have a couple of issues. They don't say we're worried about this or we're worried about that and we have two issues. Everything's an issue. I don't know that I've seen this unless we're talking about a 250-person raging nightclub. Seeing it with respect to a 30 -person speakeasy and barbershop
is incomprehensible to me.
The Protestants raised issues; trash, traffic, noise, over-concentration, deliveries, smoke. And some of the issues just -- they don't even exist. In terms of smoking, we've come to find out that one of the residents of the building where people are concerned about smoke. She smokes in front of the building all the time and people have to close their windows. It's a city. That happens. We get it. But this should not be visited upon this Applicant.

In terms of noise mitigation, the testimony was very clear in terms of the steps that are being taken to mitigate the noise. And yet, there's still mistrust. There's still concerns. It's very disturbing. I can't explain it. I've got a couple of explanations in a minute. But the fact that noise from a DJ, which is the sole source of entertainment in terms of what Mr. Hughes testified to, would be so concerning at this point when he by his own testimony is spending tens of thousands of dollars to noise mitigate. It's incomprehensible. Why would he spend the money if he didn't think it was going to solve the
problem? It really doesn't make any sense unless you think he's just a liar and a bad guy. There's no reason in the world why he would spend that money unless he thought it was going to solve the problem.

In terms of traffic, that was the other big issue -- traffic study. There was an expert but he never really tied it to the establishment. It's a troubled intersection. There are problems. What Mr. Hughes told you is what he is going to endeavor to you is eliminate this issue entirely because he expects most people are going to rideshare in coming to the establishment. And he is going to arrange for them to be picked up at a location other than on Vernon Street because he heard his neighbors and he's trying to address their concerns.

My time is short and I do want to get to get to what the Chairman directed me to. But the ANC process in this case stinks to high heaven. Amir Irani had a conflict of interest. He never disclosed it. You had two commissioners who testified they didn't know what was going on. They had concerns. They were new commissioners. They questioned. They didn't seem to get
answers, but that's one explanation as to why we're here is that it appears -- and admittedly the Chairman of the ANC had a conflict of interest, which he never disclosed. And that's one of the reasons that the ANC, I believe is in this case.

Now Mr. Chairman, you asked me to tell you and the Board what it is -- what is Mr. Hughes's bottom line basically? It is very important -- There are two -- There are three things that are very important to him. One is that he have full interior hours. His position is he's not going to be able to compete with other businesses. This is the legal hours in the District of Columbia and in our experience, it is unusual to limit interior hours.

With respect to exterior hours, he has more flexibility. We would suggest that the exterior hours be limited to 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight Friday and Saturday. We think that's reasonable. Mr. Hughes heard the concerns and he is reacting to those.

> The other item that is of critical concern to him because it plays into his concept.

There were concerns expressed by Mr. Short about service in the barbershop area. This is a trend. There are several of these establishments that are opening in the District. One we mentioned, Scotch \& Scissors or Scissors \& Scotch, I can't remember which it is, but there are a number of them. And that is important to his concept. And we really hope to maintain that.

In terms of the entertainment, the entertainment, we have no problem restricting it to a DJ. It's background music. What he really is, is a music programmer. But given the statute, he doesn't want to run close to, you know, what's a music programmer? What's a DJ? His position is it's a DJ. He wants permission to be able to have a DJ to play background music. And you heard the testimony of the sound engineer who did very extensive testing who made assumptions in terms of what the noise level was going to be. And those assumptions were based upon what he was told by Mr. Hughes. So I think although we have lots of testimony of concerns about noise, it's a red herring.

It's troubling -- and I'll close with
this -- that Mr. Hughes spent, I don't know, two
years at this point pursuing this license application to be met with just complete resistance and rumor and innuendos to the point that we had one witness at this late date, get on the stand and testify to his concerns about a beer garden -- I have no idea where that came from -- and to live entertainment -- live bands in this 30-person seated establishment. This is just preposterous. But I think that goes to the mistrust and the innuendo that circulated throughout this proceeding. And all I can tell you -- and I hate to say this and it pains me to say this -- but I think we all know it's true. Some people are fearful of a confident black business person. And that's what we have here. So we are asking that you approve the license with the changes that we've suggested, with the modifications that we've suggested. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr. Kline, I just want to give some clarification. There was a summer garden and sidewalk café, so are we still asking for a summer garden and a sidewalk café or (audio interference)?

MR. KLINE: I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

No, the request for the sidewalk café endorsement is withdrawn.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MR. KLINE: I missed that, I
apologize.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm looking at the -- I'm looking at the investigative report and what I think was the placard, so that's why I was asking. All right. Thank you for that clarification.

All right, Mr. Roth, you can do your closing please.

CLOSING ARGUMENT - PROTESTANTS
MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, board members, thank you for your time and your attention today in listening to both sides of a very contentious, complex, and difficult case.

Let me begin by -- Let me begin by emphasizing what this case is not about. Despite the impression that the Applicant may have tried conveying today and that Mr. Kline just emphasized at the end of his closing, this case is not about cultural understanding or misunderstanding. It is not about a small group
of white people trying to prevent a confident black business man from being successful.

As you can see for yourself and in the true spirit of Adams Morgan, our witnesses today are a group of neighbors who are diverse in age, race, ethnicity, gender, jobs, and the amount of time they've lived in the Carswell and on Vernon Street. It's these people who are the victims in this case, not the Applicant. The Applicant bought a rowhouse on a street that was overwhelmingly zoned residential. And if he had done his due diligence, he would have known that.

His first tavern application had to be withdrawn because the Board ruled that he was in the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, but he went ahead with his renovations despite knowing that this transfer application also faced substantial opposition from the ANC at least at the time and his neighbors. Unlike his neighbors, he obviously has huge financial resources at his disposal. And now he's throwing himself on the mercy of the Board in effect asking your forgiveness for his decision, while refusing to acknowledge any mistakes that he, himself may have made along the way.

As I said in my opening, the Applicant bears the burden of proving that its future operations will satisfy the reasonable expectations of residents to be free from disturbances and other nuisances. That's Board Case Law. And the Board must determine the prospective effect of the establishment on the neighborhood based on the unique location and particular circumstances involved.

So here's what our evidence shows. First, as several witnesses said and common experience tells us, tavern customers make noise when they leave bars in Adams Morgan. They're boisterous. They loiter when they smoke, talk, or for that matter, hook up when they wait around for their Ubers and Lyfts to arrive. So no matter whether the Applicant uses the Vernon Street doors in front as an exit at closing time or the Florida Avenue door in back, residents of the Carswell or residents of Vernon Street, or both are going to be woken up at 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. in the morning because the Applicant picked an inappropriate place to open a bar.

Second, no other residential side street within the 1200 foot radius applicable to
this case has any AVC establishment, much less a CT license anywhere other than on 18th Street itself unless it's on a corner. Allowing such a license to be placed four houses deep into a side street would be unprecedented.

Third, the Applicant expects his neighbors in the Carswell whose bedrooms overlook his proposed summer garden to endure patronage from his customers day in and day out, night in and night out regardless of whether they work from home or want to enjoy their peace and quiet at the end of a day at work or simply want to go to bed early.

Fourth, the abutting Protestants, Ms. Farmer and Ms. Hendricks had their concerns about noise and vibration penetration through the party walls reinforced by the report of the Applicant's sound Consultant, which essentially declined to say that bass vibrations would not be heard in their apartment or other apartments in the Carswell. In fact, the Consultant's disclaimer expressly said that even you, the Board, could not rely on their report. And you also heard Ms. Jones and Ms. Hendricks express concern about the financial harm they could endure if this
establishment devalued their one and only major asset.

Fifth, the Applicant could not have picked a worse intersection to want to locate near. You heard the testimony of our transportation export, Mr. Pochowski, as well as Chairman Irani and Ms. Farmer describing what a mess this intersection is. And how adding the rideshare traffic to it around closing time would not only add to that problem, but would wake up sleeping residents too. And Investigator Puente confirmed the testimony of Ms. Jones and Commissioner Irani about the absence of parking in the neighborhood.

And finally, storing trash and recycling on a little patch of public space where the Applicant envisions having a speakeasy, a café serving alcohol, a summer garden, a barbershop where drinks are served, a retail space and office and a residence is not a logical, viable, or legal plan for trash and recycling.

Now putting all that together, this is an entirely inappropriate location for the establishment that the Applicant envisions here.

As much as we would have liked to have settled this of reasonable terms (audio interference). There are lots of vacant store fronts on 18th Street, but this is not a vacant storefront and this license should be denied.

But if the Board in its wisdom believes that the location can be made appropriate with the imposition of conditions on the license, then respectfully and without waiving any appeal rights we may have post this or any other prior order in this case, we would beg the Board to impose the most stringent series of conditions, including the following: First, much earlier closing hours consistent with the true operations of the other establishments in the vicinity of the 18th and Vernon intersection. While those establishments may have full legal hours on their licenses, they operate as full service restaurants. And by 11:00 p.m. on week nights and midnight on weekends, they are all virtually silent, if not closed. Second, denial of the Applicant's request for a summer garden and a DJ. I'm pleased to see that the Applicant has already withdrawn his request for a sidewalk café, which
we would have opposed as well.
Third, an expressed limitation to 30 seats and 50 persons in total occupancy covering both floors, which is consistent with the application itself. You heard one of the witnesses today at least talk about not trusting Mr. Hughes because he has changed his story on numerous occasions. And Mr. Chairman, I think you heard today yourself when I questioned Mr. Hughes about this issue of how many people -- how many persons seated and standing, there was that little back and forth about his haziness on how many seats and how many persons he wanted. His application said 30 and 50 and that's where it should be limited.

Fourth, prohibition on allowing any audio or video equipment to project or direct sound so that it's audible, either in the Florida Avenue yard basing where he wants this supposed summer garden, which we hope you'll deny or in the public space on Vernon Street.

Fifth, clarify that if a license is granted -- Clarity that the license, if granted include the third floor if in fact the Applicant plans to use it for storage of alcohol. Sixth,
that the Applicant be prohibited from participating in public bar crawls. Seventh, that the Applicant be prohibited from turning over control of the premises to event promoters or other third parties.

Again, we thank the Board for its patience and attention and reiterate our request that the application be denied. Thank you very much again for your time today.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Roth for your presentation. And thank you also, Mr. Kline, for your presentation. Do the parties wish to file proposed findings of facts and conclusion of laws or waive their right to do so?

MR. KLINE: We'll waive.
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, this is a -Mr. Chairman, is it permissible to wait until we see the transcript before making that decision?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, the bottom line -- the bottom line is that -- And you know what the process is, so it's no new evidence. It's what was presented today. So you'd be listening to the transcript. Because the way it is, is that the transcript would be
available say within -- let me see -- The way this would work is that you would get the transcript, you'd review the transcript. And let me see what the timeline would have been. Hold on.

MR. ROTH: I know it's probably somewhere in the vicinity of two to three weeks.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. The way it would be is that you'd get the transcript in approximately three weeks and then your response would be due to us 30 days after you receive the transcript. But it's up to you. Mr. Kline has waived it. I mean I believe that the Board -- we've been here all day. I'm not trying to talk to you out of it, sir, but it's your call.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, on the one hand, I'm not dying to do it. On the other hand, it's been a -- it's a long complicated case with a lot of facts. And I would hate -- Because it is so late and we're all so tired, $I$ hate to make that waiver without having had a chance to think about it and look at the transcript. And so I think I'd like to reserve the right to do it.

And save the potential for my waiver for later on. And I will let the Board know very quickly after seeing the transcript, whether we're going to exercise that right or not.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I think the bottom line is that it's -- you have to let me know if it's something you need to do because that will determine what the Board's position -what the Board --

MR. ROTH: I think the safest course for me is to say we'd like to exercise the right to file. And I'll state that for the record tonight. If it turns out later on that we decide not to, $I$ will inform the Board staff of that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani, do you have a -- do you have a position on this, sir?

COMMISSIONER IRANI: On behalf of the ANC, no. We waive and we'll wait to hear what the Board has to say.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. KLINE: In light of Mr. Roth's position, we'll reserve. We'll wait to hear from
him in terms of whether he intends to file. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. If the parties choose to file proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law, then -- I know this isn't your license (audio interference), but because of COVID, we're on a different timeline. But I think it's -- I believe it's 60 days -- and I could be wrong -- from the time the Board receives the proposed findings of facts and conclusion of law.

But one thing that I am correct with is that the proposed findings and conclusions of law will be due to the Board 30 days after receipt of the transcript. And so the transcript should be emailed to the parties in about three weeks. If you change your mind, please let us know as soon as possible that you're not going to do this so the Board doesn't -- the Board does not sit in waiting for this document to come and it's not coming. And so as soon as -- As soon as -- and I think it's up to you, Mr. Roth, because I think Mr. Kline -- Well Mr. Kline's decision will be based on your position of whether or not you are going to so file.

MR. ROTH: We will let you know.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you.

MR. HUGHES: Mr. Chair, can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's asking the question? I'm sorry.

MR. HUGHES: This is Mr. Hughes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
Hughes. Well Mr. Hughes -- Mr. Hughes, hold on a minute please. Hold on a minute please. Is it possible for you to call Mr. Kline -- speak to Mr. Kline before you speak? And the only reason why I'm saying that is because Mr. Kline is your attorney. And I need to make sure that Mr. Kline knows what's coming out of your mouth before it comes out of your mouth.

MR. HUGHES: This is a procedural -This is a procedural question about (audio interference).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is that, sir?

MR. HUGHES: You just said 3 weeks and in 30 days or 60 days. I just want to know overall because my entire business has been, you know, I've been counting on this for damn near
two years -- excuse me, two years almost. So if Mr. Roth takes his whole time, when would you guys then rule? Would that be 90 days total?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, this is -- this is where we're going to be. I believe -- Hold on one minute please. I'm going to give you some exact timelines. Hold on.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I still
don't have the answer to provide to you. But it was my understanding that for your license because this will be in your license, it would be 60 days. But that the decision would have been due within 60 days. But because the parties have elected to do proposed findings of facts and conclusion of law is that the transcript is going to probably take about three weeks for the transcript to be available. Once the transcript is provided to both parties, then it's 30 days after the transcripts are provided that the answers are due. And that 60 days after that period, then the Board -- the Board's decision would be issues.

So I mean yes, I'll give you a response. I'll give you a response in like half
a -- give me a couple of minutes and I'll give you a specific response and timeline when it is by statute that the Board's decision is due. But we're still talking about a couple more months. I mean the Board -- We're not going to -- We'll send a decision out as quickly as possible. But it will not -- It's not going to be tomorrow -it's not going to be tomorrow or next week, sir. It's a process -- It's a process that we're following and that's where we are.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'll give you -- I will try to give you a specific timeline in the next couple of minutes.

MR. HUGHES: I appreciate it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so I was correct as I stated before. Because the parties have elected to do proposed findings of facts and conclusion of law, the transcript should be available in about three weeks. You might get it earlier than that, but it might be three weeks. Once the transcript is provided to both sides, you have 30 days to provide the Board with your proposed findings of facts and conclusion of law. And then 60 days after that

30 days, the Board -- the Board's decision will be issued. So we're talking about 90 days, so probably about 110 days or so if we are -- if we still remain on this timeline, sir.

However, the Board irrespective of what it is, the Board will try its best that the decision be issued prior to -- prior to 60 days after -- We'll try to come -- We'll try to issue a decision if we can prior to that 60-day timeline. If the record was closed today, then the decision would be due 60 days from today when the record is closed. But because the record will not be closed today, then that's why we have that additional time for -- Yeah, that's pursuant to 25 -- Chapter 25, Section -- 25, 433. So that's basically where we are.

But as I said before, Mr. Roth will -- the proposed findings of facts and conclusion of law, you're not bringing in any new information. It is basically the lawyers will be -- will get the transcript, review the transcript, and then they will say this is what -- these were the facts that were presented in the hearing today. And based on the facts that were presented in the hearing today, this is the
conclusion -- this is where the law is. So it's not any new information, it is just the lawyers reviewing the documents, reviewing the transcript, and summarizing the transcript stating that in their view, this is what the evidence showed today. Okay?

MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome,
Mr. Hughes. All right, as Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage -- Before I close -- Before I close this case officially, $I$ want to thank everyone for their participation today. I want to thank all the parties for their presentation -- for their presentation. I'll say that. I appreciate -- I appreciated everyone's attention. Everyone did what they were supposed to do, so I do appreciate what was done today.

All right, okay. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia in accordance with DC Official Code Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, $I$ move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on Case No. 20-PRO-00038, MHK Holding -- I'm sorry, MAHK Meetings, LLC,
trade name to be determined for the reasons cited in DC Official Code Section 2574(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a second?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short and Mr. Grandis has seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call vote on the motion that has been properly seconded. Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato? MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett? MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen? MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis? MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis and I agree.

## CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion has passed, $I$ hereby give notice that the ABC Board will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting in the ABC Conference Room pursuant to Section 2574(b) of the Open Meeting

Act. Thank you. Just give me a couple more minutes so I will formally close these proceedings.

All right, as Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 405 of Open Government, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on April 7th, 2021 for the purpose of discussing and hearing reports concerning ongoing or planned investigations of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel on the Board's investigative agenda, legal agenda, and license and agenda for April 7th, 2021 as published in the DC Register on April 2nd, 2021. Is there a second?

MEMBER CROCKETT: Ms. Crockett
seconds.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett has seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call on the motion before us now that it has been properly seconded. Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett? MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen? MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis? MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion has passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold this aforementioned closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notice will also be posted on the ABC Board Hearing Room bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar in ABRAs website, and published in the DC Register in as timely manner as practical.

We're now adjourned for the day.
Again, I want to thank everyone for their participation today and have a great day.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 9:14 p.m.)


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Before: DCABRA

Date: 04-01-21

Place: teleconference
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> Neae $\operatorname{cors} \rho$ ------------------Court Reporter

