DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

:
MAHK Meetings, LLC,
t/a TBD
:
1806 Vernon Street, N.W.:
License #116881
Retailer CT - ANC 1C

Case #20-PRO-00038

:

(Application to Transfer: Protest Hearing

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

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

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. Ms.

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 1 2 some entertainment inside the premises, and on 3 the summer garden. So, where we are today, so what I'm 4 5 going to do, I'm going to let, let's have everyone identify themself for the record. 6 7 let's start with the applicant. I'll start with 8 the applicant's representative. And the 9 applicant's representative can let me know who 10 the rest of the parties are. So, is that you, 11 Mr. Kline, or is that you, Ms. Yohannes? 12 MR. KLINE: That is me, Chairman. 13 Good morning, Chairman and --14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning. 15 MR. KLINE: -- Members of the Board. Ms. Yohannes is here with me also. KJ Hughes is 16 17 the principle of the applicant. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold 19 on, Mr. Kline. You're not listening to me. 20 I need you first and foremost to identify 21 yourself for the record, please. 22 MR. KLINE: Yes. Andrew Kline, 23 Counsel for the applicant. First name is spelled 24 A-N-D-R-E-W, last name is spelled, K-L-I-N-E. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

1	And who, so what, then what I'll have you do, Mr.
2	Kline, since there's a lot of parties, so why
3	don't you introduce, tell me who the folks are.
4	And then once you call their names, then they can
5	introduce themself for the record by stating and
6	spelling their names.
7	MR. KLINE: Okay. The applicant, the
8	principle of the applicant is KJ Hughes. Mr.
9	Hughes, are you on?
10	MR. HUGHES: Yes. Good morning.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, can
12	you please say and spell your name for the
13	record, please?
14	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. My name is
15	K.J. Hughes, H-U-G-H-E-S, as in Samantha.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Go
17	ahead, Mr. Kline.
18	MR. KLINE: Yes. And as I mentioned
19	earlier, Sidona Yohannes of the Veritas
20	(inaudible) Law Firm is assisting me, and is also
21	on today. Ms. Yohannes.
22	MS. YOHANNES: Hello. Sidon Yohannes,
23	here also on behalf of the applicant. S-I-D-O-N,
24	Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Kline.

1	MR. KLINE: Yes. Would you like us at
2	this time to introduce the witnesses as well?
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Yes,
4	please.
5	MR. KLINE: Okay. I don't know that
6	they're all on. But Japer Bowles.
7	MR. BOWLES: Hello. My name is Japer
8	Bowles, he, him, his. Japer Bowles is spelled J-
9	A-P-E-R, B-O-W-L-E-S. And I'm an ANC
10	Commissioner for 1C07, representing in my own
11	capacity.
12	MR. KLINE: Peter Wood.
13	MR. WOOD: Peter Wood, essentially the
14	same. P-E-T-E-R, W-O-O-D. I'm currently
15	Commissioner of ANC103, but representing myself.
16	MR. KLINE: Dr. Tamara Lowe. I don't
17	know if she's on yet. Dr. Lowe, are you on? If
18	not, then we'll introduce her. Because she is
19	working today. And
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She's on the
23	line.
24	DR. LOWE: I'm here.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell
J	

1	and state your name for the record, please?
2	DR. LOWE: Yes.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a
4	minute. You can lower your camera a little bit,
5	please, so we can see your face. Okay. That's
6	fine.
7	DR. LOWE: Can you see? Okay. I'm
8	working, sorry. My first name is Tamara, T-A-M-
9	A-R-A. My last name is Lowe, L-O-W-E.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
11	ma'am.
12	MR. KLINE: And Geoffrey Sparks. He
13	I do not believe is on yet. I think he told me
14	he'd join about 11:00 a.m. So, he is not yet on.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, that's
16	fine. All right.
17	MR. SPARKS: I'm here.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
19	MR. SPARKS: This is Geoffrey
20	(Simultaneous speaking.)
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sparks.
22	MR. SPARKS: Yes. My name is spelled
23	G-E-O-F-F-R-E-Y, S-P-A-R-K-S.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
25	right. Let's go with, is that it, Mr. Kline?

1	MR. KLINE: Yes, it is at this time.
2	Yes.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
4	fine. So, let's All right. So, who's
5	representing the ANC, the full ANC? Do we have
6	one?
7	MR. IRANI: Yes. Hello. Please.
8	Good morning, Chairman Anderson and Members of
9	the Board. My name is Amir Irani. That's
10	spelled A-M-I-R, I-R-A-N-I. And I'm Chairperson
11	of ANC1C. And I represent the ANC in this
12	matter.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm sorry,
14	what's your first and last name, please? I
15	didn't hear. Give your first and last, and then
16	spell them for them, please.
17	MR. IRANI: My name is Amir Irani, A-
18	M-I-R is the spelling. Irani, I-R-A-N-I.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize.
20	And
21	MR. IRANI: And I'm Chairperson
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You broke up.
23	So, I thought it was one name. I apologize. All
24	right. And I'm taking notes of, all right.
25	MR. IRANI: Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear 1 2 Do you plan to call any witnesses? you. 3 MR. IRANI: Okay. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani --4 5 (Simultaneous speaking.) MR. IRANI: Yes. We do plan on 6 7 calling witnesses. We have submitted a joint PIF, and that's a joint PIF on behalf of all 8 9 protestants, including ANC1C, KA, the 10 neighborhood association, the two abutting 11 protestants, as well as the group of 23 12 represented by Alan Roth. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, that's 14 fine. So I'll have then Mr. Roth, if I 15 understand that he's the designated 16 representative. So, I'm going to ask preliminary 17 issues. And then you can, but it's my 18 understanding at this moment that he's the 19 designated representative of all the group. I'll have him --20 21 MR. IRANI: That's correct. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- identify 23 himself. And then we'll ask preliminary who else 24 is here. So, Mr. Roth, can you identify yourself 25 for the record, please?

1 MR. ROTH: Yes. Good morning, Mr. 2 Chairman. My name is Alan, A-L-A-N, Roth, R-O-T-3 н. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 4 So, 5 you are, and who are you, sir? I'm representing the group 6 MR. ROTH: 7 of protestants that we've been calling the Vernon 8 Street protestants, for purposes of this case. 9 And I've also been designated for 10 purposes of this morning as a representative of 11 the two abutting protestants, Ms. Farmer and Ms. 12 Hendricks, and Mr. James, who is a president of the Kalorama Citizens Association. 13 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 15 Now, can you introduce, so, can you call the 16 names of the parties, and once they're called 17 their names then I'll have them identify themself 18 by spelling their names. Who are the parties 19 that you're representing, sir? 20 MR. ROTH: When you say parties, do 21 you mean the list of all of the Vernon Street 22 protestants? Or do you mean the abutters and the 23 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All the people 25 who you think will testify today on your behalf.

1	Are they all here on line?
2	MR. ROTH: I think they are. But
3	let's see. First, Cassandra Jones.
4	MS. JONES: Cassandra Jones, C-A-S-S-
5	A-N-D-R-A, J-O-N-E-S.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Who
7	else, sir?
8	MR. ROTH: Kaitlyn Kerr.
9	MS. KERR: Hi. That's spelled K-A-I-
10	T-L-Y-N. And last name is spelled K-E-R-R.
11	MR. ROTH: Alek Pochowski.
12	(Audio interference.)
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Pochowski,
14	can you, we can't hear you.
15	MR. ROTH: Alek, your microphone is
16	not really working very well.
17	MR. POCHOWSKI: Is this any better?
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
19	MR. POCHOWSKI: Okay. Yes. This is
20	Alek Pochowski, A-L-E-K, P-O-C-H-O-W-S-K-I.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
22	MR. ROTH: Suzanne Farmer, also known
23	as Lee Farmer.
24	MS. FARMER: Good morning. Suzanne is
25	spelled S-U-Z-A-N-N-E. Farmer is F as in Frank,

1	A-R-M-E-R.
2	MR. ROTH: Laurie Clarke.
3	MS. CLARKE: Laurie Clarke, L-A-U-R-I-
4	E, C-L-A-R-K-E.
5	MR. ROTH: Gus Silva-Chavez.
6	MR. SILVA-CHAVEZ: Yes. My full name
7	is Gustavo Silva Chavez, G-U-S-T-A-V-O, S-I-L-V-
8	A, hyphen, C-H-A-V-E-Z.
9	MR. ROTH: Piper Hendricks.
10	MS. HENDRICKS: Good morning. Piper
11	is P-I-P-E-R. Hendricks, H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S.
12	MR. ROTH: And Denis James.
13	MR. JAMES: Hi. I'm on, I'm not sure
14	if I'm being heard or seen.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. I can
16	hear you, sir.
17	MR. JAMES: Okay, great. I discovered
18	earlier that I got a really murky image that, at
19	least I can see everybody else. So, I'm Denis
20	James, President of the Kalorama Citizens
21	Association. We're a party to the case. And we
22	have agreed that Alan Roth will support and lead
23	the case to save time for the Board.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
25	MR. ROTH: Denis, can you spell your

1	name?
2	MR. JAMES: Oh, yes. D-E-N-I-S, J-A-
3	M-E-S.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that it, Mr.
5	Roth?
6	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8	Thank you. All right. Mr. Puente, can you
9	identify yourself for the record, please?
10	MR. PUENTE: Yes, sir. ABRA
11	investigator Kevin Puente, K-E-V-I-N, P-U-E-N-T-
12	E.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
14	Thank you. All right. Are there any preliminary
15	matters that the parties wish to bring to my
16	attention? And I'll start with the applicant
17	first. Are there any preliminary matters?
18	MR. KLINE: No, we don't have
19	anything, Mr. Chairman.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
21	Mr. Roth, can you now explain to me, because
22	you're now All right. Can I have, Ms. Jones,
23	can you mute your phone please?
24	So, if I call your name out it's
25	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. 1 2 will have Mr. Irani, he will make his statement. He'll present his case. He'll make his 3 4 statements. 5 Mr. Kline will cross examine him, and then Mr. Roth can cross examine him if he so 6 7 The Board will cross examine him. desire. 8 then I'll give, depending on the Board's 9 questions, and I might give another round of recross of Mr. Irani. 10 11 Once Mr. Irani has presented his case, 12 as made in his statement, then Mr. Roth, you can 13 present your case. And as you see, Mr., and then 14 Mr. Kline will have an opportunity to cross 15 examine your witnesses, okay, if they so desire. 16 Once the case has been presented, once 17 the protestant has presented his case, then I'll give each side another five minutes to wrap up, 18 19 and we'll come to, the case will be over. 20 So, we will see where we are today. 21 So, what we'll, are there any questions by anyone 22 before we start? 23 MR. ROTH: Yes. 24 MR. KLINE: Yes. 25 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, I 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, I 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 1 2 disclaimer that you gave, and I will take it for 3 what it's worth. But I enjoy when I have attorneys 4 5 Because it makes things go smoothly. here. I don't have to explain to certain people why I'm 6 7 doing certain things. And that's why I asked. 8 try to be just as, I'm more hard on the attorneys 9 because I know they know better. And, but the 10 lay persons then I'll be more relaxed. 11 And so, I'm saying that if Mr. Kline, 12 if we have a lay person and Mr. Kline objects, 13 then I need to explain to the lay person why Mr. 14 Kline is objecting. But as an attorney you will 15 It's just from that perspective, sir. know.

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

That's why I asked.

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

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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

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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.

1	DIRECT EXAMINATION
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente, can
3	you tell us where you're currently employed?
4	MR. PUENTE: The Alcoholic Beverage
5	Regulation Administration.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is
7	your role with the Agency, please?
8	MR. PUENTE: Investigator.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long
10	have you worked with the Agency?
11	MR. PUENTE: Six years.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
13	right. And are you familiar with this case?
14	MR. PUENTE: Yes.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how did you
16	become familiar with this case?
17	MR. PUENTE: I conducted a protest
18	investigation.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Did
20	there come a time that you wrote a report
21	regarding your investigation?
22	MR. PUENTE: Yes.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you have
24	a, are you able to share this report with the
25	Board?

1	MR. PUENTE: Yes.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can
3	you do that, please? Ms. Andrews, can you give
4	him the opportunity to share his screen, please?
5	MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Investigator
6	Puente, you now have the rights to share your
7	screen.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Also, Mr.
9	Puente, can you identify the document that we're
LO	looking at, please?
L1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is my
L 2	protest report.
L3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when was it
L 4	done?
L5	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: March 2021.
L6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Now,
L 7	sir, can you tell us, can you go through your
L8	report then, just share with us what information
L9	were you able to gather regarding your
20	investigation?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. I was
22	assigned the Protestants' investigation of a
23	Class CT application, transfer to a new location
24	and substantial change for MAHK Meetings, LLC,
25	trading as TRD, 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.

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. 1 2 On Friday, March 19th, 2021, I 3 received a report from the Office of Unified 4 Communications. There was no calls for service 5 for 1806 Vernon Street NW. That's it, sir. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 6 Mr. Puente, 7 there's some exhibits attached to your report, 8 So can you please identify the exhibits 9 that are in your report please? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 10 Yes. So Exhibit 11 1 is the letter from ANC-1C. Exhibit 2 is the 12 protest letter from the Kalorama Citizens' 13 Association. Exhibit 3 is the protest letter 14 from abutting property owner, Suzanne Farmer. 15 Exhibit 4 is a protest letter from 16 abutting property owner, Piper Hendricks. 17 Exhibit 5 is the protest letter from the Group of 23. 18 19 Exhibit 6 is a set of documents I 20 received from Mr. Roth which shows the zoning for 21 the area along 1806 Vernon Street NW and 18th 22 Street NW. 23 Exhibit 7 is the rendering of the 24 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.

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

1	the parking on Florida Avenue NW. Exhibit Number
2	22 is a photograph of the parking on Vernon
3	Street NW.
4	Exhibit 3 is a photograph of the
5	public parking on Vernon Street NW. Exhibit 24
6	is parking on Vernon Street NW.
7	Exhibit 25 is a sign that shows Zone
8	1 and 2 permit holder parking on Vernon Street
9	NW.
10	Exhibit Number 26 is the intersection
11	of Vernon Street NW and 18th Street NW. And
12	Exhibit 27 is another photograph of Vernon Street
13	NW and 18th Street NW.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's it?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's it, sir.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente,
17	before let's go back to Exhibit 9.
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Okay.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Again, what is
20	Exhibit 9?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is a
22	photograph of ABC establishments within 1,200
23	feet of MAHK Meetings.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how close to
25	this proposed site are what's close to this in

a sense that -- this vicinity? I know that this 1 2 says 1,200 feet, but what's close to this establishment? What -- where -- how close is the 3 4 closest establishment to this? 5 I'm not sure if on Page 7 of your report is that it would give us a better, better 6 7 idea how close it is to, how close the other 8 establishments are to this proposed site? 9 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. The 10 nearest establishment that's going to be 11 relatively close to MAHK will be Lucky Buns at 12 2018 Street NW. 13 I would say it's from, the property 14 line to property line is no more than 30 feet 15 approximately. Then across from Lucky Buns, 16 there's the Imperial at 2001 18th Street NW. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, what 18 type of establishment is the Lucky Buns? 19 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's a 20 restaurant. It's mainly sit-down. They have a 21 summer garden outside as well, patrons. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you --23 so what is the Imperial? 24 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's a tavern 25 that mainly serves food and drinks as well.

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

So can you describe, pre-COVID, this area 1 2 that this potential business would be established 3 You can close your screen too. INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. So I 4 5 worked for the agency for six years. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, 6 6 7 I was giving you more -- I apologize, Mr. 8 Puente. 9 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 18th Street is 10 a relatively, pre-COVID, is a busy street with 11 Adams Morgan. There's a lot of taverns and bars, 12 especially on 18th Street. So there's a lot of foot traffic 13 14 during the summertime, springtime, then 15 especially a lot of car traffic and bus traffic 16 as well especially at the nighttime, after 17 sunset. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let's see if I have anything else for you? I 19 20 don't have any other questions. Do any other 21 Board members, do they have any questions for Mr. 22 Puente? MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr. 23 24 Short. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short,

1	go ahead.
2	MEMBER SHORT: Good morning, Mr. Kevin
3	Puente, Investigator, forgive me.
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good morning,
5	sir.
6	MEMBER SHORT: In your report, you
7	said that this location with applicant is now a
8	fine, what was there prior to this?
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Prior to the
10	establishment, there was a beauty salon or hair
11	salon that was at that address.
12	MEMBER SHORT: Was there some reason
13	of another type of alcohol license adjacent to
14	this building or in the same building?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir.
16	MEMBER SHORT: So there was only a
17	hair salon?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
19	MEMBER SHORT: And this address,
20	again, is 1806, 1806 Vernon Street?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
22	MEMBER SHORT: And the I'm trying
23	to understand the geographics of the area. So
24	you have Vernon Street and then if you were
25	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 1 2 appropriateness, then all of that would matter to 3 me as a Board member, and so the reason why I asked that question. But I'll move on. Thank 4 5 you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Mr. Short, 6 7 Mr. Short, you can ask your question. I just 8 said Mr. Puente stated that he is unable to 9 answer the question. So I'm saying we can move 10 on. That's all, that's all I'm saying. 11 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. 12 Chair. Mr. Puente, so, again, this intersection 13 is -- I believe your testimony was that this 14 particular area and this intersection is very 15 busy during the summer and spring months and the 16 warm weather months. 17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 18 MEMBER SHORT: And has it always been 19 that way to your recollection? 20 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. In my six 21 years, yes, it's always been that busy especially 22 with the nightlife area in Adams Morgan. MEMBER SHORT: So, okay, that brings 23 24 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, 1 2 they are intermittently residential, commercial. 3 It's a very mixed community I would say. Would 4 you agree with this statement? 5 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I'll agree with that. 6 7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And so you have 8 not -- is the building still under construction 9 now? Or has it been completed? Or where is it 10 in the process? 11 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's still under 12 construction. When I was there, they were still 13 doing construction inside. 14 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, to your 15 knowledge, does, has DCRA given the license? 16 do they have the application? Or where are they in the city process for opening up a business? 17 18 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 19 Outside the establishment on Florida Avenue NW 20 side, Mr. Hughes has all the permits and stuff posted on the outside, so anyone can see it. 21 22 yes. 23 Okay. Thank you for MEMBER SHORT: 24 your testimony. Thank you for your excellent

That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

report.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
2	Short. Are there any other questions by any
3	other Board members?
4	I can't see all the Board members, so
5	I have to make sure that everybody sorry.
6	Hearing none, Mr. Kline, do you have any
7	questions for Mr. Puente?
8	MR. KLINE: Yes, I do. Good morning,
9	Investigator Puente.
10	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good morning,
11	Mr. Kline.
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	BY MR. KLINE:
14	Q So how far is the proposed
15	establishment from 18th Street?
16	A I would say it's approximately four
17	buildings down from 18th Street, so I'll say no
18	less than probably 50 feet.
19	Q Okay. And based upon your examination
20	of the records, the building in which you
21	established is to be located is in commercial.
22	Correct?
23	A Yes, sir. It's in a mixed use.
24	Q And how far away is the rooftop of the
25	Imperial?

1	A It's on the other side of 18th Street.
2	So I would say approximately give or take, 75, a
3	hundred feet.
4	Q Okay. But there is an active rooftop
5	there?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	MR. KLINE: Any idea how many patrons
8	are up on that roof?
9	A I do not know, sir.
10	Q All right. Now, turning to some of
11	the details that you report, you indicated that
12	some of these establishments we don't really
13	know how many of these establishments are going
14	to reopen at this point, do we?
15	A No, we do not.
16	Q And most of them are closed except for
17	carry-out service at this point? Or perhaps,
18	outside dining?
19	A Yes. This past weekend, I was
20	working. And I observed a lot of people outside
21	dining in the streateries and Adams Morgan, using
22	the rooftops as well.
23	So just, right now with the COVID,
24	it's hard to tell who's going to reopen fully or
25	no.

1	Q Now, you said that there were 31 ABC
2	establishments and 10 have entertainment
3	endorsements. But six of those are off premises,
4	6 of those 31 are off premise establishments,
5	correct?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q So they wouldn't have entertainment
8	endorsements in any event, right?
9	A No, sir.
10	Q So it's, basically, 10 of 25 that do.
11	A Yes.
12	Q And what about you mentioned that
13	there are six summer gardens, what about sidewalk
14	cafes? How many sidewalk cafes are there?
15	A There are 14 sidewalk cafes.
16	Q There are 14 sidewalk cafes in
17	addition to the 6 summer gardens?
18	A Yes, sir.
19	Q Okay. And the you also mentioned
20	that 11 have settlement agreements. Why, in your
21	opinion, is that relevant to work with ordinance
22	to determine today?
23	A Usually with any protest, I always
24	mention how many establishments have settlement

agreements within 1200 feet of the applicant.

1	Q Okay, now, you turn your attention,
2	if you would, to Exhibit 7 to your report.
3	A Okay.
4	Q Do you have it here? Did you examine
5	this at all in connection with your report?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q Okay. And you say on the second and
8	third pages, there are interior layouts of the
9	floorplan from second floor.
10	A Yes.
11	Q Hold on, hold on. Hold on. Mr.
12	Puente, can you please share your screen, so we
13	can see what's being referenced because I don't
14	know what? So can you please share your screen?
15	And so, we can see what's being referenced
16	please. All right. Thank you, sir. So that
17	would be the second page, correct, of Exhibit 7?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Okay. And up top is shown an outline
20	of the proposed premises, correct?
21	A Yes.
22	Q And on the bottom where it says
23	unexcavated area, that is the Carswell
24	Condominium building, correct?
25	A Yes.

1	Q Okay. So this drawing shows that the
2	and on top is the barbershop, right,
3	barbershop area here, to your knowledge?
4	A Yes.
5	Q So this drawing shows that the
6	barbershop area is not actually adjacent to any
7	residences in the Carswell building, correct?
8	A Yes.
9	Q And indeed, there's also stairwell and
10	other buffers
11	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chair, Mr. Chairman?
12	I'm going to object to this line of questioning
13	
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
15	MR. ROTH: Mr. Puente. He's not
16	the authenticator or author of this document.
17	And this document is not within Mr. Puente's
18	expertise to interpret.
19	MR. KLINE: I'm not asking him to
20	interpret it. I'm asking him
21	MR. ROTH: Well, well you are. You're
22	asking him what the document shows.
23	MR. KLINE: That's part of his report.
24	I would assume that if it's part of his report,
25	then that's what it shows.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Kline, you or Mr. 1 2 Hughes gave him the document, but he is not an 3 expert in what the document shows. 4 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I would ask 5 that you instruct Mr. Roth to direct his comments 6 to you and not to me. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, yes 8 9 MR. ROTH: Well taken, Mr. Chairman. 10 Investigator Puente is a very experienced 11 investigator, but he is not an engineer or an 12 architect. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, I do 14 hear your concerns. I'm going to overrule the 15 objection. The reason I'm going to overrule the 16 objection, this is an exhibit in Mr. Puente's 17 report. 18 If he's unable to answer, I, I believe 19 he can -- I don't know why he included this documented in his report. I don't know where he 20 21 got it from. 22 And so, if he's able to respond to the 23 question that's been asked by Counsel, he can to 24 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.

1 MR. ROTH: Okay. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. 3 Kline. 4 BY MR. KLINE: 5 Investigator Puente, we were finishing Q 6 up Page 2. And I believe what I asked you is 7 this seems to indicate that there were no residences in the Carswell adjacent to the 8 9 barbershop area. 10 Α Yes, sir. 11 Okay. All right. Turning to Page 3, 12 now you did take a tour of the space in the 13 construction, correct? 14 Α Yes. 15 And when was it for? 0 16 Α March 15th. 17 Okay, so relatively recently. And on the top of what's shown on Page 3 of Exhibit 7 is 18 19 that the, to your knowledge, the intended layout of the second floor of the building where the 20 21 speakeasy is to be located? 22 Yes, sir. Α 23 Okay. And to the bottom where it says 24 limit to Unit 3, fourth floor elevation, 120 to 25 29, 5, plus or minus, is that, that's the

Carswell, correct? 1 2 Α Yes, sir. 3 Q Okay. And in the top part of the 4 drawing, there's an area, there's two areas in 5 blue where it says limit to common lobby and 6 limit to common stairwell, were you able to 7 observe those areas under construction when you 8 were there? 9 Α Yes, sir. 10 0 Okay. And those areas are buffers 11 between the outer wall of the building in which 12 Mr. Hughes's business is to be located and the 13 area in which the speakeasy activity will take 14 place? 15 Yes, sir. Α 16 Okay. All right. Thank you. Now, if 17 you would, would you turn to Exhibit 21, a 18 photograph? Okay. In the, to the right lower 19 center, there's some blue objects there in the 20 distance. 21 Α Yes. 22 Can you identify what those are? 0 23 Those are recycle bins or trash cans. Α 24 MR. KLINE: Okay. And I'm going to

ask now that, Simone, if you could put up in

1	protest of Exhibit 10
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going Yes,
3	hold on, Mr. Kline, I okay. You, if you want
4	to share your screen then we need to take that
5	ability away from Mr. Puente. And then, we'll
6	share your screen, so you can pull up an exhibit.
7	So are you
8	MR. KLINE: Fine.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: so are you
10	trying to share your screen by referencing a
11	document for Mr. Puente to talk to justify it.
12	MR. KLINE: Yes, I want to show him
13	one of the, one of the paragraphs.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do
15	you have any
16	MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. I'm not sure I
17	understand what's going on here.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr
19	MR. KLINE: Yes. Did you I have it
20	up. Could I have the
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
22	on one minute, please hold on one minute.
23	MR. KLINE: Sure.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente just
25	testified, and we went through his documents.

1	Now Mr. Kline is bringing up one of the exhibits,
2	one of his exhibits that he wants Mr. Puente to
3	testify to.
4	MR. ROTH: Exhibit what, I'm sorry.
5	MR. KLINE: It's actually protesting
6	his Exhibit 10.
7	MR. ROTH: You're talking about your
8	historic zones map?
9	MR. KLINE: No, I'm talking about the
10	protest of your exhibit
11	MR. ROTH: Oh, I'm sorry
12	MR. KLINE: protest of Exhibit 10.
13	MR. ROTH: Yes, okay.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.
15	Andrews, can you get I'm sorry, whose
16	documents, sir, are these now? Are these yours,
17	Mr. Kline, or are this Mr. Roth's documents?
18	MR. KLINE: It is a protestants'
19	exhibit
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Mr
21	I'm sorry, Mr. Kline. We do not have the ability
22	to bring up that document, so you
23	MR. KLINE: Oh, I have it up. If I
24	can share then I can
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I. I'm sorry.

1	Hold on a minute please. So when I said you have
2	to, if you have those documents then you need to
3	ask permission to share your screen, so you can
4	provide the document.
5	But our IT person does not have the
6	ability to just pick a document to share on the
7	screen.
8	MR. KLINE: I understand. I have it
9	ready to share if I can be given privileges.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I so Mr.
11	Puente, can you please, please close your screen?
12	And Ms. Andrews, please give Mr. Kline the
13	ability to share his screen.
14	MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby. Okay,
15	Mr. Kline, you can share your screen now.
16	MR. KLINE: Thank you. Okay, I'm
17	showing you what the protestants marked as
18	Protest Exhibit 10.
19	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, your screen
20	hasn't been shared yet.
21	MR. KLINE: Oh, well, let's try this
22	again. Can you see it now?
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we can see
24	your screen, Mr. Kline.
25	MR. KLINE: Okay. Investigator

1	Puente, do you see Protest Exhibit 10?
2	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
3	BY MR. KLINE:
4	Q Okay. Is this a similar view as to
5	the view on your Exhibit 21?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q Okay. So the trashcans and the
8	dumpster that are located there unenclosed, that,
9	those are the trash receptacles for the Carswell,
10	correct?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Okay. And you've viewed them in that
13	location each of the times that you made visits
14	to the establishment.
15	A Yes, most of the time.
16	Q Okay. All right.
17	MR. KLINE: We are finished with that
18	exhibit, and I will surrender
19	MR. ROTH: Happy to be of service to
20	you, Andrew.
21	MR. KLINE: I beg your pardon.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is that,
23	Mr. Roth?
24	MR. ROTH: I said happy to be of,
25	happy to be of service to you.

1	MR. KLINE: Well, thank you. Yes.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'll just
3	you know, I'm staying out of this one, but
4	it's you can close your screen, Mr. Kline.
5	Let's, let's
6	MR. KLINE: Yes, I'm working on it.
7	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, take your
8	cursor to the very top of your screen.
9	MR. KLINE: Right.
10	MS. ANDREWS: And then drop down
11	very top, all the way
12	MR. KLINE: I got it.
13	MS. ANDREWS: And it should say,
14	should be an option to say stop sharing.
15	MR. KLINE: Well.
16	MS. ANDREWS: If you take your cursor
17	to the very top of your desktop, just drag it all
18	the way to, all the way to the top.
19	MR. KLINE: Oh, got it. Okay. Danke.
20	Great. Thank you.
21	MR. ROTH: Thank you, Ms. Sanchez.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
23	Where are we, Mr. Kline, in your
24	cross-examination?
25	MR. KLINE: I think I'm almost done.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
2	BY MR. KLINE:
3	Q In your report on Page 9, you said
4	that it's a medium size establishment. And then,
5	you attached Exhibit 11 and 12 as reference to
6	that. What you're really talking about is the
7	size of the building, correct?
8	A Yes, sir.
9	Q Okay. In fact, the establishment is
10	quite small. Isn't it?
11	A Yes. It's only the first and second
12	floor.
13	Q Okay. And the floor space, based upon
14	your visit there, is very small. Is it not?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Now, in your meeting or your
17	discussions with Mr. Hughes, he explained the
18	concept to you, correct?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay. And he told you the second
21	floor is intended as a speakeasy?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q In your six years of experience as an
24	ABC investigator, have you come to what is a
25	speakeasy?

1	A Yes.
2	Q Okay. What is it?
3	A It's a, mainly, a discreet location,
4	bar or tavern, within something usually, usually
5	need a passcode or a secret door knock or
6	something to get in. We have quite a few
7	throughout D.C.
8	Q Okay. So if the business operation
9	conducts itself in such a way as to be noticeable
10	or notorious then that defeats the whole purpose
11	of the speakeasy, doesn't it?
12	A Yes, sir, because it's usually spread
13	through word of mouth or through a select few
14	people. That's how you get the passcode or the
15	secret knock to get into one of these.
16	Q And you don't usually find people
17	congregating outside of the speakeasy given the
18	nature of the business, do you?
19	A No, sir, not the ones that I've been
20	to.
21	MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. Thank
22	you. I don't have any further questions for Mr.
23	Puente at this time.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do
25	you have any questions of Mr. Puente?

MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Good morning. 1 2 Mr. Chairman, would it be appropriate at this 3 moment just to put on the record and in response to one of Mr. Short's questions that the Board 4 5 did in fact find that this location was in the moratorium. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 8 Well --9 MR. ROTH: I quess I, I quess I just But I just wanted it noted for the record 10 did. 11 because Mr. Short raised the question, and there 12 seemed to be some confusion about it. And it's 13 just a matter of law as opposed to a fact. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 15 We'll keep moving. Go ahead. 16 MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. And 17 Investigator, good morning. Thank you for all 18 the work that you did to assemble your report. 19 Before we get too deep into substance, 20 let me just ask you a few questions to clarify a 21 couple of minor points for the record. 22 First, and no offense to your 23 photography skills, but just to give the Board an 24 additional perspective on Vernon Street and maybe 25 at a different time of day than Exhibit 24 in

1	your report, can I have permission, Ms. Andrews,
2	to share my screen? And let me show an exhibit
3	to the Board.
4	MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby. Okay,
5	Mr. Roth, you can now share your screen.
6	MR. ROTH: Okay. Let's hope I can do
7	this. No, I'm sorry. I got the wrong those
8	were okay.
9	CROSS-EXAMINATION
10	BY MR. ROTH:
11	Q So, Investigator Puente, this is
12	Protestants' Exhibit 5 for identification.
13	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
14	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 5
15	for identification.)
16	Can I ask you to please point out the
17	location we're talking about here?
18	A Yes, sir. It's going to be to the
19	west of that yellow building.
20	Q Meaning on the left side of the
21	screen? You're talking about this yellow
22	building here?
23	A Yes, sir.
24	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
25	Chairman, I'd like to move Exhibit 5 into

evidence. 1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? 2 3 MR. KLINE: I don't have any 4 objection. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will move Protestants' Exhibit 5 into evidence. 6 7 (Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Protestant 8 9 Exhibit No. 5.) 10 MR. ROTH: Thank you. 11 BY MR. ROTH: 12 Now, I'm going to take that down. Q 13 Page 3 of your report, Investigator, you 14 indicated that you met on March 5th with ANC 15 Chairperson Irani, Ms. Farmer, Ms. Clarke and myself, almost all of the comments there are 16 17 attributed to one of the four of us except for one that was attributed to Ms. Jones. 18 19 And I'm not being critical here. But 20 weren't there actually several protestants from 21 the Carswell Condominium present that day in 22 addition to Ms. Farmer and Ms. Jones? 23 Yes, sir. Α 24 Would you say they were a pretty 25 lively, talkative group?

-	A 165, 511.
2	Q So is it possible that some of the
3	statements in your report were actually
4	attributable to people other than myself or Ms.
5	Farmer or Ms. Clarke or Commissioner Irani?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q Okay. Thank you. So moving on to
8	some more substance of issues, is it possible for
9	you to put up Exhibit 8 of your report again?
10	MS. ANDREWS: One second, I have to
11	give Mr. Puente rights to share his screen.
12	Okay, Mr. Puente, you can share your screen now.
13	BY MR. ROTH:
14	Q Okay, there we go. So you mentioned
15	that this location is in a mixed-use zone.
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q Would you agree that it is immediately
18	adjacent to this residential zone including
19	immediately adjacent to the Carswell Building,
20	the Carswell Condominium right here and to all of
21	the rest of Vernon Street over here?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q Okay. Is it possible for you to
24	reduce the zoom there?
25	A Keep going?

1 So you can see that, would you Q Okay. agree that, in fact, this entire area is 2 3 residential in nature? 4 Α Yes, sir. 5 Okay. Now, you listed on Pages 7 and 0 6 8 of your report, 31 ABC establishments that you 7 found within the 1,200-foot section applicable to 8 this case. 9 Most of those 31 establishments are located on 18th Street itself including on the 10 11 corner of 18th Street and some of the residential 12 side streets. 13 Now based on your knowledge as an 14 investigator and based on the zoning maps that 15 you reviewed, even where these mixed-use zones protrude into residential side streets like 16 17 Vernon, are any of these 31 ABC establishments located on the fourth lot in from the corner like 18 19 this one is? 20 No, sir. Α 21 Are any of them located on the third 22 lot in from the corner --23 Α No, sir. 24 -- in any of these mixed-use zones? Q

No, sir.

Α

1	Q On the residential side streets, are
2	any of them located even on the second lot in
3	from the corner?
4	A No, sir.
5	Q Thank you. Now, let's turn to Pages
6	4 and 5 of your report. Can you scroll back
7	there?
8	A Okay.
9	Q When Mr. Hughes said the coffee bar
LO	I'm sorry. I have to go on Pages 4 and 5.
L1	A Right here on the bottom.
L 2	Q There we go, when Mr. Hughes, let's
L3	see yes, when Mr. Hughes, here at the bottom,
L 4	said the coffee bar which served pastries and
L5	other various food for patrons, was he more
L6	specific than that about what kind of food?
L 7	A No, sir.
L8	Q Did he say there'd be a menu?
L9	A Yes, from what I recall, there'll be
20	a small menu. People come in to grab something
21	to eat. If they're there to get their hair cut
22	or moms are there bringing their children, they
23	can grab something while they're waiting.
24	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

1	rephrase that, if they want to have people
2	dancing, then they got to get a dancing
3	endorsement.
4	Q I'm asking a different question. I'm
5	assuming there won't be dancing. But Mr. Hughes
6	said people would be seated the entire time and
7	not up congregating in spaces.
8	How often have you ever seen a tavern
9	in which people are seated the entire time and
10	not up congregating in spaces?
11	A I come across it quite a bit of times
12	when people are standing, socializing, depending
13	on the atmosphere and the mood inside the
14	establishment.
15	Q Okay. Thank you. Did Mr. Hughes
16	mention anything, or did you say anything during
17	your walkthrough indicating an area where the
18	establishment would store its inventory of beer,
19	wine, or liquor?
20	A No, sir, because there was a lot of
21	wood, a lot of construction tools and stuff
22	laying around.
23	Q Did he mention anything about where he
24	plans to store this beer, wine or liquor?
25	A No, sir.

1	Q Okay. Your report doesn't mention
2	anything about where the applicant plans to put
3	its trash and recycling. Was that discussed or
4	mentioned during your visit?
5	A I don't think I discussed it with Mr.
6	Hughes. I don't recall, not on this, sir.
7	Q Okay. Did he discuss where delivery
8	trucks would park when he gets deliveries?
9	A No, sir.
10	Q On your various visits to the area,
11	all of your entries indicate "not much parking
12	available". Based on your experience in Adams
13	Morgan and Dupont Circle as an ABRA investigator,
14	were you surprised by that?
15	A No, sir, because of the area, Adams
16	Morgan, how busy it is.
17	Q One other question about the 31
18	establishments on Pages 7 and 8, you listed that
19	11 settlement, 11 of those have settlement
20	agreements.
21	A Yes, sir.
22	Q Based on our research, we found that
23	Lucky Buns, Jack Rose, Spacey Cloud, Dance Café,
24	and the Bottle Shelf, also have settlement

agreements. Personally, I think it's possible

1	that Buca di Beppo has had one since the early
2	2000s
3	MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth is
4	testifying.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll,
6	sustained. Let's, let's as the question, Mr.
7	Roth.
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q All right. Is it possible that your
10	list of 11 was incomplete?
11	A Yes, sir. It's possible.
12	Q Okay. Finally I won't ask you to
13	pull up that engineer's diagram, again, that Mr.
14	Kline showed as an exhibit. I'll just ask you
15	this. Are you aware that Mr. Hughes owns the
16	entire building?
17	A Yes, sir.
18	Q Okay. Do you know what instructions
19	Mr. Hughes gave the engineer, if any, in the
20	drawing of that diagram?
21	A No, I do not, sir.
22	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you. I have
23	no further questions. Thank you.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
25	Puente. Can you close your screen please?

1	All right. Do we have any questions
2	off Mr. Puente based does the Board have any
3	other questions to ask Mr. Puente?
4	All right. Since the Board doesn't
5	have any other questions to ask Mr. Puente, thank
6	you very much, Mr. Puente, for
7	MR. KLINE: I have one based on Mr.
8	Roth's question.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was not going
10	to
11	MR. KLINE: I thought we were doing
12	this.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
14	Part of the problem, Mr. Kline, if I give you an
15	opportunity to ask, then I have to go give Mr.
16	Roth an opportunity to cross, to ask a question
17	but, all right
18	MR. KLINE: I'm happy to have you
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. All
20	right.
21	MR. KLINE: I want to ask one
22	question. If he has additional questions based
23	on my one question, have at it.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know that Mr.
25	but I need to decide if I was going to all

right. But -- all right, I'll give you an 1 2 opportunity to ask one or two questions, and Mr. Roth then will be, will have an opportunity to 3 ask questions. Sorry. So go ahead, Mr. Kline. 4 5 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. KLINE: 6 7 Investigator Puente, in your Yes. 8 Exhibit 8 with any math, Mr. Roth made a point that none of the other establishments are the 9 fourth one in that are licensed. 10 11 Aren't there a number of buildings 12 that house ABC license establishments that are 13 found on this map that are immediately adjacent to the residential zone? And the third or fourth 14 15 lot in would be deep into the residential zone, 16 and, in fact, this is the only one where the fourth lot in is commercial property? 17 18 MR. ROTH: Objection. I don't even 19 understand Mr. Kline's question. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Mr. 21 Kline -- sustained. Mr. Kline, if you have a 22 question please be -- because I agree with Mr. 23 So if you have a --Roth. That's okay. 24 MR. KLINE: 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- question --

1 All right. 2 BY MR. KLINE: Investigator Puente, in response to a 3 Q 4 question from Mr. Roth, you indicated that this 5 location is the only lot that's deemed a license 6 that's the fourth lot in, correct? 7 Α Yes. 8 MR. ROTH: That's not what my question 9 was. 10 MR. KLINE: Well, he seems to think 11 so. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have the 13 opportunity to -- hold on, Mr. Roth, you're going 14 to get an opportunity to ask a question. So ask 15 the question, Mr. Kline. If Mr. Puente can 16 answer, yes, he can. If not, well, let's move 17 on. MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman? 18 19 Chairman? 20 MR. KLINE: Mr. Puente --21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold 22 on, hold on. Yes, Mr. Roth? 23 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, my objection 24 is that Mr. Kline is raising a question that is 25 putting words in my mouth that were not spoken.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
2	right. Mr. Kline, can you please rephrase your
3	question and ask the question again, sir, please.
4	BY MR. KLINE:
5	Q I'll just ask a different question.
6	Investigator Puente, aren't there a number of
7	buildings on 18th Street that house licensed
8	establishments that back up immediately to
9	property that's in residential?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	MR. KLINE: Thank you.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
13	Kline. Mr. Roth, do you have any, do you have
14	any questions that you wish to ask? Any final
15	questions you wish to ask here?
16	MR. ROTH: No. Thank you.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
18	Puente, for your testimony.
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Thank you very
20	much.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. It
22	is, it's 12 o'clock, so let's take a we'll be
23	off the record for ten minutes.
24	And then, once we come back on the
25	record, then the applicant will present his case.

1	So I'm not saying please do not log
2	off, we'll just, we'll be off the record until 10
3	minutes after 12:00. All right? Thank you.
4	MR. KLINE: Thank you.
5	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
6	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7	went off the record at 12:02 p.m. and resumed at
8	12:12 p.m.)
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
10	Kline, are you ready to call your first witness,
11	sir?
12	MR. KLINE: Yes, I am.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who's your
14	first witness?
15	MR. KLINE: K.J. Hughes.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes?
17	MR. KLINE: Actually, before I do
18	that, I'm going to ask the Board to take an
19	administrative notice.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Of what, Mr.
21	Kline?
22	MR. KLINE: I ask the Board to take
23	administrative notice of the fact that there was
24	a previous application for a new tavern license
25	at this address, and the Board determined that

1	the location is within the moratorium zone, and
2	subsequently this transfer application was filed.
3	I just want to clear the record up on that
4	because I know Member Short had some questions
5	about it, and I thought it would be helpful to
6	just let the Board take administrative notice of
7	that fact, perhaps confer with Board's counsel,
8	but that's what happened.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board will
10	get clarification as at least for, hold on.
11	MR. ROTH: I'm in agreement with that
12	Mr. Chairman.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
14	we'll take administrative notice of that from a
15	factual perspective.
16	MR. KLINE: I just think it makes the
17	record clear and everybody's on the same page.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
19	thank you. All right, Mr. Hughes, can you raise
20	your right hand, sir, please?
21	(Witness sworn.)
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
23	thank you. Your witness, Mr. Kline.
24	MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25	DIRECT - APPLICANT

BY MR. KLINE: 1 2 Mr. Hughes, say your full name please. 0 3 Α K.J. Hughes. And you are, what's your connection to 4 0 5 this application that the Board is considering today? 6 7 I originally entered into a lease at 8 the, well, I'm the applicant. 9 0 Okay. You're the applicant. And 10 what's, tell the Board what your background is. 11 I'm a lifetime entrepreneur. 12 haven't had a W2 job since Blockbuster in high 13 school. I currently run a business management 14 Ironically, it's called Relentless company. 15 Management Group, and we handle logistics and 16 management for athletes and entertainers. 17 And I am an adjunct professor at the 18 University of Maryland Business School. 19 graduated from there with both my management 20 degree, undergrad, and also my MBA. During this 21 whole ordeal, I went and got a whole other degree 22 since 2019. So I graduated last year with my MBA 23 from the University of Maryland. 24 So that's an MBA in management? Q Okay. 25 Well, it's a Master's of Business Α

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

1	
2	A No.
3	Q from a hair salon, or a cuttery or
4	any of the other names that are used to describe
5	a place where you get your haircut?
6	A Yes. I mean, absolutely not. I mean
7	the barbershop is the beginning of everything, I
8	mean, quite honestly. Think about it. For us
9	men, I mean everything great starts with a
10	haircut. So, you know, especially for, like I
11	said, in the black community the barbershop is a
12	place of commune. It is a safe place. It's, I
13	don't know, a place where we can show up and be
14	us and, you know, be our true authentic selves.
15	And so there is not a place in DC like
16	what, you know, we're building. Yes, there are
17	barbershops, and there are hair salons, but
18	there's nothing like this.
19	Q Okay. So now turning further in terms
20	of the concept, this building is four stories,
21	correct?
22	A Yes.
23	Q And you anticipate using the first and

second floor for the business?

Yes.

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Q And what will be on the third floor?

A 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 O. So we stayed true to the C of O 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 1 2 will be kind of your waiting area. You know, 3 people will peruse the retail. And then your barbershop is kind of the front-facing, 4 5 street-facing kind of attraction, so to speak. There's also a courtyard area that we 6 7 had redeveloped by a gentleman by the name of Todd Schneider, and Todd is a concrete 8 9 extraordinaire. He's done work at the White 10 House. He's done work at a couple of the 11 Smithsonian's, so we're transforming the old XYZ 12 Salon as far as the shrubbery, and it just didn't 13 look appealing. And we turned that into the

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

concrete courtyard area that will be welcoming

to, you know, passersbys and to patrons of the

- 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

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establishment.

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?

1	A Um
2	Q Is it high profile, low profile,
3	visibility?
4	A Again, zero visibility. The way it
5	has been designed is for it to be a complete
6	secret.
7	MR. KLINE: Okay, at this time, Mr.
8	Chairman, we have a video tour of the premises
9	that I know Mr. Roth has an objection to, but I'd
10	like to, if he still intends to pursue that
11	objection, I'd like to have that discussion so
12	that we can move to the video tour if the Board
13	deems it appropriate to do so.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit is
15	this?
16	MR. KLINE: Exhibit 13.
17	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
18	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 13
19	for identification.)
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, it's
21	my understanding you have an objection to Exhibit
22	13. What's the nature of your exhibit?
23	MR. ROTH: Okay, I
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the
25	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. 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,

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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

1	course of that, I'll be asking questions of Mr.
2	Hughes, so he can describe what it is you're
3	looking at.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It is your
5	witness, and so, therefore, you can stop and play
6	whichever, however, you so desire, sir.
7	MR. KLINE: All right. Great. Thank
8	you very much.
9	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, you can share
10	your screen now.
11	MR. KLINE: Great. All right. Are
12	you all able to see it?
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, Mr. Kline.
14	You're not sharing your screen.
15	MR. KLINE: All right, let's try
16	again.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think, Mr.
17 18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think, Mr. Kline, and maybe, okay, fine. You're now sharing
18	Kline, and maybe, okay, fine. You're now sharing
18 19	Kline, and maybe, okay, fine. You're now sharing your screen so now you can go to the exhibit.
18 19 20	Kline, and maybe, okay, fine. You're now sharing your screen so now you can go to the exhibit. MR. KLINE: Great.
18 19 20 21	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
18 19 20 21 22	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.

so now we're not seeing your screen. So you need 1 2 to go back on. All right. 3 MR. KLINE: All right, I'm going back. 4 Is it on? 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir. We're not, well, you did for a minute. I don't know 6 7 what you did to stop it, so I think Ms. Andrews 8 is giving you the opportunity to share your 9 screen, so I think you need to go to where the 10 icon on your computer to share your screen. 11 did it previously, but I'm not seeing --12 MR. KLINE: Yes, I'm doing it, but I 13 can't seem to find the content that I'm looking 14 for to share. Oh, that's --15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 16 You're able to share your screen, so now you can 17 find the content that you wanted to share, sir. 18 MR. KLINE: Okay. Do you see it now? 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we don't 20 see it yet, but maybe if you like press the play 21 button. 22 MR. KLINE: Oh, it says I'm sharing. 23 Okay. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, you are 25 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

	pilate.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you still
3	there, Mr. Hughes?
4	MR. HUGHES: Yes, I'm here, and the
5	video is 12 minutes long, so it's, I wasn't
6	prepared, so it's about 40 percent complete. It
7	needs to download because I wasn't prepared to
8	play it, but it's downloading. So it says about
9	40 more seconds, my apologies. Sixty-five
LO	percent complete, stand by, just giving you an
L1	update, sorry. Twenty seconds. All right, it's
L 2	loading. Share my screen.
L3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
L 4	gentlemen, we've been waiting a while for this
L5	video to
L6	MR. HUGHES: So now I'm sharing my
L7	screen. So let me know if you guys can see my
L8	screen.
L9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, all right,
20	so play the video. All right. Go ahead.
21	(Video played.)
22	MR. HUGHES: Can you hear me as well?
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, we
24	can. All right, Mr. Kline, go ahead sir.
25	BY MR. KLINE:

1	Q All right, what are we looking at Mr.
2	Hughes?
3	A This is the trash can of the Carswell
4	Condominium. This is the trash location.
5	Q Okay.
6	A This is the Carswell Condominium.
7	This, can you see my mouse?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
9	MR. HUGHES: Okay this is, I believe
10	this here is the Carswell Building here. This is
11	the proposed establishment. The speakeasy will
12	be on this level here. The barbershop will be
13	here. This outdoor area that you see here is the
14	courtyard or summer garden.
15	BY MR. KLINE:
16	Q Now what's on the right?
17	A On the right hand side is Florida
18	Avenue.
19	Q No, on your screen, what are we
20	looking at?
21	A Oh, sorry. This is the rendering of
22	what the space will look like when it's done. So
23	this is the barbershop picture window. This is
24	all the concrete that I spoke to you guys about

from the award-winning concrete contractor, and

1 this is the summer garden area where the 2 concrete, the concrete here is. You'll see, so 3 there will be no fixed seating in this area. So 4 this is the barbershop, four seats there. 5 Do play loud music out there? Q Okay. No. 6 А 7 All right, and what are we Okay. 8 looking at in the moving video now? 9 Α This is your entrance. All of this will be what it is to the right as it's finished. 10 11 To the left is the Carswell Building. Those are 12 some of the windows that overlook the courtyard 13 area. 14 And that's, you know, a part of why we 15 invested what we did in making it look the way it 16 looks is because it was overlooking, you know, 17 people's residences and what it looked like 18 before was, you know, I can't believe they would, 19 you know, that they even exist, which it's much better than like it was before. 20 21 So this is entering the property. 22 We're entering the barbershop. So this is what it'll look like on the right when it's done. 23 24 the left is what it looks like now. 25 And you have some shirts hanging up.

What does that represent? 1 2 Α That's the retail, the retail 3 offerings that we'll have. 0 And this is the proposed design that 4 we're looking at on the right? 5 Yes. 6 Α 7 And the --8 And the back here you see the coffee Go ahead. 9 bar. 10 Q Go ahead. 11 In the back here you see the coffee 12 bar with a couple of seats, coffee bar by day 13 but, you know, again, we wanted this to be an 14 establishment where, you know, folks can, you 15 know, kind of build community and that's done through, you know, different offerings. 16 So we'll 17 have cocktails, you know, premium cocktails down 18 there, beer, wine, you know, and the likes. 19 Retail bays, this is your Vernon This is where Vernon Street 20 Street exit here. 21 backs into it. You can see the floor plan here. 22 Where my mouse is, is Florida. Where my mouse is 23 here is Vernon, and so this is an exit to, you 24 know, Vernon Street side. This is below grade.

And have you been in the

0

Okay.

1	Carswell Condominium? Keep the video where it
2	is.
3	A Okay. I've never been
4	Q Have you been in the Carswell
5	Condominium?
6	A No, I've never been inside the
7	building, no.
8	Q Okay. All right.
9	A This is what the establishment looked
10	like on the right from the view toward Florida.
11	So that's, the video on the left is walking
12	toward that view. I have a four-seater
13	barbershop up front. Again, you see trying to
14	depict, you know, what it would be like on a real
15	day, which is a couple of people waiting outside,
16	eat-in floor plan. So this is the first floor
17	and then this doorway here doubles as a mirror
18	during the day, and this will be your speakeasy
19	entrance.
20	Q And how will that be controlled?
21	A There's a button on the wall that you
22	can control with, so the staff will be able to
23	control with their iPhone.
24	This is the Vernon Street Exit. This
25	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 1 2 that? 3 Α No, it will be more contained like it is over at other establishments. It will be 4 5 contained. It will be designed specifically with landscaping, shrubbery to kind of hide the, you 6 7 know, the trash cans and such. 8 Q Okay. So it will be some sort of 9 enclosure? 10 Α Yes. 11 0 Okay. 12 So this is the Carswell Building. Α 13 This is Vernon Street. And then now you'll get a 14 view of, kind of, you know, if you walked, if you 15 lived on Vernon, you come down and get a coffee, 16 you walk down steps, you know, hopefully we'll 17 have a sandwich board out there and invite you in with some coffee, you know, ability to walk in, 18 19 grab coffee. 20 Again, the goal was to kind of make 21 this a place where the community, you know, felt 22 comfortable. It was designed, you know, with the various interests of the community in mind. 23 24 is back of house storage area.

Separating --

0

1	A That's a very small, that's where
2	Q Is that where your alcohol will be
3	stored?
4	A No, we'll have some alcohol there but
5	mainly coffee. That's our sink and, you know,
6	dishwasher and stuff will be back there.
7	And so this is the speakeasy entrance
8	now. We're going to go upstairs. Security
9	camera will be here where this wire is, and then
10	another security camera.
11	And so this, you know, dramatic
12	entrance, all this will be plaster, white. The
13	steps will be backlit. So it's a dramatic
14	entrance, you know, to something that's secret.
15	When you get up top, this is your bar
16	area here, about six seats here for your bar
17	area. And so the idea of a speakeasy is, you
18	know, you enter into the secret establishment
19	through this, you know, whole dramatic entrance
20	of a secret door.
21	And, you know, that's a part of the
22	experience. You know, that's what it was in
23	1920. That's what a speakeasy is. And so that's
24	a part of the concept. And I think, you know,
25	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

one entrance and one exit is the best way to kind 2 3 of operate. So that's definitely something we --Do you have any plans to monitor your 4 0 5 patrons when they leave the establishment onto Vernon Street? 6 7 We have security cameras on all Α 8 of the exits and entrances and, you know, we'll 9 be open seven days a week and so our staff will be monitoring that from that third floor office. 10 11 So just to be clear, the security 12 camera system is not just recording for later 13 reviewing, you're actually going to have people 14 monitoring it real-time? 15 Α Yes, our staff will, we have a big, 16 you know, flat screen T.V. This is the Carswell 17 courtyard where, you know, they hang out there. And so, yes, the T.V. will be in the manager's 18 19 office, and there will be somebody there 20 monitoring that. I can't state for, like the 21 exact, you know, hours, but there will be 22 somebody there monitoring it on a routine basis, 23 yes, absolutely. 24 And at closing time, will you have a 0 25 staff member available to police the exiting of

professionals and with COVID, you know, having

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?

1	A On Florida.
2	Q On Florida?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And what about 18th?
5	A I wouldn't, that wouldn't be, if we
6	were able to designate, you know, if I think, you
7	know, if we're able to work with them and
8	designate an address, it's going to be 1807
9	Florida Avenue.
10	In terms of 18th Street, it is a
11	popular and well-populated, well-lit space, so I
12	mean, I think logically if you're leaving the
13	establishment and you see a different street,
14	just like in New York, you know, you go into a
15	cab in the most, you know, in the area where most
16	people are.
17	And so I think, you know, people will
18	gravitate toward 18th Street to be able to hail a
19	ride, a taxi or call Uber.
20	Q All right. I think you can stop
21	sharing now. Now previously we looked at an
22	exhibit to the investigator's report, which we
23	can put back up if need be, but what I want to
24	ask you is on the second floor is where the
25	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.

1	Q Okay. I'd like to direct your
2	attention to Exhibit 2. I can pull it up and
3	share it, Mr. Chairman, if that's the easiest.
4	That I think I can do. It was just the video I
5	was having difficulty with.
6	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
7	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 2
8	for identification.)
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.
10	Adam, I'm sorry, Ms. Andrews, can you please give
11	Mr. Kline the ability to share his screen,
12	please?
13	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Kline, you can share
14	your screen now.
15	MR. KLINE: Great. Thank you. There
16	it is. Is that it? I thought
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you're
18	sharing your screen, Mr. Kline, but there's no
19	document. So what document are you sharing?
20	MR. KLINE: Yes. No, I got it. I'm
21	sharing
22	MR. HUGHES: You need tech support,
23	Mr. Kline.
24	MR. KLINE: I know, I know. I'm going
25	to have a hire somebody. I'm having some

1	trouble.
2	MR. HUGHES: All right. I can see
3	your screen now.
4	MR. KLINE: All right, good. Now let
5	me find my exhibit. Here it is.
6	MR. HUGHES: All right.
7	MR. KLINE: All right, here we go.
8	MR. HUGHES: Yes.
9	BY MR. KLINE:
10	Q Let me look at that one. Here we go.
11	This is what I'm looking for. All right, Exhibit
12	2, can you identify it, please?
13	A This is a rendering that I have shared
14	with constituents and stakeholders, vendors,
15	community members, everybody, any and everybody,
16	really.
17	Q All right we're going to blow through
18	this pretty quickly. What are we, what is this
19	rendering?
20	A This is your summer garden on Florida.
21	Q Okay.
22	A That is an idea of what it would look
23	like at nighttime in terms of the illumination,
24	which these are low voltage, you know, low
25	wattage lights that really are security measures

1	so that it is not super dark because we have high
2	end, you know, material and high-end retail. So
3	this really is a security measure, and it also
4	is, you know, is beautiful.
5	Q And where the people are standing,
6	that's a big picture window?
7	A That is a big picture window, yes,
8	where we can see in and out; they can see in and
9	out, yes.
10	Q Okay. And this is
11	A The daytime view of the same thing.
12	Q So this is the summer garden area?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Nighttime?
15	A Yes.
16	Q What are we looking at here?
17	A This is your four-seater barbershop,
18	which the public will be able to see from the
19	street from Florida. That's just details that
20	we've added. All of this is custom, custom
21	woodwork. We have custom colored, you know,
22	chairs. This is all custom.
23	Q This is what we saw in the video
24	before?
25	A Yes, retail offerings. This is a

2 drinks. 3 So it's the same thing? Same thing, yes. That's your hair 4 Α 5 wash station. And this is just a rendering of, you know, people perusing kind of in the space, 6 7 what it would like if you were in the space. this is kind of the transition between night and 8 9 You see somebody walking up steps. day. 10 Okay, this is your speakeasy, walking 11 This is your speakeasy bar. up the steps. 12 is a view from the Florida side looking toward 13 the Vernon side. This is your lounge area or 14 your seating area. These are your 15 banquettes/booths. There's only two of them. 16 Three of them, I'm sorry. This is looking in 17 from Vernon to Florida. This is your third 18 booth. This is your powder room, powder room. 19 Q Okay. 20 And I think that's it. You got to go Α 21 all the way up to the top. 22 All right. All right, now there's 0 23 been some concerns raised that you're going to 24 have a negative effect on real estate values. 25 Have you looked into this at all?

coffee bar, cocktail bar, just, you know, for

Yes. I've heard that. I heard that 1 Α 2 floating around. I don't know how that's 3 possible in terms of, yes, I don't know how 4 that's possible when I'm committing, you know, 5 I'm committing to --MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman? 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth. 8 MR. ROTH: Objection. Mr. Hughes is 9 not an expert on property values. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, you 11 can't object to his answer. You have to object 12 to questions that have been asked by Mr. Kline. 13 MR. ROTH: Well --14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He can give his 15 opinion. He can give his opinion, and the Board 16 will take it for whatever it's worth. 17 going to overrule your objection. You can answer 18 the question, Mr. Roth -- Mr. Hughes, if you can. 19 Go ahead. MR. HUGHES: From what I know about 20 21 property values, they depend upon the things 22 around them. So if, you know, if you're 23 committing a certain amount of capital 24 expenditures to improve a certain property, that

then has an effect on the other properties around

So I may not be an expert, but I've owned 1 it. 2 real estate, and I know how property values work. 3 So, no, I don't believe that we're 4 causing any adverse effect. If anything, we're 5 raising the property value by all of the things that we're doing in terms of upgrading the 6 7 irrigation and drainage on Florida side and the 8 greenery that we're putting on our rooftop 9 residential. If anything, we're improving it. 10 And there's a couple, there could've 11 been a couple of properties on the block that are 12 up for lease will start to sell as well. 13 think, Andrew, did you admit those? 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, you 15 answer questions, sir. You don't ask questions. 16 You just answer questions, please, sir. You only 17 answer on your proposal. 18 MR. HUGHES: Sorry about that. 19 BY MR. KLINE: 20 Mr. Hughes, did you do any research 0 21 concerning properties that might be available for 22 sale in the neighborhood? It's a yes or no 23 question? 24 Α Yes. 25 Okay. What did you look at? How did 0

1	you do that?
2	A There's a for sale sign on the door.
3	There's an advertisement in 1812 Vernon Street
4	Q Okay.
5	A like, what is it, like a realtor's
6	stake in the ground.
7	Q Okay. And did you go try to find the
8	listing for it somewhere?
9	A I did. Ironically, I would like to be
10	a resident, so that I could have a vote. So I
11	looked that up.
12	Q I'm going to show you what we've
13	marked as Applicant's Exhibit 11.
14	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
15	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 11
16	for identification.)
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe Ms.
18	Andrews has to give you the ability to share your
19	screen. I'm not sure if she noticed it.
20	MR. KLINE: I'm going to try to do
21	this more smoothly this time. Let's see what I'm
22	looking at? Okay. Is this one of the listings
23	that you found? Mr. Hughes?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes,
25	you're on mute.

1	MR. HUGHES: Sorry. Yes, this is the
2	listing that I saw, yes.
3	BY MR. KLINE:
4	Q All right. Is there something that
5	you observed the way that the property is
6	marketed?
7	A Yes. It speaks about the nature of
8	the community being close to restaurants, bars,
9	and shops. It also shows photographs of the
10	surrounding community highlighting the access to
11	establishments like mine or my proposed
12	establishment.
13	Q Okay. I'm showing you Exhibit 12.
14	Can you see that exhibit, Exhibit 12?
15	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
16	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 12
17	for identification.)
18	A I do, yes.
19	Q Okay. Is that something else that you
20	found?
21	A I think that's the neighboring
22	building. It's right, maybe one or two buildings
23	down. Yes, that's another one that I looked at
24	as well.
25	Q And you

1	A It's 1822 Vernon.
2	Q I'm sorry.
3	A 1822 Vernon Street.
4	Q Is there anything that you observed in
5	the marketing of that property?
6	A Within the description of the property
7	it speaks about the closeness of the restaurants
8	and bars. I think this one specially says
9	taverns, I believe.
10	Q Okay.
11	A But I may be mistaken. So, yes, the
12	closeness of, the spirit of the neighborhood is
13	that it is close to and walkable to entertainment
14	through dining and bars.
15	Q Okay. Now turning to Exhibit 8. Can
16	you see that now?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Can you identify what that is?
19	A I believe this is my scope of work or
20	the review from the sound consultant, Arup
21	(inaudible), where they go through, you know,
22	it's basically a scope of work or proposal from
23	them.
24	Q Okay. And did you have this work
25	done?

1	A Yes, I did have this work done.
2	Q So you accepted this proposal?
3	A I did accept this proposal, yes.
4	Q And what was the purpose of this work?
5	What is it they were doing for you?
6	A At the recommendation of our design
7	architect, our goal was, again, to be as
8	secretive as possible. With, you know, being
9	secretive you need to be able to mitigate loud
LO	sound. Also, you know, in terms of closeness of
L1	residential, we wanted to be overly cautious and
L 2	overly commit to sound mitigation mainly because
L3	we wanted, you know, we want this to be, again,
L 4	speakeasy true to form and so a part of that is
L5	not being able to hear anything from the outside.
L6	So this was something that was done in the spirit
L 7	of keeping our establishment a secret.
L8	Q How much did you spend on this?
L9	A I believe their price was \$7,500 just
20	for the consulting and the recommendation. But
21	the recommendations themselves were added to our
22	proposed budget in that column, in that line-item
23	for insulation and drywall, it quintupled, so.
24	Q Okay. So what was the approximate,
25	that amount that you spent on soundproofing?

1	A If you include the consulting fee, I
2	would say somewhere between \$50,000 and \$60,000.
3	Q Okay. All right. I do not have
4	further questions at this time, and I would make
5	Mr. Hughes available for cross-examination and
6	questioning by the Board.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, your
8	questions of Mr. Hughes.
9	MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10	Good afternoon, Mr. Hughes. So, let's sort of go
11	back to the beginning, here. Excuse, me.
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	K. J. HUGHES
14	BY MR. ROTH:
15	Q So, in April 2020, you bought a tavern
16	license out of safekeeping from within the
17	moratorium zone. Right?
18	A Correct.
19	Q And by that time, you attended a
20	January 2020 ANC 1C meeting with your attorney
21	Ms. Yohannes where the ANC voted to protest your
22	first application for a new tavern license at
23	these premises, right?
24	A Yes.
25	Q And then, after three months of legal

proceedings here at the ABRA Board, the Board 1 2 upheld the ANC's and these protestants argument 3 that your building is located in a moratorium 4 zone. 5 So, when you bought this current tavern license out of safekeeping, you are 6 7 already aware that your neighbors were concerned 8 about a tavern being into a row house on your 9 street weren't you? 10 Α I want to say that, no. I have a lot 11 of neighbors. So no, I wouldn't say that. 12 Well, your immediate neighbors, 13 neighbors across the street in the ANC. 14 Α People in the ANC, no. No. Ι 15 wouldn't say that. The ANC voted four to zero to two to 16 17 protest your license. And a group of 20 plus protestants filed a motion to dismiss. But you 18 aren't aware of any concerns? 19 20 I was aware of their concerns, yes. Α 21 Yes, okay, fair enough. Yet, after 22 you bought this license, you just keep moving 23 ahead with your project, right? 24 Okay. Α 25 And you had your architect, keep 0

drawing up plans for your combination speakeasy 1 2 café, retail space, barbershop, office and 3 apartment, right. MR. KLINE: I'm going to object on the 4 I'll let it 5 grounds of relevance, Mr. Chairman. go with that. But I'm not really sure where 6 7 we're going in terms of relevance. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth? 9 MR. ROTH: It's relevant to the fact 10 that Mr. Hughes is, testify, Mr. Kline opened the 11 door to this by having Mr. Hughes testify to all 12 the work that he's put into this project. 13 And now, he's taking the position that 14 he's done all of this work. And I'm just trying 15 to explore the same issues that Mr. Kline raised 16 here. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to --18 go ahead, Mr. Kline. 19 MR. KLINE: I mean, the issue that we 20 presented was, measures that were taken to be 21 responsive, concerns that were raised. That's 22 I mean, this isn't a popularity contest. 23 It's a question of whether this premise is --24 MR. ROTH: I'm not asking questions 25 about popularity. I'm asking, I'm talking about a

timeline. 1 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm 3 going to overrule the objection. Go ahead, Mr. 4 Roth, ask your question. This is 5 cross-examination. So, go ahead, sir. BY MR. ROTH: 6 7 After he bought, after Mr. Hughes, 8 after you bought the license, and after these 9 experiences in early 2020, you had your architect keep drawing up plans, fear -- combination of all 10 11 of these different pieces of your building, 12 right? 13 Α In addition to speaking to Amir Irani 14 and the rest of the community. 15 That wasn't, that wasn't a question. Α 16 Just in April, in April --17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. 18 Please allow him to answer the question. All 19 right? 20 I'll ask my question. MR. ROTH: 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, 22 please listen to the question that's been asked. 23 Please answer the questions that's been asked. 24 And Mr. Roth, please allowed him to answer the

question, sir. All right?

If you need him to answer a certain 1 2 way, sir, you get to ask him more pointed 3 questions. On more pointed questions, though, 4 you put him in a box. 5 So, he can only answer it one way, but if you could ask a open ended question that he's 6 7 going to answer to the best of his ability, so. 8 But allow him to answer the question, sir. 9 All right. Go ahead. If you're, if 10 you're not done answering the question, then, go 11 ahead, Mr. Hughes. And if not, Mr. Roth will ask 12 another question. MR. ROTH: I think he answered the 13 14 question. 15 BY MR. ROTH: 16 Q Mr. Hughes, yes or no, you hired a 17 contractor in April to do your demolition and 18 construction work, correct? 19 Α No, I didn't hire them in April. Ι hired them before that. 20 21 Okay. But at that point, you hadn't 22 even filed your new application with ABRA for a location transfer or for your substantial 23 24 changes, yet, had you? 25 No, I don't recall. Say it, you said, Α

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

1	else you expected me to do, Mr. Roth. What are
2	you?
3	MR. ROTH: Well, let's do this. Can
4	I share my screen please?
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews can
6	you give Mr. Roth the ability to share his
7	screen, please?
8	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Roth, you can share
9	your screen now.
10	MR. ROTH: Okay.
11	BY MR. ROTH:
12	Q Let me ask you this first. Before you
13	even bought the buildings, hadn't the previous
14	owner of the building. Mr. Walsh passed on to you
15	the previous summer a suggestion from
16	Commissioner Irani that you consider a
17	A You broke up. You said, I'd do what?
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
19	on, Mr. Roth. You, something happened in those
20	questions. So, please repeat your question,
21	please.
22	MR. ROTH: All right.
23	BY MR. ROTH:
24	Q Mr. Hughes before you even bought the
25	building, hadn't the previous owner of the

1	building, Mr. Walsh, passed on to you the
2	previous summer, the summer of 2019, a suggestion
3	from maybe
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mute your line,
5	please.
6	MR ROTH: Maybe that's why I'm
7	breaking up.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's right.
9	Mr. Roth, hold on. Mr. Kline, can you mute your
10	phone please? Mute your line, please, Mr. Kline.
11	All right go ahead, Mr. Roth.
12	BY MR. ROTH:
13	Q Mr. Hughes before you even bought the
14	building hadn't the previous owner of the
15	building, Mr. Walsh, passed on to you the
16	previous summer a suggestion from Commissioner
17	Irani that you consider applying for a restaurant
18	license instead?
19	MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance.
20	MR. ROTH: Commissioner Irani
21	doesn't
22	MR. KLINE: Well, wait, stop Mr.
23	Hughes. Let the, let me hold on.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, if
25	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

1	to overrule the objection. He can answer the
2	question. But we all know all right, I'm
3	going to overrule the objection. The witness can
4	answer the question if he can answer the
5	question. But let's move on. All right.
6	MR. ROTH: Neither the previous
7	owner
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes,
9	answer the question if you can. If you can't
10	answer the question, then, let's move on.
11	MR. HUGHES: We can move on. I can't
12	answer the question.
13	MR. ROTH: All right. Let me show you
14	I got to go back here, again. Might need,
15	Ms. Andrews, I might need your help here.
16	MS. ANDREWS: How can I assist you,
17	Mr. Roth?
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on
19	Ms. Andrews. Mr. Roth, you are sharing your
20	screen. It is now up to you to go to the exhibit
21	that you want to.
22	MR. ROTH: I'm trying. All right.
23	We've got it. We got it. Let me show you
24	Protestants Exhibit 17 for identification.
25	(Whereupon, the above-referred to

1	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 17
2	for identification.)
3	BY MR. ROTH:
4	Q Does this refresh your recollection,
5	Mr. Hughes?
6	A About what?
7	Q About Mr. Walsh's warnings to you?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
9	on a minute, hold on. Mr. Roth?
10	MR. ROTH: Yes?
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there a
12	question pending? I, I'm not quite sure what
13	you're asking him. But I think you there
14	MR. ROTH: The question
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
16	Hold on, sir.
17	MR. ROTH: Yes?
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the
19	question you're asking him? And then, what
20	exhibit do you want him to reference to?
21	MR. ROTH: Protestants Exhibit 17.
22	And the question was, before Mr. Hughes even
23	bought the building, hadn't the previous owner
24	Mr. Walsh, passed on to him, the previous summer,
25	meaning 2019, July 2019, a suggestion from

Commissioner Irani that he consider applying for 1 a restaurant license instead? And I'm just 2 3 asking if this refreshes his recollection. MR. KLINE: He said, he said --4 5 objection. A recollection as to what? The question is, what was, what was passed on to him, 6 7 was told to him by Vincent Walsh, not by 8 Mr. Irani. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm 10 going to sustain the objection. So, look here, 11 I'm going to sustain the objection, so. 12 MR. ROTH: Okay. All right. Well, 13 we'll move on. Ms. Andrews, how do I back out of 14 this now? Stop sharing. 15 MS. ANDREWS: Would you like to stop 16 sharing your screen? 17 MR. ROTH: There we go. Okay. 18 BY MR. ROTH: 19 Q Recall it? Mr. Hughes, do you recall 20 you and your attorney Mr. Kline making a 21 presentation over Zoom about your proposed 22 establishment at the ANC's Agency and Public 23 Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 8th? 24 I don't know. I mean, this has Α Okay. 25 been a two year process. I've had a lot of

conversations. I don't recall the specific 1 2 conversation, though. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, yes 4 or no, sir. Either you do or you don't. Please 5 answer the question to the best of your knowledge and ability, sir. 6 7 I don't recall the MR. HUGHES: 8 specific conversation, no. 9 BY MR. ROTH: 10 0 Do you recall showing the ABC committee and the community, basically, the same 11 12 renderings that you submitted today as Exhibit 2? I said earlier that I shared 13 Α Yes. 14 with a bunch of people. 15 All right. Do you recall getting a 0 16 lot of questions and hearing a lot of concerns 17 expressed that night, both from neighbors in the 18 closed off condominium next door, as well as, 19 neighbors across the street? 20 Α What's the lot? So, I don't know what 21 a lot is. 22 Several. 0 23 I don't know several. Some people Α 24 said some things, yes. A couple of questions, 25 two questions, five questions, yes there were

1 questions. Okay. At the time of that July 8th 2 0 3 meeting, you hadn't begun any, any major 4 build-out, yet, had you? 5 We got our, yes, but, I mean, no. hadn't begun to build-out but you can't build. 6 But you can't build without months of work of 7 8 architectural plans. So no, we hadn't. 9 build, we stared to build major? I don't know a 10 major means. 11 Well, would you disagree with me if I 12 told you that your DCRA permits were approved on June 26th? 13 14 Α Oh, okay. If that's what you -- yes, 15 sure. 16 0 All right. So as of that July 8th 17 meeting, if you didn't know it before, you 18 certainly knew after that meeting, didn't you 19 that your neighbors were concerned about your 20 hours of operation, the potential for noise, 21 crowds, traffic, trash, loitering, and 22 commercialization of a residential street, didn't 23 you?

yes, a few people who have a difference of

You know, a few people that, you know,

Α

24

1	opinion.
2	Q All right. So let me ask you this, in
3	terms of occupancy between banquette seats, booth
4	seats, moveable bar seats, and any other seats
5	that you have available on both the first and
6	second floors combined, how many seats do you
7	currently have designed into your space in total?
8	A I don't know that offhand. I'm rather
9	wait for my CFO to determine what my occupancy
10	is.
11	Q Well, that's not a question of your
12	CFO.
13	A I don't know offhand. I don't know
14	offhand.
15	Q You don't know offhand how many seats
16	you currently have designed into your space?
17	A No, I don't. So there are seats
18	actually in the space? I do not have, I don't
19	know what offhand, no.
20	Q All right. I'm going to play you an
21	audio clip. I have to share my screen again.
22	From that July 8th meeting.
23	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
24	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 47
25	for identification.)

Question, no, we will not turn Vernon 1 2 Street into a commercial zone, we're not looking 3 to attract any attention to Vernon Street because that would detract from our vision of 4 5 making this a speakeasy, a private, you know, hush establishment that, you know, you only know 6 7 if, you know. 8 We don't plan on publicizing. We're 9 not using flyers. We're not using promoters. 10 You know, we have soft music. We're not, you 11 know, we're not turning Vernon Street into any 12 hustle, you know, a bustling, you know, bar area. 13 Like that would be completely opposite 14 of what we are attracting. And I think that was 15 the reason why I wanted to, you know, show you 16 the renderings. 17 Because, you know, we have 30 seats. 18 That's another thing too. Because you think 19 about, actually, the coming and going. That's 30 20 seats in that space, no more, no less. 21 Mr. Hughes, is that your voice? 22 Absolutely. Could you play the whole А 23 clip, though? 24 That's the clip I have. 0 That's the

clip that's been entered into evidence.

There's still a minute or there's 1 Α 2 still seconds left on the clip, though. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, you 4 don't ask questions, sir. You're under 5 cross-examination. MR. HUGHES: All right. That's the 6 7 entirety? 8 MR. KLINE: Objection. It has not 9 been entered into evidence at this point. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It is not in 11 evidence, correct. Just hold on. Mr. Hughes, 12 you're under cross-examination, sir. Mr. Kline 13 asked you a question. It is now Mr. Roth's 14 ability and opportunity to ask you questions, 15 sir. 16 I need you to answer the question to 17 the best of your ability, sir. If there's, if 18 there is a recording that's in evidence and if 19 there's more to it than that, it is up to your 20 attorney, sir, if he's so fit, will play the rest 21 of it, sir. 22 Mr. Roth will play whatever portion of 23 whatever recordings that he has. And he will ask 24 you questions, sir. And it's, your job, sir, is 25 to answer the question to the best of your

If there is a problem with the question 1 ability. 2 that's been asked, sir, your attorney will 3 object. Both attorneys will give me reason of 4 5 the nature of the objections, sir. And then, I will instruct you whether or not you should or 6 7 should not answer the question. Am I clear, sir? 8 MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. My apologies. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It might be 10 stressful for you, sir. Being cross-examined, is 11 always stressful, sir. But I need you to, to the 12 best of your ability, answer the questions that 13 are been asked of you. Okay? 14 Yes, sir. Thank you, MR. HUGHES: 15 sir. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go 17 ahead, Mr. Roth. 18 MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 19 I may have misspoken when I said, entered into. 20 I meant submitted for evidence. But, 21 Mr. Chairman, at this time with Mr. Hughes having 22 identified that as his voice, I'd like to have Exhibit 47 admitted it evidence. 23 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? 25 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

1	what exhibit is this again? I'm sorry.
2	MR. ROTH: It's Exhibit 47.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm moving
4	Exhibit 47 into evidence.
5	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
6	document was received into evidence as Protestant
7	Exhibit No. 47.)
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
9	let's move on.
10	MR. ROTH: Okay.
11	BY MR. ROTH:
12	Q Now, Mr. Hughes, are you now prepared
13	to confirm that you will not have more than 30
14	seats in the establishment combined first floor
15	and second floor?
16	A No, I'm not an expert on occupancy.
17	I'm really shouldn't have I misspoke.
18	Q This is not a question of a
19	certificate of occupancy, which is a different
20	question for DCRA. This is a question for the
21	limitations on your license.
22	The number that you put on your ABC
23	license application was 30 seats. Are you now
24	saying that you're asking the ABC Board, contrary
25	to your application to the ABC Board for more

	citati 50 beacs:
2	A I'm asking for whatever my legal
3	occupancy should be, is what I'm asking for.
4	Q So contrary to what's on your ABC
5	application, you are now asking for something
6	other than what you put on your ABC application
7	and which you signed under oath?
8	A Is there a question?
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's a
10	question.
11	MR. ROTH: There's a question mark at
12	the end of that.
13	MR. KLINE: Objection. That's not
14	when he's, he testified to at all. It's a
15	mischaracterization of his testimony. He has
16	indicated that he's not sure what the ultimate
17	number will be.
18	So, how can you ask him whether he's
19	now, whether he misstated what he said before,
20	when he's not even clear on what his final number
21	is going to be? Could be, could be less than
22	that. He's not clear. He's asked and answered
23	it.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
25	overrule the objection. If Mr. Hughes, if you

	can ask the question, you can. If not, let's
2	move on. So, are you, answer the question, sir.
3	MR. HUGHES: Can you restate the
4	question?
5	MR. ROTH: Mr. Hughes, you signed an
6	application to the ABC Board asking for 30 seats.
7	Are you now saying that contrary to the document
8	that you signed, that is not the number you're
9	asking the ABC Board to approve?
10	MR. HUGHES: I'm, right now, I'm not
11	asking the ABC Board for anything. You can my
12	application stands. I signed it. It stands as
13	it is. I didn't revised it. I didn't.
14	MR. ROTH: I'm trying to get clarity
15	on this.
16	MR. HUGHES: There's no clarity
17	needed. I signed it. That's what it is.
18	MR. ROTH: So you're are you now
19	saying that you're limiting the number of seats
20	you're asking the ABC Board to approve to 30?
21	MR. KLINE: Objection. Asked and the
22	answered.
23	MR. ROTH: I don't think it has been
24	answered.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's move on.

1 MR. KLINE: Maybe not to your 2 satisfaction, but it's been answered. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. 4 Let's move on. 5 I think, at least, I've MR. ROTH: gotten to where we are. I just want to say, I've 6 7 got where we're stayed. The application is 30. 8 Everyone is aware that the numbers that would be 9 on a license, if issued, will not exceed what is 10 in on a certificate of occupancy. Okay? 11 So let's be clear. If you're asking 12 him, if you're -- then, there, maybe I think you 13 need to ask a different question, Mr. Roth. 14 know where you're getting so that you're 15 probably, you're asking the question improperly. 16 That's one of the reasons why you're 17 not getting the answer that you need. So if you 18 want to rephrase the question, and one more time, 19 if you want to rephrase the question, and ask it. 20 If not, we're going to move on. But I know 21 where you're going. But you're not asking the 22 So that's, so it's asked and answered. question. 23 So I'll sustain the objection. So you either 24 rephrase it or let's move on, sir.

MR. ROTH:

I'll try it one more time,

Mr. Chairman. 1 2 BY MR. ROTH: Mr. Hughes, are you amending your 3 Q 4 application here today to ask for more than 30 5 seats in your establishment? You have to talk to my attorney. I'm 6 7 not amending anything. I'm here for a protest 8 hearing. I'm not amending any. 9 Mr. Hughes, similarly, on your 0 Okay. 10 application you asked for an occupancy of 50 is 11 that the number of occupants in your 12 establishment in total, first and second floor? 13 Α I stand by whatever I signed. My 14 application is what I stand on. 15 Okay. We'll stick to that. And 16 you've also requested 30 persons for the summer 17 Is that correct? garden. 18 Whatever the application says is what Α 19 it is Mr. Roth. Okay. And you're still insisting on 20 Q 21 being able to serve alcohol till 2:00 a.m., six 22 days a week and 3:00 a.m. on Saturday night, Sunday morning. Is that correct? 23 24 I want what is it legally able, the Α 25 flexibility to run a successful business.

Now, after your comments about 1 Q Okay. 2 not commercializing Vernon Street, having your 3 speakeasy customers exit that late at 2:00 a.m. 4 or 3:00 a.m. in the morning, right under 5 residents' bedroom windows on both sides of the street hardly seems like the secret that you say 6 7 you want it to be does it? MR. KLINE: Objection, argumentative. 8 Sustained. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 10 Rephrase that question, Mr. Roth. 11 BY MR. ROTH: 12 Well, Mr. Hughes, you testified that Q you wanted the speakeasy to be secretive or to be 13 14 a secret? How is it that by having your 15 customers exit on Vernon street at 2:00 a.m. and 16 3:00 a.m. in the morning, right under residents' bedroom windows, your speakeasy will remain a 17 18 secret? 19 Α How is it? I mean, what? How are 20 they going to exit Mr. Roth? Do you want them to 21 -- by magic? 22 I asking the questions, Mr. Hughes. 0 23 I understand. What are you asking? Α 24 How is it going to stay secret when people leave? 25 That's what you're asking me?

1	Q Yes.
2	A They're going to be quiet and they're
3	going to leave.
4	(Simultaneous speaking.)
5	Q You know, that for a fact?
6	A Do I know it for a fact? I mean, I
7	don't know if for a fact, no.
8	Q Okay. Thank you. And when you said
9	on that audio, that you had no interest in
10	commercializing Vernon Street. And yet, you have
11	customers exiting from a commercial establishment
12	onto Vernon street, how do those two things fit
13	together?
14	A I never say the word commercialize it.
15	You said that.
16	Q I think you did in that audio, if I
17	recall.
18	A I didn't say commercializing, not I
19	didn't.
20	Q Would you like me to replay the audio?
21	A You want to, you should, you can.
22	Q Would you like me to reply the audio?
23	A Sure. I said, it wasn't going to be
24	hustle and bustling zone. And based on the
25	number of people that was on my application,

people the establishment will not be in droves. 1 2 They will not be in mass. 3 They will be the same amount of people 4 that currently exist on the street, that walk 5 their dogs, that smoke cigarettes. They'll be the same, ten more people. 6 7 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I am tempted 8 to ask your permission to replay the audio. 9 in the interest of time, I will just state for the record and ask the Board members to go back 10 11 and listen to the audio themselves. 12 hear the word commercialization on Vernon Street. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will take 13 notice of that. Let's move on. 14 15 BY MR. ROTH: If they leave out the basement door on 16 17 Florida Avenue. Won't they also be exiting right under the bedroom windows of people who live in 18 19 the Carswell on the Florida Avenue side of the 20 Carswell? 21 Α Under? I don't know what under means. 22 Under the window? No, I don't know if they're 23 exiting under people's windows. No, I don't know 24 what that means. 25 Well, did -- in your own video did you

1	not show the apartments of the Carswell, directly
2	adjacent to the rear yard of your building?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And do you not believe that patrons
5	who would leave your establishment through the
6	Florida Avenue door would the exiting under those
7	bedroom windows?
8	A They would exit onto Florida Avenue.
9	Q And not through your rear yard?
10	A Through my rear yard? You're asking
11	me if they exit it, right? They're going to,
12	you're saying, you're saying it, exiting on
13	Florida.
14	Q They're exiting through your if
15	they're exiting through the door of your
16	establishment toward the Florida Avenue side,
17	will they not be walking through that summer
18	garden or through your rear yard under the
19	bedroom windows of the Carswell condominium
20	residents?
21	A They'll be walking through the summer
22	garden onto Florida. I'm not I don't know
23	what under somebody's window.
24	Q And if they, if they hang out or
25	loiter in your summer garden, will they not be

1	under those bedroom windows?
2	A I don't know that to be a fact. I
3	don't know.
4	Q I don't asking you whether you know it
5	to be a fact. I'm asking a hypothetical.
6	A I can't answer a hypothetical. I
7	don't know. I don't know what's going to happen
8	when they leave. You just said that in the
9	previous question.
10	Q Very well. While we're on the subject
11	of noise you applied for a DJ, is that the only
12	kind of live entertainment you contemplate having
13	inside?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Where inside the premises would you
16	put a DJ?
17	A Inside the premises, sir. I'm not
18	sure exactly the location. Okay.
19	Q Can you explain how paying for a
20	professional DJ for a weekend night fits in with
21	the economics of an establishment as small as you
22	say it will be with as few people as you say.
23	As upscale as you told Investigator
24	Puente it would be with people not dancing, or
25	getting out of their seats, or congregating in

open spaces, as you told the Investigator Puente. 1 2 MR. KLINE: Objection. The question 3 is compound, confusing, and argumentative. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Let's 4 5 break it, break it up, Mr. Roth. MR. ROTH: 6 Okay. 7 BY MR. ROTH: 8 Mr. Hughes, you told Investigator Q 9 Puente that your establishment would be upscale, 10 that people would not be up dancing, that they wouldn't be getting out of their seats, that they 11 12 wouldn't be congregating in open spaces. 13 And you've testified that the 14 establishment would be very small. So my 15 question is, can you explain how paying a professional DJ for a weekend night fits in with 16 17 the economics of an establishment like that? 18 Mr. Roth, this is a cultural Α 19 destination. I don't think you're going to 20 understand this culture. So, you're asking me 21 question about a DJ, you don't understand. 22 what do you mean, how is it going to work with 23 economics? It's going to provide a setting for 24 cultural gathering.

So you're doing this for reasons other

0

1	than economics and you're willing to take a loss
2	on it for reasons of culture, not economics.
3	A If that's your assumption, that's your
4	assumption.
5	Q I'm not making any assumptions, I'm
6	asking you.
7	A It's a form of entertainment in the
8	black culture. That's why I'm doing it.
9	Q I see, okay. Do I understand from
10	your earlier testimony that you're now
11	withdrawing your request for any form of live
12	entertainment outdoors?
13	A Correct.
14	Q Okay. I don't think I need to share
15	my screen for this. You've talked about the
16	barber shop. However, many barber shops in the
17	area.
18	I heard your testimony about the
19	importance of the barber shop in the black
20	community. Along with that, you're hoping they
21	buy a drink at the bar, which you've labeled a
22	café. Is that, is that part of your plan?
23	A I hope that people do any and
24	everything that I will help them commune.
25	Q Will you answer my question, please.

You're hoping they buy a drink at the bar? 1 2 MR. KLINE: Objection. He did answer 3 it. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the 4 5 nature of the objection MR. KLINE: It was asked and answered. 6 7 He answered the question. He doesn't like, he 8 doesn't like the answer. And so, he berates the 9 witness in saying he needs to answer something 10 else. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 12 sustain the objection you provided. Yes, I'm 13 going to sustain the objection. Let's, let's 14 move on. I --15 One of the things that I have not been 16 doing Mr. Roth is, I've not been taking this 17 time, I've had not been taken time away for 18 cross-examination, generally. 19 So I've not been using that against 20 your time. But I just want to let you know that 21 I have not been using time that's also used for 22 cross-examination. 23 I've always told folks to make sure 24 they spend more time, because -- but all right. 25 So just wanted to let you know that, sir.

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

1	day or night? Is that right?
2	A I wouldn't characterize it as any hour
3	of the day or night, no I wouldn't. During
4	operational hours, yes.
5	Q How about at night?
6	A During operational hours, yes.
7	Q Well, if after you're closed, do you
8	plan to secure this summer garden in some way?
9	A No, I wouldn't imagine that people
10	would sit there it was closed.
11	Q So if too drunk people wanted to have
12	a lover's quarrel in there at 4:00 a.m
13	A If, Mr. Roth, I don't know.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, can
15	you wait until he asks the question, sir. And if
16	your attorney wants to object, he'll object if he
17	does.
18	There being no objection from your
19	attorney, wait until he answers the question,
20	asks the question before you answer, sir. Okay?
21	BY MR. ROTH:
22	Q So again, Mr. Hughes, if the area is
23	not secure, and they see this summer garden back
24	there that you've shown in your rendering and two
25	drunk people want to sit down there and have a

1	lover's quarrel at 4:00 a.m. in the morning, they
2	could do that right under the windows of the
3	Carswell? Is that correct?
4	A I can't predict the future, Mr. Roth.
5	I don't know.
6	Q Do you plant to have wait staff serve
7	patrons in the summer garden?
8	A Do I? Wait staff? It would be
9	operational. Will make the operational decisions
10	necessary once we get through this process.
11	Q So you don't have any operational
12	plans yet for that area?
13	A For the summer garden?
14	Q Yes.
15	A Operations plans will be firmed up
16	once we get approval.
17	Q Sir, how will you make sure patrons
18	aren't spilling out onto Florida Avenue sidewalk
19	with their alcoholic beverages?
20	A There's a big kitchen window there and
21	there'll be staff monitoring the area.
22	Q You mean in the barber shop?
23	A There will staff monitoring the entire
24	property.
25	Q How will you ensure that patrons

1	aren't walking away from your premises with a
2	beer or cocktail in their hands once they're
3	standing in a summer garden?
4	A We will have staff monitoring the area
5	to make sure that we are operating in a legal
6	fashion.
7	Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen
8	again. Mr. Hughes, showing you Protestants
9	Exhibit 48 for identification. Is this the front
10	yard area where you plan to put your trash and
11	recycling cans for the entire building?
12	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
13	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 48
14	for identification.)
15	A Yes.
16	Q Okay. The front yard is also located
17	in public space?. Is that correct?
18	A I don't know that to be true. If you
19	know that to be true then, I don't know that to
20	be true.
21	Q All right. Well, let's do this.
22	Before I do that, Mr. Chairman can ask if
23	Protestants Exhibit 48 be moved into evidence?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
25	MR. KLINE: No objection.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
2	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
3	document was received into evidence as Protestant
4	Exhibit No. 48.)
5	BY MR. ROTH:
6	Q Mr. Hughes, this is the surveyors plat
7	of your property having the front yard over here.
8	I can either ask the Board to take the official
9	notice that this isn't public space, or I can ask
LO	you to verify that.
L1	A I'm not an engineer.
L2	MR. KLINE: Objection, objection,
L3	objection as to relevance. What does this have
L 4	to do with an ABC application?
L5	MR. ROTH: Well, if you let me
L6	continue, I can bring that out.
L 7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think that
L8	I'm going to sustain the objection. The
L9	witnesses just stated that he does not have
20	expertise in this area.
21	So I'm not quite sure why we're asking
22	this witness because even before the objection,
23	the witness stated that he does not have any
24	expertise in this area. So I am going to sustain

the objection. Let's move on.

1 MR. ROTH: Okay. 2 BY MR. ROTH: 3 Q I will ask this question, Mr. Hughes, are you aware of D.C. minutes or regulations that 4 5 say no empty bottles stored in crates or otherwise in empty crates, baskets, buckets, 6 7 tubs, cans, boxes, kegs, cartons or barrels shall 8 be allowed to remain in or upon any public space? 9 Α Am I aware of that? You just made me aware of it. 10 So, yes. 11 If DDOT does not allow you to Okay. 12 store any of those things on public space, where 13 would you put those things? 14 Α If DDOT? I'm not prepared to answer 15 a hypothetical question. 16 So you have no backup plan for it? 17 Are you asking if I don't a plan of Α 18 where I want to put my trash or where it's safe 19 to put the trash? Similar to all the other 20 properties where their trash is located. 21 I have a plan. Do I have a backup 22 Until my first plan doesn't work, do I 23 have a backup plan? I don't know if I, I don't 24 know if we are at that stage yet in this

proceeding.

1	Q Well, Mr. Hughes, one of the relevant
2	issues for appropriateness in this proceeding is
3	how you would handle your trash recycling and so
4	forth.
5	A And I gave you my answer of how I'm
6	going to handle my trash. And you're saying if
7	that doesn't work, then, what am I going to do?
8	Like that, I mean, you're going to say something
9	if, if, if down the road. Like no matter what
10	answer I give you, you're going to say if, if,
11	if, no matter what I give you.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes,
13	please, sir. Please answer the question if you
14	can to the best of your ability, sir.
15	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman,
16	I gave him an answer on where we're going to plan
17	on to put our trash.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then you, then
19	let's move on, sir.
20	MR. HUGHES: Thank you, sir.
21	BY MR. ROTH:
22	Q Do you plan to use the third floor for
23	the storage of alcohol?
24	A I previously discussed in my testimony
25	already.

1	Q Okay.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, you had to
3	answer that question. I don't what the answer
4	is. I don't know what
5	MR. HUGHES: Yes, yes, I'm sorry.
6	BY MR. ROTH:
7	Q Why was that not in your application?
8	A I can't answer that. I'm not sure.
9	Q So you're saying here today that the
10	third floor should be incorporated into your
11	license? Is that right?
12	A In terms of where I plan on storing,
13	my application, I'm saying where, actually, my
14	building's address is 1806 Vernon Street. So
15	that building consists of four floors. So that I
16	need to, my attorney would have to answer that
17	question.
18	I don't know the procedure. I don't
19	the law. Whether I needed to put it in the
20	application or not. I'm not sure if I needed to
21	put that in the application.
22	If my application says 1806 Vernon
23	Street, it has four floors, don't I legally have
24	the ability to put my liquor anywhere in the
25	establishment?

1	Q I'm not going to answer that question
2	for you. I'll leave that to you and the Board.
3	A Well, I
4	Q To determine with the Board.
5	A Okay.
6	Q Do you plan to use third floor for
7	any other purpose related to the operation of a
8	licensed premises on the first and second floors?
9	A This is for an office. Yes, this is
10	the operations office, yes. It's where staff
11	will have a break room. That's where people warm
12	up, and yes.
13	Q All right. Where do you expect
14	delivery trucks to park when you get deliveries
15	of beer, wine and spirits?
16	A The same place we park when you get
17	Amazon packages.
18	Q Where's that?
19	A On Vernon Street, the same place where
20	you have your packages delivered.
21	MR. ROTH: Now, you testified about
22	some real estate listings. And I'm going to share
23	my screen again here. Because Mr. Chairman,
24	these documents are not shared previously or this
25	document was not shared previously with the

applicant or with the Board. 1 2 Because I had no idea who was going to 3 be testifying, because there were no witnesses on 4 the witness list who appeared to be qualified to 5 testify to real estate pricing. But since Mr. Hughes testified about 6 7 this particular listing I wanted to know whether 8 Mr. Hughes was aware that the listing that he 9 testified about was originally listed on May 4 for \$510,000. 10 11 And that the party who listed it got 12 a contract. 13 MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth is 14 testifying. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. 16 Let's move on. 17 BY MR. ROTH: 18 Mr. Hughes were you aware that this 0 19 property was listed on March 4th for \$510,000? 20 Α No. I wasn't aware of it, no. 21 Where you aware that the contract --0 22 that this property had a contract placed on it 23 the following week for \$510,000? 24 I wasn't aware of that, no. Α No. 25 Were you aware that that contract was 0

	bubbequencily withdrawn:
2	A No. I'm not aware of that, no.
3	Q Were you aware that the price of the
4	property or listing price of the property was
5	then dropped to \$499,900?
6	MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance.
7	There are many reasons why listing prices change
8	and why offers are made and withdrawn. The
9	relevance to this, his testimony was limited to
10	the fact that there were two listings that
11	mentioned, the proximity of nightlife and other
12	services in the area.
13	He didn't speak to the prices of the
14	individual properties. His testimony was very
15	limited. And this goes far afield of that.
16	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kline
17	opened the door to this line.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, I
19	mean, you're asking the witness to speculate. So
20	I'm going to sustain that. I'm going to, it
21	stated, your last question. He said, he was
22	unaware. I'm going to sustain the objection.
23	And let's move on, sir.
24	MR. ROTH: All right. I'm almost
25	done, Mr. Chairman, but I want to share one other

exhibit because, again, Mr. Hughes, stating that 1 2 he was well familiar with property values in the 3 neighborhood. BY MR. ROTH: 4 5 And with respect to the same property, Mr. Hughes, are you aware that this same property 6 7 back in March of 2016 sold for \$500,000? 8 No, I was not aware of that. Α 9 O And given the fact that you testified 10 that you're very familiar with property 11 valuation, do you think that a property that sold 12 five years ago for \$500,000 and today is listed 13 below that price, right next door to your 14 property reflects the fact that all of those 15 bars, and restaurants, and everything else that 16 he spoke of, is a great attraction for the 17 neighborhood? 18 MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Hughes was 19 not offered --20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. 21 Let's move on. 22 All right. MR. ROTH: I have no 23 further questions. I have no further questions, 24 Mr. Chairman. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

1	Please close your screen, sir.
2	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any
4	questions of Mr. Hughes by the Board members?
5	MEMBER SHORT: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd
6	like to answer questions.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.
8	MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon,
9	Mr. Hughes.
10	MR. HUGHES: Good afternoon,
11	Mr. Short.
12	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. In your
13	testimony in your opening, your application you
14	mentioned your business management skills.
15	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
16	MEMBER SHORT: You mentioned your
17	community ties.
18	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
19	MR. HUGHES: You mentioned that you
20	wanted to make an investment in a property and
21	the community.
22	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
23	MEMBER SHORT: And you mentioned your
24	hours of operation. Should your, should this
25	license be granted to you? Again, will you give

1	me what hours of operation you are requesting?
2	MR. HUGHES: I believe I would need
3	some help from my attorney just to know exactly
4	what we applied for. I don't know that
5	information I don't have it in front of me.
6	Could Andrew Kline, could you answer that? I
7	don't have it in front of me.
8	MEMBER SHORT: No. We'll wait. I'm
9	quite sure information will come out sooner or
10	later.
11	MR. HUGHES: Okay. I'm sorry about
12	that. I don't know that exact.
13	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now
14	MR. HUGHES: I don't want to misspeak.
15	MEMBER SHORT: Again, assuming that
16	you get this license
17	MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir.
18	MEMBER SHORT: for 1806 Vernon
19	Street, Northwest. I don't think I need to
20	ask you. In your, in your mind as a business
21	owner and that you have four floors there. Do
22	you assume that you can sell alcohol on all four
23	floors and the roof top?
24	MR. HUGHES: No, sir, because there's
25	not there's not shown that way either. So the

top floor is residential. 1 So it's not 2 commercial. I can't do anything commercial up 3 there. That's a great answer. MEMBER SHORT: 4 5 Thank you. MR. HUGHES: Okay. 6 7 MEMBER SHORT: So you would be willing 8 to note that you could only sell alcohol on 9 certain floors if you get a license, correct? 10 MR. HUGHES: Absolutely. Yes, sir. 11 MEMBER SHORT: And even the summer 12 garden you would realize that the law requires 13 that we would have to put, should this license be 14 granted, hours of sales and service on any part 15 of the property or any part of the license? 16 MR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. I'm aware that 17 you guys have that power. 18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And would you, 19 are you going into this business wanting to be a 20 good neighbor, a good business person, a good 21 community person, and I'm having a productive 22 business? And no one that's going to cause 23 mayhem in the community? 24 MR. HUGHES: Most definitely. That's 25 why I bought the building. Mr. Short, I'm also a

constituent. I'm not just a business owner. 1 2 a property owner, as well. 3 So it's definitely within my, you know, it's within best interest to be the best 4 5 neighbor as possible because I have a stake in the community by owning this property. 6 7 MEMBER SHORT: You're right. I like 8 to hear that answer. Having a stake in the 9 community and because we were are, or at least I, as a Board member envision that businesses and 10 11 communities have to thrive together. 12 The District has proven that. And we see now because they have the, we still have 13 14 Adams Morgan Day. Have you ever participated in 15 Adams Morgan Day. 16 MR. HUGHES: I sure have. Yes, I sure 17 have. 18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And normally, 19 those are pretty orderly or how to you see them? MR. HUGHES: I see it as a cultural 20 21 I mean, I think you know, they are celebration. 22 -- I don't want to classify anything as orderly 23 or disorderly. I think that people have fun in 24 different ways in different cultures. 25 And I think that this is a, you know,

a perfect example of me looking across at several 1 2 ANC members that don't look like me, and they 3 don't understand what I'm doing, quite honestly. MEMBER SHORT: I'll just simply say 4 5 this. Should you be granted this license would you promote through your business and through 6 7 your involvement peaceful and quiet for the 8 community? 9 MR. HUGHES: One hundred percent, 10 absolutely. That's the only way -- yes, sir, 11 absolutely. Yes, sir. 12 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And you also 13 mentioned that you were educated in Washington 14 D.C. and that your family has ties associated 15 with education in Washington, D.C.? 16 MR. HUGHES: Well, I went to 17 elementary school at K.C. Lewis. My Mom 18 graduated from Burdick. My grandmother graduated 19 from Dunbar. So yes, I've been partially 20 educated in the District of Columbia. 21 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, concerning 22 your barbershop, what ties do you have to 23 operating a barbershop? 24 Personally, I do not MR. HUGHES: 25 My partner, one of my partners is a master have.

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 1 business a lot longer if I was able to sell. 2 3 MEMBER SHORT: Do you have any 4 knowledge or do you know of any barbershops or 5 beauty salons in Washington D.C. that have liquor 6 license? 7 MR. HUGHES: No, I don't know. 8 MEMBER SHORT: So if you are granted 9 this license, and you were told you could not 10 sell or serve alcohol in the barbershop area, 11 what would, would that stop you operating, having 12 your operation? 13 MR. HUGHES: That will severely limit 14 the success that I am able to have. 15 MEMBER SHORT: That wasn't the 16 question. The question was, would you still 17 pursue this license if you weren't permitted to 18 sell alcohol in the barber shop area? 19 MR. HUGHES: Would I still pursue the 20 license if I was not permitted to sell alcohol in 21 the barbershop area? Yes, I would. 22 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Please just 23 answer me, yes, you would, meaning? 24 MR. HUGHES: Yes, I would continue to pursue this license if I was restricted from 25

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?
2	MR. HUGHES: Currently, I'm asking for
3	both. But yes, definitely the second floor.
4	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Again, I don't
5	know of any barbershop ever in Washington, D.C.
6	that got a license to sell alcohol. So good
7	luck, good luck you on that one. So, again, I
8	won't even ask that question of you anymore.
9	I'll simply say to you, now, of the
LO	third floor, are you going to sell alcohol, and
L1	selling, and service alcohol on the third floor?
L2	MR. HUGHES: No, sir.
L3	MEMBER SHORT: Are you going to
L 4	service or sell alcohol on the fourth floor?
L5	MR. HUGHES: The fourth floor's
L6	residential, I cannot, legally I cannot do that
L7	there.
L8	MEMBER SHORT: On your rooftop are
L9	you
20	MR. HUGHES: Which is residential.
21	MEMBER SHORT: expecting to see
22	alcohol. So based on your answers, you're asking
23	this Board to give you a license for a CT on the
24	second floor only of 1806 Vernon Street,

Northwest, correct?

No. That's not correct. 1 MR. HUGHES: 2 What I'm asking for the Board to give me a 3 license for the first and second floor. MEMBER SHORT: I'll ask this question 4 5 one last time before I decide what I'm going to do as a Board member. Should the Board say you 6 7 cannot sell or serve alcohol on the first floor, 8 would that affect your license application? 9 MR. HUGHES: No, it will not affect my 10 license application. 11 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you for your 12 No further questions. Mr. Chairman. answers. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 14 Are there any questions by any other 15 Board members? All right, hearing none. 16 Mr. Roth, do you have any specific questions of Mr. Hughes based on the questions that were asked 17 18 by the, on the Board? Your questions have to be 19 based on the questions that were asked by the 20 Board members. 21 MR. ROTH: No, sir. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 23 Mr. Kline? Mr. Kline? 24 Hello, Mr. Chairman, MS. YOHANNES: 25 let me chime in here. I'm going have to request

1 -- seeing you in video. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you 3 said you have to do what? What happened to 4 Mr. Kline? Did he? I know that --5 I, I'm --MS. YOHANNES: CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. 6 7 MS. YOHANNES: Yes. I'm just going to 8 make a request that if you could, you could give 9 us a few minutes, maybe take a brief five minute 10 reset so he can log back in. He's attempting to 11 do so now. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, we're off the record. We're off the record until Mr. Kline 13 14 get back online. That's one of the, that's one 15 of the unfortunate things that when we do this 16 remotely, I don't know when folks are not there. 17 So we'll, we're on the record -- we're off the 18 record until Mr. Kline get back. 19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 20 went off the record at 2:20 p.m. and resumed at 21 2:36 p.m.) 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. Mr. Roth, can you --23 24 can I see all board members, please. 25 (Pause.)

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Hughes
2	back on the line?
3	MR. HUGHES: Yes, I'm here.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
5	Kline, so when did we lose you? I know that Ms.
6	Yohannes has been on the line at all times. So,
7	I know that your firm was represented, but did
8	you hear the questions that Mr. Short had asked
9	Mr. Hughes?
10	MR. KLINE: I did not hear all of them,
11	but Ms. Yohannes filled me in as I was scrambling
12	to find an alternate computer. So, I think I am
13	up to speed.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
15	questions that you want to ask Mr. Hughes as a
16	result of the cross-examination questions that
17	were asked by Mr by the Board?
18	MR. KLINE: Are there other board
19	members that have questions?
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have moved
21	on, sir. Mr. Roth had an opportunity to recross.
22	He did not. So, you have the final say, sir.
23	MR. KLINE: Okay. Great. All right.
24	All right.
25	CROSS EXAMINATION

1	BY MR. KLINE:
2	Q So, Mr. Hughes, you're still with us,
3	correct?
4	A Yes, I 'm still with you.
5	Q Okay. So, the audio that was played,
6	the audio recording that you heard
7	A Yes.
8	Q in your mind, is there anything
9	that you're doing in the operation of this
10	business that is consistent with there being
11	commercial activity on Vernon Street?
12	A No, not that I no.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hughes, I
14	don't know what's going on. I can't see you and
15	I cannot I can hardly hear you. So, I don't
16	know what
17	MR. HUGHES: Well, my video is off
18	right now, but I can still hear you guys.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear
20	you, sir. So, I don't have a problem with not
21	seeing you. You're not clear, sir.
22	MR. HUGHES: What about now?
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Better. Got
24	it.
25	MR. HUGHES: Sorry about that. So, the

only commercial in relation to -- in relation to 1 2 this proceeding, in relation to alcohol, no. 3 We thought that having a sandwich board on Vernon alluding to coffee being 4 5 available was beneficial to the community because there was no coffee shop there. 6 7 The closest coffee shop was a couple 8 blocks away. So, that was the only 9 commercialized plan that we had in terms of our 10 industry. 11 BY MR. KLINE: 12 Okay. And is that crucial to your Q 13 operation? 14 Α No, that's not crucial to the 15 operation. I think it's, you know, beneficial to 16 the community to know that there's coffee there; 17 but other than that -- I mean, but the other 18 thing, too, is the office space, you could only 19 access it from Vernon. 20 So, I mean, technically the office 21 space is commercial and you could only access 22 that third floor office, when people are going to 23 work, by Vernon Street. 24 Okay. And aren't there other Q 25 businesses on Vernon Street to the east of you?

1	A Yes.
2	Q What are they?
3	A They both are massage parlors, I
4	believe. And then one, I think, is an office
5	place. And then I think there yeah, that's
6	what I believe.
7	Q How late are the massage parlors open,
8	if you know?
9	A I don't know. I don't recall.
10	Q Okay. Now, I know that you were asked
11	about alcohol in the barber shop area.
12	Are you aware of other business
13	concepts that are emerging where this is perhaps
14	a bit of a trend?
15	A Well, that's why I tried to get Mr.
16	Short back on, but I was I wasn't allowed to
17	speak to him.
18	Yes, I am aware of a of an
19	establishment that just opened that is a barber
20	shop and has a liquor license, yes.
21	Q Okay. And what was that
22	establishment?
23	A The name of it is Scotch and Scissors,
24	I believe.
25	Q Okay.

1	A I think it was recently got a
2	license within this past within the past 60
3	days.
4	Q Okay. And you do know they do have a
5	license?
6	A Yes, because I patronize there. I
7	bought yeah, I got some I got a beer from
8	there because it's right across the street from
9	my office (inaudible).
10	Q Okay. Are you aware that some hair
11	establishments give away complementary alcohol?
12	A Oh, yes. That's been happening. I
13	mentioned I mentioned a couple of those, yes.
14	Yes, I am aware.
15	Q Okay. But it's your preference to be
16	licensed in that area, correct?
17	A Correct. From my due diligence with
18	the, you know, with licenses and DCRA, they felt
19	that I would, you know, be cutting it too close.
20	And so, knowing what I know about
21	being a black business owner, we don't have the
22	opportunity to be cutting it close. So, I wanted
23	to go about this the proper way.
24	Q Okay. And you're aware that by having
25	an ABC license, that gives the ABC Board

1	governance, or oversight, over the operation of
2	your business establishment?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And that would be true for the barber
5	shop area as well?
6	A Yes, for the portion that was yes,
7	yes, that is true.
8	Q All right.
9	MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, since I
10	can't, can you share Protestant's Exhibit 11?
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,
12	please give Ms. Yohannes the opportunity to be
13	able to share her screen, please.
14	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
15	(Pause.)
16	MS. ANDREWS: Ms. Yohannes, you can now
17	share your screen.
18	(Pause.)
19	MS. YOHANNES: Okay. It's not sharing.
20	Sorry.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see
22	anything.
23	(Pause.)
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we can now.
25	Go ahead.

1	MR. KLINE: Is the picture up oh,
2	there it is. Okay.
3	BY MR. KLINE:
4	Q Mr. Hughes, can you see the photo?
5	A Yes, I can see the photo.
6	Q Okay. So, just to orient everyone,
7	what's the yellow building?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, can
9	you please have the witness identify the document
10	that's just been viewed, please.
11	MR. KLINE: Yes.
12	BY MR. KLINE:
13	Q What are we looking at, Mr. Hughes?
14	A The yellow building is
15	Q No, what's the document? What's the
16	document labeled?
17	A Well, the document is labeled
18	Protestant's Exhibit 11.
19	Q Right.
20	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
21	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 11
22	for identification.)
23	BY MR. KLINE:
24	Q Okay. So, what's the yellow building?
25	A That's the premises 1806 Vernon

1	Street.	
2	Q	Okay.
3		MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, can you zoom
4	in a bit or	make a full screen?
5		(Pause.)
6		BY MR. KLINE:
7	Q	All right. And then, Mr. Hughes,
8	there are n	umbers on an awning there.
9		What are those numbers?
10	A	1812.
11	Q	And what is that building?
12	A	That is the building of the Carswell
13	condominium	•
14	Q	Okay. And what's behind the tree
15	there?	
16	A	There is a seating area, a bench area.
17	Q	Okay. Is that always there?
18	A	Yeah. That's always there, yeah.
19	One, two, tl	nree, four, five chairs, sir.
20	Q	Is it ever closed off there at any
21	time?	
22	A	No, it's not.
23	Q	Is there anything that prevents
24	someone from	n having a (inaudible) there any hour
25	of the day of	or night?

1	A I would I would assume not.
2	Q Okay. Just a couple more questions.
3	In terms of people leaving the
4	establishment, you're going to I think we
5	covered this before, but I want to be sure
6	you're going to take steps to police people
7	leaving the building; is that right?
8	A Yes, as a matter of service and safety
9	and to, you know, as a good neighbor.
10	Q Okay. You were asked a whole bunch of
11	questions which seemed to confuse you as to
12	whether people, if they did exit from Florida,
13	which, we understand, is not your desire, whether
14	they would be exiting under people's windows.
15	Do you remember all those questions?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Okay. Isn't it a fact that the exit
18	from the lowest level, the basement level, the
19	ground level, whatever it's called, the
20	barbershop level, the exit is on the east side of
21	the building, the opposite side of the building
22	as the Carswell condominium?
23	A The Carswell Condominium is spans
24	both sides of Vernon Street and Florida. So,
25	when you say "the opposite," I need you to ask

1	I need you to ask me in a different way.
2	Q Okay. I will.
3	The Carswell is west of your building,
4	correct?
5	A Correct. On Vernon Street, yeah.
6	Basically, yes, yes.
7	Q I mean, Vernon and Florida are north-
8	south, right?
9	A Yes.
10	Q And so, it's west of you, right?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Okay. The exit from your building is
13	
14	A Yes.
15	Q on the ground floor, first floor,
16	barber shop level, whatever you want to call it,
17	that's on the east side of your building; isn't
18	it?
19	A The entrance, yes.
20	Q As you're facing the building from
21	Florida Avenue
22	A Yes.
23	Q it's on the right, correct?
24	A Correct.
25	Q Okay. And the Carswell is on the

1	left, correct?
2	A (No response.)
3	Q I didn't hear you if you answered.
4	A Correct. Correct.
5	Q Okay. All right. And the windows
6	from the Carswell are on the left, the opposite
7	side of the building where people would exit,
8	from the lowest level of your building, correct?
9	A Correct. Correct.
10	Q Okay. All right. Now, back to the
11	audio because I did miss something on that.
12	On the audio you when you were
13	asked about that, you said, wait a minute, that's
14	not the whole clip, that's not everything I said.
15	What is it that you were saying about
16	the 30 people in that audio? What's the context?
17	
18	We heard a very short clip and your
19	I think your position was taken out of context.
20	What's the context? What were you
21	talking about?
22	A I was trying to make the point that
23	it's a very small because nobody had taken a
24	tour except for, you know, a couple people, but
25	none of the none of these people, participants

on this call -- well, the majority of them had 1 2 not taken a tour, had not seen the space and were 3 giving opinions based on, you know, something 4 that they hadn't seen. And so, I was trying to 5 depict that it was a very small space. So, in using the number 30 or 6 7 whatever, I was trying to depict that it was 8 very, very small and that's what the missing part 9 of the clip didn't say. 10 At the end, I said, this is a very 11 small space, and that's what -- he didn't play 12 that part. And isn't it in the context of how 13 0 14 many people might be exiting onto Vernon Street? 15 Α Yes. 16 Q Okay. 17 MR. KLINE: All right. I have no 18 further questions of this witness at this time. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes, 20 please close the screen, please. 21 (Pause.) 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 23 Thank you very much for your Thank you. 24 testimony, Mr. Hughes. 25 All right. Mr. Kline, do you have any

1	other witnesses?
2	MR. KLINE: Yes, I do.
3	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman?
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth.
5	Yes.
6	MR. ROTH: I was offered the
7	opportunity to missed questions of Mr. Short, but
8	(inaudible) we'll go fast. Before I
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just hold on.
10	Hold on. Hold on. I want to do some procedural
11	things on moving forward.
12	When we had the pre-hearing conference
13	I'm sorry, at the status hearing I informed
14	all parties that initially I informed all
15	parties that they had 60 minutes to present their
16	case.
17	And one of the things I said when we
18	had the pre-hearing the status conference, I
19	said, this includes all direct and cross
20	examination of witnesses. That was what was
21	clearly stated at the status hearing.
22	Both parties have sent a motion to the
23	Board asking for extra time for us to go back to
24	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 1 2 both parties to spend the majority of your time 3 in doing direct examination especially if you have a lot of witnesses. 4 5 And so, I am -- so, I'm putting parties on notice that, moving forward, the time 6 7 that you use for cross examination is going to be 8 taken against your time. 9 So, you then figure out how you want 10 to present your case and how much time you're 11 going to use to do that. 12 Is that clear to everyone? 13 MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, 15 let me -- so, give me a minute. Let me get 16 another phone so I can have another timer so I 17 can start timing the cross examination. 18 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I 19 mean, the only thing that seems unfair is -- I 20 mean, we had Mr. Hughes on the stand for a long 21 time because he's our main witness. 22 He's the operator, he's the guy I 23 would think you guys want to hear from, and Mr. 24 Roth had unlimited cross of him and their case

hasn't started.

So, all of a sudden we find ourselves 1 2 with the rules changed in the middle of the game. 3 I don't mind complying with the rules, 4 but I don't like them changed in the middle of 5 the game. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, 6 7 during Mr. Roth's cross examination and during 8 your cross examination -- all right. You know 9 what it is? All right. All right. You have 28 minutes, Mr. Kline, and I 10 11 never utilized the timer when you cross examined. 12 I did not use that. 13 MR. KLINE: I understand that. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All 15 This is what I'm going to do. All right. right. 16 I did tell everyone during the status 17 hearing that I'm going to use the time -- that 18 time to limit your -- because I need this to 19 move. All right? 20 But because I gave Mr. Roth unlimited 21 time to cross examine and I did not use it 22 against his time, it's going to be unfair if I do that to Mr. Kline. 23 24 So, I am not -- although that is what 25 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.

1	So, I now need to change what I do,
2	but I will do that with other cases, not with
3	this one, since I was not consistent from the
4	beginning.
5	All right. Go ahead, Mr who is
6	your next witness?
7	MR. KLINE: Geoffrey Sparks, are you
8	on? Are you available? Ms. Sidon, will you
9	please call up Exhibit 9.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is Mr.
11	Sparks?
12	MS. YOHANNES: He did log in. I think
13	he needs to be elevated or his rights need to
14	be elevated and he needs to be introduced.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
16	Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of
17	Geoffrey Sparks if he's there, please.
18	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
19	Mr. Sparks, your rights have been
20	elevated.
21	MR. SPARKS: Good afternoon.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sparks, can
23	you raise your right hand, please.
24	(Witness sworn.)
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

1	Thank you.
2	Your witness, Mr. Kline.
3	MR. KLINE: All right. Thank you, Mr.
4	Chair.
5	DIRECT EXAMINATION
6	BY MR. KLINE:
7	Q Good afternoon, Mr. Sparks.
8	What's your profession?
9	A I am an acoustic consultant.
10	Q Okay. On the screen is Protestant's
11	Exhibit 9. Can you identify what that document
12	is?
13	A Yes. It's a r sum that I used for
14	soliciting work through my job at Arup.
15	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
16	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 9
17	for identification.)
18	MR. KLINE: Okay. I would move
19	Exhibit 9, Mr. Chair.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth?
21	MR. ROTH: No objection.
22	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
23	document was received into evidence as Applicant
24	Exhibit No. 9.)
25	MR. KLINE: And I would ask that Mr.

1	Sparks be qualified as an expert based on Exhibit
2	9.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth?
4	MR. ROTH: No objection.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
6	objections Mr. Sparks is qualified as an expert.
7	MR. ROTH: Ms. Yohannes, will you
8	please call up Exhibit 14.
9	BY MR. ROTH:
10	Q Mr. Sparks, are you familiar with the
11	project of Mr. Hughes, which is the subject of
12	this hearing today?
13	A Yes, I am.
14	Q And what's your familiarity with the
15	project?
16	A I My firm provided consulting to
17	the architecture firm and site work to make
18	recommendations to limit noise transmission.
19	MR. KLINE: Okay. And I need Exhibit
20	14, Ms. Yohannes. Do we have that?
21	MS. YOHANNES: I think I'm sharing it;
22	am I not?
23	MR. KLINE: No. We still have the
24	r sum .
25	MS. YOHANNES: Oh. So, do I need to

1	stop sharing and then re-share?
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. You just
3	move along to the next exhibit, but now you are -
4	- all right.
5	MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Exhibit 14.
6	MR. KLINE: Yes.
7	BY MR. KLINE:
8	Q Can you identify this document, Mr.
9	Sparks?
10	A Yes. This was part of this was
11	part of the report that we prepared after
12	visiting the site during construction to make
13	recommendations for the sound isolation.
14	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
15	document was marked as Applicant Exhibit No. 14
16	for identification.)
17	BY MR. KLINE:
18	Q Okay. Could you briefly walk us
19	through the report and your recommendations and
20	give indication to Ms. Yohannes when you need to
21	move the pages?
22	A Sure. Sure.
23	MR. SPARKS: So, Ms. Yohannes, if you
24	would go ahead and go to page 3, our task here
25	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 1 no -- we didn't have any acoustic weak points in 2 3 it. So, by taking this action now before 4 we actually filled in these areas, that was the 5 ability to actually make sure that we really got 6 7 the best out of the (inaudible) assembly. BY MR. KLINE: 8 9 O Okay. This was done, I believe, back in 10 Α 11 July. This site visit was July 9th, this summer. 12 Okay. Is that everything on Exhibit 13 14 in terms of what you recommended? 14 Α I should say, then, the last Yes. 15 piece are the two additional details around how 16 you fill up when you do have penetrations. 17 In order -- because we tend to think 18 of sound like water and we're trying to block it. 19 So, we want to make sure that we're sealing 20 things up airtight and getting good, you know, 21 good closure. 22 So, we had some additional details here that show how to deal with electrical back 23 24 boxes or other types of penetrations, whether 25 they are ducts or pipes or whatnot.

1	This is very standard for when you are
2	trying to do acoustic construction and improve
3	the sound isolation from space to space.
4	Q Great. And you were working with an
5	architectural firm in connection with this?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Snarkitecture?
8	A Snarkitecture.
9	Q Okay. And did Snarkitecture advise
10	you that this work had been completed?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Okay.
13	MR. KLINE: Ms. Yohannes, Exhibit 7,
14	please.
15	BY MR. KLINE:
16	Q Mr. Sparks, what is this?
17	A This was in addition to our
18	construction recommendations, we performed some
19	additional site analysis to predict and look at
20	anticipated noise levels.
21	In particular, the task was to
22	understand the audible impact to adjacent
23	properties.
24	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
25	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

1	space.
2	Q And is it your understanding that the
3	owner has agreed to comply with those
4	recommendations?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Okay. Now, in the last paragraph you
7	indicate that there may be some noise from low
8	frequency.
9	A Yes.
10	Q Can you expound upon that a little
11	bit?
12	A Sure. So, I think that, you know, low
13	frequency is always a challenge when it comes to
14	sound isolation.
15	So, in the same way that when you hear
16	a truck or an engine even from a distance, what
17	you don't hear is always the really high-
18	frequency stuff, but usually it's kind of that
19	low rumble.
20	Based on our calculations with, you
21	know, the spectrum of the music at the high 85
22	dBA level, we anticipate that there's a
23	possibility that you would hear some low-
24	frequency noise associated with that music.
25	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 s 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

1	those levels were maintained?
2	A Yeah. I don't think that the those
3	additional mitigation measures would be
4	necessary.
5	I think it's unlikely that we'll have
6	an audible impact based on how my understanding
7	is of the use of the space in the speakeasy.
8	Q Okay. If there were issues, that
9	remains another avenue that could be pursued to
10	address those issues; is that right?
11	A Yes.
12	MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. I have
13	no further questions. I move Exhibits 7 and 14.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any
15	objections?
16	MR. ROTH: No objection.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
18	moved. Thank you.
19	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
20	documents were received into evidence as
21	Applicant Exhibit Nos. 7 and 14.)
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're done
23	with this witness, Mr. Kline?
24	MR. KLINE: Subject to redirect, but,
25	yes.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine.
2	Mr. Roth, your witness.
3	MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4	Can I share my screen, please.
5	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
6	(Pause.)
7	MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you now
8	have the ability to share your screen.
9	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
10	CROSS EXAMINATION
11	BY MR. ROTH:
12	Q So, Mr. Sparks, good afternoon.
13	A Good afternoon.
14	Q Going back to the same document, I
15	just wanted to let's clarify one thing right
16	at the start, which is you make reference here to
17	1818 Vernon Street. Just for the record
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, can
19	you please have the witness identify for the
20	record what document you are referencing, please.
21	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir.
22	BY MR. ROTH:
23	Q Mr. Sparks, going back again one step,
24	what are we looking at here?
25	A This is Exhibit 7.

1	Q Which was?
2	A This was the sound isolation review
3	that Arup prepared for this project.
4	Q Okay. And, again, just to clarify a
5	small detail, the memo makes reference to 1818
6	Vernon Street.
7	Can we just clarify, for the record,
8	that you were intending to refer to 1812?
9	A Yes.
10	Q Okay. So, let's go back to this last
11	paragraph that you were just talking about in
12	somewhat technical terms.
13	Can I just ask beginning with the
14	two sentences at the end, can I just ask you to
15	read those two sentences?
16	A Starting with "some music"?
17	Q Yes.
18	A Some music noise, particularly low-
19	frequency octave bands, may be audible within the
20	residential apartments especially during periods
21	of low ambient noise from traffic and other
22	external noise sources. Complete mitigation of
23	low-frequency sounds would require additional
24	massive structure, i.e., brick or concrete, and
25	large air spaces, which would not be practically

1	achievable at the subject site.
2	Q So, in plain English, isn't your
3	report saying that on a quiet, one-way, mostly
4	residential street after midnight or 1:00 a.m.,
5	the bass sounds coming from music could actually
6	penetrate into the adjacent apartments,
7	especially if the bass was turned up by a DJ or
8	on a recorded sound system, even with the sound
9	mitigation techniques that you have recommended
10	in this report?
11	A Yes, that there could be some sound
12	from low frequency that is audible in the
13	apartments.
14	I think the other
15	Q That's fine.
16	A nuance okay.
17	Q And the hypotheticals that Mr. Kline
18	posed about what could be done are not actually
19	within your personal knowledge now because we
20	don't know what might be done; isn't that
21	correct?
22	A We have not recommended those based on
23	our analysis at this point.
24	Q Okay.
25	A If we thought they were negeggary 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
Q Do you actually use the word
Q Do you actually use the word "soundproof" in your industry?
Q Do you actually use the word "soundproof" in your industry? A There are people who use the word

Soundproofing -- the use of 1 Α 2 "soundproof" is subjective. 3 0 What do you mean by that? Α Well, I mean that neurotically we all 4 5 hear and perceive sound slightly differently. And while there are kind of rails 6 7 around how we listen and how we hear sounds, 8 there's definitely a range about personal 9 perception of it. 10 Why does your report focus on -- or 11 your memorandum and recommendations and 12 predictions focus on D.C.'s noise control decibel level measurements rather than on the ABRA 13 14 standard in Section 25-725, which prohibits a 15 tavern from -- and I'm reading here from the law 16 -- producing any sound, noise or music of such 17 intensity that it may be heard in any premises other than the licensed establishment, unquote. 18 19 MR. KLINE: Objection. The recitation 20 of the statute is incomplete and, therefore, 21 makes the question misleading because there is an 22 exception that follows which is very important 23 given that the building on the opposite side of 24 the condominium that's been discussed during this 25 hearing is in a commercial zone.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
2	sustain I will sustain the objection.
3	MR. ROTH: No further questions, Mr.
4	Chair.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can
6	you close the screen, please, and please close
7	your screen. Okay.
8	Are there any questions of the witness
9	by the Board Members?
10	(Pause.)
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12	Hearing none, all right, thank you very much,
13	sir, for your testimony. You are free to go.
14	Thank you.
15	MR. SPARKS: Thank you very much. Have
16	a good day.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
18	Do you have any other witness, Mr.
19	Kline?
20	MR. KLINE: Yes. Is Dr. Tamara Lowe on
21	the zoom?
22	DR. LOWE: I'm here.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dr. Lowe, can I
24	see you, please.
25	DR. LOWE: I don't know how to get back

	to that screen. I've been seeing faces all day
2	and when I look down, there is black screen and
3	it just says, tap to unmute.
4	I don't know how to get back to the
5	video. I'm 61 years old, by the way. I'm
6	challenged as well.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
8	Doctor. I can't see you, but I'm going to ask
9	you can you please raise your right hand, please.
10	DR. LOWE: I'm raising it.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
12	affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
13	truth?
14	DR. LOWE: Yes, I do.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Your
16	witness, Mr. Kline.
17	MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18	DIRECT EXAMINATION
19	BY MR. KLINE:
20	Q Dr. Lowe, I would ask if at the bottom
21	of your screen you see a little button that says,
22	start video.
23	A Previously it was there. This does
24	not have that at all. That's why I'm a quandary.
25	

1	All I have is, tap to mute, tap to
2	unmute. And when I tap the bottom, nothing comes
3	up.
4	Q All right.
5	A So, I don't know what to say.
6	Q I understand. I've had my own
7	challenges today. I'm sympathetic.
8	A Okay.
9	Q All right. Dr. Lowe, where do you
10	live?
11	A So, I live at 1811 Vernon Street. I
12	live directly across from Mr. Hughes's building,
13	which I have to say is gorgeous, and I live right
14	next to Lucky Buns.
15	So, to address some of the issues that
16	were brought up, there's trash all over the
17	street from Lucky Buns.
18	When they pick up their trash in the
19	front of their building, a regular trash truck
20	comes and what is most notable is that there are
21	blue, used gloves
22	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, is there a
23	question coming?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lowe, can
25	you wait for Mr. Kline to ask you a question? I

1	thought the only question that was asked was
2	where you live.
3	DR. LOWE: It wasn't. I told you where
4	I live. Okay.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Go
6	ahead, Mr. Kline.
7	BY MR. KLINE:
8	Q Thank you, Dr. Lowe. You're aware of
9	the application that the Board is considering
10	today, correct?
11	A Yes, I am.
12	Q And what knowledge do you have of it?
13	A That Mr. Hughes is being denied a
14	liquor license possibly. There are some issues
15	with his verification to have a speakeasy and a
16	bar in a barber shop.
17	Things that I have heard during the
18	day, as I've been working, have been being
19	questioned.
20	Q Okay. Did you meet with Mr. Hughes at
21	some point?
22	A Yes. I was in the street one day and
23	he invited me to come look at his facility.
24	Q And did you take a tour?
25	A Yes, I did.

1	Q Okay. And do you support this
2	application?
3	A Yes. He should be granted the
4	application. I think he has a good spot to open
5	up a business in the midst of a pandemic and I
6	can't see why we're going to (inaudible) him
7	about this.
8	Q Okay. Now, what about the concept?
9	You've been listening. So, you've heard a number
10	of concerns about people exiting on Vernon
11	Street.
12	You live directly across the street.
13	Do you have any concerns about that?
14	A I do not because, as I was launching
15	into, Lucky Buns has people in and out of there
16	all day long with lines of people and an outdoor
17	setting with quite a few people eating all day.
18	So, why would it be any different?
19	Why is that acceptable, but it's not acceptable
20	for his patrons to come in and out of his front
21	door? I don't see the difference.
22	And the massage therapy place with
23	acupuncture has people coming in and out of their
24	front door.
25	Q Do you have any idea how late the

1	massage place is open?
2	A I think they close 9:00, 9:30. The
3	Lucky Buns
4	Q Okay.
5	A takes the yes, go ahead.
6	Q Go ahead.
7	A Lucky Buns's last call for drinks is
8	1:00 a.m. They stop serving food, like, at
9	11:00.
10	Q Okay.
11	A So, there's people in the street.
12	Q And you started to tell us earlier
13	your building is right next door to Lucky Buns?
14	A That's correct.
15	Q Okay. And do you have any have you
16	talked to any of your neighbors as to why it is
17	that they're so opposed to this application?
18	A Well, my feeling is this is a racist
19	issue. And people don't like to hear that, but
20	it's true because if he was a white man, I don't
21	think we'd be having these problems getting a
22	license.
23	It's an area I've chosen to live in
24	that is commercial and residential. I'm living
25	there by choice understanding it is also

	Commercial.
2	Q Okay. How long have you lived in the
3	neighborhood?
4	A I've been there for five years, but my
5	unit is owned by my best girlfriend from Harvard.
6	She's an ER doc. She bought it in the early
7	'90s.
8	So, I've been coming to the area
9	forever. I have a vested interest there. I'm
10	going to purchase her condo. So, I'm staying
11	there.
12	Q And you're a dentist, is that correct,
13	by training?
14	A Yes, I'm a dentist by training. I
15	work in cosmetic dermatology and plastic surgery
16	currently.
17	MR. KLINE: Okay. All right. I don't
18	have any further questions of you at this time.
19	DR. LOWE: Thank you. I have to work.
20	MR. KLINE: Wait. Wait.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lowe, hold
22	on.
23	MR. KLINE: Don't go anywhere.
24	DR. LOWE: I'm here.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth has

some questions for you -- might have some 1 2 questions for you. 3 MR. ROTH: I do. 4 DR. LOWE: My pleasure. 5 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ROTH: 6 7 Good afternoon, Dr. Lowe. Q 8 Α Good afternoon. 9 When did you first meet Mr. Hughes? 0 10 Α Maybe two months ago. The last --11 yeah. 12 Okay. So, basically everything you Q 13 know about this proposed establishment you know 14 from things that he's told you and shown you in 15 the last couple of months; is that right? I know what he has shown me and I 16 17 listened to everything all day today. 18 heard everything everybody said all day while I 19 was working, yes. 20 O Okay. Thank you. At any since you've 21 met him, have you ever seen any neighbors across 22 the street at the Carswell hanging out in front of their building or walking their dogs or coming 23 24 back from a store? 25 Α What's the Carswell?

1	Q The Carswell. The building at 1812
2	Vernon Street. The condominiums.
3	A No, I don't I don't see anybody
4	hanging around. They do walk their dogs up and
5	down the street every day.
6	Q Have you ever crossed the street and
7	tried talking to any of the neighbors there by
8	ringing a buzzer or two or seeing any of them who
9	might be coming home from work or coming home
10	from walking a dog?
11	A I know I have not reached out to
12	neighbors. I do work a good many hours. I get
13	home late.
14	So, I wave to the neighbors and I've
15	seen the people walking dogs. I'm quite
16	friendly. But have I buzzed them and asked them
17	any questions? No.
18	Q So
19	A In the city, generally people don't do
20	that.
21	Q So, everything you know, you just
22	everything you know from Mr. Hughes, everything
23	he's told you, you've just accepted at face
24	value; is that right?
25	A I don't accept anything at face value.

1	I listened to all the arguments posed today and
2	it did sound like a very racist argument against
3	a man who's trying to improve our neighborhood
4	with a new commercial business, will bring us
5	dollars that we need during this pandemic, and I
6	think it's in an attack against his character and
7	the fact that he is black.
8	Q Dr. Lowe, do you have any idea how
9	many bars, taverns, restaurants in Adams Morgan
10	owned by white business owners have been
11	protested by the ANC or by neighbors over the
12	course of, say, the last two years, five years,
13	ten years?
14	A Since I've been living there for five
15	years, no. I know that there was protest cases
16	against Lucky Buns because the refrigerator was
17	right by the trash and
18	Q I think you've answered the question.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a
20	minute. Hold on, Mr. Roth. Let her finish. She
21	wasn't done answering your question, sir.
22	MR. ROTH: Oh, okay. I think she
23	answered
24	DR. LOWE: Have I researched the
25	protests, I can say, no, I have not. This is my

1	first time being involved with somebody who's
2	being denied an application.
3	BY MR. ROTH:
4	Q Okay. Thank you. And Lucky Buns is
5	located on the corner of Vernon and 18th Street;
6	is that correct?
7	A Right. Right next to my building.
8	Q Right. Does your bedroom window face
9	Vernon Street itself or does it face the alley
10	behind the building?
11	A I face the alley.
12	MR. ROTH; Thank you. No further
13	questions oh, I do have one further question.
14	BY MR. ROTH:
15	Q You mentioned that you're a dentist,
16	but that you practice in dermatology; is that
17	what you said?
18	A My cousin owns Cultura Cosmetic
19	Dermatology and Plastic Surgery. We have two
20	dentists here, two RNs
21	Q I see.
22	A two techs.
23	Q And in what jurisdiction are you
24	licensed to practice dentistry?
25	A I was licensed in Pennsylvania. I'm

2	
٦	in Maryland that I'm deactivating because I do
٦	not do dentistry at this point. So, why pay \$600
4	for a license.
5	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you.
6	DR. LOWE: Um-hm.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms.
8	Lowe. Hold on. Are there any questions by any
9	board members?
10	(Pause.)
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12	Hearing none, thank you very much, Dr. Lowe, for
13	your testimony. Have a great day.
14	DR. LOWE: Thank you. My pleasure.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
16	another witness, Mr. Kline?
17	MR. KLINE: Yes. I am calling Japer
18	Bowles.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Japer Bowles.
	ND DOWNERS Good offermoon
20	MR. BOWLES: Good afternoon.
	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
20	
20 21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
20 21 22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, Mr. Bowles?

1	MR. KLINE: Thank you.
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION
3	BY MR. KLINE:
4	Q Mr. Bowles, state your full name,
5	please.
6	A Yes. My full name is Joseph Japer
7	Bowles.
8	Q And where do you reside?
9	A I live at 2426 Ontario Road, N.W.
10	And you're an ANC commissioner; is
11	that correct?
12	A Correct. I represent 1C07, which is
13	essentially the west side of the Reed-Cooke
14	neighborhood, but to you-all folks, the entire
15	east side of 18th Street.
16	So, I represent or my district
17	represents (inaudible) majority of liquor
18	establishments in 1C.
19	Q In 1C. Okay. And you're familiar
20	with the application that's pending before the
21	Board for hearing today?
22	A Correct.
23	Q And do you support the application?
24	A I do.
25	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?

1	A Meet who?
2	Q Mr. Hughes.
3	A I did, yes.
4	Q Okay. And you heard him make several
5	presentations to the community?
6	A I would say about half a dozen.
7	Q Okay. In your opinion, was he
8	forthcoming in terms of what he presented to the
9	community?
10	A I would say more than forthcoming. I
11	would say in the beginning he was a little
12	worried about sharing his space and idea because
13	it is innovative, cool, and he was worried about
14	proprietary issues there, but he did indeed share
15	come up front with all of the information to
16	the ANC, as well as different neighborhood
17	associations, including ones that are protesting.
18	Q Okay. You testified a lot about your
19	previous experiences with the bid and how you
20	support businesses. You also testified that you
21	met Mr. Hughes and heard his presentations.
22	Are there any specific reasons why you
23	support this application based on Mr. Hughes as a
24	business operator?
25	A Yeah. Certainly. So, I really like,

obviously, the fact that I was the bid delegate. 1 2 I know property owners and business owners as 3 well and then -- and I represent, you know, the 4 people that work in those spaces. 5 I can definitely see that there's a lot of workers that are people of color, black 6 7 and brown. It's lessor so as managers, and it's 8 negligible as property owners and businesses in 9 Adams Morgan. 10 So, a senior person who had an amazing 11 record such as Mr. Hughes and has an amazing 12 design, is pumping a ton of money into this 13 property, yeah, I was all on board. It checks 14 all the boxes. It made sense. 15 Okay. I have no further MR. KLINE: 16 questions of the witness at this time. 17 you. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do 19 you have any questions for Mr. Bowles? 20 MR. ROTH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. 21 Chairman. 22 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ROTH: 23 24 Good morning, Commissioner -- good Q 25 afternoon, I should say. Feels like morning.

1	When the ANC's protest resolution came
2	before the ANC last August, the resolution passed
3	by a vote of 6 to 1; is that correct?
4	A I believe so.
5	Q And you were the one, right?
6	A That's correct.
7	Q In fact, when you tried to offer an
8	amendment, you couldn't even get a second from
9	another commissioner; isn't that right?
10	A Yes. Could you speak as to what the
11	second was? I'm sorry.
12	Q You tried to offer an amendment to the
13	resolution and no other commissioner would second
14	your amendment.
15	MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance.
16	MR. BOWLES: I can answer this,
17	actually.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
19	Bowles. For what it's worth, he said he can
20	answer and I'll overrule. Go ahead.
21	MR. BOWLES: So, I don't necessarily
22	recall that, but would you be able to recall what
23	the specific amendment was?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
25	on. I'm going to sustain the objection because

1	the witness I thought he said he could answer
2	the question. So, I'm going to sustain the
3	objection. Let's move on.
4	MR. ROTH: All right. I'm going to
5	share can I share my screen, please.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
7	Roth.
8	(Pause.)
9	BY MR. ROTH:
10	Q Commissioner Bowles, you said you were
11	very disappointed in the ANC process; is that
12	right?
13	A Yes.
14	Q During that same meeting in August, is
15	that your
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
17	on. Mr. Roth, can you please have the witness
18	identify the document? I don't know what he's
19	looking at.
20	BY MR. ROTH:
21	Q I guess I am asking him to identify
22	the document.
23	A Yes. The document is
24	Q Is that your
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold

1	on. We're having a lot of feedback. So, I need
2	both Mr. Bowles and Mr. Roth, when either of you
3	are not speaking, please mute your phone because
4	there is a feedback between both of you.
5	So, if you're not speaking and you
6	have to remember to unmute yourself, but if
7	you're not speaking
8	MR. BOWLES: I got you.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10	Thanks. Go ahead. Please identify the document.
11	MR. BOWLES: Yes. This document is
12	titled, Japer Bowles's Twitter Timeline, August
13	5th, 2020. It is the Protestant's Exhibit 41.
14	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
15	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 41
16	for identification.)
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
18	Roth.
19	BY MR. ROTH:
20	Q And my question for Commissioner
21	Bowles was, was that his tweet.
22	A The tweet that says, NIMBY meeting
23	from hell, or, I'm not crying, you're crying, or
24	the tweet that says, hey, you
25	Q The one that's highlighted in yellow.

1	A Yes.
2	Q Okay. So, is your idea of the job of
3	an ANC commissioner to be listening to residents
4	with respect or insulting them in Twitter during
5	the middle of an ANC meeting?
6	MR. KLINE: Objection. Relevance.
7	Argumentative.
8	MR. BOWLES: Yeah. I don't think I
9	would even
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, please.
11	(Simultaneous speaking.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, please.
13	When there is an objection, please don't respond.
14	MR. ROTH: I'll put it back up.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm
16	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, the
17	Applicant's counsel called Commissioner Bowles to
18	testify about how disappointed he was in the
19	proceedings of the ANC.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
21	MR. ROTH: And Commissioner Bowles is
22	being asked about
23	MR. BOWLES: I'm sorry, he can't make
24	that statement
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles.

1	MR. BOWLES: about how I feel.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles. Mr.
3	Bowles, I'll let you know when you can speak.
4	Okay? All right.
5	MR. ROTH: Commissioner Bowles was
6	asked here about his performance as an ANC
7	commissioner at an ANC meeting at which this
8	resolution was considered.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. Hold on,
10	Mr. Roth. I think some of the problem is that
11	there's no context. I don't know when this was
12	done.
13	You're asking a question and the
13 14	You're asking a question and the question you asked was that he tweeted something
14	question you asked was that he tweeted something
14 15	question you asked was that he tweeted something in the middle of a meeting.
14 15 16	question you asked was that he tweeted something in the middle of a meeting. I don't know that. You haven't
14 15 16 17	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
14 15 16 17	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.
14 15 16 17 18	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
14 15 16 17 18 19	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
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	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.

sir. He stated that this was his tweet.

25

I don't know when it was and your 1 2 question is still basically stating that if it 3 was -- I think, if I remember correctly, if it 4 was appropriate in the middle of the meeting to 5 talk about his constituents. So, maybe you need to build a little 6 7 more foundation if you're going to ask this 8 question, sir. 9 MR. ROTH: Okay. BY MR. ROTH: 10 11 Commissioner Bowles, did you send out 0 12 this tweet in the middle of the same meeting 13 during which this protest application was being considered? 14 15 Correct. I often tweet live during Α 16 meetings. That is true. And why did you say, NIMBY meeting 17 0 from hell? 18 19 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to 20 renew my objection as to relevance. I mean, 21 we're talking about social media. 22 That's what we've evolved to? We're 23 going to be introducing social media comments in 24 a contested case hearing? I mean, it just seems 25 silly.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 1 I'm going to 2 overrule the objection. The witness has 3 testified that this is his tweet. You did not object to Protestant 4 Exhibit No. 4 and the witness has stated that 5 this is his tweet. So, he can respond because it 6 7 is relevant to the case that we're here. 8 It's not just a tweet that -- it's not 9 a tweet -- it's a tweet regarding the matter 10 that's being -- that we're -- that's in front of 11 us. 12 So, I believe that he can respond to his tweet the best way he can. So, I'm going to 13 14 overrule the objection. 15 Go ahead, Mr. Bowles, and answer the 16 question to the best of your knowledge. 17 MR. BOWLES: Yeah. Certainly. 18 this was a very long meeting. I think the 19 longest meeting of the year with the ANC. There 20 were numerous, I would say, contested projects. 21 So, I guess it would make sense to 22 give a definition of what "NIMBY" means. 23 is not in my back yard. 24 And my frustration was constantly 25 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

1	affected neighbors?
2	A Yeah. Yes. So, no, I was directed
3	actually, so neither of our resolutions
4	designates a person to speak on behalf of this
5	ANC. They say "any ANC member."
6	So, I have gotten direction last year
7	from the single-member representative,
8	Commissioner Irani, to begin to craft a
9	settlement agreement.
10	There is emails about it and
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
12	on. Mr. Roth, are you still there? Okay.
13	MR. ROTH: I just lost my connection.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I apologize.
15	That's why I thought that you lost all right.
16	So, go ahead, Mr. Bowles. Go ahead.
17	MR. BOWLES: What was the last part
18	that you were able to hear, Mr. Roth?
19	BY MR. ROTH:
20	Q You were responding to you had said
21	you were talking about the ANC resolutions.
22	You were talking about your role.
23	A Correct.
24	Q You anointed yourself.
25	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.

1	Q Right. We'll hear from Commissioner
2	Irani later.
3	Commissioner, how far away do you live
4	from 1806 Vernon Street?
5	A My single-member district borders
6	Q No, I asked you how far
7	(Simultaneous speaking.)
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q I asked how far do you live.
10	A I don't know, but I believe there's an
11	exhibit that would be able to show that.
12	Q Yeah. Okay. We'll show that exhibit
13	right here. So, I think you identified before
14	that your address is 2426 Ontario Road.
15	A Correct.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Can
17	you please have the witness identify the
18	document, please.
19	MR. ROTH: Well, I'm not sure the
20	witness
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
22	on. It's Protestant's Exhibit No. 40. Remember,
23	we have
24	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
25	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 40

1	for identification.)
2	MR. ROTH: Right.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have a court
4	reporter, sir. So, that's why I keep on butting
5	in so you can identify the document for the court
6	reporter. That's all. That's the only reason
7	I'm doing that.
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q Okay. Commissioner Bowles, could you
10	please identify the exhibit?
11	A This is Protestant's Exhibit 40.
12	Q Okay.
13	A It looks like a GIS map.
14	Q Yes. In the upper right-hand corner
15	of that line
16	A Yes, that looks like my home address
17	and
18	Q (Inaudible.)
19	A Correct.
20	Q And in the lower left-hand corner of
21	that line, does that appear to be the address or
22	location of the applicant?
23	A Correct.
24	Q And according to the District of
25	Columbia's AtlasPlus Map, how far away from the

	applicant's premises does your nome appear to be?
2	A Honestly, I can't read that small font
3	and/or is it by bird or by direction?
4	Q By
5	A It's right across the street. This is
6	so silly.
7	Q A straight line, how far does your
8	home
9	A I don't know. I can't see. It's
10	right it's not far. It's a three-minute walk.
11	Three-minute walk.
12	MR. ROTH: I'll let the record show
13	that Protestant's Exhibit 40 indicates that the
14	witness's home is 1763.8 feet away.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, hold
16	on, Mr. Bowles. Where do you get that
17	calculation from, sir? I don't see there has
18	been no testimony to that. I don't know
19	MR. ROTH: It's on the left-hand side
20	of the exhibit.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, it says
22	"1763.8 feet." I don't know what that is, sir.
23	It doesn't say that's how far he lives.
24	There's a measurement that says but
25	it doesn't there's no it doesn't the

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

witness testified that he doesn't know.

5 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

1	and the witness has stated that he does not know
2	how far it is. So, let's move on from there,
3	please.
4	MR. ROTH: Okay. I have no further
5	questions, Mr. Chairman.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you please
7	(inaudible) your screen, please.
8	MR. ROTH: Um-hmm. I'll try. Bear
9	with me.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Commissioner
11	Bowles, is this your single-member district, sir
12	Mr. Kline, can you please mute your phone?
13	And, Mr. Roth, please mute your phone.
14	Mr. Bowles, where this proposed
15	location is, is this within your single-member
16	district, sir?
17	MR. BOWLES: It is not. It is
18	adjacent.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, is it the
20	single-member district that's right next to where
21	your district is, sir?
22	MR. BOWLES: Correct.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Are
24	you a part of ANC 1C?
25	MR. BOWLES: Correct.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long
2	have you been an ANC commissioner, sir,
3	representing this ANC?
4	MR. BOWLES: Correct. I was sworn in,
5	in 2019, and I was reelected this past go around.
6	So, two years and four months in.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
8	don't have any further questions.
9	Are there any questions by the Board
10	Members?
11	(Pause.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do
13	you have I'm sorry, no. Mr. Roth, do you have
14	any questions of the witness based on the
15	questions that I asked Mr. Bowles?
16	MR. ROTH: No, sir.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
18	Mr. Kline, do you have any redirect of
19	the witness, sir?
20	MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bowles,
22	thank you very much for your testimony. Thank
23	you very much, sir.
24	MR. BOWLES: Thank you for your time.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
2	Kline, do you have another witness, sir?
3	MR. KLINE: Yes. Peter Wood, please.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is this your
5	last witness?
6	MR. KLINE: It is.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Just
8	asking. I'm not trying to rush you. I'm just
9	asking.
10	Mr. Wood Peter Wood, where is Mr.
11	Wood?
12	MR. WOOD: Right here.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
14	don't see Mr. Wood. So, I don't see you. You're
15	not in my screen, but are you (inaudible), sir?
16	MR. WOOD: Yeah, I'm right here. I can
17	see my video. I'm not sure if that
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, there you
19	are. Now, I see you. All right. Please raise
20	your right hand, sir.
21	(Witness sworn.)
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
23	Thank you. Your witness, Mr. Kline.
24	MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25	DIRECT EXAMINATION

1	BY MR. KLINE:
2	Q Mr. Wood, where do you live?
3	A I live at 1821 Kalorama Road, N.W., in
4	Washington, D.C.
5	Q All right. And are you an ANC
6	commissioner?
7	A I am. This is my first term. I
8	started in January.
9	Q And what single-member district do you
10	represent?
11	A That's 1C03, which is immediately to
12	the north of the district for this property.
13	Q Okay. So, just for clarity sake,
14	you're on the same ANC, as is Mr. Bowles, that's
15	protesting this application, correct?
16	A That's correct.
17	Q Okay. And are you familiar with the
18	application that is before the Board today in
19	this hearing?
20	A Yes, I am.
21	Q And how are you familiar?
22	A I mean, I started as a resident
23	because I noticed last year at the ANC meetings I
24	attended that it was just under discussion.
25	And then obviously or I hope

1	obviously as a commissioner, I have done my
2	best to inform myself about kind of what's going
3	on with the process because it hasn't been
4	entirely clear to me.
5	Q Okay. And you've heard Mr. Hughes
6	make presentations concerning this application?
7	A Heard him make many presentations on
8	this application.
9	Q Okay. And you've also had occasion to
10	meet with him?
11	A Yes, I did. I he offered to the
12	commissioners, if anyone was interested in seeing
13	the property in person or virtually, that we
14	could reach out to him. So, I took him up on
15	that.
16	Q Okay. And you took a tour of the
17	property?
18	A Yeah. I made it in person. I felt
19	safe enough in terms of COVID protocol that it
20	was something I could do. It was great. It was
21	a nice trip.
22	Q All right. And do you support this
23	application?
24	A Yes, I do.
25	Q And why do you support it?

I mean, as a neighbor, I want to see 1 Α 2 our vacant properties, you know, have a 3 supportive environment to, again, grow other vacant properties into businesses. 4 5 And also as a commissioner, I explicitly campaigned on, for lack of a better 6 7 expression, you know, reversing some of the 8 trends demographically in terms of business ownership of the Adams Morgan neighborhood 9 10 particularly offering support to under-11 represented and to minority business owners. 12 I kind of feel I have that obligation to my 13 constituents. 14 I could be a bad commissioner, I 15 suppose, but I hold myself to that standard to 16 follow up on what I promised. 17 Okay. And there was quite a turnover in your commission in this last election; is that 18 19 correct? 20 Α There was. Of the eight current 21 seats, I believe six of us are new to the 22 position. 23 So, there's -- six of the eight 24 commissioners are new? 25 Α Correct.

1 Q All right. Have you experienced 2 frustration in terms of how this application has 3 been handled since you took office? Α Yeah. I'd say that it started as just 4 5 confusion, but I assumed that all parties were acting in good faith. 6 7 And unfortunately, I'd say it 8 developed to be quite a bit of frustration with 9 what's going on not even just in this particular 10 case, but kind of as the precedent it sets for 11 what I think this neighborhood, and the people 12 who work with me, seem to believe this is best 13 for us. 14 What was the --Q MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman? 15 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Roth. 17 MR. ROTH: I am going to object to this 18 line of questioning, and I probably should have 19 done it with Commissioner Bowles, but 20 particularly with Commissioner Wood, you know. 21 When membership on the ABC Board turns 22 over, it does not vitiate every decision and 23 order of a prior ABC Board. 24 When membership on the D.C. Council 25 turns over, it doesn't vitiate every resolution

and piece of legislation that prior D.C. Councils 1 2 have passed. This testimony is irrelevant. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule. I'm going to overrule the objection, 4 5 sir. The commissioner can testify, I think, 6 7 in spite of the fact that he testified that as 8 prior to him being a commissioner, he was at --9 he went to numerous meetings of the ANC where 10 this issue was addressed. So, I'm going to 11 overrule the objection. 12 Go ahead, Mr. Kline. 13 MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 14 BY MR. KLINE: 15 Mr. Wood, the question was, what was 16 the source of your frustration in connection with 17 this application? 18 Α Yeah. So, I think that actually is a 19 good segue. My frustration was because I both as 20 a resident and as -- at the time, as a candidate 21 for an ANC position, it wasn't clear to me that 22 this process was ongoing. It seems like it was 23 pretty stagnant. 24 And even as I was sworn in and became 25 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 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.

1	MR. KLINE: All right. I have no
2	further questions of this witness at this time.
3	Thank you.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you
5	have any questions of Mr. Wood?
6	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Thank you.
7	CROSS EXAMINATION
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q Commissioner, ANC 1C has three
10	committees, right?
11	A It currently does as far as I know,
12	yes.
13	Q Yes. And do you serve on the ABC and
14	Public Safety Committee?
15	A I do not.
16	Q So, in your three months on the ANC
17	or, for that matter, in whatever previous period
18	of time that you lived in Adams Morgan, have you
19	ever participated in the filing of a protest
20	petition on an ABC establishment?
21	A Not directly, no.
22	Q Have you ever participated in a
23	mediation session?
24	A I have not.
25	Q Have you ever participated in

1	settlement negotiations on an ABC establishment?
2	A I have not.
3	Q Have you ever actually negotiated a
4	settlement agreement?
5	A In ANC 1C, no, I have not.
6	Q Have you ever got to prepare for and
7	participate in a hearing like the one we're
8	having today?
9	A I specifically for ABRA?
10	Q Yeah.
11	A No.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what
13	was your answer, sir? I didn't hear.
14	MR. WOOD: I said I asked I
15	commented that if he was referring to
16	specifically ABRA testimony, this is my first
17	time.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank
19	you.
20	BY MR. ROTH:
21	Q Do you have any idea how many
22	settlement agreements had been reached in Adams
23	Morgan over, say, the last ten years?
24	MR. KLINE: Objection. Objection.
25	Relevance. This notion that a settlement

agreement is the holy grail I would strenuously 1 2 object to, and it shouldn't be a mark of a good 3 business or a bad business as to whether somebody 4 entered into a settlement agreement. 5 MR. ROTH: I'm asking --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. 6 7 Hold on. I'm going to overrule the 8 objection. 9

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

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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 --

Α 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.

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So, I found that very frustrating 1 2 because, you know, I know Adams Morgan to be a 3 neighborhood with a lot of transparency and a lot of good faith. So, I was taken aback to see that 4 5 wasn't happening. In the three months of time in which 6 7 you are not a member of the relevant committee. I'll take that for an answer. 8 9 At any time in the last three months 10 since you joined the ANC, have you ever walked 11 over to 1812 Vernon Street next door at the 12 Carswell, since you took the tour of 1806, and 13 tried talking to any of the protestants in the Carswell Condominium next door about their 14 15 concerns regarding this proposed establishment? 16 I would say that I have not done that 17 to almost anyone because there is currently a 18 public health emergency. So, I've actually been 19 avoiding in-person contact. 20 Although, I do have a pretty extensive 21 email list of people that I always have an open 22 door to and every week I have quite a few conversations with residents. 23 24 But you've never actually communicated 0 25 with anyone as a protestant in this case?

1	A I mean, I don't know. I talk to so
2	many people. I don't know who is and who is not.
3	But in terms of
4	Q You've never spoke to them about this
5	case?
6	A I have spoken to many constituents,
7	but I usually keep my
8	Q Commissioner Wood
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, can
10	you please allow him to answer the question, sir?
11	MR. ROTH: Well, he's evading answering
12	and that's why I'm
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth,
14	please. You have asked him a question and he's
15	giving you an answer hold on, Mr. Wood.
16	Mr. Roth, you have asked him a
17	question. He's answering the question to the
18	best of his ability, sir.
19	Can you just please give him a chance
20	to answer the question? Do you have another
21	question you want to ask him, sir?
22	MR. ROTH: Yeah.
23	BY MR. ROTH:
24	Q Have you ever asked your colleague,
25	Commissioner Irani, for the names, email

1	addresses or phone numbers of any of the
2	protestants so you could contact them to talk to
3	them about this case?
4	A No. I actually was very particularly
5	opposed to that idea because as soon as I became
6	more privy to the details of this, I noticed that
7	Mr. Irani became remarkably defensive any time
8	anyone questioned his proceedings on the matter.
9	So, I did not feel comfortable doing so.
10	Q I see. Okay. There are eight members
11	of the ANC; is that correct?
12	A ANC 1C, correct.
13	Q Okay. And there are two of those
14	eight members testifying here today for the
15	applicant; is that correct?
16	A As far as I've seen. When you say
17	"members," I think you mean commissioners.
18	Q Commissioners. Okay.
19	MR. ROTH: No further questions.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
21	Thank you.
22	Mr. Wood, how many ANC meetings have
23	the commissioners you've been a commissioner
24	since when?
25	MR. WOOD: I mean, just this year.

1	So, about three months. Since January 2nd.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How many
3	meetings has the Commission had since you've been
4	an ANC commissioner?
5	MR. WOOD: Let's see. I've been a
6	part of formerly as a commissioner
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. No.
8	No. No. No. Since you've been sworn in,
9	how many meetings has ANC 1C had since you've
LO	been sworn in?
L1	MR. WOOD: Are you talking about
L 2	general meetings or is that including committee
L3	meetings as well?
L 4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean ANC
L5	public meetings. How many public the only
L6	meetings it's my understanding that the ANC
L 7	Commission, the only meetings are public
L8	meetings.
L9	So, how many public meetings has ANC
20	1C had?
21	MR. WOOD: Okay. So, if we're
22	including committee, that's 12 public meetings.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Since you have
24	been sworn in?
25	MR. WOOD: There have been three that

are the general entire ANC, which is the first 1 2 Wednesday of every month in 1C. 3 And then the subsequent three Wednesdays are for the three committees and I'm 4 5 pretty sure I've attended the vast majority of those, if not all of those. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 8 MR. WOOD: And the general ANC, I've 9 been to all of those. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, it's my 11 understanding that you're saying that of the 12 eight commissioners, that six of the 13 commissioners are new; is that correct? 14 MR. WOOD: Six of the eight sworn for 15 the first time January 2nd, to the best of my 16 knowledge. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, when did you 18 know that there was a protest for this case? 19 MR. WOOD: To the best of my knowledge, 20 I think it was last August-ish. I'm not exactly 21 sure on the specific date or anything, but I know 22 that I was in (inaudible) at the August 2020 ANC 23 1C meeting specifically on this matter, but that 24 was when I was just a resident. 25 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 1C03 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).

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
2	on, Mr. Wood. You froze for a minute.
3	MR. WOOD: Sorry about that.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I don't know
5	what happened. You froze. I don't know you
6	were speaking and your screen was frozen.
7	MR. WOOD: Are we better now? How's
8	this?
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10	MR. WOOD: Okay.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you had
12	stopped in midstream. So, I don't know what you
13	were saying.
14	MR. WOOD: Okay. I'll go back.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: At no time did
16	Commissioner Irani and then
17	MR. WOOD: Yeah.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: you froze.
19	MR. WOOD: So, I mean, he never got
20	into direct contact with commissioners to address
21	this issue, which is why I never thought it was
22	something to ask about.
23	And then I did see that there seems to
24	be some sort of disagreement regarding a
25	committee meeting that was going to discuss the

1 matter, but not vote on it. And then I kind of started to learn 2 3 more and I realized that there was an attempt to, 4 from the best of my knowledge, to dismiss the 5 entire application, which was completely unexpected to me, and I just tried to get some 6 7 grasp of what was going on because no one had 8 communicated this to me in any capacity. 9 And as someone that's one of the eight 10 votes on ANC matters, I thought that was 11 important for me and the other seven people to 12 have some grasp of the matter at hand. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Who's the chair of the ANC? Who's the chair of 14 15 the ANC? 16 MR. WOOD: It's currently Commissioner 17 Irani (inaudible). 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All right. 19 Thank you. All right. Any other questions by 20 any of the Board Members? 21 (Pause.) 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any 23 questions of the witness based on the questions I 24 asked?

MR. ROTH: No, sir.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
2	MR. KLINE: I have no further
3	questions. Thank you, Mr. Wood.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
5	Wood. Thank you very much for your testimony
6	today.
7	All right. Do you rest, Mr. Kline?
8	MR. KLINE: Just some housekeeping.
9	Formally move Applicant's Exhibits 2, 11, 12 and
10	13, and Protestant's Exhibits 10 and 11, both of
11	which were previously identified and discussed.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
13	Kline, I don't see how you can move a protestant
14	document in evidence. It's not your document.
15	MR. KLINE: Our PIFF specifically
16	identified that we reserve the right to use any
17	protestant's documents and the document was
18	identified. So, we're moving it into evidence.
19	It's not proprietary.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, sir.
21	MR. KLINE: I said, it's not
22	proprietary.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. You stated
24	that you said your PIFF stated that you're going
25	to rely on their documents or is that what you

1	stated?
2	MR. KLINE: Let me read it.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just asking
4	a question. I'm not I'm just asking a
5	question. All right. I'm just asking a
6	question, sir.
7	MR. KLINE: In our exhibits we listed
8	14, and then we listed the investigator report,
9	we listed any exhibit listed on protestant's
10	PIFF.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
12	right. So, again, what documents, again, of the
13	protestants, what documents are those?
14	MR. KLINE: 10 and 11.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you
16	have any objection to the introduction of No. 2,
17	No. 11 Petitioner's No. 2, No. 11, No. 12 and
18	No. 13 being moved into evidence?
19	(Pause.)
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're on mute,
21	sir.
22	MR. ROTH: You overruled my objection
23	to 13.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
25	2, 11, 12 I move without objection. And No. 13

	is moved with the petitioner I'm sorry, the
2	protestant objecting to 13, but I'm still
3	allowing No. 13 into evidence.
4	And so, the petitioner wants to move
5	No. 10 and 11 into evidence. Any objection to
6	those two documents that your two documents to
7	be moved?
8	MR. ROTH: No, sir.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
10	we will move in Applicant's Exhibit No. 2, No.
11	11, No. 12, No. 13, and Protestant's No. 10 and
12	No. 11. All right. Thank you.
13	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
14	documents were received into evidence as
15	Applicant Exhibit Nos. 2, 11, 12, and 13 and
16	Protestant Exhibit Nos. 10 and 11.)
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
18	applicant rest?
19	MR. KLINE: Yes. On that we rest.
20	Thank you.
21	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure
22	I moved Protestant's Exhibit 41 when Commissioner
23	Bowles was testifying.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What we'll do,
25	Mr. Roth, why don't you have a list of all the

exhibits that you want to move in. 1 2 MR. ROTH: Um-hmm. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And at the end 4 of the case you can then -- we can go through all 5 the exhibits that you want to move into evidence. So, you still have an opportunity at 6 7 the end of the case to move that into evidence. 8 Okay? 9 MR. ROTH: Okay. All right. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm going 11 to do is that I'm going to have Commissioner 12 Irani testify. And once he testifies, then we'll 13 take a short break before I have you, Mr. Roth, 14 testify. Okay? 15 So, we'll probably go off the record for maybe about ten minutes or so after 16 17 Commissioner Irani testifies. Okay? MR. WOOD: Would you mind if I took a 18 19 10-minute break right now? 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani, you 21 want to take a -- I thought -- you weren't on 22 I thought you were taking a break. camera. 23 MR. WOOD: I was listening intently to 24 my fellow commissioners. That's why I didn't get 25 up.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. No. That's
2	why I was saying that was your break. You were
3	off camera. So, when you're off camera, then
4	you're on break.
5	All right. It's 4:16. We will be off
6	we'll take a five-minute break. It's 4:17.
7	4:25 we'll come back on. We'll take a break
8	until 4:25. Okay?
9	MR. WOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11	Thank you.
12	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13	went off the record at 4:16 p.m. and resumed at
14	4:25 p.m.)
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need all
16	commissioners to please upload their cameras
17	please. Thank you. Commissioner Irani, can you
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19	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Tell me.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I feel that you
21	have a guest in the room. Is that person going
22	to testify also, sir?
23	COMMISSIONER IRANI: He's always here
24	to testify. Hopefully he'll stay quiet at this
25	time.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, you
2	know.
3	COMMISSIONER IRANI: I did take a few
4	minutes to take him out so to make sure.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine.
6	You know, we have to create some levity when
7	we're here so I just have to say that. All
8	right, so you're just going to make a
9	statement/testify and you are aware that you will
10	be subject to cross examination by Mr. Kline and
11	also by Mr. Roth, if he so desires. Are you
12	clear with that?
13	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I am.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that
15	whatever witnesses that you would call, that Mr.
16	Roth would call witnesses on your behalf, is that
17	correct?
18	COMMISSIONER IRANI: That's correct.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
20	can you raise your right hand then please? Do
21	you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing
22	but the truth?
23	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I do.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
25	go ahead.

1 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Okay, so I have 2 written testimony. Mr. Chairman and members of 3 the board, my name is Amir Irani. I'm 4 chairperson of ANC 1C. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you to spell your name again for the record, please, 6 7 okay? 8 COMMISSIONER IRANI: My name is Amir 9 Irani, spelled A-M-I-R I-R-A-N-I. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead. 11 COMMISSIONER IRANI: I'm the 12 chairperson of ANC 1C, which is the Adams Morgan 13 ANC. I'm also the commissioner for Single Member 14 District IC01, which is the single member 15 district where the establishment is located. 16 I am personally very familiar with the area being discussed today. I've been a resident in this 17 18 SMD for the past 11 years. I was also 19 chairperson last summer when our ANC considered 20 and voted on the protest resolution in the record 21 before you. 22 I'm here today to present the ANC's views on this case. Protestant's Exhibit 38 23 24 contains the minutes of our ANC's August 5, 2020

meeting, at which this application was

1	considered. After hearing from members of the
2	community and the Applicant's counsel, and after
3	extensive discussion among the commissioners, the
4	ANC voted 6 to 1 to protest this application.
5	The grounds for our protest were the following.
6	An adverse impact on the peace, order and quiet
7	of the neighborhood, residential parking needs
8	and vehicular and pedestrian safety, real
9	property values, substantial adverse impact on
10	residents in the adjacent residential district
11	contrary to the requirement of DC Code Section
12	25-314C and finally excessive over concentration
13	of tavern licenses contrary to the provisions of
14	the Adams Morgan moratorium zone.
15	Chairman Anderson, I ask that
16	Protestant's Exhibit 38 be made a part of the
17	record.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And all right,
19	that's already in the Board'sI'm sorry is that
20	in the case report that was done by the our own
21	investigator?
22	COMMISSIONER IRANI: The minutes were
23	there. They were also

the record. I mean it's already in the record, I

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's already in

24

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.

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

1	major attraction of the barber shop planned for
2	the basement, will be the ability to get a drink
3	before, during, after a haircut and similarly the
4	plan for a retail space in the same basement,
5	presumably has customers strolling around with
6	drinks in hand while shopping. Chair Anderson, I
7	ask that Protestants' Exhibit 27 be made a part
8	of the record.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is
10	Protestant Exhibit 27?
11	COMMISSIONER IRANI: It is the first
12	floor construction plan.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that part of
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15	COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was a part of
16	the exhibits that we all have jointly filed in
17	our PIF.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I can ask
19	Ms. Andrews to give you the ability to share your
20	screen because I don't know what it is.
21	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Sure, sure, okay.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Ms.
23	Andrews, can you please give Commissioner Irani
24	the ability to share his screen, please, and then
25	can you please bring up Protestant Exhibit No.

1	27?
2	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah,
4	Protestant No. 27, yes.
5	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Irani, you can share
6	your screen now.
7	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Great, thank you.
8	Am I? Is anything showing right now on the
9	screen?
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.
11	COMMISSIONER IRANI: No?
12	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, would it help
13	if I shared it from mine 'cause I seem to have
14	been able to pull up those exhibits pretty
15	easily?
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you're able
17	to and Ms. Andrews can give you that opportunity,
18	that's fine.
19	MS. ANDREWS: Okay, sure. Stand by.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
21	MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you can
22	share your screen now.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're looking
24	at No. 27.
25	MR. ROTH: Yeah.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you
2	identify what is Exhibit 27, please?
3	COMMISSIONER IRANI: So that's the
4	construction plan for the basement level, where
5	you see the barber shop and the coffee counter.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold up. Mr.
7	Kline, do you have any objection to No. 27?
8	MR. KLINE: I do not.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And since it's
10	your exhibit also, Mr. Roth, I'm assuming that
11	you do not have any objection, is that correct?
12	MR. ROTH: Correct, sir.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Protestant
14	Exhibit No. 27 without objection has been
15	admitted. Go ahead, Mr. Irani.
16	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
17	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 27
18	for identification and received into evidence.)
19	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. The
20	
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close
22	the screen, but you'll still have the opportunity
23	to share.
24	MR. ROTH: Okay.
25	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

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trash issue in a bit.

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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. 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 a.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?

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CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? 1 2 MR. KLINE: No objection and indeed 11 3 is already in. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right so 4 without objection. 5 (Whereupon, the above-referred to 6 7 documents were marked as Protestant Exhibit Nos. 12 and 15 for identification and received into 8 9 evidence.) 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's always 11 necessary, Mr. Irani, because although they're in 12 your PIF, unless they're introduced into 13 evidence, then they're not brought from the 14 evidence unless they are moved into evidence, 15 sir. 16 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Understood. 17 Thanks for that. 18 Together, these photos tell you that 19 this is simply an inappropriate location for an 20 establishment of this nature and complexity. 21 Last August when the ANC voted to protest the 22 application, at least one commissioner, who began 23 our ANC meeting seemingly favorably disposed to 24 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.

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 parties

agreed 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 1 2 statement that he's making. All right. 3 MR. KLINE: I understand. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. 4 Irani. 5 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you, Mr. 6 7 My comments thus far have focused Chair. 8 primarily on peace, order and quiet issues, 9 including concerns about noise, trash and litter, 10 but please permit me to make one related point 11 before moving on to other issues. 12 Throughout this process, the Applicant 13 was very hazy about where he planned to place both his trash and the sidewalk café he had been 14 15 planning. I'm glad to hear that the Applicant is 16 not applying for a sidewalk café because, as you 17 can see from Protestant's Exhibit 8, Mr. Roth, if you'd be so obliged, Exhibit 8, which shows the 18 19 sidewalk on the south side of Vernon Street 20 including the front of the Applicant's 21 establishment. 22 (Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 8 23 24 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 x 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 A request those residents had made clear area. through their silence that they weren't willing In lieu of that, he told the to entertain. 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

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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.

I think this came COMMISSIONER IRANI: 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

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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

1	ahead, Mr. Irani.
2	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. In
3	that situation, the damage was already done
4	because the establishment had long been in
5	operation, but you can help nip this in the bud
6	today by not allowing it to start.
7	The inappropriate trash plan that is
8	being proposed at this establishment is just
9	another example of how the Applicant's
LO	establishment is not appropriate for this
L1	location.
L 2	Chair Anderson, I ask that
L3	Protestant's Exhibits 8, 9, 10 and 32 be entered
L 4	into evidence. These are the ones that I just
L5	pulled up.
L6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you
L 7	said 8, 9, 10 and 32?
L8	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Correct.
L9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? Any
20	objections to Protestant's 8, 9, 10 and 32?
21	MR. KLINE: No objection.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
23	objection.
24	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
25	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 The application states that the meter. 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.

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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 36A, be accepted into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?

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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 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

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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 1 2 Street. 3 When the council put Section 250-314C 4 in the statute requiring especially close 5 scrutiny of applications where proposed establishment would impose a substantial adverse 6 7 impact on residents in the adjacent residential district, it's very difficult to imagine that the 8 9 council didn't have a case like this in mind. 10 MR. KLINE: Objection. He's now 11 arquing law. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani --COMMISSIONER IRANI: 13 I have one 14 paragraph left, that's it. It's very--not but 10 15 seconds. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, go 17 ahead, sir. I hear you, Mr. Kline, and as you 18 know, these proceedings are not as formalistic as 19 they are in court and so therefore I'm giving

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

some deference in moving this along, sir. Okay?

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1	this one and that certainly seems like an over-
2	concentration as to the impact on real property
3	values. We had hoped to have some expert
4	testimony on that, but perhaps some of the
5	protestants will speak to it. Given limitations
6	on our time and budget, we focused our resources
7	on a transportation expert instead for the
8	reasons I just mentioned.
9	In short, in summary, we very strongly
10	believe that this is not an appropriate location
11	for this establishment. Thank you very much for
12	your patience and kind consideration.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
14	Irani. Mr. Roth, do you have any questions that
15	you want to ask Mr. Irani?
16	MR. ROTH: I do not. Thank you.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, any
18	questions you want to ask?
19	MR. KLINE: Yeah, we do.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.
21	CROSS EXAMINATION
22	BY MR. KLINE:
23	Q Mr. Irani, you talked about your
24	concern that patrons of the establishment at the
25	barber shop level would have the ability to get a

1	drink before or after a haircut or while they're
2	shopping. You mentioned that as a concern,
3	correct?
4	A I mentioned that, I don't think I
5	called it a concern.
6	Q Well is it a concern or is it not a
7	concern?
8	A The concern is the patrons milling
9	about and talking outside residents' bedroom
10	windows until the late hours.
11	Q Right, but you specifically referenced
12	the first floor of the establishment not being
13	innocuous because patrons would have the ability
14	before or after a haircut to get a drink, wasn't
15	that part of your statement?
16	A I didn't call that specific part a
17	concern, I said that they would have the ability
18	to get a drink before, after, during a haircut.
19	Q Right, but people don't typically get
20	their hair cut after about 9 o'clock at night, do
21	they?
22	A I'm not sure what the Applicant's
23	business plan is for that first level, which is
24	why I included that, but which is also why I
25	specified that the

1	Q Can you please just answer my
2	question, which is to your knowledge, do people
3	typically get haircuts after 9 o'clock at night?
4	A I don't get my hair cut after 9
5	o'clock at night
6	(Simultaneous speaking.)
7	Q But you don't hold any knowledge on
8	this topic?
9	A I don't have that knowledge, no.
10	Q Oh.
11	A But typically I think that's a fair
12	thing to say.
13	Q And, in fact, in terms of shoppers
14	being there for the most part people aren't
15	engaged in too much retail activity, except
16	online, after 9 o'clock at night, are they?
17	A Sure, I can say, I mean you could have
18	a late night sale so, again, typically I don't do
19	a lot of shopping in retail establishments, I
20	pretty much buy everything online.
21	Q Okay. Now, you mentioned that there
22	wasyou seemed to speak to a lot of people who
23	are opposed to the application. Did you hear
24	from anyone who supported the application?
25	A The vast majority of people that I've

	neard from are opposed to the application. I
2	have heard from at least one person in support of
3	it, correct.
4	Q Right. And isn't it usually true that
5	the people that you hear from are the people that
6	are opposed to something. Isn't that your
7	experience as an ANC Commissioner and ANC Chair?
8	A No, not at all.
9	Q No? So you dispute that human nature
10	that I think most of us are aware of that people
11	tend to come out when they're against rather than
12	support, you don't think that's a phenomenon?
13	A I think people come out both when
14	they're against something. I mean my experience
15	on the ANC has been that people come out when
16	they're against something and people come out
17	when they're for something, which leads to a
18	lively discussion.
19	Q The process that you talked about in
20	terms of engaging with the Applicant, did other
21	commissioners participate in this process?
22	A Yes.
23	Q Who were the other commissioners that
24	participated?
25	A The other commissioners were all at

1	the ANC meeting on August 5th.
2	Q Well, all of you, however, were
3	appointed as representatives of the ANC in
4	connection with this protest, according to the
5	resolution, weren't you?
6	A I'm sorry?
7	Q Your resolution where representatives
8	were appointed on behalf of the ANC, all of you
9	were designated as representatives, weren't you?
10	MR. ROTH: Objection, Mr. Chairman.
11	That's a misconstruction of the ANC resolution
12	and Mr. Kline is trying now to do exactly what he
13	objected to before, which is misstating the law
14	and misstating what the resolution said.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
16	MR. KLINE: We (inaudible) I've asked
17	the question.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't have
19	the document in front of me and
20	(Simultaneous speaking.)
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
22	on, please, hold on, please. I'm going to
23	overrule the objection and the reason why, Mr.
24	Irani, he's Chairman of the ANC. When a
25	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.
2	A I believe that's what I just said.
3	Q Okay. I think you said something
4	about to appear before an agency and it's not
5	unlimited in that way, is it?
6	A I read that exact word, I read that
7	line.
8	Q All right. So, given that, I'm going
9	to renew my question about other commissioners
10	participating in this process on behalf of the
11	ANC. Do they so participate?
12	A So, it is the long held custom -
13	Q Just answer my question. I don't care
14	about long held customs, we'll move a lot quicker
15	if you just answer my question.
16	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, can't Mr.
17	Kline let the witness finish his answer in the
18	same way that I was instructed to let witnesses
19	finish their answers?
20	MR. KLINE: Not if it's not responsive
21	to my question.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, Mr. Kline,
23	you asked a question and he's answering the
24	question to the best of his ability. If you need
25	him to answer yes or no, then you need to ask the

question in such a sense that he can only answer 1 yes or no. You have asked him an open-ended 2 3 question and he's answering the question to the best of his ability so, Mr. Irani, please answer 4 5 the question; if not, Mr. Kline, withdraw the question. 6 7 MR. KLINE: It was a yes or no 8 question, Mr. Chairman. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please rephrase 10 the question. I'm sorry, please ask your 11 question again, Mr. Kline, I apologize. 12 BY MR. KLINE: 13 0 Okay. Mr. Irani, did other 14 commissioners participate in the process in 15 considering this application outside of the ANC 16 meetings? 17 Α Yes. 18 Yes? 0 19 Α Yes. 20 And then how did they participate? 0 21 They inquired. Commissioner Bowles Α 22 had also attempted a mediation. 23 And is your testimony that they were Q 24 kept informed of what was going on in this 25 process?

1	A So, is it my testimonywhat wascan
2	you repeat question?
3	Q My question is did you keep
4	commissioners informed of what was going on?
5	MR. ROTH: Objection. Mr. Chairman,
6	number one, this line of questioning is
7	irrelevant and number two, I'm not sure what Mr.
8	Kline is driving at here in terms of the internal
9	workings of the ANC and why this has anything to
10	do with the decisions that the ABC Board has to
11	make in this case.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
13	overrule the objection. I think it is relevant I
14	mean we did have two ANC commissioners who
15	testified on behalf of the Applicant. Mr. Irani
16	has given an extensive statement about the
17	meetings that they have had, so he is opening
18	himself up to rigorous cross examination, so I'm
19	going to overrule the objection and so answer the
20	question to the best of your ability, Mr. Irani.
21	COMMISSIONER IRANI: So, it's the
22	custom of our ANC for the SMD commission or the
23	chair or the chair of the ABC committee to
24	represent the ANC in matters in general, but
25	specifically this protest matter. I happen to be

both the SMD commissioner and the chair so I did 1 2 represent the ANC in this matter. 3 MR. KLINE: Mr. Irani, isn't it true 4 that the ANC was party to motions that were filed 5 to dismiss the application? (Simultaneous speaking.) 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the 8 question. 9 MR. KLINE: Yes? 10 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes. 11 BY MR. KLINE: 12 And you authorized the ANC to Q 13 participate and be a party to that information, 14 correct? 15 Α Yes, that's right. 16 There was no resolution passed by the ANC authorizing the ANC to be a party to that 17 18 motion, was there? 19 Α We resolved to protect the application 20 and the procedures that we take to effectuate the 21 protest. We do not bring to the ANC and have 22 never brought to the ANC--I mean it would be very 23 hard for us to take part in any of the district 24 government proceedings if we had to go back for a 25 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

1	sign on and attend those hearings.
2	Q So you don't see any difference
3	between a protest that seeks to enter into a
4	settlement agreement to impose some conditions
5	and one which seeks to completely deny an
6	application. To you there's no difference?
7	A We seek to enter into settlement
8	agreements with every Applicant, every single
9	Applicant.
10	Q Well how can you enter
11	(Simultaneous speaking.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
13	Kline, can you let him finish?
14	MR. KLINE: Sure.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let him finish
16	please.
17	MR. KLINE: Yeah, sorry.
18	COMMISSIONER IRANI: During those
19	negotiations or as the ABRA process, as the ABC
20	process unfolds, deadlines come up. I still will
21	take actions to effectuate what the ANC has voted
22	to do, which is to protest and while still, you
23	know, trying to reach a settlement, which I have
24	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

1	entered into or joined this motion to dismiss,
2	which the Board denied. Other than trying to
3	question Commissioner Irani's or Chairman Irani's
4	bona fides as a commissioner and a chairman, I
5	don't know what point Mr. Kline is trying to
6	make.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I would -
8	MR. KLINE: If I may -
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You may answer,
LO	Mr. Kline, go ahead.
L1	MR. KLINE: Yes. Mr. Irani is here.
L2	He purports to be a visser (phonetic), in my
L3	opinion based on -
L 4	MR. ROTH: I object
L5	(Simultaneous speaking.)
L6	MR. KLINE: May I finish, please?
L7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, let
L8	Mr. Kline.
L9	MR. KLINE: Of the ANC, he reads a
20	statement that's full of argument. The
21	resolution that was passed, which I'm going to
22	get to in a second, on January 8, 2020,
23	specifically references that this protest was
24	filed to try to negotiate a settlement agreement
25	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?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Could I ask you 2 a question? Just want to get some clarification, 3 Mr. Kline. Isn't there another ANC resolution that was done August 7, 2020? 4 5 MR. KLINE: Yeah, there are a number of them. Yeah. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But wouldn't 8 the resolution from August 7, 2020, since it was 9 after January, wouldn't that be the relevant 10 resolution that we're talking about? 11 MR. KLINE: Sure, but I think what one 12 has to look at here is the pattern and we had two ANC commissioners who I concede were not 13 14 commissioners at the time, who've complained 15 about not being kept informed, not knowing what 16 was going on. We also have a motion that was 17 filed reportedly by the ANC to dismiss the 18 application and that seems to be contrary to the 19 spirit of what the ANC intended. And then we 20 have the ANC here today joining in a PIF 21 suggesting that the application should be 22 completely denied. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess, just

my confusion, I don't understand why we're

complaining about something that was done in

24

1	January when we have another resolution that was
2	done subsequent to that, that was done. I think
3	our time is better spent
4	MR. KLINE: I'll move on.
5	(Simultaneous speaking.)
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On discussing
7	the resolution that was done in August. I don't
8	know why we're spending time on a resolution that
9	was done in January of 2020 where we have another
10	resolution by the ANC that was done in August of
11	2020, and so I
12	(Simultaneous speaking.)
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right, okay.
14	Thank you.
15	BY MR. KLINE:
16	Q I'll move on at this point. You
17	talked about trash storage and you said that
18	there was a request made by Mr. Hughes presumably
19	to use the trash area, the dumpster, of the
20	condominium, correct?
21	A Yes.
22	Q And you said that they made clear
23	through their filings that that request was
24	unacceptable, correct?
25	A I'm sorry, one more time.

1	Q You said that the condominium made
2	clear through its filing that Mr. (inaudible) was
3	denied.
4	A Correct, yes.
5	Q They didn't even think it was
6	appropriate to respond to his request?
7	A I can't speak on the Carswell
8	Condominiums' behalf there.
9	Q You don't find it odd that they never
10	even responded to his request?
11	A I believe that they did have, except -
12	- now I don't get into the negotiations of the
13	settlement agreement, but there were discussions
14	about the trash area and other things amongst
15	protestants, so but what I was specifically
16	referring to was in my statement, which seems to
17	be what you are talking about was back in July,
18	and at that time the Mr. Hughes had reiterated
19	his request of wanting to put his trash in the
20	Carswell Condominiums, which he didn't have an
21	appetite for.
22	Q Okay. You had some very dramatic
23	parts to your statement about Uber and Lyft
24	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.

1	Q Did you hear Mr. Hughes's testimony
2	that it was his intention to make an effort to
3	have those pick ups made on Florida Avenue and
4	18th Street?
5	A I did hear that's part of Mr. Hughes's
6	testimony.
7	Q Okay, and do you do you not believe
8	that he will make those efforts?
9	A I think what I was saying is not
10	passing judgment on whether my belief of him
11	making those efforts or not. I would hope that
12	he does make efforts, but as I was saying it is a
13	very unsafe intersection even before I knew
14	anything about the establishment and what was
15	going on with Uber and Lyft and Mr. Hughes's
16	plans for that building. In Florida it is even
17	worse, I mean, Florida has very congested roads
18	one way either direction. So I hope that he does
19	make plans like that, but I don't know how
20	effective those will be.
21	Q So we have an empty commercial
22	building where this application has been filed
23	for. At some point it is going to be occupied,
24	correct?
25	A My understanding was that it was

1	occupied prior to Mr. Hughes finding the
2	building. Perhaps not all the floors were
3	occupied, but it wasn't completely vacant.
4	Q Right, but right now it is unoccupied,
5	correct?
6	A Yes, that is right.
7	Q So when that building is occupied for
8	some use, then presumably there are going to be
9	some transportation needs, correct?
10	A There is ongoing transportation needs.
11	Q Is that yes, agreement with what I
12	said?
13	A Yes, there are ongoing transportation
14	needs.
15	Q Okay, and if it is a business other
16	than an ABC licensed establishment you have
17	little ability as an ANC to pressure or press the
18	owner to take any steps to mitigate what the
19	effects might be from another business there,
20	isn't that correct?
21	A We have whatever avenues are available
22	to us, but
23	Q What are those in the absence of an
24	ABC license.
25	A We have that resolution to try to

1	improve this intersection to DDOT's attention,
2	right, to try to improve the situation, the
3	safety situation. So that is one of the things
4	that we can do, and we have done, to continue to
5	push on it.
6	Q Improving the situation with the
7	benefit of the residents on Vernon Street as well
8	as the businesses on Vernon, wouldn't it?
9	A That is correct.
LO	Q Assuming that this business is open,
L1	this would be one of the businesses that would be
L2	intended to benefit with these recommendations,
L3	correct?
L 4	A As would everyone, I would hope that
L5	everyone can stay safe.
L6	Q Now, do you have any particular
L7	interests on Vernon Street? Do you own any
L8	property, or have any interests equity
L9	interests in any real estate on Vernon?
20	A I don't have an equity I have an
21	equity interest in a business, but if that is
22	what you are referring to.
23	Q What business is that?
24	A That is Unwind.

What does that business do?

Q

1	A On the corner of 18th and Vernon in
2	Florida.
3	Q What does Unwind do?
4	A That is a wellness center.
5	Q Given that what we have heard from the
6	protestants, that an ABC license at this location
7	is, and I will paraphrase, the worst idea in the
8	world, don't you have a conflict of interest if
9	that is your belief?
10	A I have never I don't maybe I am
11	not understanding I don't believe I have a
12	conflict of interest, and if you would like to
13	rephrase your question you can go ahead.
14	Q Did you disclose to the ANC when these
15	matters were being considered that you have a
16	business on the corner, which is what, three
17	doors down from this establishment?
18	A Like I said, I have an equity
19	interest. I am not the operating partner in that
20	business.
21	Q Okay, then I will rephrase my
22	question. Did you disclose to the ANC that you
23	have an equity interest in the business three
24	doors down which might or might not be affected
25	by an ABC license at this location?

1	A I did not disclose that I have an
2	equity interest in the business, because I don't
3	believe that it was relevant to this. I have an
4	equity interest, not an operating partner in that
5	business, and I have had it for a hand full of
6	years.
7	Q Well, if you have an equity interest,
8	if the business does well you do better, and if
9	it does worse you do worse, correct?
10	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, objection,
11	that is asked and answered. I mean, it is
12	ridiculous.
13	MR. KLINE: I will move on.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Go ahead,
15	Mr. Kline.
16	MR. KLINE: The point has been made.
17	Ms. Yohannes, can you being up Exhibit 11,
18	please?
19	MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
20	(Pause.)
21	MR. KLINE: I am not sure if Ms the
22	standards are does Ms. Yohannes still have the
23	ability to share her screen, or do you need to
24	give her the ability?
25	PARTICIPANT: She has the ability to

1	share it right now.
2	MR. KLINE: All right, thank you.
3	No, I'm sorry, Protestants Exhibit 11.
4	MS. YOHANNES: Can you see it?
5	MR. KLINE: Yes, thank you. Can you
6	number that, please?
7	(Pause.)
8	BY MR. KLINE:
9	Q Okay. Mr. Irani, The Carswell has
10	seating in a couple of areas in front of its
11	building, doesn't it?
12	A Yes.
13	Q Isn't it true that the seating areas
14	to the left is the smoking area?
15	A I have no idea.
16	MR. ROTH: Objection. How would Mr.
17	Irani know that?
18	MR. KLINE: I don't know if he does or
19	doesn't. We will find out when he answers my
20	question.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am going to
22	overrule the objection. If you can answer, Mr.
23	Irani, answer. If you can't you can't.
24	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes, I have no
25	idea.

1	BY MR. KLINE:
2	Q Okay. Lastly, you testified about
3	your concerns that 2:00 a.m., at closing time,
4	inebriated patrons would be leaving the
5	establishment. How is it you conclude that the
6	patrons leaving this particular establishment
7	will be inebriated when they are leaving the
8	establishment?
9	A How is it that I can conclude that? I
10	
11	Q Yes, do you have any evidence to
12	believe that the clientele that is going to
13	frequent this establishment is going to tend to
14	be inebriated when they leave?
15	A People go to a bar to drink, so
16	it's, yes, people come to bars to drink, so
17	and when leaving to be inebriated. This is my
18	common experience, and I have saw them walking up
19	and down 18th Street.
20	Q Okay. Do you go to bars (inaudible)?
21	A Yes, I have been.
22	Q Do you always leave inebriated?
23	A I always leave having had a drink.
24	Q Okay, but do you leave inebriated?
25	A Sometimes.

Sometimes. Okay, fair enough. 1 Q 2 That is all I have. Thank you. 3 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you a 4 5 question, Mr. Irani. From what I gather, the ANC voted in January to protest the proceedings. 6 7 ANC voted in August to protest the proceedings, but the ANC changed in January of 2021. 8 Did the 9 ANC ever reconsider whether or not there would --10 whether or not -- from what I was told you had 11 six new members off the ANC. Was it ever 12 discussed with the new ANC whether or not they 13 wanted to protest the application? 14 MR. KLINE: No, no member or 15 commissioner has brought that forward. Commissioner Bowles and Commissioner Wood, who 16 17 testified today had the last months to bring 18 forward a resolution to drop the protest, but 19 nothing was ever brought forward. 20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: No, but I am 21 asking a different question, sir. I am saying it 22 is a completely different ANC. From what I am told there are six new members. 23 24 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Yes. 25 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.

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Mr. Roth, do you have any questions of 1 2 Mr. Irani based on the questions that I asked? 3 MR. ROTH: Yes, just a couple of short 4 ones. BY MR. ROTH: 5 Commissioner Irani, Commissioner 6 0 7 Bowles was appointed the chair of the ABC 8 Committee in this current ANC, was he not? 9 Α That is correct. 10 0 He did put on the agenda of the ABC 11 committee meeting in, I believe it was -- was it 12 early January or early February this particular 13 item, did he not? 14 I think it was early January, or early Α 15 February, yes. 16 So there was the opportunity to 17 discuss this matter at the ABC committee meeting, which was publicly noticed and with the 18 19 commissioners on the ABC committee, and members 20 of the public did and would have had the 21 opportunity to discuss this if they wanted to. 22 Is that not right? 23 That is correct, they did. Α 24 As a result of that discussion if 0 25 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 1 2 as the applicant came to that meeting. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what happened at that meeting? 4 COMMISSIONER IRANI: Members of the 5 community, I gave an update on the settlement 6 7 agreement negotiations, and members of the 8 community and the applicant voiced their opinions 9 and concerns. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what decision 10 11 did the --12 COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was just --13 there was no action. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it was on the 15 agenda, but there was no -- it didn't -- there 16 was -- it was discussed, but no decision was 17 made. Is that what you are saying? 18 COMMISSIONER IRANI: It was -- maybe if 19 I put it more -- it was an update, and not --20 there was not a proposed action. It was an 21 update on the settlement -- or on the 22 establishment, on this license. So there was no 23 proposed -- there was no resolution put forward, 24 and there was no proposed action there. 25 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.

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

1	issue since it was an active case moving forward,
2	and if there was a conversation at the at
3	least at the ABC Board level why that was just
4	a curiosity on my part. Mr
5	MR. KLINE: I feel compelled to follow
6	up
7	(Simultaneous speaking.)
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, I am
9	fully aware that by a Board member asking a
10	question it opens the round robin again, so you
11	don't have to worry about that, so
12	MR. KLINE: Okay.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Does
14	any of the Board members have a question based on
15	what the question that was raised before I
16	allowed Mr. Kline to ask questions?
17	No? All right. Go ahead, Mr. Kline.
18	COMMISSIONER IRANI: Go ahead, Mr.
19	Kline.
20	MR. KLINE: Yes, thank you.
21	BY MR. KLINE:
22	Q Mr. Irani, isn't it true that Peter
23	Woods attempted to bring the (inaudible) office
24	the full ANC meeting and you ruled him out of
25	order?

1	A No.
2	Q That's not true?
3	A No, I don't
4	Q I can call him in rebuttal if we need
5	to.
6	A I'm sorry?
7	Q We will call him in rebuttal if we
8	need to. You are saying that didn't happen.
9	A That he attempted to do what?
10	Q To raise the issue concerning this
11	protest, and you ruled him out of order and
12	wouldn't let him speak.
13	A No, that is not true.
14	MR. KLINE: Okay. No further
15	questions.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do you
17	have any questions (inaudible)?
18	MR. ROTH: No. Thank you, sir.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Since you are
20	the witness in the hot seat, Mr. Irani, do you
21	have any final comments that you want to make?
22	COMMISSIONER IRANI: I just want to say
23	that there has been a lot of talk about process,
24	and I do want to just say that I have followed
25	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.

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

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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, 1 2 so, yes, he has 90 minutes to present his case, 3 sir, so let me -- all right, so Ms. -- Ms. Jones, right? 4 5 (Witness sworn.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, now 6 7 you can keep your microphone open until you are 8 done testifying. Thank you. 9 I think Mr. -- there is feedback, but 10 what I will ask is that you, Mr. Roth, if you are 11 not speaking -- (inaudible) whenever you are not 12 speaking, okay? MR. ROTH: I don't think it is coming 13 14 from me. Ms. Jones, it may a little bit of 15 feedback from your end, but we will do our best. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 17 Thank you. Go ahead, sir. 18 MR. ROTH: Okay there, Ms. Jones? 19 MS. JONES: I'm fine. I am just 20 cutting the phone off to make sure it is not my -21 - I am not causing a problem, so I am ready. 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ROTH: 23 24 There we go. All right. Q Good 25 afternoon Ms. Jones. Can you please state and

1	spell your full first and last names for the
2	record?
3	A Cassandra Jones, C-A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A, J-
4	O-N-E-S.
5	Q Thank you. Are you one of the
6	protestants in this case?
7	A Yes.
8	Q Do you own a condominium unit at the
9	Carswell at 1812 Vernon Street, N.W.?
10	A Yes, I do.
11	Q What year did you first move into that
12	building?
13	A 1970.
14	Q Was it a condominium or a rental
15	building back then?
16	A Rental.
17	Q Can you give the Board the short
18	version of how you were able to own the unit that
19	you are living in now? Let's make it the short
20	version.
21	A I'm going to make it the short
22	version. Once the unit was renovated I moved
23	into Unit Number 4, and I continued to rent until
24	the owner decided he wanted to actually sell this
25	unit. At that time I decided to purchase the

	unit January of 1999.
2	Q So you have been living in your
3	present unit the last 22 years, is that right?
4	A Not exactly. I first was a renter,
5	and I stayed in the unit for 9 years as a renter,
6	and as an owner for 22, so I have actually lived
7	in this unit for 31 years.
8	MR. ROTH: Okay. Ms. Andrews, can I
9	get permission to share my screen?
10	MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by.
11	(Pause.)
12	MS. ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Roth, you can
13	share your screen now.
14	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
15	BY MR. ROTH:
16	Q Ms. Jones, I am going to show you
17	protestant's Exhibit 12, and I am going to ask
18	you to describe for the Board what see here.
19	A I am looking from the back of the
20	building. I see 1812 Vernon Street, and next to
21	it 1806 Vernon Street.
22	Q Can you point out which apartment are
23	your sliding doors and windows?
24	A I
25	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 1 2 a residential street with a garden where people 3 will be drinking, and they will have loud conversations, and you know when you drink that 4 5 level goes up higher with conversation, and I understand there will be no music, so 6 7 that is a real good thing, but with the smoking, 8 I have a problem with smoke because my throat 9 becomes very irritated with smoking, even with 10 the least amount of smoke. Unfortunately, with 11 all of that I know my pressure is going to go up, 12 because of the activity and what I am going to be 13 subject to, the noise and the smoking. I feel it 14 is unfair to me and the rest of the -- I am 15 speaking for the rest of the tenants in this To me it shows a lack of consideration for 16 17 your neighbor, when it was a nice peaceful 18 environment and all of a sudden we are going to 19 be exposed to all this energy next door. 20 haven't lived this long, and to live in this 21 building just to be subject to that environment. 22 Like I said, I know when you are drinking, we all know that the noise level will increase. 23 24 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
2	Street to get a parking space, or parking within
3	a block of Vernon Street. Sometimes that means I
4	could be sitting there for 30 to 40 minutes, up
5	to 2 hours.
6	Q Okay. What is the furthest distance
7	away from what is the furthest distance away
8	from home you would have to walk in order to park
9	in say, like, the last 2 years?
10	A Within the last 2 years I pretty much
11	try to park on Vernon Street because of my
12	disability. I can't walk a long distance, as a
13	matter of fact, I can't even walk up Vernon
14	Street, one half of Vernon Street without getting
15	into pain, feeling pain.
16	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much.
17	I have no further questions.
18	MS. JONES: Okay.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Close your
20	screen, Mr. Roth. Mr. Kline, do you have any
21	questions?
22	MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am just going
24	to ask you a question, Ms. Jones.
25	MS. JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You were saying 1 2 that your window face Florida Avenue, right? 3 that correct? MS. JONES: Yes. 4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So tell what do 5 you look at when you look through your window? 6 7 MS. JONES: Right now I am in my living 8 I am looking at 18 Florida Avenue. room. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is 10 outside, what's there? 11 MS. JONES: Right now it is some 12 traffic, cars. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: (Inaudible), 14 when you look through your window from Florida 15 Avenue what is it that you see? Explain to me --I know -- I believe that Vernon is more 16 17 residential. I am trying to found out, Florida 18 Avenue, is that a commercial strip, I mean, what 19 -- when you look through your window on Florida 20 Avenue what do you see? Do you see? Do you see 21 other homes, or do you see businesses? What do 22 you see when you face Florida Avenue? That is 23 what I am getting at. 24 MS. JONES: Homes, from where I am, 25 I can see one little place where they homes.

1	deal with phones across 18th Street, but behind
2	me I get a better view of Florida. There is some
3	network where they deal with taxes. It is
4	another little establishment. I am not sure what
5	they do, because I never see anybody there. They
6	keep renovating it, but I never see anybody
7	there. The rest of the street is all homes.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On Florida
9	Avenue? That is what I am asking, Florida?
10	MS. JONES: Right.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
12	MS. JONES: From where I am sitting.
13	Of course, there's one, two, three businesses
14	right off, but I can't see them, not really, on
15	my side, but they are very quiet. There is no
16	music, or people really socializing and stuff.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, fine.
18	Any other questions by any Board
19	members?
20	(Pause.)
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon or
23	good evening, Ms. Jones. How are you?
24	MS. JONES: I'm fine.
25	MEMBER SHORT: Ms. Jones, I know your

neighborhood well. I work at the fire station 1 there at 1617 U Street. 2 3 MS. JONES: I know exactly what you are 4 talking about. MEMBER SHORT: That was back in the 5 70s. 6 7 MS. JONES: Yes, I was here. 8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, and I know the neighborhood quite well, and I use to frequent 9 10 the Hilton Hotel guite a bit whenever the President was there, or they had big events. 11 Now 12 they have built a brand new building behind the 13 Hilton, correct? 14 MS. JONES: Right. 15 MEMBER SHORT: All right, and that 16 obstructs your view from the Hilton, but at any 17 rate along Florida Avenue you are saying they 18 have mainly residential properties, correct? 19 MS. JONES: On the part where I am. 20 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. 21 MS. JONES: Okay. 22 MEMBER SHORT: I understand. 23 18th Street, you're looking at 18th Street right at the corner of 18th and Florida there is a 24 25 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 1 2 I was working in that area Vernon Street was a 3 very high profile street. It was a little uppity, it was. 4 5 MS. JONES: Oh, back then before I came 6 here, yes. 7 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, and because the 8 Hilton Hotel use to kind of part their guests on 9 Vernon Street, and the neighborhood was so strong 10 back then that the community told Hilton, no, 11 your people cannot part on Vernon Street. 12 remember that very well, but at any rate that's 13 just for some who don't know your neighborhood, 14 and it has changed somewhat since they started 15 the (inaudible), and a few other things, but it 16 has mainly stayed residential --17 MS. JONES: Right. 18 MEMBER SHORT: -- on your end of 18th 19 and Florida Avenue. 20 MS. JONES: Exactly, yes. That's all I 21 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. 22 have Mr. Chair. Thank you for your 31 years, Ms. 23 Jones, Thank you. 24 MS. JONES: You're welcome. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other

1	questions by any of the Board members?
2	Mr. Kline, any questions of Ms. Jones.
3	MR. KLINE: No, thank you.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any
5	questions of Ms. Jones?
6	Mr. Roth, you are on mute.
7	MR. ROTH: No, thank you, sir.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jones, thank
9	you very much for your testimony. Thank you very
10	much for your testimony, ma'am, all right?
11	MS. JONES: You're welcome. Thank you.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
13	Roth, do you have another witness?
14	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Kaitlyn Kerr.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Kerr.
16	MS. KERR: Hello.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
18	your right hand, please.
19	(Witness sworn.)
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
21	Thank you. Your witness Mr. Roth.
22	MR. ROTH: I'm trying to find Ms. Kerr
23	on the screen.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She is there,
25	sir.

DIRECT EXAMINATION 1 2 BY MR. ROTH: 3 Q Okay. Good afternoon, Ms. Kerr. 4 you please state and spell your first and last 5 names for the record? Sure, my first name is Kaitlyn. 6 That is spelled K-A-I-T-L-Y-N. The last name is Kerr, 7 8 K-E-R-R. 9 Thank you. Are you one of the 0 protestants on this case? 10 11 Α Yes, sir. 12 Do you live at the Carswell Q Condominium at 1812 Vernon Street? 13 14 Α Yes, sir, I do. 15 When did you move in there? 0 I moved in in November of 2019. 16 Α 17 Do you own or rent your apartment? Q 18 I am a renter. Α 19 Q I am going to share my screen 20 and show you what's marked as protestant's 21 Exhibit 11, and ask you what you see there? 22 Sure. On the right hand side is 1812 Α 23 Vernon Street, which is my building, and then on 24 the left hand side is the (inaudible) 25 establishment that we are discussing today. I am

1	assuming important to point out that on the left
2	hand side of the blue awning is a set of windows
3	behind that tree, and that is my bedroom window.
4	Q So what I am circling here with my
5	cursor
6	A Yes.
7	Q would be your bedroom window.
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay. Before you rented this unit had
10	you been to the Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle
11	Neighborhood before?
12	A Yes, many times.
13	Q Were you familiar with the 18th Street
14	Corridor?
15	A Yes, I would say I am very familiar
16	with the 18th Street Corridor.
17	Q You were still comfortable renting
18	this unit even with that knowledge.
19	A Yes, I was. My experience with the
20	18th Street Corridor was that most of the
21	activity was concentrated on 18th itself,
22	specifically in between Columbia and (inaudible)
23	I would say. So when I was looking at
24	apartments, this apartment being on a side
25	street, and not next to any of the bar

1	establishments I was comfortable still renting
2	the apartment.
3	Q You said you moved into your apartment
4	when?
5	A In November of 2019.
6	Q And when did you learn that someone
7	had applied for a tavern license in the building
8	next door?
9	A I actually saw an article online about
10	it in January of 2020, and then after that
11	learned more information from my neighbors about
12	it.
13	Q Have you watched or listened in over
14	Zoom on any of the ANC or ANC committee meetings
15	about this pending tavern license application
16	location transfer application?
17	A Yes, I have.
18	Q Based on what you have seen and heard,
19	what are your concerns about the impact that this
20	establishment would have on you?
21	A My main concern is the noise that
22	would be caused by the people that are exiting
23	the establishment out onto Vernon Street,
24	especially while they are waiting for any kind of
25	Uber, cab, ride shares, or just in general

congregating there after leaving the bar. 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 I 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.

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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?

Well, I can hear them when I am Α sleeping at, like, 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. in the 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

1	neighbors who have their living areas and their
2	bedrooms facing out onto Florida Avenue. That
3	would affect them in the same way, so, no, that
4	would not make me any happier.
5	Q You are a good neighbor. Ms. Kerr, do
6	you like your apartment now?
7	A Yes, I do. I really like my
8	apartment.
9	Q Are you on a fixed term lease, or a
10	month to month?
11	A My lease right now is month to month.
12	Q So putting aside this Tavern
13	application, do you have any plans to leave your
14	current job or move out of town, or move out of
15	your apartment for any other reason?
16	A No, I no plans of doing any of those
17	things.
18	Q If this tavern application were
19	granted and the Applicant is permitted to
20	transfer his license next door to your apartment
21	do you know what you would do then?
22	A I would seriously start to research
23	moving into another apartment. Before this I was
24	in a living situation that unfortunately had a
25	lot of noise outside of the window the early

1	hours of the morning, and it was very frustrating
2	and very exhausting, and really affected my
3	quality of life and well-being, so I am not
4	really willing to put myself, or to stay in what
5	could be a similar situation again.
6	MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. I have no
7	further questions.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, please
9	close your screen.
10	MR. KLINE: He can leave it up. That
11	would expedite things actually.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
13	Okay, leave it up.
14	Your witness, Mr. Kerr. I'm sorry,
15	your witness, you see that is why I like to
16	look at folks. Your witness, Mr. Kline. I
17	apologize.
18	MR. KLINE: Long day, Mr. Chair.
19	CROSS EXAMINATION
20	BY MR. KLINE:
21	Q Ms. Kerr, I am looking at (inaudible)
22	11, you printed out your window behind the tree.
23	There is a seating area there, correct?
24	A Correct.
25	Q That the smoking area for the

1	building, correct?
2	A I would not consider it a smoking area
3	for the building, no.
4	Q Where is it that people smoke?
5	A Usually when I have seen someone
6	smoking is down at the bottom of the stairs.
7	Q Are you familiar with the bucket that
8	seems to live there that people sit their
9	cigarettes butts in?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Okay, and where does that live?
12	A I believe it usually is at the top of
13	the stairs on, like, that concrete landing place.
14	Q Okay, so the people that smoke in the
15	building that's where they go to smoke.
16	A No, like I said, the people that smoke
17	in the building are normally smoking at the
18	bottom of the stairs.
19	Q Okay. Did you ever meet the owner of
20	the Applicant, Mr. Hughes?
21	A No I have not met him.
22	Q Were you aware when you rented your
23	apartment that you were immediately adjacent to a
24	commercial zone?
25	A I know that on the back side of the

1	building on Florida Avenue there used to be a
2	hair salon, I believe, and I know that that was
3	there, but as far as the part of the building
4	that faces Vernon Street, I was under the
5	impression slash I wasn't told any differently
6	that it was residence, like, an apartment or a
7	condo, or something along those lines.
8	MR. KLINE: Okay, thank you. I have no
9	further questions.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Close the
11	screen, please.
12	Do we have any questions of Ms. Kerr
13	by any Board members?
14	All right, thank you, Ms. Kerr.
15	All right, any Ms. Kerr, are you
16	still there?
17	MS. KERR: Yes, I am still here.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, any
19	re-cross of Ms. Kerr?
20	MR. ROTH: No, sir.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Re-direct of Ms.
22	Kerr? All right, thank you very much, Ms. Kerr,
23	for your testimony.
24	MS. KERR: Thank you.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are excused.

1	MS. KERR: Okay.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, you
3	have another witness.
4	MR. ROTH: Alek Pochowski if he is with
5	us. I know he was at work, and then the workday
6	is over, so I am hoping he stuck with us. There
7	he is.
8	MR. POCHOWSKI: I am here.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Pochowski,
10	can you raise your right hand, please?
11	MR. POCHOWSKI: Yes.
12	(Witness sworn.)
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Your
14	witness, sir.
15	DIRECT EXAMINATION
16	BY MR. ROTH:
17	Q Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr.
18	Pochowski. Can you please state and spell your
19	first and last names for the record?
20	A Yes, my name is Alek Pochowski, A-L-E-
21	K, P-O-C-H-O-W-S-K-I.
22	Q Thank you. Where are you employed?
23	A Kittelson & Associates.
24	Q You want to spell Kittelson for the
25	record, please.

1	A K-I-T-E-L-S-O-N.
2	Q Thank you. Showing you Protestants'
3	Exhibit 45 for identification. You recognize
4	this document?
5	A Yes, that is my resume.
6	Q How long have you been employed at
7	Kittelson?
8	A Since 2006, about 15 years,
9	(inaudible).
10	Q Okay. What do you do there?
11	A I am a transportation engineer and
12	planner. I do a lot of traffic studies,
13	transportation studies, safety, curbside
14	management, small area plans, livability studies,
15	and corridor studies. Over half my work is in
16	the District, and then I do the other half is
17	around the country.
18	Q What degrees do you hold and in what
19	fields?
20	A I have an undergrad in civil
21	engineering from Iowa State University. I have a
22	masters in city planning from Georgia Tech, and a
23	masters in civil engineering with a
24	transportation focus from Georgia Tech.
25	Q Do you hold any professional licenses?

1	A Yes, I am licensed as a professional
2	engineer in the District, Maryland, Virginia, and
3	Nebraska.
4	Q Okay. In the course of your work have
5	you had occasion to become familiar with the
6	District's Columbia Street Transportation Network
7	design planning process?
8	A Yes.
9	MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you.
10	Mr. Chairman, I would move
11	Protestants' Exhibit 45 into evidence, and based
12	on Mr. Pochowski's answers and the contents of
13	his resume I would ask that he be admitted as an
14	expert in traffic in traffic safety, traffic
15	operations, transportation engineering, and
16	transportation planning.
17	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
18	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 45
19	for identification.)
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline.
21	MR. KLINE: No objection.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
23	objection, so Mr the resume is in the record,
24	and Mr. Pochowski is an expert, meaning that he
25	gan give his he gan render expert eninions

1	Go ahead, sir.
2	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
3	document was received into evidence as Protestant
4	Exhibit No. 45.)
5	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
6	BY MR. ROTH:
7	Q Now, Mr. Pochowski, showing you
8	Protestants' Exhibit 46, and let me enlarge this.
9	Can you identify this document?
10	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
11	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 46
12	for identification.)
13	A Yes, that is a multi (inaudible)
14	circulation document that we put together. It is
15	just multi (inaudible) circulation, curbside
16	uses, along with functional classification, and
17	level of traffic threat in the area.
18	Q Can you explain what information you
19	gathered to create this graphic?
20	A Yeah. We took a lot of data from the
21	District's Department of Transportation from open
22	data. So we took their functional classification
23	system, which assigns local collector and
24	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

1	19th, across Vernon, then make the right turn
2	only out would lead to the potential additional
3	congestion at that Vernon Street, 18th Street
4	intersection with a right turn only there.
5	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much.
6	No further questions.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions,
8	Mr. Kline?
9	MR. KLINE: Just a couple.
10	CROSS EXAMINATION
11	BY MR. KLINE:
12	Q In terms of Vernon Street, in addition
13	to moving vans, there would be trash trucks.
14	Correct?
15	A Right.
16	Q And overnight delivery vehicles.
17	A I would not expect overnight delivery
18	vehicles with the lack of commercial
19	Q You would?
20	A No, not on Vernon Street.
21	Q You wouldn't expect Amazon trucks on
22	Vernon Street with people accepting delivery of
23	packages?
24	A No, not overnight. I think there's a
25	difference from a loading perspective of

1	commercial areas and residential areas. In
2	residential areas, deliveries tend to be during
3	the daytime. Whereas commercial tends to be
4	especially retail commercial tends to be
5	overnight. Office commercial also tends to be
6	for daytime uses.
7	Q Right, but moving trucks wouldn't be
8	at night either, would they?
9	A Right. Moving trucks would be during
10	the day.
11	MR. KLINE: Fine. Okay, I don't have
12	any other questions.
13	MR. ROTH: Can I get re-direct?
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
15	Roth. I'm sorry.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
17	by any board members? Since I can't see, so
18	that's why I was asking you to close your screen.
19	So I can look to make sure that I have that I
20	can see my board members, so I'm not sitting here
21	waiting trying to figure out if they're trying to
22	ask questions. All right, hearing no questions
23	by no board members, okay, you can re-direct,
24	sir.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:

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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?

Yeah, moving trucks in terms of Α Yes. the usage of the curbside space, you have to apply for the permit 72 hours in advance. 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

1	are an issue in terms of traffic control?
2	A Yeah. Just because they are so
3	seldomly on the street, I mean it's you have
4	recycling maybe once or twice a week, garbage in
5	some areas once or twice a week. So there might
6	be four trucks a week compared to with respect,
7	about a thousand vehicles per day on the street.
8	So four compared to 7,000 is just not a large
9	volume of vehicles.
LO	Q And do you happy I don't know
L1	whether you looked at this in terms of drawing it
L 2	here on your diagram or not. But do you happen
L3	to know whether or not there's an alley behind
L 4	Vernon Street that allows for trash pickup?
L5	A I don't know that.
L6	MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. No
L 7	further questions, Mr. Chairman.
L8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
L9	Pochowski. Thank you very much for your
20	testimony. You're excused. Do you have another
21	witness, Mr. Roth?
22	MR. ROTH: Yes, Ms. Suzanne Farmer.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer.
24	Ms. Farmer? Ms. Farmer? Ms.
5	Farmer?

1	MR. ROTH: Do I need to Do I need
2	to contact her or do you see her?
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe Ms.
4	Farmer is on a personal matter and she's telling
5	us to hold on a minute, I believe. I believe
6	that's what she said. I can't hear you now, Ms.
7	Farmer. Are you ready to speak to us? So I
8	believe that's I can see Ms. Farmer. I
9	believe she's telling us that we need to hold on
LO	a couple of minutes for her to be available.
L1	MS. CLARKE: Could we take a five
L2	minute bio break?
L3	MS. FARMER: Can you guys hear me now?
L4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Hold on.
L5	Ms. FARMER: Okay.
L6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, who
L7	was asking for a break?
L8	MS. CLARKE: This is Laurie Clarke. I
L9	just wondered if we could get a bio break soon.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Clarke, you
21	can take a break. You can put us on You can
22	put us on mute and close the camera and take your
	break, ma'am. You can do that because I mean,
23	break, ma'am. Tou can do chac because i mean,
23 24	Mr. Roth is the attorney. So you can take a

1	that we're going to take a break right now. But
2	you can take a break if you need to, ma'am.
3	All right, Ms. Farmer, can you raise
4	your right hand please? Are you ready?
5	(Witness sworn.)
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
7	thank you. Your witness, Mr. Roth.
8	MR. ROTH: Thank you. Good afternoon,
9	Ms. Farmer.
10	DIRECT EXAMINATION
11	BY MR. ROTH:
12	Q Can you please state and spell your
13	full first and last names for the record?
14	A Sure. It's Suzanne Farmer,
15	S-U-Z-A-N-N-E F-A-R-M-E-R.
16	Q Thank you. And again for the record,
17	can you state where you live?
18	A I live at 1812 Vernon Street in Unit
19	23.
20	Q And are you one of the abutter
21	Protestants in this case?
22	A I am, yes.
23	Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen
24	again. And you'll (audio interference) exhibits.
25	And I'm going to show you Protestant's Exhibit

1	11. And can you tell the Board what you see
2	here?
3	A So this is an image looking at the
4	Carswell, which is the red brick building on the
5	right and then the proposed establishment in 1806
6	Vernon is the yellow building on the left.
7	Q And can you point out which window at
8	1812 Vernon is yours?
9	A So on the second floor, it's the four
10	windows that are just, I guess on the left side
11	of the car as well. So the two windows over on
12	top of the entry and then the two windows to the
13	left of that.
14	Q Okay. So using my cursor, I'm
15	pointing to these two and to these two. And for
16	I guess to help orient the board members, we
17	heard from Ms. Kerr who said her windows were
18	down here in the first floor. So your windows
19	are immediately above hers
20	A Correct.
21	Q and then to the right of those. Is
22	that correct?
23	A Yes, that is correct.
24	Q Okay. And I'm going to move to a
25	different exhibit. And ask you to identify

1	This is Protestant's Exhibit 13 for
2	identification. And I'm going to ask you to
3	indicate what you see here.
4	A This is the walkway at the back of the
5	Carswell that exits onto Florida Avenue.
6	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
7	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 13
8	for identification.)
9	BY MR. ROTH:
10	Q And can you point out which window in
11	that courtyard
12	A Yes.
13	Q is your
14	A Right, that narrow space. So the
15	second window up is my bedroom window.
16	Q Okay.
17	A It's right there.
18	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I move this
19	Exhibit 13 into evidence.
20	MR. KLINE: No objection.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
22	objection.
23	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
24	document was received into evidence as Protestant
25	Exhibit No. 13.)

BY MR. ROTH:

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

1	building walls.
2	Q Yeah.
3	A Yeah.
4	Q Yeah, okay. We'll come back to that
5	in a second.
6	A Okay.
7	Q How long have you lived in your
8	current unit at the Carswell?
9	A For five years almost exactly March
10	2016.
11	Q Okay. And is that the only unit
12	you've lived in at this building?
13	A No, I previously rented for three
14	years.
15	Q And what was that other Where was
16	that other unit?
17	A That was Unit 24, which is directly
18	above Ms. Jones's unit.
19	Q Okay. So showing you again
20	Protestant's Exhibit 12, which Ms. Jones
21	identified before. You're saying that would be
22	this unit here.
23	A Right.
24	Q Okay. Who lives there now?
25	A So Gus Silva-Chavez and Anica

Landreneau now live there. 1 2 Okay. By the way, going back for a 3 second to this exhibit. Have you measured the 4 distance between --5 I've gone out there with my (audio Α interference). 6 7 And what was that distance? Q It's a little over six feet. 8 9 Okay. Please tell the Board why 0 10 you're protesting this application. 11 So basically I don't feel that a 12 liquor -- a late-night liquor serving 13 establishment is appropriate in this location. Ι 14 think you've got -- And one of the big points 15 right here, right? You've got little over six fee of distance between residence who's living 16 17 room windows -- that's what those sliding doors 18 are, the living room windows. And then bedroom 19 windows are directly overlooking the summer 20 garden. 21 I believe the hours that they are 22 proposing is until 1 o'clock in the morning, I 23 believe, all week. And then also a 2:00 a.m.

during the week, 3:00 a.m. on week nights for the

closing and a 3:00 a.m. closing -- 2:00 a.m.

24

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'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?

1	A So none of them are on the interior of
2	a residential street. And you know, the vast
3	majority of them actually are on the other side
4	of 18th Street and don't abut residential
5	buildings at all. I believe Duplex and Lucky
6	Buns abut the building that's directly across the
7	street from us. They also serve food and so
8	they're more active kind of earlier in the
9	evening. They don't tend to be very active late
10	at night. So I think that's a big difference is
11	the request for closing at 2:00 and 3 o'clock in
12	the morning.
13	Q Thank you. And then finally, let's
14	talk about traffic patterns at this intersection.
15	Let me go back to Mr. Pochowski's exhibit. In
16	fact, let me see if I can do a Excuse me.
17	Let's use this one instead. Do you recognize
18	what this is?
19	A Yes. That is an aerial
20	(Simultaneous speaking.)
21	MR. ROTH: Let me identify it as
22	Let me identify as Protestant's Exhibit 37. And
23	Ms. Farmer, go ahead and describe what this is.
24	MS. FARMER: So this is an aerial
25	photograph showing the intersection of 18th

1	Street, Florida Avenue and U Street.
2	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
3	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 37
4	for identification.)
5	MS. FARMER: You can see that there's
6	a lot of a lot of streets coming in through
7	this intersection.
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q And do you recognize the street here
10	that I'm
11	A Yes.
12	Q putting my cursor over?
13	A That is Vernon Street.
14	Q Okay. And as a resident, how familiar
15	are you with traffic patterns at this
16	intersection?
17	A I'm very familiar, both as a driver
18	and a pedestrian.
19	MR. ROTH: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'd
20	like to put Exhibit 37 into evidence.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, any
22	objection?
23	MR. KLINE: No objection.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
25	objection.

(Whereupon, the above-referred to 1 document was received into evidence as Protestant 2 3 Exhibit No. 37.) BY MR. ROTH: 4 5 So please explain to the Board what you see as the likely effects on pedestrians and 6 7 vehicle traffic than having the Applicant 8 discharge all his remaining patrons from Vernon 9 Street -- I guess, Vernon Street door at closing time. 10 11 MR. KLINE: Objection. She's being 12 asked for an opinion. She hasn't been qualified 13 as an expert and I don't think she is an expert. 14 MR. ROTH: Well, Mr. Chairman, she's a 15 neighbor who's lived here for several years. 16 MR. KLINE: That doesn't give her 17 expertise. 18 MR. ROTH: I didn't ask for her expert 19 opinion, I asked for her personal opinion. 20 MR. KLINE: Her personal opinion is 21 irrelevant. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 23 let the witness -- The Board will give it due 24 weight. You can answer -- I'm going to overrule 25 their objection. You can answer the question,

Ms. Farmer.

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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 18th 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

1	hitting pedestrians. So I've seen this happen.
2	I've experienced it myself as a driver and as a
3	pedestrian.
4	BY MR. ROTH:
5	Q Okay, thank you. Have you looked at
6	any of the plans or renderings for this
7	establishment?
8	A I have.
9	Q Up until today when Mr. Hughes
10	testified about putting his trash and recycling
11	on the front yard, had you ever seen any
12	expressed provisions for trash and recycling on
13	any of these plans?
14	A Not on the plans.
15	MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. No
16	further questions.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions,
18	Mr. Kline?
19	MR. KLINE: Yeah, I have a few.
20	CROSS EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. KLINE:
22	Q Ms. Farmer, are you a smoker?
23	A I am.
24	Q And you tend to sit in the seats in
25	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

1	don't litter. Right? So that I'm able to kind
2	of keep my butts out of the street. And so yes,
3	I smoke. I do what I can to be considerate about
4	it. And you know, maybe I should quit.
5	Q I express no opinion on that.
6	A Yeah.
7	Q Given the number of butts accumulated
8	in that pail, you're not the only smoker that
9	congregates there, are you?
10	A I'm the only regular smoker that sits
11	there.
12	Q Okay.
13	A Have you been you've been like
14	looking in the pail?
15	Q I'm not here to answer any questions.
16	(Simultaneous speaking.)
17	A Like you've been like wandering up
18	onto peoples porches and opening, you know, what
19	looks like a citronella candle?
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer, Mr.
21	Kline is the one who asks the questions.
22	MS. FARMER: I know. I know. I
23	apologize.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
25	MR. KLINE: All right. So if we can

1	pull up Protestant's Exhibit 4 please. Ms.
2	Yohannes, can you do that?
3	MS. ANDREWS: Stand by.
4	MS. YOHANNES: Okay, give me one
5	minute.
6	MS. ANDREWS: Okay. Ms. Yohannes, you
7	can share your screen now.
8	MR. KLINE: Protestant's 4. There we
9	go.
10	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
11	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 4
12	for identification.)
13	BY MR. KLINE:
14	Q All right. Ms. Farmer, you indicated
15	you've lived in the neighborhood, I think since
16	March of 2016. Is that correct?
17	A I actually originally moved to the
18	neighborhood in 2004. I've lived here on and off
19	since 2004.
20	Q Okay. So you're pretty familiar with
21	what's up and down the street on 18th Street.
22	Correct?
23	A I am.
24	Q And you recognized the bottom middle
25	of this exhibit, the little flag that denotes

1	this premises this proposed premises next to
2	your building?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And you said that this was the only
5	spot that was interior on a residential street.
6	Was that your testimony?
7	A For a late night alcohol serving
8	establishment
9	Q Yeah.
10	A as far as I'm aware.
11	Q Okay. And looking up 18th Street and
12	they're numbered the lots are numbered 814,
13	813, 815, 35, 30, 46, et cetera. There are a
14	number of late night serving alcohol
15	establishments in those locations, aren't there?
16	A Sorry, where are you pointing to?
17	Q I am Can you see my cursor?
18	A I cannot actually.
19	Q You can't. No, because I'm
20	(Simultaneous speaking.)
21	Q So do you see the MU4
22	A Yes.
23	Q in the middle of the the middle
24	of the page?
25	A Yes.

1	Q To the left of that, all the yellow
2	shaded lots that have numbers.
3	A Right.
4	Q Yeah.
5	A So you're talking about basically like
6	north of California Street.
7	Q Exactly.
8	A Okay.
9	Q Yeah. Aren't there a number of late
10	night serving ABC establishments between there
11	and further north, all the way up to Columbia?
12	A I actually think that block has a lot
13	of more like like my vet's in that block, I
14	think. Right? But also that's not a residential
15	street.
16	Q That's not my question.
17	MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: First, what's
19	the objection?
20	MR. KLINE: Is Mr. Roth going to
21	answer for her? What are we doing?
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you haven't
23	you haven't asked a question.
24	(Simultaneous speaking.)
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Ms.

Farmer, Ms. Farmer, hold on, hold on. You have 1 2 an objection, Mr. Roth. What's the nature of 3 your objection? MR. ROTH: Yeah. Mr. Kline, number 4 5 one, is trying to confuse the witness. number two, I have an objection to the form of 6 7 the question because when he says "a lot". What is "a lot"? 8 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't believe that -- I don't believe that the witness is 10 11 I think the witness is familiar with confused. 12 the area. She's responding to the best of her 13 ability. So I'm going to -- I'm going to 14 overrule the objection. I mean I believe based 15 on the testimony so far, the witness is -- she is 16 familiar with the neighborhood. So I'm going to 17 overrule the objection. She can answer -- answer 18 to the best of her abilities. If she cannot, she 19 can say she can't -- she can't answer the 20 question. So let's move on. 21 Mr. Kline, what was the question? 22 Ms. Farmer, you can respond. 23 MS. FARMER: Okay. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's the 25 question, Mr. Kline?

1	BY MR. KLINE:
2	Q The question is between California
3	Street, north of Columbia Road on the west side
4	of 18th Street, are there a number of late
5	serving alcohol establishments?
6	A So you're talking about all the way up
7	to Columbia Road, which is more than is shown
8	here. Correct?
9	Q (Audio interference.)
10	MR. ROTH: I object, Mr. Chairman.
11	Again, the relevant area for purposes of this
12	hearing is 1200 feet from the location of this
13	establishment. It is not all the way up to
14	Columbia Road.
15	MR. KLINE: What does that have to do
16	with anything?
17	MR. ROTH: If Mr. Kline wants to
18	confine his question to the area just beyond
19	Kalorama Road, his question is perfectly
20	acceptable, but not all the way up to Columbia
21	Road.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
23	overrule the objection because Mr. Kline is

asking a question. The witness is responding.

She's the one who's expanding the zone.

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MS. FARMER: Well I was just trying to 1 2 understand. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold 4 on, hold on. Hold on, Ms. Farmer. 5 MS. FARMER: Okay. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I will let you 6 7 know when you can answer. 8 MS. FARMER: Okay. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm going to 10 overrule the objection. 11 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman -- Mr. 12 Chairman, she did not -- she did not expand the 13 Mr. Kline asked a question about one 14 specific block between California and Wyoming 15 She attempted to answer the -- She Avenue. 16 attempted to answer the question. But then Mr. 17 Kline asked a different question that took it all 18 the way up to Columbia Road. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I think --I'm not familiar with the area. I think she said 20 21 oh, are you talking about -- I believe Ms. Farmer 22 responded to the question and she said, are you 23 talking all the way up to -- up to -- all the way 24 up to California? As I said before, I'm going to

It's a long day.

overrule the objection.

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. 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

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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 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
2	and abut properties and residential? That's the
3	question.
4	A Okay and to clarify Can you clarify
5	what you're talking about, which blocks you're
6	talking about?
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms.
8	Farmer. He said up and down
9	MS. FARMER: Up and down.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Ms.
11	Farmer. Ms. Farmer.
12	MS. FARMER: I'm sorry.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. He
14	said up or down 18th Street. That's what he
15	said. Yes or no or you don't know? He doesn't
16	need to clarify.
17	Ms. FARMER: Okay.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: His question
19	was up or down 18th Street. That's the question
20	that he asked, ma'am.
_ 0	
21	MS. FARMER: There are several. They
	MS. FARMER: There are several. They tend to be on the corners of 18th Street. They
21	-
21 22	tend to be on the corners of 18th Street. They

1	establishment that abuts residential property is
2	the same if it's on the corner or if it's up the
3	block, isn't it?
4	A There is a difference in terms of
5	where the doorway is.
6	Q Yes or no question.
7	(Simultaneous speaking.)
8	A Then the answer is
9	(Simultaneous speaking.)
10	MR. ROTH: Asked and answered.
11	MS. FARMER: It's not the same.
12	BY MR. KLINE:
13	Q Why are they not the same?
14	A Because the entrances are not right
15	underneath peoples bedroom windows. The
16	entrances are on 18th Street.
17	Q The entrances are on 18th Street. But
18	you testified that your concern about noise
19	coming through the wall, aren't you? Isn't that
20	what
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	A I did. I am concerned about that,
23	yes.
24	Q Okay. But that would be the same with
25	respect to an establishment that fronts 18th

1	Street and backs up to residential property.
2	Isn't it?
3	A I assume so, yes.
4	Q Okay.
5	A I mean I think there's negative
6	impacts to both
7	Q I don't have a question pending.
8	Thank you.
9	A Okay.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
11	another question, Mr. Kline?
12	MR. KLINE: I do not think so. No, I
13	do not. Thanks.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
15	thank you. Mr. Roth, please Sorry, are there
16	any questions by any board members? Hearing
17	none, any re-direct, Mr. Roth?
18	MR. ROTH: No, sir. Thank you.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Ms.
20	I forgot your name. It's been so long. I
21	apologize.
22	MS. FARMER: Farmer.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Farmer, I
24	apologize. Thank you very much for your
25	testimony.

1	All right, do we have another do we
2	have a do we have another witness, Mr. Roth?
3	MR. ROTH: Hopefully Ms. Clarke is
4	back from her bio break.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.
6	Clarke?
7	MS. CLARKE: I'm back.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
9	All right Ms. Clarke, can you raise your right
10	hand please?
11	(Witness sworn.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
13	thank you. Your witness.
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION
15	BY MR. ROTH:
16	Q I was going to say good afternoon, Ms.
17	Clarke, but now it's good evening. Can you
18	please state your state and spell your full
19	name first and last name for the record?
20	A Laurie Clarke, L-A-U-R-I-E
21	C-L-A-R-K-E.
22	Q Thank you. And where do you live?
23	A 1813 Vernon Street.
24	Q Where is that in relation to the
25	applicant's proposed establishment?

1	A Directly across the street. My door
2	looks directly into their door.
3	Q Thank you. And are you a protestant
4	in this case?
5	A Yes, I am.
6	Q Do you own your own home?
7	A Yes.
8	Q How long have you lived there?
9	A Twenty-one years.
10	MR. ROTH: Thank you. Ms. Andrews,
11	can I share my screen?
12	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. Okay
13	Mr. Roth, you can share your screen now.
14	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
15	BY MR. ROTH:
16	Q So I'm showing you Protestant's
17	Exhibit 15. I've lost track of whether it's for
18	identification or not. But can you describe what
19	you see here?
20	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
21	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 15
22	for identifation.)
23	A Sure. I see the Vernon House Condo on
24	the farthest right. My house, which is the white
25	house in the middle, and then my immediate

1	neighbor on the left.
2	Q Okay. And by the way, since we had
3	testimony earlier from other Vernon House
4	residents, do you know of any Vernon House
5	resident that is another Protestant in this case?
6	A Yes, I do. Marcus Mirror (inaudible)
7	
8	Q I think you're on mute.
9	A I'm not. Can you hear me? I'm not on
LO	mute.
L1	Q Now I can.
L 2	A Okay, I'll move closer. Can you hear
L3	me now?
L 4	Q Yes.
L5	A Okay. Marcus Mirror who lives in the
L6	Vernon House, I know is a Protestant.
L 7	Q Okay, thank you. And let me try to
L8	show you a different exhibit. This is
L9	Protestant's Exhibit No. 7. And tell me what you
20	see here.
21	A It's the view directly from in front
22	of my house my stairs The yellow building
23	is the licensed establishment and the Carswell
24	Condominium is the building to the right.
25	(Whereupon, the above-referred to

1	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 7
2	for identification.)
3	MR. ROTH: Okay, thank you. Mr.
4	Chairman, I'd like to move Exhibits 7 and 15 into
5	evidence. I'm candidly not sure whether 15 was
6	already in or not.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
8	MR. ROTH: I think 15 was.
9	MR. KLINE: No objection to 7. Not
10	clear what 15 is at this moment.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Fifteen is a
12	picture from across the street, I believe where
13	Ms. Clarke lives.
14	MR. KLINE: No objection.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
16	without objection 7 and 15 are in the record.
17	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
18	documents were received into evidence as
19	Protestant Exhibit Nos. 7 and 15.)
20	BY MR. ROTH:
21	Q Thank you. Ms. Clarke, have you
22	watched or listened in on ANC meetings or ANC
23	Committee meetings about this tavern application
24	or seen any architectural plans and drawings for
25	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?

I've lived in DC I'm a city dweller. I've lived on this street for 21 for 30 years. I'm pretty immune to most noise. 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?

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1	A No.
2	(Audio interference.)
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: but for what
4	it's worth, go ahead. Go ahead. So I'll
5	overrule the objection. But
6	(Simultaneous speaking.)
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a
8	minute please. This is about this establishment.
9	Okay? Please do not let us go way off the rail
10	to talk about Lucky Buns.
11	MR. ROTH: It will be a quick answer.
12	And I think Ms. Clarke will tie it in very
13	quickly.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
15	MS. CLARKE: Yes, I will. The
16	question was about why we protested. It was poor
17	trash management, which led to rat issues. I'm
18	concerned because Lucky Buns is diagonally across
19	the street from the proposed establishment. And
20	we will have a problem with rats between these
21	different areas.
22	But I also want to take this
23	opportunity to thank the Board because it made a

They imposed some restrictions. Made them move

	the trash. Have it picked up on a regular basis.
2	Enclose it in a fence. And move the outdoor
3	refrigerator down in the basement. And that did
4	help and I appreciate it. It also restored my
5	faith in that citizens who have a legitimate
6	concern can come to this Board and have it heard.
7	And that we're talking to people who understand
8	what other people go through. It's not just a
9	numbers game.
10	MR. ROTH: Thank you, Ms. Clarke. No
11	further questions.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close
13	your screen. Any questions for Ms. Clarke, Mr.
14	Kline?
15	MR. KLINE: Yes. Ms. Yohannes, can I
16	get Protestant Exhibit 10 please?
17	MS. YOHANNES: Pulling it up.
18	MS. ANDREWS: Stand by. Ms.
19	Yohannes, you can now share your screen.
20	CROSS EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. KLINE:
22	Q Ms. Clarke?
23	A Yes?
24	Q You indicated grave concerns about
25	rats and rodents. Does the trash configuration

1	shown in this photograph give you any concerns
2	with respect to the trash with respect to rats
3	and rodents?
4	A I don't spend much time on Florida
5	Avenue.
6	Q That's not my question to you. My
7	question to you is based on what you observe in
8	his picture, do you have concerns with the
9	configuration of the trash storage giving rise to
10	a problem with rats and rodents?
11	A What I'm seeing in that picture is two
12	trash cans with the covers closed. It's what
13	happens in the neighborhood. It does not raise
14	any particular red flags to me.
15	Q All right. Are there other businesses
16	that don't have trash enclosures around their
17	trash areas?
18	A Other businesses? I think we're
19	talking about the condos. Is that what you're
20	considering a business?
21	Q I asked you about the businesses, yes.
22	A Okay. The only business on Vernon
23	Street is the Lucky Buns and they now have a
24	trash enclosure.
25	O Okay. I didn't ask you about Vernon

Street specifically. I asked you about the 1 neighborhood. Aren't there other businesses that 2 3 have trash enclosures? 4 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, for somebody 5 who's been trying to confine the questioning on 6 our side, now Mr. Kline is extending his 7 questioning to all businesses in the neighborhood. Why don't we talk about all 8 9 businesses in the District of Columbia? 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 11 let's -- We're coming to the end. It's been 12 12 hours so far. We're coming to the end of a long 13 day, so let's -- I'm going to overrule the 14 objection. If she is able to answer the 15 question, she is. If not, let's move on. So 16 are you able to 17 answer the question, Ms. Clarke? 18 MS. CLARKE: I haven't really paid 19 attention to whether there's other trash 20 enclosures. 21 BY MR. KLINE: 22 How far are you from Jack Rose, about Q 23 75 feet? 24 I'm bad at judging distance. But you Α if look out my window, I can look directly onto 25

1	their roof deck from the third floor of my house.
2	Q Okay. So pretty close, correct?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Have you ever been in the
5	establishment?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Do you have any estimate as to what
8	the capacity might be?
9	A It's not huge. I don't know.
10	Q It's a lot more than 30 though, isn't
11	it?
12	A I've only been on the first floor and
13	the roof deck. The first floor wasn't pack when
14	I was there. I would say it's somewhere in that
15	neighborhood. I mean it's not hundreds, 30 to 50
16	maybe.
17	Q And you're not disturbed by the
18	patrons leaving Jack Rose at closing time. Is
19	that your testimony?
20	A I'm not disturbed by it. I'm a city
21	person. I'm used to noise.
22	Q Okay, but you're but you're
23	concerned about this establishment. Have you
24	been here for the whole hearing? Have you been
25	here all day?

1	A Yes, I have except for my quick bio
2	break two minutes ago.
3	Q Okay. And you've seen the tour of the
4	establishment?
5	A Yes.
6	Q And you're aware that the interior is
7	relatively small, isn't it?
8	A From what we've heard, there's debate
9	about the number of seating. But we heard about
10	30. And 30 people coming out that front door
11	directly under my window at 2 or 3 o'clock in the
12	morning is a lot of people, especially if they've
13	been drinking and their voices may be louder
14	standing and waiting for rideshares. I'm
15	concerned about that. That's not typical and
16	we're talking seven nights a week.
17	Q Okay. So when you say directly under
18	your window, that's not actually correct. Is it?
19	You're across the street. Right?
20	A It's directly under my window being
21	that direction.
22	Q Okay. But just to be clear, you're
23	across the street. Right?
24	A I'm across the narrow one-way street
25	from it. Yes, that's correct.

1	Q All right. So to say that's it's
2	"under your window" is an exaggeration, isn't it?
3	A No, it's directly under my window, the
4	direction where they're coming people will be
5	coming out of there onto the sidewalk.
6	Q Okay. And do you believe that those
7	people would have occasion to cross the street to
8	the sidewalk in front of your building?
9	A I do. I have a brick wall that I
10	built that's just the right height for a bar.
11	And people who actually happen to come down
12	Vernon Street late at night love to stand there
13	and talk or sit on my front step and talk. Which
14	is not a problem except when it's very late at
15	noise because noise carries.
16	MR. KLINE: All right, I don't have
17	any further questions for this witness.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
19	Kline. Ms. Yohannes, please close your screen.
20	Ms. YOHANNES: Okay.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
22	for Ms. Clarke by any board members? I hear no.
23	Any re-direct, Mr. Roth?
24	MR. ROTH: No, sir. Thank you.
25	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?

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:

MR. ROTH: Why don't we -- We'll say Gus Silva-Chavez.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
2	Silva-Chavez, can you raise your right hand
3	please?
4	(Witness sworn.)
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
6	thank you. Your witness, Mr. Roth.
7	DIRECT EXAMINATION
8	BY MR. ROTH:
9	Q Okay, thank you. Mr. Silva-Chavez,
10	can you please state and spell your full first
11	and last names for the record? Maybe slowly for
12	everybody's sake.
13	A Yes. My full name is Gustavo Arturo
14	Silva-Chavez. G-U-S-T-A-V-O A-R-T-U-R-O
15	S-I-L-V-A hyphen C-H-A-V-E-Z.
16	Q Thank you. And are you one of the
17	Protestants in this case?
18	A Yes.
19	Q And is your wife also one of the
20	Protestants?
21	A Yes, she is.
22	Q What's her name?
23	A Anica Landreneau A-N-I-C-A
24	L-A-N-D-R-E-N-E-A-U.
25	Q Okay, thank you. I'm going to share

1	my screen again. And I'm going to move to
2	Exhibit 12. And I'm going to blow the screen up.
3	And you're looking at Exhibit 12. Can you tell
4	the Board what you see here?
5	A Yes. On the left side, that building
6	is the Carswell. And as we heard before, the
7	first set of sliding doors is Cassandra's unit.
8	Our unit is the one above that.
9	Q That's Ms. Jones that you were
10	speaking of?
11	A That's correct, yes. An our unit is
12	the one above that one.
13	Q Okay. so the second set of sliding
14	doors upstairs on the second floor is yours.
15	A Yeah.
16	Q And the windows to the left of those
17	sliding doors is yours?
18	A That is correct, yes.
19	Q Okay. How long have you lived there?
20	A So I've lived there since 2012.
21	Q And your wife before you?
22	A Since July 2019.
23	Q Okay. What do you do for a living?
24	A So I work from home and I am a
25	consultant. And I work on global warming issues,

specifically on international forest issues. 1 2 what I do is I do research and I provide -- I 3 provide advice to NGOs, governments, and the private sector on policies to reduce global 4 5 deforestation. Before the COVID pandemic, did you 6 7 work in an office or did you work from home? 8 Α From home. 9 After the pandemic is over, do you 0 10 expect to continue working from home? 11 From home, yes. Α 12 Do you have what you would call 13 regular work hours or irregular work hours? 14 My hours are pretty irregular because Α 15 I work with a lot of folks all over the world. I have to work, you know, multiple time zones. 16 17 a lot of times have to react to what's happening in terms of, you know, are there any forest fires 18 19 in the Amazon or forest fires in California? So 20 yeah, my work hours are pretty regular. 21 Irregular, you're saying? Q 22 Α Correct, yes. 23 Okay. Have you watched or listened in 24 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.

That's going to be a problem. 1 on Vernon. 2 then you know, some of the issues that other 3 folks talked about in terms of, you know, delivery trucks, trash storage and removal. 4 5 Apart from work and sleep, what do you like to do at home in your spare time? 6 7 I like to cook. Before COVID, we Α liked to host friends. I like to read and listen 8 9 to music and I play quitar. And describe how the noise coming from 10 0 11 patrons drinking in the summer garden would 12 affect those hobbies of yours. 13 Α Well you know, if things go poorly and 14 you know, the noise is pretty bad, I think it's 15 going to impact, you know, if we're able to have 16 friends over. Because we're going to be in the 17 situation where, you know, that noise is going to be a problem. You know, reading, listening to 18 music, playing guitar, finding it enjoyable if we 19 20 have, you know, a noisy summer garden next door. 21 So that's going to be a bigger problem. 22 Do you and your wife generally keep 23 the windows open when the weather is nice or do

you keep the windows closed and rely on air

conditioning?

24

1	A We usually keep them open. But
2	especially the last year since construction
3	started, the combination of the noise and the
4	dust has forced us to keep them closed.
5	Q Okay. So put aside the construction.
6	Assume that one day the construction will be
7	over. Again, would you generally keep the
8	windows open when the weather is nice or would
9	you keep them closed and rely on air
10	conditioning?
11	A We prefer to keep them open. My wife
12	and I both work in careers that are focused on
13	environmental issues and we try to limit our
14	energy use. (Inaudible) a financial benefit to
15	reducing your energy bills and the benefit of
16	having fresh air, especially in the spring, fall,
17	and summer nights that are not too muggy.
18	Q And how would the summer garden affect
19	that?
20	A Well I mean, you know, if things are
21	not going well, we're not going to be able to
22	keep our windows open.
23	Q Okay. I'm going to show you one more
24	exhibit. And it blows up. Tell me if you
25	recognize This is Protestants Exhibit 14 for

identification. Tell me if you recognize this. 1 2 Yes, that is the --Α 3 Describe it for the Board. So that is the backside of 1804 Vernon 4 Α That's the side facing Florida Avenue. 5 Street. (Whereupon, the above-referred to 6 7 document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 14 for identification.) 8 9 And what is 1804 Vernon Street or what 0 do you see here? Describe it for the Board. 10 11 So for the last probably year, there Α 12 have been some tenants there. And you know, they 13 hang out frequently outdoors. You know, they're 14 pretty good tenants. You know, they hang out 15 for, you know, smoke breaks or to make phone 16 And you know, when I'm in my living room 17 office, you can just hear the phone calls. 18 know, they don't have to be yelling. They can have regular, normal, you know, volumes and you 19 20 can hear them easily. And you know, when they 21 started, you know, having groups, you know, the 22 volume gets louder. 23 Certainly, you know, on a nice 24 afternoon and especially on the weekends, they 25 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.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
2	MR. KLINE: No objection.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
4	objection.
5	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
6	document was received into evidence as Protestant
7	Exhibit No. 14.)
8	MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9	have no further questions.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do
11	you have any questions for Mr. Silva-Chavez?
12	MR. KLINE: Yeah, a few.
13	CROSS EXAMINATION
14	BY MR. KLINE:
15	Q Mr. Silva-Chavez, two of your concerns
16	with this application is your understanding that
17	the establishment will feature live music and
18	have a beer garden. Is that correct?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay. And you indicated that you're
21	concerned about people honking their horns at
22	3:00 a.m. What evidence do you have the people
23	are going to be honking their horns at 3:00 a.m.
24	because of this establishment?
25	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?

1	A What is the question?
2	Q The question is, I mean is there any
3	reason for you to believe that he's untrustworthy
4	in terms of commitments he makes to the
5	community?
6	A Well his record with what he has been
7	doing for the last, you know, since this process
8	has started has not been good. He has not been
9	forthcoming with that his plans are. He had
LO	started with, you know, I'm going to do one
L1	thing, then I'm going to add another thing. And
L2	you know, it hasn't been a good track record, so
L3	no.
L 4	Q Didn't Mr. Hughes come to the
L5	community over a year ago and make presentations
L6	as to what his plans are there?
L 7	A And he kept changing his story.
L8	Q Okay. So your position is you don't
L9	trust him. Is that what you're saying?
20	A I don't know what he wants to do.
21	Q Were you here for the testimony today?
22	A Yes, I've been here
23	(Simultaneous speaking.)
24	Q Is there anything confusing about what
25	he wants to do from his testimony today?

1	A No.
2	Q But you still don't know what he wants
3	to do?
4	A Some of the answers were not super
5	clear.
6	MR. KLINE: I have no further
7	questions.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
9	for Mr. Silva-Chavez by any board members? Any
10	re-direct, Mr. Roth?
11	MR. ROTH: No, sir.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silva-
13	Chavez, thank you very much for your testimony
14	today.
15	MR. SILVA-CHAVEZ: All right, thank
16	you very much.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're excused.
18	Mr. Roth, do you have another witness please?
19	MR. ROTH: Yes, sir. Ms. Piper
20	Hendricks.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Piper
22	Hendricks.
23	MS. HENDRICKS: Hello.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Piper
25	Hendricks, can you raise your right hand please?

1	(Witness sworn.)
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
3	Your witness, Mr. Roth.
4	MR. ROTH: Good evening, Ms.
5	Hendricks.
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. ROTH:
8	Q Can you please state and spell your
9	full first and last names for the record?
10	A Yes. Piper Hendricks, P-I-P-E-R
11	H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S.
12	Q Thank you. And again for the record,
13	can you state where you live?
14	A 1812 Vernon Street in the Carswell,
15	No. 33.
16	Q And are you one of the abutter
17	Protestants in this case?
18	A I am.
19	Q Okay. I'm going to share my screen
20	here and go to a different exhibit. I'm going to
21	show you Exhibit 11. And ask you to point out to
22	the Board or tell the Board what you see here.
23	A I see our building, the Carswell on
24	the right. And then the building where the
25	proposed business would be to the left in (audio

	interierence).
2	Q And can you point out which window at
3	1812 Vernon Street is yours?
4	A I can. It's easiest to count from the
5	top. Just down one and then I'm the third
6	third one there. You can almost see my window
7	box, but not quite. So I'm second from the top.
8	Q Or to put it differently, if Ms.
9	Kerr's window is the one behind the tree, yours
10	is on the third floor up. Is that right?
11	A Right. It's Ms. Kerr, then Ms.
12	Farmer, then me.
13	Q Okay. Again, that appears to be two
14	floors above the doorway to 1806. And Mr. Hughes
15	says his speakeasy would be located on the same
16	floor as his doorway. I believe he also
17	testified that he planned to store alcohol on
18	this floor, the floor above that. So let's turn
19	to Exhibit 13. I think we can (audio
20	interference). And on the rear side of the
21	building, can you point out which window is yours
22	here?
23	A Well if we want to do the same, it's
24	easy from the bottom. It would be Ms. Kerr, then
25	Ms. Farmer, then me on the third floor.

1	Q And on this side of the building, your
2	window appears to align more directly with that
3	same floor that Mr. Hughes is proposing to have
4	his office and store alcohol. Is that correct?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Okay. How long have you lived in your
7	current unit at the Carswell?
8	A Since 2005.
9	Q Okay. Have you watched or listened in
10	on ANC meetings or ANC Committee meetings about
11	this application or seen any architectural plans
12	or drawings for what Mr. Hughes is proposing here
13	for his establishment?
14	A Yes, I attended some online. And I've
15	seen plans (audio interference).
16	Q Thank you. And based on what you've
17	seen and heard, what are your main concerns about
18	his proposed operation?
19	A My concerns overlap some of what's
20	been mentioned already. But my main concerns are
21	really the noise and smoking. And then also
22	potential impact on the value of our units.
23	Q Okay. Why don't you go into more
24	detail first on the noise issue?
25	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

1 where I work now both, you know, share the wall with the building next door. So I think if it's 2 3 not totally quiet, that I'm mostly to be in a 4 position where I'm going to hear that through the 5 walls. Thank you. What do you do for a 6 7 living and do you work from home? 8 Α I do. Yeah, I work a non-profit 9 called IHEP or the Institute for Higher Education Policy. And we're all working entirely remotely 10 11 right now. And then most likely will stay as a 12 mix of things. I think there's a lot of unknown coming out of the COVID era, but most likely 13 we'll continue to work from home. 14 15 So how would outdoor activity and the 16 proposed Florida Avenue summer garden or during 17 the day in front of the applicant's Vernon Street 18 basement entrance affect your ability to work 19 from home? It would be distracting. 20 Α I have 21 windows as you just saw, both the front and the 22 back. So having noise would be challenging for 23 work. 24 And smoking, how would that be a

problem for you?

1	A I'm really sensitive to smoke. I hate
2	it. My dad told me growing up, like if you can
3	smell it, that means you're smoking too. So
4	whenever there's any smoke, I immediately shut
5	the windows.
6	Q You mentioned you work in the public
7	interest or non-profit field. So how long have
8	you been doing that?
9	A Since 2008.
LO	Q And without meaning to get too
L1	personal here, do you have any other significant
L 2	assets besides the equity in your condominium?
L3	A I do not, no. My condo is my only
L 4	only main investment.
L5	Q So what do you see as the financial
L6	ramifications for you if Mr. Hughes's
L 7	establishment turns out to be problematic for you
L8	in the ways you've described?
L9	A Well, I mean that would be that
20	would be significant for me. You know, if I ever
21	wanted to move or sell, that would if the
22	price is to go down, then that would
23	significantly impact an investment that I've had
24	since 2005 and impact where I'd be able to go

25

from here.

1	MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you very much.
2	I have no further questions.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please close
4	your screen. Mr. Kline, do you have any
5	questions for Ms. Hendricks?
6	MR. ROTH: He's on mute.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're on mute,
8	Mr. Kline.
9	MR. KLINE: Rookie mistake, I
10	apologize.
11	CROSS EXAMINATION
12	BY MR. KLINE:
13	Q Ms. Hendricks, I think I missed this.
14	Your back window faces that little alley?
15	A Yes, sir.
16	Q And your front window, that faces
17	Vernon?
18	A I do, yep. It's the same layout as
19	Ms. Farmer downstairs. I have four windows
20	facing Vernon and the one window facing the back
21	of Florida.
22	Q Okay. So your apartment overlooks
23	where Ms. Farmer enjoys her cigarettes, doesn't
24	it?
25	A That is correct, yes.

1	Q Okay. So that's already an issue for
2	you.
3	A It is. It's interesting though
4	listening to the earlier testimony, I've never
5	seen anybody else smoking out there other than
6	Lee. And as much as I like her as a person, I do
7	hate the smoking. So I'll shut my windows when
8	she's out there.
9	Q Got it. Have you been involved in
10	this process for very long?
11	A I have. I haven't been the most
12	active, but I've been part of this.
13	Q Have you met Mr. Hughes?
14	A Not in person, no.
15	Q But you've met him over Zoom?
16	A We met over We met over Zoom. The
17	first contact I remember having is a phone call.
18	And then we had a Zoom when we talked about
19	settlement discussions.
20	Q Is it your position that you want this
21	license denied?
22	A I want to be able to still live here
23	and be able to work and sleep here.
24	Q So is it your position you want this
25	license denied?

	A I don't think that I would say that.
2	I don't. I mean I think that it's I'm
3	frustrated by this entire case. In the middle of
4	COVID, it's been really, really difficult. I
5	think the I understand that the concept is
6	really cool. And it would be something that I
7	would want to see. I'd want to visit. You know
8	and I heard earlier, Commissioner Bowles
9	testimony about having empty storefronts on 18th
10	and I wholeheartedly agree. It makes me sad to
11	see a lot of places that are empty right now in
12	my neighborhood. And I would love to see
13	something go in any one of these storefronts.
14	It's just really hard to have it be right next
15	door.
16	Q Understood. You've seen Mr. Hughes
17	make a number of presentations. Is that correct?
18	A I know the one when we had a
19	settlement call recently. I don't know about
20	presentations beyond that, but there have been
21	different calls
22	Q Okay.
23	A that I've been on. Yeah.
24	Q How long have you known about what his
25	concept is?

The first I remember ever hearing 1 Α 2 about any of this was definitely before COVID 3 when we had -- there was a -- And I'm not going 4 to get the terminology right. But there was a 5 meeting, a neighborhood something where people 6 went. And I remember I did not go, but I 7 remember neighbors here trying to go and then having a hard time finding the location. 8 9 was before March of 2021. 10 Q '20. 11 Α Yes, yes. Gosh. Before March of 12 2020. And then I remember seeing some of the plans during the -- you know, over the course of 13 14 different communications and meetings and things 15 after everything went virtual. So when did you first learn what the 16 0 17 concept is? 18 Α I think probably sometime last year, 19 yeah. 20 O That hasn't changed at all, has it? 21 The concept? Α 22 Q Yes. 23 Α Not to my knowledge, no. 24 Okay, great. I don't have MR. KLINE: 25 any further questions. Thank you.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, any
2	questions by any board members of Ms. Hendricks?
3	All right, Mr. Roth, any re-direct?
4	RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION
5	BY MR. ROTH:
6	Q Just one, just to be clear. Ms.
7	Hendricks, this is not a storefront on 18th
8	Street, is it?
9	A No, it is not.
10	MR. ROTH: Thank you. No further
11	questions.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hendricks,
13	thank you very much for your testimony. You are
14	excused. Thank you very much.
15	MS. HENDRICKS: Thank you.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do
17	you have any more witnesses?
18	MR. ROTH: How am I doing on time, Mr.
19	Chairman?
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I don't
21	want to tell you because How many more
22	witnesses do you have?
23	MR. ROTH: I have one.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have 22
25	minutes and 40 seconds, sir.

1 MR. ROTH: I'll be wrapped up long before then. I don't know about Mr. Kline's 2 3 cross. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is your 4 next witness? 5 MR. ROTH: Mr. Denis James. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. James, you 8 are -- you look almost like a ghost, so I'm not 9 quite sure -- why that your screen shows you the 10 way it does. I just want to let you know because 11 it's not fuzzy, so something your camera or 12 I can see you, but I just want to say 13 that you are -- I just wanted to let you know 14 that. Yes, Mr. Roth? 15 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, can I say 16 some of us are congratulating Mr. James for 17 having spent time on the phone with Ms. Andrews 18 figuring out how to use Webex on his phone. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 20 Well I just wanted to say I've seen -- I've seen 21 the picture all day. So I didn't know if it was 22 something that you could do to be more in focus, 23 but anyway. But anyway, can you Mr. James, can 24 you please raise your right hand please?

(Witness sworn.)

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
2	thank you.
3	MR. JAMES: Am I being heard?
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. I
5	can hear you.
6	MR. JAMES: Okay, great. Thank you.
7	Sorry about the image, it was explained to me
8	that it's something about my screen protector and
9	it just makes things not in focus. But I can see
10	everybody else nicely focused.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
12	right, that's fine. Go ahead.
13	MR. ROTH: Good evening, Mr. James.
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION
15	BY MR. ROTH:
16	Q Would you please state and spell your
17	first and last names for the record?
18	A First name Denis, D-E-N-I-S, last name
19	James, J-A-M-E-S.
20	Q And in what capacity are you testify
21	here today?
22	A As a person of the Kalorama Citizens
23	Association.
24	Q You want to spell Kalorama for the
25	record?

1	A Sure. K-A-L-O-R-A-M-A.
2	Q Okay, thank you. And is the Kalorama
3	Citizen Association or KCA for short, a
4	Protestant in this case?
5	A Yes, we are.
6	Q Okay. How long have you been involved
7	in dealing with ABRA and ABC matters on behalf of
8	the KCA?
9	A Since the year 2000.
10	Q And during that period, can you
11	estimate approximately how many ABC license
12	applications, renewals, and substantial change
13	requests you've been involved with on behalf of
14	the KCA, either in the form of settlement
15	agreements or full protest hearings?
16	A Well I expected this question was
17	coming, so I did a little figuring on all the
18	different establishments that we've had over the
19	years and there's been an awful lot of them.
20	Generally we have about 65 establishments 65
21	to 70, it varies. So anyway, I believe that I've
22	been involved on behalf of KCA in at least 130
23	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

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1	that 20 years went to a protest hearing including
2	this one.
3	Q And roughly speaking, percentage wise,
4	how have those been divided between restaurant
5	licenses and tavern licenses?
6	A It's about
7	MR. KLINE: Objection as to the
8	objection as to relevance. Who cares what Mr.
9	James protests? This is completely irrelevant.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
11	overrule the objection. Answer the question, Mr.
12	James if you can if you can answer it.
13	MR. JAMES: So it's approximately 35
14	tavern matters and 95 CR matters restaurant
15	matters.
16	MR. KLINE: I'm sorry. Mr. James, I'm
17	sorry. I didn't catch that answer.
18	MR. JAMES: Okay. So 35 CT tavern
19	matters and 95 CR restaurant matters. And we
20	don't have any nightclubs in Adams Morgan. We
21	have a lot of places that kind of act like
22	nightclub, but we don't actually have any
23	nightclub licenses or any CT's and so forth.
24	BY MR. ROTH:
25	Q Okay. And as between restaurant and

tavern licenses, has the KCA been particularly 1 2 concerned about one category of licensees more 3 than the others? 4 MR. KLINE: Objection, relevance. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is that 5 relevant, Mr. Roth? 6 7 I'll move on to the next MR. ROTH: 8 question. Have there been distinguishing 9 features that separate tavern licenses from 10 restaurant licenses in the community that have 11 caused the KCA to be more concerned about one as 12 opposed to the other? 13 MR. KLINE: Objection. Same 14 objection. What the KCA is concerned about is 15 not what this hearing's about. This hearing is 16 about whether this premises is appropriate for 17 the issuance of a license to this applicant. What the KCA cares about or thinks about is 18 19 concerned about as much as evidence is completely irrelevant. 20 21 (Simultaneous speaking.) 22 MR. KLINE: -- protest every license 23 application. Why is it relevant? They're 24 concerned about everything. 25 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'11 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. have some really good taverns that serve a lot of food as well.

But it's sort of a dividing line in

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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?

Α 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

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not sure which has pointed to the Imperial 1 2 diagonally across the intersection at 18th and 3 Florida and Vernon Street as an example of a 4 tavern that they'd like to be compared to. Can 5 you describe what kind of food service the Imperial offers even with a tavern license? 6 7 This is just based on what I've heard Α 8 I haven't had a chance to go there 9 because of the pandemic. But my understanding is that it's a full menu --10

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

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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?

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?
you're going to protest an ABC license? A That's correct. We're the leadership

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.

1	Q At that meeting, you were told about
2	the concept of a barbershop downstairs and a
3	speakeasy upstairs. Correct?
4	A I'm not certain about the barbershop,
5	but I'm certain about the speakeasy. In fact I
6	think I said there's no such thing as a speakeasy
7	in the ABC Code, so that's going to make it a
8	little difficult to proceed. It's not like it's
9	licensed (inaudible), but anyway, go ahead.
10	Q All right. So you've known you've
11	known about this application for quite some time
12	and the concept for quite some time. Correct?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Okay. And Mr. Hughes has been
15	forthcoming in terms of what his plans are there
16	also. Correct?
17	A Well, I don't think he's been
18	universally forthcoming because you know, I know
19	I'm not supposed to talk specifics of mediation,
20	but what we've heard
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	Q Then let's not talk about mediation at
23	all because that would be improper.
24	A Well and it would be improper, but we
25	heard different things there than we've heard in

1	the public speaking. So I don't think I'm
2	talking about anything out of school.
3	Q Now Mr. James, you've been doing this
4	a long time and you've been involved in some 130
5	licensing cases. Correct?
6	A I think so, yes.
7	Q So it's not unusual to hear different
8	things in mediation than you hear in the public,
9	is it?
10	A I'll grant that.
11	Q Okay, thank you. Now the Imperial,
12	that's about 75 feet away, correct, from this
13	establishment?
14	A I think it might be it might be
15	about 100 feet away
16	(Simultaneous speaking.)
17	A but roughly.
18	Q And KCA did not oppose full hours for
19	that establishment, did it?
20	A Well, there's always a detail about
21	these things. The license that was transferred
22	there already had full operating hours. It was
23	transferred from Bourbon, which was north of
24	Kalorama Road. So Mr. Thomas, the owner,
25	transferred that license down because he wanted,

1	you know, the full hours, plus the tavern
2	facility wouldn't have to deal with food
3	percentage. But it turns out to be repeatedly a
4	good food establishment.
5	Q And the KCA didn't oppose that. You
6	did not oppose him moving that license in that
7	location and being approved for full hours.
8	Correct?
9	A We protested. We came to a settlement
10	agreement. The ANC was involved also.
11	Q And one of your big issues with this
12	establishment is the hours, isn't it?
13	A It is.
14	(Simultaneous speaking.)
15	Q you're unwilling to
16	agree and you still oppose full hours for this
17	establishment. Correct?
18	A Correct because it's right next to
19	residents.
20	Q Now Mr. James having done 130 or 120
21	settlement agreements or whatever it is, many of
22	the establishments in Adams Morgan are adjacent
23	to residents. Aren't they?
24	A They're close, but they're not
25	adjacent and there's not one that abuts.

1	Q There's not one that abuts?
2	A With the possible exception of Lucky
3	Buns.
4	Q What about up the street on 18th
5	Street on the east side of the street, aren't
6	there residences behind Roofers Union and all of
7	those establishments up there?
8	MR. ROTH: I'm going to renew my
9	I'm going to renew my objection here of going all
10	the way up to the entertainment district in Adams
11	Morgan.
12	MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
13	hear of any specified entertainment district in
14	Adams Morgan.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold
16	on, Mr. Roth.
17	MR. KLINE: And Mr. James has
18	testified not just with respect to the settlement
19	agreements or licensing protests in this whatever
20	1200 feet that Mr. Roth seems to be hung up on.
21	But throughout the entirety of Adams Morgan and
22	the consistency of their actions and their
23	statements are certainly open to impeachment
24	based upon other properties within the
25	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 That's one of the reasons -- That's why papers. 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?

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1	Q There are many that are simply across
2	an alley. Correct?
3	A That's true.
4	Q Okay.
5	A Yes, I hear you. I agree with that.
6	Q Now isn't it true that one of the
7	reasons you said that Imperial is entitled to
8	full hours and Mr. Hughes is not is because they
9	have a track record?
10	A I don't believe I said that today.
11	Q I didn't say today.
12	A Okay.
13	Q Isn't it true that you said that?
14	A Yeah, I believe I might have said that
15	in a public meeting. There is a track record
16	there. Mr. Thomas Bill Thomas, the owner, you
17	know, has been in the neighborhood since the year
18	2000 and has largely been a very responsible
19	operator. And we're pleased to see that he's
20	using a tavern to sell a lot of food. And he's
21	not particularly close to residents.
22	Q So Mr. Hughes whose bio you heard
23	earlier is a business school graduate and an
24	accomplished business person, your position is he
25	lacks the requisite track record for KCA to be

1 able to approve full hours as has been approved 2 for other operators. Is that correct? I disagree -- I disagree strongly with 3 Α your statement -- your characterization. 4 5 Hughes would have come in with a reasonable proposal about hours, I think we would have -- we 6 7 wouldn't be here today. A reasonable proposal like the one for 8 0 9 Imperial? Again, Imperial was transferred a 10 Α 11 license that already had the full hours. Can you 12 imagine -- I think you'd probably be amused at 13 somebody taking a case like that to this board 14 and asking them to take away the full hours when 15 they have a nice investigative history. It was a different location then. 16 O 17 Correct? The Imperial license? 18 Α 19 Q Yeah, that it was transferred to a 20 different location -- to the Imperial, its 21 current location. Correct? 22 Correct. Α 23 And it's by your estimation 100 feet 24 and by the investigator's estimation, 75 feet 25 from those that claim that they will be affected

1	by Mr. Hughes's licensed establishment. Correct?
2	A Yes.
3	(Simultaneous speaking.)
4	Q I think you answered my question. I'm
5	about to ask another one. So the difference
6	would appear to be your opinion or KCAs opinion
7	as the case may be as the quality of the
8	operator. Correct?
9	A No, I believe it's based on the
10	placard and what was asked for and the location.
11	Q Well the placard in this case asked
12	for full hours, correct, in the case of Mr.
13	Hughes's application?
14	A Yes, and that's what we're objecting
15	to and the you know, the entertainment
16	endorsement I don't believe was limited I'm
17	not certain about that. I'd have to double check
18	the placard.
19	(Simultaneous speaking.)
20	Q And the placard for the Imperial also
21	asked for full hours. Correct?
22	A Yes. That was stating As you know,
23	such transfers, it states what the hours are on
24	it, not that they're asking for it.
25	Q Well, but it's the same review

1	process. Isn't it?
2	A Not quite.
3	(Simultaneous speaking.)
4	A A new license is a different thing
5	than an existing license being transferred.
6	Q But they were both transfers, correct,
7	to new locations?
8	A I beg your pardon. You're correct. I
9	was thinking of the first time that Mr. Hughes
10	applied for a tavern.
11	Q So I'm going to ask you again, the
12	only real difference is your opinion as to the
13	or KCAs opinion as to the bona fide of the
14	operator. Isn't that correct?
15	A No. No, it's not correct. As I said
16	before, it's to do with the proximity to
17	residents in a residence zone. And the totality
18	of what's being sought by the Applicant.
19	Q So 75 feet away or 100 feet away as
20	the case may be is not a problem, but this
21	establishment, which is still in a commercial
22	zone is a problem in the view of you or the KCA
23	because of its location. Is that your testimony?
24	A No, not really. I think you're
25	twisting it around. You know, it's a

pre-existing tavern transfer for the Imperial 1 into an area where there's not -- the block face, 2 3 which contains the Imperial doesn't have one 4 resident. It's nothing but commercial. That's 5 our problem in Adams Morgan. You know, it's --MR. KLINE: I don't have a question 6 7 pending, Mr. James. I don't have a question. 8 You don't have license to ramble. I don't have a 9 question pending. And indeed, I have no more 10 questions, so thank you. 11 MR. JAMES: Thank you. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any 13 questions by any board members? I'm hearing 14 none. 15 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Mr. Chair -- Mr. Chair? 16 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short. 18 MEMBER SHORT: I won't prolong this 19 much longer. I've met Mr. James over the years 20 and I just had some questions to ask him based on 21 his testimony. Good afternoon or good evening, 22 Mr. James. 23 MR. JAMES: Good evening, Mr. Short. 24 It's great to be able to see you. I'm sorry you 25 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. 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 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.

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1	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's all I
2	have. And thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me
3	to ask that question.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
5	Thank
6	you, Mr. Short. Any other questions by any of
7	the board members? All right, I just wanted to
8	make sure I didn't miss anyone. Mr. Kline, any
9	re-direct? Any re-cross based on the questions
10	asked by Mr. Short?
11	MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
12	no.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
14	Kline. Mr. Roth, re-direct to wrap this up?
15	RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION
16	BY MR. ROTH:
17	Q Very briefly, Mr. Chairman because
18	there's been so much discussion about the
19	Imperial. I just want to give Mr. James the
20	opportunity to make clear what we're talking
21	about here. Mr. James, are you able to see
22	exhibits on your
23	A Yes.
24	Q screen?
25	A Yes.

1	Q Okay. Because there have been numbers
2	thrown around, 75 feet, 100 feet and I'm not sure
3	that either Mr. James or Investigator Puente or
4	Mr. Kline or myself actually know how many feet
5	the Imperial is. But, Mr. James, can you point
6	out which lot number the Imperial is?
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit is
8	this please?
9	MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. This is
10	Protestants' Exhibit No. 2.
11	MR. JAMES: If you can make it just
12	get a little bit bigger I might be able to read
13	it. Sorry. It looks like Lot No. 21 or perhaps
14	it might be 23. It's really hard to see.
15	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
16	document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 2
17	for identification.)
18	MR. ROTH: You were right the first
19	time. It's Lot No. 21.
20	MR. KLINE: Objection. Mr. Roth seems
21	to want to testify today.
22	(Simultaneous speaking.)
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The witness
24	the witness stated that the witness stated
25	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 ies.
2	MR. ROTH: Okay. That's all I have.
3	I just wanted to clarify its location for the
4	Board. Thank you.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth,
6	please close your screen. Thank you very much.
7	Thank you, Mr. James for your testimony. Do you
8	have another witness, Mr. Roth? Mr. Roth?
9	MR. ROTH: No I don't, Mr. Chairman.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You still have
11	nine minutes and 16 seconds left. All right,
12	thank you for that. All right, do you rest?
13	MR. ROTH: Yes, I do.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And
15	I guess before Mr. Kline, do you wish to call
16	a rebuttal witness?
17	MR. KLINE: I do not. Thank you.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, do
19	you wish to call a rebuttal witness?
20	MR. ROTH: No. No, sir. Thank you.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, did
22	you move all the documents into evidence that you
23	wish to that we have had testimony on that you
24	wish to move into evidence?
25	MR. KLINE: Yes, I did. Thank you.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Roth, did
2	you move all the documents into evidence that you
3	wish that we have had testimony on that you
4	wish to move into evidence?
5	MR. ROTH: I think the one that I
6	missed, Mr. Chairman was Exhibit 41.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was
8	Exhibit 41?
9	MR. ROTH: That was the screenshot of
LO	Commissioner Bowels Twitter timeline.
L1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, do
L2	you have any objection?
L3	MR. KLINE: I object on the grounds of
L 4	relevance. I don't see why social media
L5	pronouncements are relevant to this proceeding.
L6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
L7	object to I'm going to object. The witness
L8	testified and the witness did identify that it
L9	was his social media tweet and it was regarding
20	the matter that we are here today. So I will
21	I'm going to allow Exhibit 41 over the objection
22	of the Applicant to be moved into evidence.
23	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
24	document was received into evidence as Protestant
25	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

I'm just saying in your closing, I need 1 rule. both sides to be clear what it is that they are 2 3 requesting from the Board. All right, it is 8:28. We'll be off 4 5 the record until 8:40. So at 8:40, we will come 6 back on the record and we'll do closing. 7 right? Thank you. 8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 9 went off the record at 8:27 p.m. and resumed at 10 8:39 p.m.) 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 12 we're back on the record. Can I see all my board 13 members so we can wrap this up? Are you ready, 14 Mr. Kline with your closing? 15 Indeed I am. MR. KLINE: 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. You 17 have five minutes, Mr. Kline. 18 CLOSING ARGUMENT - APPLICANT 19 MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman 20 and thank you, members of the Board. It's been 21 quite a while since we've spent a full day 22 together. And we appreciate what you do, your 23 diligence, your attention to these cases, which 24 are important, we know to the community, but also 25 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.

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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 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 It's background music. What he really to a DJ. 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

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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 1 is withdrawn. 2 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. MR. KLINE: I missed that, I 4 5 apologize. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm looking at 6 7 the -- I'm looking at the investigative report 8 and what I think was the placard, so that's why I 9 was asking. All right. Thank you for that clarification. 10 11 All right, Mr. Roth, you can do your 12 closing please. 13 CLOSING ARGUMENT - PROTESTANTS MR. ROTH: 14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 15 Mr. Chairman, board members, thank you for your 16 time and your attention today in listening to 17 both sides of a very contentious, complex, and difficult case. 18 19 Let me begin by -- Let me begin by 20 emphasizing what this case is not about. Despite 21 the impression that the Applicant may have tried 22 conveying today and that Mr. Kline just emphasized at the end of his closing, this case 23 24 is not about cultural understanding or 25 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. 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

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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.

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: 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

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we would have opposed as well.

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 1 2 And I will let the Board know very quickly 3 after seeing the transcript, whether we're going 4 to exercise that right or not. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I think the bottom line is that it's -- you have to let 6 7 me know if it's something you need to do because 8 that will determine what the Board's position --9 what the Board --MR. ROTH: I think the safest course 10 11 for me is to say we'd like to exercise the right 12 to file. And I'll state that for the record 13 tonight. If it turns out later on that we decide 14 not to, I will inform the Board staff of that. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Irani, do 16 you have a -- do you have a position on this, 17 sir? COMMISSIONER IRANI: On behalf of the 18 19 ANC, no. We waive and we'll wait to hear what 20 the Board has to say. 21 All right. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So 22 23 (Simultaneous speaking.) 24 MR. KLINE: In light of Mr. Roth's 25 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.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
2	thank you.
3	MR. HUGHES: Mr. Chair, can I ask a
4	question?
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's asking
6	the question? I'm sorry.
7	MR. HUGHES: This is Mr. Hughes.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
9	Hughes. Well Mr. Hughes Mr. Hughes, hold on a
10	minute please. Hold on a minute please. Is it
11	possible for you to call Mr. Kline speak to
12	Mr. Kline before you speak? And the only reason
13	why I'm saying that is because Mr. Kline is your
14	attorney. And I need to make sure that Mr. Kline
15	knows what's coming out of your mouth before it
16	comes out of your mouth.
17	MR. HUGHES: This is a procedural
18	This is a procedural question about (audio
19	interference).
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is that,
21	sir?
22	MR. HUGHES: You just said 3 weeks and
23	in 30 days or 60 days. I just want to know
24	overall because my entire business has been, you
25	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 1 in DC Official Code Section 2574(b)(13) of the 2 3 Open Meetings Act. Is there a second? (Simultaneous speaking.) 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short and Mr. Grandis has seconded the motion. I will now 6 7 take a roll call vote on the motion that has been 8 properly seconded. Mr. Short? 9 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato? 11 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett? 13 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I 14 agree. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen? 16 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis? Edward Grandis and I 18 MEMBER GRANDIS: 19 agree. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. 21 Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion 22 has passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC 23 Board will recess these proceedings to hold a 24 closed meeting in the ABC Conference Room pursuant to Section 2574(b) of the Open Meeting 25

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?

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1	MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?
3	MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I
4	agree.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?
6	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?
8	MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
9	agree.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson, I
11	agree. As it appears that the motion has passed,
12	I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold
13	this aforementioned closed meeting pursuant to
14	the Open Meetings Act. Notice will also be
15	posted on the ABC Board Hearing Room bulletin
16	board, placed on the electronic calendar in ABRAs
17	website, and published in the DC Register in as
18	timely manner as practical.
19	We're now adjourned for the day.
20	Again, I want to thank everyone for their
21	participation today and have a great day.
22	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
23	went off the record at 9:14 p.m.)
24	
25	

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: TBD 1806 Vernon Street, NW

Before: DCABRA

Date: 04-01-21

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

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