

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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## MEETING

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 IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
   :  
 Liberty Development                 :  
 Group, Inc.,                         : Fact Finding  
 t/a To Be Determined               : Hearing  
 1358 H Street, NE                 :  
 Retailer CT - ANC 6A               :  
 License #115615                     :  
   :  
 (Request to Extend                 :  
 Safekeeping)                        :  
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Wednesday  
 June 15, 2022

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:

SARAH FASHBAUGH, DC ABRA Staff  
 STEPHEN HESSLER, Licensee  
 STEPHEN O'BRIEN, Licensee's Counsel

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

2 10:54 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case  
4 on our calendar is a fact-finding hearing on  
5 Liberty Development Group, trade name to be  
6 determined, License #115615.

7 Ms. Fashbaugh, can you please elevate  
8 the right of the participants in this case,  
9 please.

10 MS. FASHBAUGH: Stephen Hessler, your  
11 rights have been elevated.

12 That is all, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Mr.  
14 Hessler, is Mr. O'Brien your attorney, sir?

15 MR. HESSLER: Yes, good morning. My  
16 name is Steve Hessler, and Mr. O'Brien is  
17 assisting me as counsel in this matter.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is he supposed  
19 to be here today, sir?

20 MR. HESSLER: Yes, sir. I thought so.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 Ms. Fashbaugh, can you look to see if  
23 you see Mr. O'Brien, please.

24 MS. FASHBAUGH: I don't.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe he

1 might be having some -- Mr. Hessler, are you able  
2 to contact him to see if he's having some  
3 challenges getting online, sir?

4 MR. HESSLER: Yes, if you don't mind,  
5 I will call his cell.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't you  
7 mute your line while you call him, sir, please.

8 MR. HESSLER: Your Honor, I'd like to  
9 report two things, if I may.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

11 MR. HESSLER: First, I just tried to  
12 call Mr. O'Brien and there was no answer.  
13 Yesterday in connection with confirming today's  
14 appearance, we were told by staff that we should  
15 log in at 11:00, so maybe he is abiding by that.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I was told  
17 that he's on his way. I'll wait a couple of  
18 minutes for him to log on. I was advised that he  
19 was coming, so he should log on shortly,  
20 hopefully.

21 Ms. Fashbaugh, do you see Mr. O'Brien?  
22 I'm not sure -- the calendar says 10:30, so I'm  
23 not quite sure how staff would advise you 11:00,  
24 but at least my calendar said this matter was  
25 scheduled for 10:30.

1           So we have all the cases stacked up at  
2 10:30, and we call them based on we're not sure  
3 they can be settled or but we rapidly move  
4 through the calendar. But I did receive a  
5 message that Mr. O'Brien is on his way. It is  
6 now 11:00, 11:01, and I'm trying to find out if  
7 he -- excuse me.

8           (Simultaneous speaking.)

9           MS. FASHBAUGH: He just arrived.

10          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

11          Mr. O'Brien.

12          MR. O'BRIEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
13 Sorry, misunderstanding.

14          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 Good morning, sir. Yes, I can see you now.

16          All right. Good morning, Mr. O'Brien,  
17 can you please spell and state your name for the  
18 record and your representation, sir.

19          MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you. I'm Stephen,  
20 S-T-E-P-H-E-N. Last name, O'Brien, O,  
21 apostrophe, B-R-I-E-N. I'm counsel for the  
22 licensee, Liberty Development.

23          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
24 Mr. O'Brien.

25          Mr. Hessler, can you please spell and

1 state your name for the record, please?

2 MR. HESSLER: Yes, good morning. My  
3 name is Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, Hessler, H-E-S-S-  
4 L-E-R, on behalf of Liberty Development Group  
5 Inc. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,  
7 sir.

8 All right, this is a fact-finding  
9 hearing. The reason that we have a fact-finding  
10 hearing is that this is a license that has been  
11 in -- this is a CT license.

12 The address is 1358 H Street  
13 Northeast. This is licensed has been in  
14 safekeeping since November of 2019. This is the  
15 fifth request that's been made for safekeeping.

16 The Board routinely -- we want  
17 licenses to be utilized. I see our licenses as a  
18 -- it's not that if you were to give the license  
19 up that you would have a problem applying for  
20 another CR license.

21 The Board is just asking for some  
22 clarification. Where are we, and why another  
23 request for safekeeping has been made.

24 MR. O'BRIEN: Mr. Chair, I'll start,  
25 but I'll allow Mr. Hessler to speak as to the

1 substance.

2 I disagree that one can give up a  
3 license or not extend safekeeping and simply  
4 apply for another license because in the future -  
5 - because that application ensures public notice  
6 opportunity for protest -- extensive delay in the  
7 application process to adjudicate the protest.

8 So across the board, not with respect  
9 necessarily to this particular license, there are  
10 reasons to keep the safekeeping license alive as  
11 opposed to rolling the dice with the new  
12 application at some point in the future.

13 Having said this, Mr. Hessler's  
14 activities spans several contiguous buildings in  
15 this block starting with 1350, 5-0, H Street  
16 Northeast, which presently is licensed by the  
17 Board as Gallery O, LLC. That's a CX license for  
18 art gallery events-type space.

19 This application in 405.1 status --  
20 let me go back a step just so this is not  
21 confusing. The 1350 H Street Northeast  
22 encompasses both that number and what might be  
23 referred to as 1352.

24 Then moving east, the 1354 building is  
25 controlled by Mr. Hessler, and that is a 405.1

1 application for a CT license.

2 1356 is the summer garden attached in  
3 part to 1358, which is the subject of today's  
4 hearing.

5 The intention over the recent years  
6 has been to find a suitable replacement tenant  
7 for 1358. Given his other activities contiguous  
8 to 1358, Mr. Hessler has been very picky, for a  
9 lack of a better word, as to who he might want to  
10 rent to.

11 He rented to the previous licensee,  
12 Impala, here and it did not work out. Not only  
13 did it not work out financially, but sometimes  
14 the activities at Impala detracted from what he  
15 was trying to accomplish at 1350 through 1354.

16 My understanding if you're talking to  
17 Mr. Hessler is that he has rejected a number of  
18 tenant suitors for various reasons but did not  
19 comport with his desires as to what kind of  
20 activities he wants in that block.

21 It is my understanding from talking to  
22 Mr. Hessler in preparation for this hearing that  
23 he has now pivoted. He is not going to look for  
24 a tenant anymore for this building. Rather, he  
25 is going to seek to integrate this building into

1 the activities of 1350 through 1354.

2 So the reason for extension of  
3 safekeeping is changing here as we talk, but we  
4 have not decided at this point how we're going to  
5 structure it. Eventually, we may compact to a  
6 single license encompassing all of those three  
7 addresses.

8 The present activity is as I say an  
9 event space. They do weddings there. It's not  
10 open on a daily basis to walk into, but they do  
11 weddings there and they do what I'm going to call  
12 social justice-type events.

13 But maybe this is a good point for me  
14 to turn it over to Mr. Hessler and describe what  
15 it is he intends to do with 1350 through 54 and  
16 to roll into that, 58, which includes the summer  
17 garden, 56.

18 Steve Hessler?

19 MR. HESSLER: Yes, good morning. To  
20 the Board, I'd like to thank you for giving me a  
21 few minutes.

22 Full disclosure, I am a lawyer. I am  
23 a real estate trial attorney, but this is not  
24 just me. Liberty Development Group is my wife,  
25 Mary Ellen (phonetic), and me 50/50. We have



1 owned property on H Street since 1998. We are  
2 longtime occupants there, and we have a plan.

3 I'd like to share some facts and not  
4 take too long doing it. The 1358 H Street  
5 building was, until June of 2019, rented to  
6 Impala.

7 I am a litigator, and I sued Impala  
8 for possession because of a number of defaults.  
9 And they gave me the keys, they gave us the keys,  
10 in June of 2019, three years ago.

11 The facts that I'd like you to  
12 consider, which would justify the previous  
13 extensions and then allow you hopefully to  
14 reconsider or consider a short further extension  
15 are as follows.

16 We took the property back in the  
17 summer of 2019. Took some time to inspect it and  
18 realized it was in horrible condition. The first  
19 thing that we had to do was assess a structural  
20 problem in the basement. The second thing we had  
21 to do was clean it out because it was unhealthy.

22 Once we cleaned out the building and  
23 got it to a respectable state so that we would  
24 avoid an adverse tax situation, we then started  
25 looking around to see whether a replacement

1 tenant would work, but it was COVID. There was a  
2 pandemic starting in March of 2020.

3 By the end of 2020, commercial tenants  
4 and brokers approached us. I guess I have to  
5 stick with the word picky, which my attorney  
6 used, but I am informed by the fact that I have  
7 handled commercial landlord tenant cases since  
8 1976.

9 So I bring to the table a lot of  
10 experience. I don't want to be a doctor that has  
11 to heal myself. So my wife and I took a careful  
12 look at restaurateurs and taverns and et cetera,  
13 et cetera, and decided that it wasn't going to  
14 work for two reasons.

15 First of all, either somebody did not  
16 have a track record or they were  
17 undercapitalized. And secondly, the 1356 portion  
18 of these properties, that address is a vacant -  
19 it's vacant. It is not unused; it is vacant.  
20 It's not in true (phonetic).

21 That courtyard space, if you went  
22 there today, it's like the Garden of Eden, and we  
23 have weddings. Tomorrow, we have a corporate  
24 event for a small business. On Saturday, we have  
25 a wedding that we'd use the courtyard, which is

1 right next door.

2 On Monday, in celebration of  
3 Juneteenth, the entire complex is open. We are  
4 hosting Jazz for Justice as a collaboration  
5 between female jazz musicians, The Legal Aid  
6 Society and Jazz for Justice. We're going to be  
7 open from 3:00 until about 8:00 for a jam session  
8 to support social justice.

9 The relevance of that courtyard is  
10 that it is the summer garden which, from a use  
11 standpoint and a licensing standpoint, relates to  
12 1358. And Mr. O'Brien correctly referred to the  
13 fact that sharing the courtyard has become a  
14 problem.

15 So back to Number 1, Mr. O'Brien is  
16 correct. To make sure that we have the best use,  
17 the best community use, the most consistent use  
18 and the most logical use for this space, we are  
19 not going to re-rent to some long-term tenant.  
20 We're going to use it ourselves.

21 Number 2, we are maintaining the  
22 property so that we can use it and then pass  
23 whatever inspections are necessary. So first of  
24 all in February of this winter, the building next  
25 door, we call it the IMM building, it's shut

1 down, it's vacant, spraying a leak through the  
2 common wall. We had to fix that. Thousands of  
3 dollars.

4 Number 2, as of two days ago, we  
5 rehabilitated our walk-in freezer, and that was  
6 \$4,000. So we're not letting this building go.  
7 We are spending money and applying attention to  
8 the physicality and integrity of our building.

9 Number 3, we are pivoting, which is  
10 the word of the day, so that Liberty Development,  
11 which is the owner of the building and the  
12 gallery operation, which is the four buildings  
13 traveling west, we're going to use. We  
14 anticipate using 1358 ourselves in some of the  
15 following ways.

16 The social and industry and  
17 entertainment market is changing. The day of the  
18 sit-down restaurant, that's not -- there's a  
19 couple of sit-down restaurants on H Street that  
20 are doing very, very well. But our business  
21 model is to use that building for ourselves with  
22 a full kitchen, sit down inside service, outside  
23 in the courtyard as a component to what we're  
24 already doing.

25 So the notion of integration is spot-

1 on. And I think the last fact, which might be  
2 regarded as aspirational, we're not sitting  
3 around Waiting for Godot, so to speak.

4 Assuming we can fix the building, get  
5 the structural aspect fixed, assuming that we can  
6 get the building in shape and assuming that we  
7 can get some programming and some ideas, we're  
8 planning on using this property and this license,  
9 1358, by fourth quarter of 2022.

10 I'll leave it at that and hope that  
11 you would understand that this is sort of a work  
12 in progress. We are a unique space. I'd invite  
13 any of you to come walk through it. It's  
14 wonderful. People love it.

15 So the use has pivoted from an arm's  
16 length rental to some restaurant to where we're  
17 going to use it ourselves for some of the most  
18 fun, culturally-enriching and tasty stuff going  
19 on on H Street. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hessler,  
21 would you consider -- because you're asking for  
22 extensions through September 30th. Yes, this is  
23 through September 30th, 2022. So you said fourth  
24 quarter, what do you consider fourth quarter?

25 MR. HESSLER: Well, I believe fourth

1 quarter would be October 1. So to the extent  
2 that we have the confirmation or the confidence,  
3 rather, that we have a license that we can do  
4 things ourselves, we would start booking -- or  
5 not booking; that sounds like it's third party.

6 But we would start setting up events  
7 for the fourth quarter of 2022 and the winter of  
8 2023, January, February, March, April, because  
9 the 1358 building is self-contained. It has a  
10 kitchen inside. If it had its own license, there  
11 could be indoor activities similar to what we're  
12 doing outside.

13 For instance, if we were to have a  
14 wedding in February, the courtyard could be open  
15 if it's nice weather or not. We could have a  
16 wedding inside that we produced. So the answer  
17 to your question are booking and setting up  
18 events and promoting them in the fourth quarter  
19 of 2022 and actually starting to execute and  
20 perform business and have functions in the fourth  
21 quarter of 2022 going forward.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, if the  
23 Board was to -- and I just want to ask you this  
24 because I think you're kind of answering it  
25 already. But this, again, this request is

1 through September 30th, 2022.

2 So if you were to come back to the  
3 Board requesting another extension, what is it  
4 that the Board -- if this license is unable to  
5 utilized fully by October 1st, if you were to  
6 come back to the Board for another extension,  
7 what it is that the Board should have expected  
8 from you by that time?

9 MR. HESSLER: Well, this is why I have  
10 a lawyer, but my factual answer, my intuitive  
11 answer would be I would have to come back to you  
12 at the end of the third quarter with something  
13 more than blowing hot air.

14 I would have to show steps that we  
15 took to bring the building itself into compliance  
16 so that we could get a certificate of occupancy,  
17 show that the systems are in order and that we  
18 are DCRA compliant.

19 We would have to show you the timeline  
20 that's required in setting up event. And Number  
21 3, if I were you in front of you again, Mr.  
22 Anderson, I would give you a list of events that  
23 are in the queue and I would -- well, I can't  
24 invite you because that would be unethical, but I  
25 would give you a list of events with specifics.

1           Because this is sort of a new enter --  
2 I talked to bartenders -- I represent  
3 restaurants, I represent people on the Street.  
4 And I'm finding that people are looking for  
5 something different.

6           So at the risk of sounding goofy, I  
7 would say to you, Mr. Anderson, I would come back  
8 to you, if necessary, in two and a half or three  
9 months and give you a list of interesting,  
10 different things that we are going to do that  
11 need a license that we are going to do ourselves  
12 and here's a timeline and here are specifics. I  
13 would not come and blow smoke.

14           MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Hessler.  
15 I want to comment on a comment that you made in  
16 the sense that as you stated as an attorney, it  
17 would have been unethical on your part to invite  
18 myself or any Board members to come to your  
19 establishment. I just want to underline that  
20 comment. Thank you for raising that point, sir.  
21 Thank you.

22           MR. HESSLER: Well, Your Honor, the  
23 reason I say that is because I am so -- my wife  
24 and I are so proud of this space. There's a long  
25 story, we won't go in it. But we've spent a lot



1 of time and a lot of our own money on the  
2 buildings next door.

3 And so almost by habit, I invite  
4 anybody that I'm talking to about our space. I  
5 invite them to visit, but I can't do that here  
6 and I'm not.

7 MR. O'BRIEN: I will point out that  
8 the Board may inspect licensed premises at any  
9 time.

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
12 O'Brien, for raising that.

13 Are there any questions by any Board  
14 members?

15 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis, is  
17 that you?

18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes. Yes, sir.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- sir.

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.

22 Mr. O'Brien, thank you for your  
23 attendance today with the presentation you made.  
24 I'm a little puzzled because I don't know the  
25 history of this particular license, but help me

1 understand.

2 Am I incorrect that part of the  
3 proposal of the applicant is that they are going  
4 to incorporate this premises with the activities  
5 of the contiguous premises at some point?

6 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, to integrate.

7 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, okay.

8 MR. O'BRIEN: Under what license  
9 umbrella that may fall at this moment remains  
10 uncertain. It is conceivable that we could ask  
11 that the 1358 license, the existing tavern  
12 license be extended to encompass all the way to  
13 the 1350, which is already licensed under CX.

14 It is possible that we may ask that  
15 the 1350 Gallery O CX License be extended to 1358  
16 to allow constant free flow between these various  
17 buildings in an integrated event facility.

18 That's a bit up in the air right now,  
19 but I think that's going to be resolved for  
20 certain by the time we come back to see the Board  
21 in October.

22 MEMBER GRANDIS: Just for the record  
23 here. Is there a moratorium on that block of any  
24 type of ABC license?

25 MR. O'BRIEN: No.

1                   MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. If the Board  
2 would decide not to grant the continuation of  
3 safekeeping, what's the harm?

4                   MR. O'BRIEN: The harm is we would  
5 have to go out and apply for a new license, and  
6 that would it open it up to placarding, protest  
7 possibility.

8                   And at the risk of being  
9 argumentative, many protests are understandable.  
10 Other protests are irrational, but cause all  
11 sorts of delay.

12                   I tell people new license application,  
13 if it's protested and if it cannot be settled by  
14 settlement agreement, you're talking eight to  
15 nine months before the Board's written decision  
16 is received. And delay harms and kills business  
17 deals.

18                   MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, but Mr.  
19 O'Brien, this request is being made by the  
20 property owner which in its own very definition,  
21 the property owner controls that space.

22                   So it's not as if this was a tenant  
23 that's coming to us saying that we'd like to  
24 continue safekeeping to protect their economic  
25 interest because the tenant may find that having

1 lost that safekeeping they're going to have to  
2 placard to get a new license.

3 But merely being told that the  
4 thinking of the property owner of that property  
5 and contiguous properties is thinking of  
6 different options. Quite frankly, they sound  
7 very interesting.

8 The thing is I don't think my ending  
9 safekeeping is there any harm to the property  
10 owner because part of the thinking that's on the  
11 record today is that they may use the existing  
12 license next door to have that expanded into this  
13 space, which as you know would be a substantial  
14 change, which as you know probably would be  
15 placard.

16 So I'm just sort of -- I don't see the  
17 need for continuing safekeeping because I don't  
18 think it harms either the property owner or the  
19 applicant, unless you all can further educate me.  
20 Because I think that this property owner has  
21 complete control of what happens --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

23 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, there's placarding  
24 and then there's placarding. Placarding of a  
25 substantial change request doesn't deprive the

1 licensee of the ability to continue to do what is  
2 authorized under the license, even if the  
3 substantial change is ultimately denied.

4 A new license application starting  
5 from scratch is an entirely different animal.  
6 We're reviewing now, and our thinking clearly has  
7 evolved here.

8 The Board's scheduling of this fact-  
9 finding hearing has provoked discussion between  
10 Mr. Hessler and his wife and me about where are  
11 we going from here.

12 But one of the alternatives, which we  
13 expect to have resolved by the end of this  
14 quarter, which is only three months away.

15 One of those alternatives is use of  
16 the existing tavern license. So we would not  
17 want to be deprived of that alternative, but I  
18 hope would not be a premature decision by the  
19 Board to terminate safekeeping. --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: The final question  
22 then is this contiguous property, what type of  
23 license or licenses does it currently have?

24 MR. O'BRIEN: 1350, which also  
25 encompasses 1352, has a CX license for an event

1 space. 1354 has a CT license in 405.1 status.  
2 That license has not been activated. And then of  
3 course 1358 and its contiguous summer garden,  
4 1356, is a tavern license.

5 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, and thank  
6 you for your being here today and your client to  
7 help us understanding their situation. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Grandis. Any other questions by any other Board  
12 members?

13 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, I have a  
14 question.

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MEMBER SHORT: What is the community's  
17 concerns or have you got any feedback from the  
18 ANC Commission or any community groups regarding  
19 the use of this property?

20 MR. O'BRIEN: I'll let Mr. Hessler  
21 answer that.

22 MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 Every time that we've appeared before  
24 the ANC, we are greeted warmly, supported by  
25 other businesses that speak up. You're asking

1 about the ANC, so the ANC Alcoholic Beverage  
2 Subcommittee routinely, as necessary, supports  
3 what we ask for and what we do.

4 The neighbors that I see every day  
5 when I dump the trash or sweep the space love  
6 what we do and ask us, when are you going to do  
7 more?

8 MR. O'BRIEN: Mr. Hessler, in addition  
9 to the private weddings that you host, could you  
10 recite some examples of recent events that have  
11 been hosted at 1350 and 1352?

12 MR. HESSLER: Yes. My wife is a  
13 practicing artist, and we support local artists.  
14 We have, I'd say on average, five or six art  
15 openings and art shows per year. We do not  
16 charge the local artists one penny for the show.  
17 And if they sell something off of the wall of the  
18 gallery, which is the 1354 building, they keep  
19 every penny.

20 The events sometimes involve music for  
21 which we have an endorsement, and we have a bar  
22 where we can make a little bit of money to keep  
23 the lights on. So we do art openings and art  
24 shows. We are a part of the H Street Festival.

25 on Monday, June 20th as I mentioned

1 before, we are the venue partner with Jazz for  
2 Justice for a social justice jazz day, family-  
3 oriented. The gallery --

4 MR. O'BRIEN: Do I recall something  
5 about student musicians in the past months?

6 MR. HESSLER: Yes. About in April, we  
7 were the host venue for East of the River jazz  
8 band. There is a group of parents and music  
9 teachers who sponsor East of the River -- it's  
10 not East of the River jazz. It's East of the  
11 River Steel Band. And so we were the host venue.

12 We had a bar. It was a Saturday  
13 afternoon fundraiser for the East of the River  
14 Steel Band. Parents, teachers, friends. That's  
15 the sort of the thing that we do with our  
16 license. And we have gotten inquiries from other  
17 non-profit groups. There's a lot of interest.

18 So other examples of what we've done  
19 in the past, we have been the venue partner for  
20 the Krampus Mart, which is always December 6th.  
21 It is a Christmas time holiday kick-off march of  
22 these fantastical figures with the Batala Women's  
23 Drum Core, The Mars Dancer. And we fill the  
24 courtyard with dancers and music.

25 It's December the 6th. We've done it



1 every year except the pandemic. And so I guess  
2 off the top of my head, I could explain more, but  
3 it's art and culture and bringing people  
4 together, dogs, kids, you name it. And so --

5 MR. O'BRIEN: Okay.

6 Chief Short, does that respond to your  
7 question?

8 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.  
9 That's all I have. Thank you very much. Yes,  
10 that's what I wanted to hear.

11 Thank you. That's all I have, Mr.  
12 Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Short.

15 Any other questions by any of the  
16 Board members? Any final comments you want to  
17 make, Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Hessler?

18 MR. O'BRIEN: No, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. The  
20 Board will take this matter under advisement on  
21 whatever decision that we will make. The Board  
22 has not many decision whether or not we're going  
23 to approve or disapprove of this extension.

24 The purpose of this hearing is to get  
25 just some factual information from you to see --

1 as I stated before, this is the fifth request for  
2 a safekeeping, and we just want to make sure that  
3 we have a good understanding of why is it that a  
4 request has been made.

5 And just generally, I believe that if  
6 enough information is given -- we normally do  
7 fact-finding hearings where enough information is  
8 not made in the request. So the more information  
9 that you provide in your request for -- just  
10 generally that you provided in your request for  
11 safekeeping to the Board, then the Board would  
12 have less questions to ask.

13 And so when we don't have enough  
14 information, that's why we have these hearings so  
15 more information can be provided. We'll take  
16 this matter under advisement and advise you of  
17 our decision shortly.

18 All right, thank you for your  
19 presentation today.

20 MR. HESSLER: Thank you.

21 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
25 went off the record at 11:32 a.m.)

**A**

a.m 2:2 26:25  
**ABC** 18:24  
**abiding** 3:15  
**ability** 21:1  
**able** 3:1  
**above-entitled** 26:24  
**ABRA** 1:23  
**accomplish** 7:15  
**activated** 22:2  
**activities** 6:14 7:7,14  
 7:20 8:1 14:11 18:4  
**activity** 8:8  
**addition** 23:8  
**address** 5:12 10:18  
**addresses** 8:7  
**adjudicate** 6:7  
**adverse** 9:24  
**advise** 3:23 26:16  
**advised** 3:18  
**advisement** 25:20  
 26:16  
**afternoon** 24:13  
**ago** 9:10 12:4  
**agreement** 19:14  
**Aid** 11:5  
**air** 15:13 18:18  
**Alcoholic** 1:2,13 23:1  
**alive** 6:10  
**ALIYA** 1:18  
**allow** 5:25 9:13 18:16  
**alternative** 21:17  
**alternatives** 21:12,15  
**ANC** 1:8 22:18,24 23:1  
 23:1  
**Anderson** 1:14,17 2:3  
 2:13,18,21,25 3:6,10  
 3:16 4:10,14,23 5:6  
 13:20 14:22 15:22  
 16:7 17:11,16,20  
 22:10 25:13,19 26:23  
**animal** 21:5  
**answer** 3:12 14:16  
 15:10,11 22:21  
**answering** 14:24  
**anticipate** 12:14  
**anybody** 17:4  
**anymore** 7:24  
**apostrophe** 4:21  
**appearance** 3:14  
**appeared** 22:23  
**applicant** 18:3 20:19  
**application** 6:5,7,12,19  
 7:1 19:12 21:4  
**apply** 6:4 19:5  
**applying** 5:19 12:7  
**approached** 10:4  
**approve** 25:23

**B**

**April** 14:8 24:6  
**argumentative** 19:9  
**arm's** 13:15  
**arrived** 4:9  
**art** 6:18 23:14,15,23,23  
 25:3  
**artist** 23:13  
**artists** 23:13,16  
**asking** 5:21 13:21  
 22:25  
**aspect** 13:5  
**aspirational** 13:2  
**assess** 9:19  
**assisting** 2:17  
**assuming** 13:4,5,6  
**attached** 7:2  
**attendance** 17:23  
**attention** 12:7  
**attorney** 2:14 8:23 10:5  
 16:16  
**authorized** 21:2  
**average** 23:14  
**avoid** 9:24

**B-R-I-E-N** 4:21  
**back** 6:20 9:16 11:15  
 15:2,6,11 16:7 18:20  
**band** 24:8,11,14  
**bar** 23:21 24:12  
**bartenders** 16:2  
**based** 4:2  
**basement** 9:20  
**basis** 8:10  
**Batala** 24:22  
**behalf** 5:4  
**believe** 2:25 13:25 26:5  
**best** 11:16,17  
**better** 7:9  
**Beverage** 1:2,13 23:1  
**bit** 18:18 23:22  
**block** 6:15 7:20 18:23  
**blow** 16:13  
**blowing** 15:13  
**board** 1:2,13 5:16,21  
 6:8,17 8:20 14:23  
 15:3,4,6,7 16:18 17:8  
 17:13 18:20 19:1  
 21:19 22:11 25:16,20  
 25:21 26:11,11  
**Board's** 19:15 21:8  
**BOBBY** 1:17  
**booking** 14:4,5,17  
**bring** 10:9 15:15  
**bringing** 25:3  
**brokers** 10:4  
**building** 6:24 7:24,25  
 9:5,22 11:24,25 12:6

12:8,11,21 13:4,6  
 14:9 15:15 23:18  
**buildings** 6:14 12:12  
 17:2 18:17  
**business** 10:24 12:20  
 14:20 19:16  
**businesses** 22:25

**C**

**calendar** 2:4 3:22,24  
 4:4  
**call** 3:5,7,12 4:2 8:11  
 11:25  
**careful** 10:11  
**case** 2:3,8  
**cases** 4:1 10:7  
**CATO** 1:17  
**cause** 19:10  
**celebration** 11:2  
**cell** 3:5  
**certain** 18:20  
**certificate** 15:16  
**cetera** 10:12,13  
**Chair** 2:12 4:12 5:24  
 22:13 25:12  
**Chairperson** 1:14,17  
 2:3,13,18,21,25 3:6  
 3:10,16 4:10,14,23  
 5:6 13:20 14:22 17:11  
 17:16,20 22:10 25:13  
 25:19 26:23  
**challenges** 3:3  
**change** 20:14,25 21:3  
**changing** 8:3 12:17  
**charge** 23:16  
**Chief** 25:6  
**Christmas** 24:21  
**clarification** 5:22  
**clean** 9:21  
**cleaned** 9:22  
**clearly** 21:6  
**client** 22:6  
**collaboration** 11:4  
**COLUMBIA** 1:1  
**come** 13:13 15:2,6,11  
 16:7,13,18 18:20  
**coming** 3:19 19:23  
**comment** 16:15,15,20  
**comments** 25:16  
**commercial** 10:3,7  
**Commission** 22:18  
**common** 12:2  
**community** 11:17 22:18  
**community's** 22:16  
**compact** 8:5  
**complete** 20:21  
**complex** 11:3  
**compliance** 15:15

**compliant** 15:18  
**component** 12:23  
**comport** 7:19  
**conceivable** 18:10  
**concerns** 22:17  
**condition** 9:18  
**confidence** 14:2  
**confirmation** 14:2  
**confirming** 3:13  
**confusing** 6:21  
**connection** 3:13  
**consider** 9:12,14 13:21  
 13:24  
**consistent** 11:17  
**constant** 18:16  
**contact** 3:2  
**contiguous** 6:14 7:7  
 18:5 20:5 21:22 22:3  
**continuation** 19:2  
**continue** 19:24 21:1  
**continuing** 20:17  
**control** 1:2,13 20:21  
**controlled** 6:25  
**controls** 19:21  
**Core** 24:23  
**corporate** 10:23  
**correct** 11:16  
**correctly** 11:12  
**counsel** 1:25 2:17 4:21  
**couple** 3:17 12:19  
**course** 22:3  
**courtyard** 10:21,25  
 11:9,13 12:23 14:14  
 24:24  
**COVID** 10:1  
**CR** 5:20  
**CROCKETT** 1:18  
**CT** 1:8 5:11 7:1 22:1  
**culturally-enriching**  
 13:18  
**culture** 25:3  
**currently** 21:23  
**CX** 6:17 18:13,15 21:25

**D**

**daily** 8:10  
**Dancer** 24:23  
**dancers** 24:24  
**day** 12:10,17 23:4 24:2  
**days** 12:4  
**DC** 1:23  
**DCRA** 15:18  
**deals** 19:17  
**December** 24:20,25  
**decide** 19:2  
**decided** 8:4 10:13  
**decision** 19:15 21:18  
 25:21,22 26:17

defaults 9:8  
**definition** 19:20  
**delay** 6:6 19:11,16  
**denied** 21:3  
**deprive** 20:25  
**deprived** 21:17  
**describe** 8:14  
**desires** 7:19  
**determined** 1:7 2:6  
**detracted** 7:14  
**Development** 1:6 2:5  
 4:22 5:4 8:24 12:10  
**dice** 6:11  
**different** 16:5,10 20:6  
 21:5  
**disagree** 6:2  
**disapprove** 25:23  
**disclosure** 8:22  
**discussion** 21:9  
**DISTRICT** 1:1  
**doctor** 10:10  
**dogs** 25:4  
**doing** 9:4 12:20,24  
 14:12  
**dollars** 12:3  
**Donovan** 1:14,17  
**door** 11:1,25 17:2 20:12  
**Drum** 24:23  
**dump** 23:5

**E**

**east** 6:24 24:7,9,10,10  
 24:13  
**economic** 19:24  
**Eden** 10:22  
**educate** 20:19  
**EDWARD** 1:18  
**eight** 19:14  
**either** 10:15 20:18  
**elevate** 2:7  
**elevated** 2:11  
**Ellen** 8:25  
**encompass** 18:12  
**encompasses** 6:22  
 21:25  
**encompassing** 8:6  
**endorsement** 23:21  
**ensures** 6:5  
**enter** 16:1  
**entertainment** 12:17  
**entire** 11:3  
**entirely** 21:5  
**establishment** 16:19  
**estate** 8:23  
**et** 10:12,13  
**event** 8:9 10:24 15:20  
 18:17 21:25  
**events** 8:12 14:6,18

15:22,25 23:10,20  
**events-type** 6:18  
**Eventually** 8:5  
**evolved** 21:7  
**examples** 23:10 24:18  
**excuse** 4:7  
**execute** 14:19  
**existing** 18:11 20:11  
 21:16  
**expanded** 20:12  
**expect** 21:13  
**expected** 15:7  
**experience** 10:10  
**explain** 25:2  
**extend** 1:9 6:3  
**extended** 18:12,15  
**extension** 8:2 9:14 15:3  
 15:6 25:23  
**extensions** 9:13 13:22  
**extensive** 6:6  
**extent** 14:1

**F**

**facility** 18:17  
**fact** 1:6 10:6 11:13 13:1  
**fact-** 21:8  
**fact-finding** 2:4 5:8,9  
 26:7  
**facts** 9:3,11  
**factual** 15:10 25:25  
**fall** 18:9  
**family-** 24:2  
**fantastical** 24:22  
**Fashbaugh** 1:23 2:7,10  
 2:22,24 3:21 4:9  
**February** 11:24 14:8,14  
**feedback** 22:17  
**female** 11:5  
**Festival** 23:24  
**fifth** 5:15 26:1  
**figures** 24:22  
**fill** 24:23  
**final** 21:21 25:16  
**financially** 7:13  
**find** 4:6 7:6 19:25  
**finding** 1:6 16:4 21:9  
**first** 3:11 9:18 10:15  
 11:23  
**five** 23:14  
**fix** 12:2 13:4  
**fixed** 13:5  
**flow** 18:16  
**following** 12:15  
**follows** 9:15  
**forward** 14:21  
**four** 12:12  
**fourth** 13:9,23,24,25  
 14:7,18,20

**frankly** 20:6  
**free** 18:16  
**freezer** 12:5  
**friends** 24:14  
**front** 15:21  
**full** 8:22 12:22  
**fully** 15:5  
**fun** 13:18  
**functions** 14:20  
**fundraiser** 24:13  
**further** 9:14 20:19  
**future** 6:4,12

**G**

**gallery** 6:17,18 12:12  
 18:15 23:18 24:3  
**garden** 7:2 8:17 10:22  
 11:10 22:3  
**generally** 26:5,10  
**getting** 3:3  
**give** 5:18 6:2 15:22,25  
 16:9  
**given** 7:7 26:6  
**giving** 8:20  
**Godot** 13:3  
**goofy** 16:6  
**gotten** 24:16  
**Grandis** 1:18 17:15,16  
 17:18,21 18:7,22 19:1  
 19:18 21:21 22:5,11  
**grant** 19:2  
**greeted** 22:24  
**group** 1:6 2:5 5:4 8:24  
 24:8  
**groups** 22:18 24:17  
**guess** 10:4 25:1

**H**

**H** 1:7 5:12 6:15,21 9:1,4  
 12:19 13:19 23:24  
**H-E-S-S-** 5:3  
**habit** 17:3  
**half** 16:8  
**handled** 10:7  
**HANSEN** 1:19  
**happens** 20:21  
**harm** 19:3,4 20:9  
**harms** 19:16 20:18  
**head** 25:2  
**heal** 10:11  
**hear** 25:10  
**hearing** 1:7 2:4 5:9,10  
 7:4,22 21:9 25:24  
**hearings** 26:7,14  
**help** 17:25 22:7  
**Hessler** 1:24 2:10,14,15  
 2:16,20 3:1,4,8,11  
 4:25 5:2,3,25 6:25 7:8

7:17,22 8:14,18,19  
 13:20,25 15:9 16:14  
 16:14,22 21:10 22:20  
 22:22 23:8,12 24:6  
 25:17 26:20  
**Hessler's** 6:13  
**history** 17:25  
**holiday** 24:21  
**Honor** 3:8 16:22 22:22  
**hope** 13:10 21:18  
**hopefully** 3:20 9:13  
**horrible** 9:18  
**host** 23:9 24:7,11  
**hosted** 23:11  
**hosting** 11:4  
**hot** 15:13

**I**

**ideas** 13:7  
**IMM** 11:25  
**Impala** 7:12,14 9:6,7  
**includes** 8:16  
**incorporate** 18:4  
**incorrect** 18:2  
**indoor** 14:11  
**industry** 12:16  
**information** 25:25 26:6  
 26:7,8,14,15  
**informed** 10:6  
**inquiries** 24:16  
**inside** 12:22 14:10,16  
**inspect** 9:17 17:8  
**inspections** 11:23  
**instance** 14:13  
**integrate** 7:25 18:6  
**integrated** 18:17  
**integration** 12:25  
**integrity** 12:8  
**intends** 8:15  
**intention** 7:5  
**interest** 19:25 24:17  
**interesting** 16:9 20:7  
**intuitive** 15:10  
**invite** 13:12 15:24  
 16:17 17:3,5  
**involve** 23:20  
**irrational** 19:10

**J**

**jam** 11:7  
**JAMES** 1:19  
**January** 14:8  
**jazz** 11:4,5,6 24:1,2,7  
 24:10  
**JENI** 1:19  
**JR** 1:17,19  
**June** 1:12 9:5,10 23:25  
**Juneteenth** 11:3

**justice** 11:4,6,8 24:2,2  
**justice-type** 8:12  
**justify** 9:12

**K**

**keep** 6:10 23:18,22  
**keys** 9:9,9  
**kick-off** 24:21  
**kids** 25:4  
**kills** 19:16  
**kitchen** 12:22 14:10  
**Krampus** 24:20

**L**

**L-E-R** 5:4  
**lack** 7:9  
**landlord** 10:7  
**lawyer** 8:22 15:10  
**leak** 12:1  
**leave** 13:10  
**Legal** 11:5  
**length** 13:16  
**letting** 12:6  
**Liberty** 1:6 2:5 4:22 5:4  
 8:24 12:10  
**license** 1:8 2:6 5:10,11  
 5:18,20 6:3,4,9,10,17  
 7:1 8:6 13:8 14:3,10  
 15:4 16:11 17:25 18:8  
 18:11,12,15,24 19:5  
 19:12 20:2,12 21:2,4  
 21:16,23,25 22:1,2,4  
 24:16  
**licensed** 5:13 6:16 17:8  
 18:13  
**licensee** 1:24 4:22 7:11  
 21:1  
**Licensee's** 1:25  
**licenses** 5:17,17 21:23  
**licensing** 11:11  
**lights** 23:23  
**line** 3:7  
**list** 15:22,25 16:9  
**litigator** 9:7  
**little** 17:24 23:22  
**LLC** 6:17  
**local** 23:13,16  
**log** 3:15,18,19  
**logical** 11:18  
**long** 9:4 16:24  
**long-term** 11:19  
**longtime** 9:2  
**look** 2:22 7:23 10:12  
**looking** 9:25 16:4  
**lost** 20:1  
**lot** 10:9 16:25 17:1  
 24:17  
**love** 13:14 23:5

**M**

**maintaining** 11:21  
**march** 10:2 14:8 24:21  
**market** 12:17  
**Mars** 24:23  
**Mart** 24:20  
**Mary** 8:25  
**matter** 1:5 2:17 3:24  
 25:20 26:16,24  
**MEETING** 1:3  
**Member** 1:17,18,18,19  
 1:19 17:15,18,21 18:7  
 18:22 19:1,18 21:21  
 22:5,13,16 25:8  
**members** 16:18 17:14  
 22:12 25:16  
**mentioned** 23:25  
**merely** 20:3  
**message** 4:5  
**met** 1:14  
**mind** 3:4  
**minutes** 3:18 8:21  
**misunderstanding** 4:13  
**model** 12:21  
**moment** 18:9  
**Monday** 11:2 23:25  
**money** 12:7 17:1 23:22  
**months** 16:9 19:15  
 21:14 24:5  
**moratorium** 18:23  
**morning** 2:15 4:12,15  
 4:16,23 5:2,6 8:19  
**move** 4:3  
**moving** 6:24  
**music** 23:20 24:8,24  
**musicians** 11:5 24:5  
**mute** 3:7

**N**

**name** 2:5,16 4:17,20  
 5:1,3 25:4  
**NE** 1:7  
**necessarily** 6:9  
**necessary** 11:23 16:8  
 23:2  
**need** 16:11 20:17  
**neighbors** 23:4  
**new** 6:11 16:1 19:5,12  
 20:2 21:4  
**nice** 14:15  
**nine** 19:15  
**non-profit** 24:17  
**normally** 26:6  
**Northeast** 5:13 6:16,21  
**notice** 6:5  
**notion** 12:25  
**November** 5:14  
**number** 6:22 7:17 9:8

11:15,21 12:4,9 15:20

**O**

**O** 4:20 6:17 18:15  
**O'Brien** 1:25 2:14,16,23  
 3:12,21 4:5,11,12,16  
 4:19,20,24 5:24 11:12  
 11:15 17:7,12,22 18:6  
 18:8,25 19:4,19 20:23  
 21:24 22:9,20 23:8  
 24:4 25:5,17,18 26:21  
**occupancy** 15:16  
**occupants** 9:2  
**October** 14:1 15:5  
 18:21  
**Once** 9:22  
**online** 3:3  
**open** 8:10 11:3,7 14:14  
 19:6  
**openings** 23:15,23  
**operation** 12:12  
**opportunity** 6:6  
**opposed** 6:11  
**options** 20:6  
**order** 15:17  
**oriented** 24:3  
**outside** 12:22 14:12  
**owned** 9:1  
**owner** 12:11 19:20,21  
 20:4,10,18,20

**P**

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**  
 2:1  
**pandemic** 10:2 25:1  
**parents** 24:8,14  
**part** 7:3 16:17 18:2  
 20:10 23:24  
**participants** 2:8  
**particular** 6:9 17:25  
**partner** 24:1,19  
**party** 14:5  
**pass** 11:22  
**penny** 23:16,19  
**people** 13:14 16:3,4  
 19:12 25:3  
**perform** 14:20  
**phonetic** 8:25 10:20  
**physicality** 12:8  
**picky** 7:8 10:5  
**pivoted** 7:23 13:15  
**pivoting** 12:9  
**placard** 20:2,15  
**placarding** 19:6 20:23  
 20:24,24  
**plan** 9:2  
**planning** 13:8  
**please** 2:7,9,23 3:7 4:17

4:25 5:1  
**point** 6:12 8:4,13 16:20  
 17:7 18:5  
**portion** 10:17  
**possession** 9:8  
**possibility** 19:7  
**possible** 18:14  
**practicing** 23:13  
**premature** 21:18  
**premises** 17:8 18:4,5  
**preparation** 7:22  
**present** 1:16,21 8:8  
**presentation** 17:23  
 26:19  
**presently** 6:16  
**presiding** 1:14  
**previous** 7:11 9:12  
**private** 23:9  
**probably** 20:14  
**problem** 5:19 9:20  
 11:14  
**process** 6:7  
**produced** 14:16  
**programming** 13:7  
**progress** 13:12  
**promoting** 14:18  
**properties** 10:18 20:5  
**property** 9:1,16 11:22  
 13:8 19:20,21 20:4,4  
 20:9,18,20 21:22  
 22:19  
**proposal** 18:3  
**protect** 19:24  
**protest** 6:6,7 19:6  
**protested** 19:13  
**protests** 19:9,10  
**proud** 16:24  
**provide** 26:9  
**provided** 26:10,15  
**provoked** 21:9  
**public** 6:5  
**purpose** 25:24  
**puzzled** 17:24

**Q**

**quarter** 13:9,24,24 14:1  
 14:7,18,21 15:12  
 21:14  
**question** 14:17 21:21  
 22:14 25:7  
**questions** 17:13 22:11  
 25:15 26:12  
**queue** 15:23  
**quite** 3:23 20:6

**R**

**RAFI** 1:18  
**raising** 16:20 17:12

**rapidly** 4:3  
**re-rent** 11:19  
**real** 8:23  
**realized** 9:18  
**reason** 5:9 8:2 16:23  
**reasons** 6:10 7:18  
 10:14  
**recall** 24:4  
**receive** 4:4  
**received** 19:16  
**recite** 23:10  
**reconsider** 9:14  
**record** 4:18 5:1 10:16  
 18:22 20:11 26:25  
**referred** 6:23 11:12  
**regarded** 13:2  
**regarding** 22:18  
**rehabilitated** 12:5  
**rejected** 7:17  
**relates** 11:11  
**relevance** 11:9  
**remains** 18:9  
**rent** 7:10  
**rental** 13:16  
**rented** 7:11 9:5  
**replacement** 7:6 9:25  
**report** 3:9  
**represent** 16:2,3  
**representation** 4:18  
**request** 1:9 5:15,23  
 14:25 19:19 20:25  
 26:1,4,8,9,10  
**requesting** 15:3  
**required** 15:20  
**resolved** 18:19 21:13  
**respect** 6:8  
**respectable** 9:23  
**respond** 25:6  
**restaurant** 12:18 13:16  
**restaurants** 12:19 16:3  
**restaurateurs** 10:12  
**Retailer** 1:8  
**reviewing** 21:6  
**rights** 2:11  
**risk** 16:6 19:8  
**River** 24:7,9,10,11,13  
**roll** 8:16  
**rolling** 6:11  
**routinely** 5:16 23:2

---

**S**


---

**S** 1:18  
**S-T-E-P-H-E-N** 4:20 5:3  
**safekeeping** 1:10 5:14  
 5:15,23 6:3,10 8:3  
 19:3,24 20:1,9,17  
 21:19 26:2,11  
**SARAH** 1:23

**Saturday** 10:24 24:12  
**saying** 19:23  
**says** 3:22  
**scheduled** 3:25  
**scheduling** 21:8  
**scratch** 21:5  
**second** 9:20  
**secondly** 10:17  
**seek** 7:25  
**self-contained** 14:9  
**sell** 23:17  
**sense** 16:16  
**September** 13:22,23  
 15:1  
**service** 12:22  
**session** 11:7  
**setting** 14:6,17 15:20  
**settled** 4:3 19:13  
**settlement** 19:14  
**shape** 13:6  
**share** 9:3  
**sharing** 11:13  
**short** 1:19 9:14 22:13  
 22:16 25:6,8,14  
**shortly** 3:19 26:17  
**show** 15:14,17,19 23:16  
**shows** 23:15,24  
**shut** 11:25  
**similar** 14:11  
**simply** 6:3  
**Simultaneous** 4:8  
 17:10,19 20:22 21:20  
 22:15 26:22  
**single** 8:6  
**sir** 2:14,19,20 3:3,7  
 4:15,18 5:7 16:20  
 17:18,20 25:18  
**sit** 12:22  
**sit-down** 12:18,19  
**sitting** 13:2  
**situation** 9:24 22:7  
**six** 23:14  
**small** 10:24  
**smoke** 16:13  
**social** 8:12 11:8 12:16  
 24:2  
**Society** 11:6  
**somebody** 10:15  
**sorry** 2:13 4:13  
**sort** 13:11 16:1 20:16  
 24:15  
**sorts** 19:11  
**sound** 20:6  
**sounding** 16:6  
**sounds** 14:5  
**space** 6:18 8:9 10:21  
 11:18 13:12 16:24  
 17:4 19:21 20:13 22:1

23:5  
**spans** 6:14  
**speak** 5:25 13:3 22:25  
**speaking** 4:8 17:10,19  
 20:22 21:20 22:15  
 26:22  
**specifics** 15:25 16:12  
**spell** 4:17,25  
**spending** 12:7  
**spent** 16:25  
**sponsor** 24:9  
**spot-** 12:25  
**September** 12:1  
**spraying** 12:1  
**stacked** 4:1  
**staff** 1:23 3:14,23  
**standpoint** 11:11,11  
**start** 5:24 14:4,6  
**started** 9:24  
**starting** 6:15 10:2 14:19  
 21:4  
**state** 4:17 5:1 9:23  
**stated** 16:16 26:1  
**status** 6:19 22:1  
**Steel** 24:11,14  
**step** 6:20  
**Stephen** 1:24,25 2:10  
 4:19 5:3  
**steps** 15:14  
**Steve** 2:16 8:18  
**stick** 10:5  
**story** 16:25  
**Street** 1:7 5:12 6:15,21  
 9:1,4 12:19 13:19  
 16:3 23:24  
**structural** 9:19 13:5  
**structure** 8:5  
**student** 24:5  
**stuff** 13:18  
**Subcommittee** 23:2  
**subject** 7:3  
**substance** 6:1  
**substantial** 20:13,25  
 21:3  
**sued** 9:7  
**suitable** 7:6  
**suitors** 7:18  
**summer** 7:2 8:16 9:17  
 11:10 22:3  
**support** 11:8 23:13  
**supported** 22:24  
**supports** 23:2  
**supposed** 2:18  
**sweep** 23:5  
**systems** 15:17

---

**T**


---

**t/a** 1:7  
**table** 10:9

**talk** 8:3  
**talked** 16:2  
**talking** 7:16,21 17:4  
 19:14  
**tasty** 13:18  
**tavern** 18:11 21:16 22:4  
**taverns** 10:12  
**tax** 9:24  
**teachers** 24:9,14  
**tell** 19:12  
**tenant** 7:6,18,24 10:1,7  
 11:19 19:22,25  
**tenants** 10:3  
**terminate** 21:19  
**thank** 4:10,19 5:5 8:20  
 13:19 16:14,20,21  
 17:11,21,22 19:18  
 22:5,5,7,9,10,22 25:8  
 25:9,11,13,19 26:18  
 26:20,21,23  
**things** 3:9 14:4 16:10  
**third** 14:5 15:12  
**thought** 2:20  
**Thousands** 12:2  
**three** 8:6 9:10 16:8  
 21:14  
**timeline** 15:19 16:12  
**today** 2:19 10:22 17:23  
 20:11 22:6 26:19  
**today's** 3:13 7:3  
**told** 3:14,16 20:3  
**Tomorrow** 10:23  
**top** 25:2  
**track** 10:16  
**trade** 2:5  
**trash** 23:5  
**traveling** 12:13  
**trial** 8:23  
**tried** 3:11  
**true** 10:20  
**trying** 4:6 7:15  
**turn** 8:14  
**two** 3:9 10:14 12:4 16:8  
**type** 18:24 21:22

---

**U**


---

**ultimately** 21:3  
**umbrella** 18:9  
**unable** 15:4  
**uncertain** 18:10  
**undercapitalized** 10:17  
**underline** 16:19  
**understand** 13:11 18:1  
**understandable** 19:9  
**understanding** 7:16,21  
 22:7 26:3  
**unethical** 15:24 16:17  
**unhealthy** 9:21

<b>unique</b> 13:12	<b>1</b>
<b>unused</b> 10:19	<b>10:30</b> 3:22,25 4:2
<b>use</b> 10:25 11:10,16,17	<b>10:54</b> 2:2
11:17,18,20,22 12:13	<b>11:00</b> 3:15,23 4:6
12:21 13:15,17 20:11	<b>11:01</b> 4:6
21:15 22:19	<b>11:32</b> 26:25
<b>utilized</b> 5:17 15:5	<b>115615</b> 1:8 2:6
<hr/> <b>V</b> <hr/>	<b>1350</b> 6:15,21 7:15 8:1
<b>vacant</b> 10:18,19,19	8:15 18:13,15 21:24
12:1	23:11
<b>various</b> 7:18 18:16	<b>1352</b> 6:23 21:25 23:11
<b>venue</b> 24:1,7,11,19	<b>1354</b> 6:24 7:15 8:1 22:1
<b>videoconference</b> 1:14	23:18
<b>visit</b> 17:5	<b>1356</b> 7:2 10:17 22:4
<hr/> <b>W</b> <hr/>	<b>1358</b> 1:7 5:12 7:3,7,8
<b>W</b> 1:14,17	9:4 11:12 12:14 13:9
<b>wait</b> 3:17	14:9 18:11,15 22:3
<b>Waiting</b> 13:3	<b>15</b> 1:12
<b>walk</b> 8:10 13:13	<b>1976</b> 10:8
<b>walk-in</b> 12:5	<b>1998</b> 9:1
<b>wall</b> 12:2 23:17	<b>1st</b> 15:5
<b>wanted</b> 25:10	<hr/> <b>2</b> <hr/>
<b>wants</b> 7:20	<b>2</b> 11:21 12:4
<b>warmly</b> 22:24	<b>2019</b> 5:14 9:5,10,17
<b>wasn't</b> 10:13	<b>2020</b> 10:2,3
<b>way</b> 3:17 4:5 18:12	<b>2022</b> 1:12 13:9,23 14:7
<b>ways</b> 12:15	14:19,21 15:1
<b>weather</b> 14:15	<b>2023</b> 14:8
<b>WebEx</b> 1:14	<b>20th</b> 23:25
<b>wedding</b> 10:25 14:14	<hr/> <b>3</b> <hr/>
14:16	<b>3</b> 12:9 15:21
<b>weddings</b> 8:9,11 10:23	<b>3:00</b> 11:7
23:9	<b>30th</b> 13:22,23 15:1
<b>Wednesday</b> 1:11	<hr/> <b>4</b> <hr/>
<b>went</b> 10:21 26:25	<b>4,000</b> 12:6
<b>west</b> 12:13	<b>405.1</b> 6:19,25 22:1
<b>wife</b> 8:24 10:11 16:23	<hr/> <b>5</b> <hr/>
21:10 23:12	<b>5-0</b> 6:15
<b>winter</b> 11:24 14:7	<b>50/50</b> 8:25
<b>Women's</b> 24:22	<b>54</b> 8:15
<b>wonderful</b> 13:14	<b>56</b> 8:17
<b>word</b> 7:9 10:5 12:10	<b>58</b> 8:16
<b>work</b> 7:12,13 10:1,14	<hr/> <b>6</b> <hr/>
13:11	<b>6A</b> 1:8
<b>written</b> 19:15	<b>6th</b> 24:20,25
<hr/> <b>X</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>7</b> <hr/>
<hr/> <b>Y</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>8</b> <hr/>
<b>year</b> 23:15 25:1	<b>8:00</b> 11:7
<b>years</b> 7:5 9:10	
<b>Yesterday</b> 3:13	
<hr/> <b>Z</b> <hr/>	
<hr/> <b>0</b> <hr/>	

C E R T I F I C A T E

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In the matter of: Liberty Development

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 06-15-22

Place: teleconference

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