

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
+ + + + +
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
+ + + + +
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Kezira, Inc., :
t/a Kezira Lounge :
3013 Georgia Avenue, NW : Fact Finding
Retailer CR - ANC 1A : Hearing
License #117490 :
 :
(Application to Transfer :
the License) :

Wednesday
June 16, 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
KYLE BROWN, Previous Owner/Licensee
FELICIA DANTZLER, DC ABRA Investigator
ELIZABETH DESTA, Amharic Interpreter for
Applicant
ADANECH GEBEREMESKEL, Applicant's Agent
MEKEDES YEHUALASHET, Applicant/Owner

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

2 10:51 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
4 everyone. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage
5 Control Board for the District of Columbia and in
6 accordance with D.C. Code Section 2576 of the Open
7 Meetings Act, I am welcoming you to the regular
8 scheduled meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Control
9 Board.

10 This meeting is being conducted pursuant
11 to guidance made available by the District of
12 Columbia's Office of Open Government regarding
13 electronic meetings held by public bodies during
14 the public health emergency.

15 Pursuant to this guidance, notice of
16 today's meeting was provided 48 hours in advance of
17 the meeting at ABRA's website and on the District
18 Central Meeting Calendar.

19 The Notice included the time, date,
20 agenda and call in or login information for public
21 participation. This electronic meeting has been
22 hosted by a Web-X account provided by the District
23 of Columbia Government.

24 Please address any questions or
25 complaints to the OOG at opengovoffice@dc.gov. My

1 name is Donovan Anderson. I'm Chairman of the
2 Board. I would like to introduce the other members
3 of the ABC Board who are also participating
4 electronically pursuant to Abeyance Order 2020-054.

5 Please respond when I announce your
6 name. Mr. James Short.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. James Short present.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bobby Cato.

9 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato present.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Rafi
11 Crockett.

12 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett present.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jeni Hanson.

14 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hanson present.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Edward
16 Grandis.

17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis present.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board has six
19 members in attendance for the conduct of business
20 today and that constitutes a quorum.

21 Before we get underway with today's
22 hearing calendar, I need to make a few instructions
23 very clear so that the conduct of these hearings is
24 understood by everyone.

25 There are five cases on this morning's

1 calendar. Once your case is called, I will take a
2 moment for IT specialists to elevate the rights for
3 each party and to enable their camera and
4 microphone.

5 Then and only then will you have the
6 ability to enable your equipment. If your case has
7 not been heard, you will remain mute and your
8 camera will be disabled.

9 At the conclusion of each case, the
10 parties will have the option to leave. If the
11 party chooses to stay all cameras and microphones
12 for the conclude the case will be disabled.

13 Should you have any questions or require
14 technical assistance during the hearing, please
15 submit them using the question-and-answer feature
16 or email simone.andrews2@dc.gov.

17 Our first order of business today is a
18 fact-finding hearing for Kezira Lounge, License
19 Number 117490. Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate
20 the rights of the parties in this case please?

21 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, standby.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

23 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. or Mrs. Adanech, your
24 rights have been elevated. Investigator Dantzler,
25 your rights have been elevated. Ms. Desta, your

1 rights have been elevated. That's all, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm
4 sorry. Is Ms. Mekedes Yehualashet, is she on the
5 line?

6 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Okay.
8 Ms. Desta, can you please turn your camera on
9 please? Ms. Desta?

10 MS. DESTA: How do I do that? Do you do
11 it from there? I don't see the camera in here.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
13 camera on your phone, ma'am?

14 MS. DESTA: No, okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can see you Ms.
16 Desta.

17 MS. DESTA: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Hold
19 on. Can you raise your right hand, please, Ms.
20 Desta?

21 Do you solemnly affirm that you will
22 faithfully and accurately interpret the proceedings
23 in this matter from English to Amharic and from
24 Amharic into English the best of your ability?

25 MS. DESTA: I do.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell and
2 state your name for the record please?

3 MS. DESTA: My name is Elizabeth Desta,
4 E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H, last name is D-E-S-T-A and I am
5 an Amharic Interpreter from

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
8 Thank you. All right. Thank you very much. All
9 right. I'm asking that everyone introduce
10 themselves for the record. And ma'am, what I would
11 like you to do, I'm going to stop.

12 So I need you to translate everything
13 that's being stated for Ms. Yehualashet. I'm,
14 she'll pronounce it for me, but I'm, all right.

15 MS. DESTA: Yehualashet.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yehualashet.
17 Okay, thanks. So can you ask her to say and spell
18 her name for the record please.

19 MS. DESTA: Okay.

20 MS. YEHUALASHET: Mekedes Yehualashet.

21 M-E-K --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, that's
23 not, she's not, I need the owner of the
24 establishment to spell and state her name for the
25 record please.

1 MS. YEHUALASHET: My name is Mekedes
2 Yehualashet. M-E-K-E-D-E-S, Mekedes, Y-E-H-U-A-L-
3 A-S-H-E-T. Okay, I am the owner.

4 MS. DESTA: And she spelled her name.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is her
6 name?

7 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ALL ANSWERS ARE
8 GIVEN THROUGH AN INTERPRETER)

9 MS. DESTA: Mekedes Yehualashet.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank
11 you. Good morning, ma'am.

12 MS. YEHUALASHET: Good morning.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is with
14 her this morning? Can that person also introduce
15 themselves for the record and spell and state their
16 name?

17 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: Okay. I am with
18 Mekedes, the owner of Kezira Lounge. I am her
19 agent. I am the one to submit all the paperwork to
20 ABRA. My name is Adanech Geberemeskel, A-D-A-N-E-
21 C-H, G-E-B-E-R-E-M-E-S-K-E-L.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning.
23 All right, Ms. Dantzler, can you please state and
24 spell your name for the record please.

25 MS. GEBEREMESKEL: There's another

1 person in.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is the other
3 person?

4 MS. YEHUALASHET: Ms. Brown.

5 MR. BROWN: Mr. Brown. How are you
6 doing, sir?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is that, who
8 is he?

9 MS. YEHUALASHET: Okay, the last time we
10 met they ask me the person who was owning it
11 previously and he's the owner of the previous one.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's his
13 name, the fellow's name please.

14 MR. BROWN: Kyle Brown, K-Y-L-E. Last
15 name, Brown, B-R-O-W-N.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,
17 you're, who are you sir?

18 MR. BROWN: I got an email saying that
19 I needed to be here, sir. I was here I guess in
20 the night of question where everything happened.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are the
22 owner of, you're the original owner of the
23 restaurant, of the establishment?

24 MR. BROWN: No, I'm not. I'm not the
25 original owner. I was here the night ABRA came in

1 and they asked who was in charge. I was in charge
2 that night. Not the owner.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so do
4 you have an ABC Manager's license, sir?

5 MR. BROWN: No, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you don't have
7 an ABC Manager's license, but you were there and
8 you were in charge that night of when this incident
9 occurred?

10 MR. BROWN: Yes, it was no liquor there,
11 sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, we're not,
13 well, I'm going to have some questions. The
14 purpose of this hearing is not necessarily to
15 address the incident. Okay?

16 MR. BROWN: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The purpose of
18 this hearing is because based on the incident, the
19 agency became aware that there was a change in
20 ownership.

21 And so we're just trying to find out
22 what is going on with the ownership. Now ma'am,
23 can you please explain this for the owner please?

24 MS. YEHUALASHET: Okay.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does she

1 understand?

2 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, I understand.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
4 Ms. Dantzler, what I'm going to do, I'm going to
5 call you then I need you to go through your report
6 again, but I need you to go through your report
7 slowly so Ms. Desta can translate for the owner.
8 Are you aware, ma'am?

9 MS. DANTZLER: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
11 can you state and spell your name for the record
12 please.

13 MS. DANTZLER: Yes, my name is Felicia
14 Dantzler, I'm the ABRA Investigator who authored
15 the report. My name is spelled, F, like Frank, E-
16 L-I-C-I-A, last name, D, like David, A-N-T, like
17 time, Z like zebra, L-E-R. On March --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Desta?

19 MS. DESTA: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Desta, I need
21 you to tell the Applicant, the Owner what is about
22 to happen please, ma'am.

23 MS. DESTA: Okay.

24 MR. ANDERSON: Go ahead, Ms. Dantzler.

25 MS. DANTZLER: On Sunday, March 21st,

1 2021, my supervisor, Mark Brashears, telephoned me
2 at approximately 12:51 a.m. to say that he believed
3 Polecat Restaurant was operating after hours.

4 MS. YEHUALASHET: No.

5 MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Can you tell
6 her, tell her please she's not supposed to speak.
7 She's just listening. When Ms. Dantzler is done,
8 she can tell us her side of the story.

9 MS. YEHUALASHET: Okay. Yes.

10 MS. DANTZLER: At approximately 12:52,
11 I received Mr. Brashears' call and I arrived at
12 Polecat at approximately 1:00 a.m.

13 While outside, I observed a mixed group
14 of males and females enter the front entrance of
15 Polecat Ethiopian Restaurant.

16 MS. YEHUALASHET: Okay.

17 MS. DANTZLER: I contacted the
18 Metropolitan Police Department via cell phone and
19 requested them to assist us with entry. At
20 approximately 1:03 a.m., the Police Officers
21 arrived and we gathered at the front entrance of
22 the establishment.

23 At the sidewalk I can hear talking and
24 music from within the establishment. I attempted
25 to gain entry, however, the front door was locked.

1 I decided to have Mr. Brashears and
2 Officers stay at the front of the establishment
3 while I and another Police Officer went to the rear
4 to try and gain entry.

5 After a few moments at the rear of the
6 establishment, the rear door opened and the patrons
7 from within made eye contact with the Officer and
8 myself.

9 MS. DESTA: I'm sorry, can you repeat.
10 Who was that, the person?

11 MS. DANTZLER: It's patrons from within.

12 MS. DESTA: Okay.

13 MS. DANTZLER: The establishment opened
14 the rear door. They made eye contact with the
15 Officer and myself then quickly closed the door.

16 I attempted to grab the door before it
17 closed, however, the rear door had no exterior
18 handle. The Police Officer and myself waited in
19 the alley in the hopes of the door reopening.

20 After a long wait, we were soon joined
21 in the rear of the establishment by additional
22 Police Officers and Mr. Brashears. Mr. Brashears
23 and I decided to contact ABRA Investigator Donell
24 Butler.

25 MS. DESTA: What's the name? Sorry.

1 This is the interpreter.

2 MS. DANTZLER: Donell Butler. Who was
3 at the office? Mr. Brashears instructed Mr. Butler
4 to obtain Polecat's records to get a contact phone
5 number for the owner.

6 Mr. Butler provided Mr. Brashears with
7 a contact number for the owner on record who is
8 Tekleab Habtu. Mr. Brashears telephoned Mr. Habtu,
9 however he did not answer the phone.

10 I then called Mr. Habtu and he answered
11 the phone. I explained to Mr. Habtu as to the
12 reason for the call. I asked of him to open the
13 door of the establishment.

14 Mr. Habtu stated that he was at the
15 establishment earlier in the evening, however, he
16 was no longer there. Mr. Habtu further stated that
17 he was no longer the owner of the establishment.

18 Mr. Habtu stated approximately four
19 months that Mekedes Yehualashet was the new owner.

20 MS. DESTA: Sorry, I didn't get the
21 name. Can you repeat?

22 MS. DANTZLER: Sorry, my pronunciation
23 is not that great. Mekedes --

24 MS. DESTA: Okay.

25 MS. DANTZLER: Yehualashet.

1 MS. DESTA: Four months prior?

2 MS. DANTZLER: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. DESTA: Yes.

4 MS. DANTZLER: I asked of Mr. Habtu to
5 telephone Ms. Yehualashet and ask him to ask her to
6 open the door. Mr. Habtu stated he will call me
7 back and when he did, he stated that Ms.
8 Yehualashet did not answer the phone.

9 I asked of Mr. Habtu to provide me with
10 the contact phone number of Mr. Yehualashet and so
11 I attempted to call her, but she did not answer the
12 phone.

13 Because we were unable to make way with
14 that attempt, I decided to call the fire marshall
15 for assistance. The fire marshall advised that
16 because the establishment refused to open the door
17 for the Police Officers, he did not feel that they
18 would open the door for the Fire Marshall either.

19 After moments later, Mr. Brashears,
20 myself and the Officers decided to disengage
21 because we were unable to gain entry. Mr.
22 Brashears and Officers made their way to the front
23 of the building.

24 And the other Officers and myself took
25 a slow walk towards the front of the building. I

1 heard a noise behind me and at that point, the rear
2 door opened.

3 Officers and myself reversed our walk
4 and headed back towards the door. As I approached,
5 I watched as over 20 patrons exited the rear door.

6 I made myself, correction, I made my way
7 inside the establishment that took me through the
8 kitchen and the Police Officers followed me.

9 Once inside I can smell marijuana, music
10 was playing and patrons were inside, approximately
11 10 to 15 patrons. Patrons were not social
12 distancing.

13 There was a bartender to the right of
14 where I was standing. I identified myself as an
15 ABRA Investigator and requested to speak with the
16 ABC Manager or owner.

17 No one stepped forward immediately to
18 identify themselves as the ABC Manager or owner.
19 An MPD Officer went to the lower level and
20 discovered an additional five patrons there.

21 Soon thereafter, the Police Officers
22 advised everyone to leave. At some point, I opened
23 the front door to allow Mr. Brashears and the
24 additional Officers entry.

25 As part of the investigation, Mr. Kyle

1 Brown identified himself as the person in charge.
2 I asked Mr. Brown if Ms. Yehualashet was present,
3 however, he did not know her by that name.

4 He knew her as Kim adding that Kim was
5 related to Mr. Habtu, however, he didn't know in
6 what aspect. Mr. Brown identified himself as the
7 person in charge of the security and he also shared
8 with me that he was interested in purchasing the
9 business.

10 I was able to provide Mr. Brown with
11 some limited information because that was not my
12 focus for that visit.

13 The further investigation of Mr.
14 Brashears and myself show that the establishment
15 was serving alcoholic beverages. These
16 determinations were made because there were cups
17 that had an odor of alcohol as well as there was a
18 soda bar set up for mixed drinks.

19 Once MPD and myself was able to complete
20 our investigation, Mr. Brown asked if he and the
21 others could stay behind to clean up the
22 establishment and lock up.

23 We left the location with no additional
24 incidents. And that concludes my statement.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank

1 you, Ms. Dantzler. I, Ms. Dantzler, how long have
2 you been working as an investigator for ABRA?

3 MS. DANTZLER: Approximately 14 years.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Now
5 in your experience as an investigator, what is it
6 that you believe that you observed that night?

7 MS. DANTZLER: I believe the
8 establishment was in violation of the Mayor's Order
9 for indoor operations.

10 The Mayor's Order called for all
11 interior operations to conclude at 12:00 a.m. The
12 Mayor's Order required mask wearing and social
13 distancing and no alcohol consumption after 10:00
14 p.m.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just
16 generally asking a question. Would it appear,
17 because the purpose of this hearing is not to
18 address the issue, but before I ask the owner some
19 questions, I just want it to be clear in my mind
20 because it appears that there's some
21 miscommunication with her and the agency. So -- go
22 ahead, ma'am.

23 Now did you observe any customers
24 purchasing alcohol?

25 MS. DANTZLER: No, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank
2 you. All right, do any Board members and again
3 remember this is not about the, this is more
4 general about ownership, but I don't want to go a
5 lot into the activities necessarily on that night.

6 But if any board members have any
7 questions that they want to ask Ms. Dantzler, they
8 are open to ask her questions.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman, I would
10 like to ask a question.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
12 Short, hold on. Go ahead, ma'am.

13 All right. Thank you. Go ahead, Mr.
14 Short.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Good morning still
16 Ms. Investigator Dantzler. Good morning.
17 Investigator Dantzler, thank you for an excellent
18 --

19 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Yes, good
20 morning.

21 MEMBER SHORT: -- report.

22 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: You're welcome.

23 MEMBER SHORT: Investigator Dantzler,
24 can you, in your report, can you explain to the
25 Board, specifically myself since I'm asking you the

1 questions, the attached to your report are pictures
2 for exhibits, Exhibit No. 2. Can you explain those
3 pictures to myself and the Board?

4 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I'm sorry, go
6 ahead. Number 2 is a video. Are you asking, Mr.
7 Short, that you want her to share the video because
8 I don't necessarily want for her to share the
9 video?

10 MEMBER SHORT: I didn't ask anything
11 about a video, Mr. Chair. I asked about the
12 pictures in her report. Pictures.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you said,
14 Exhibit No. 2 and Exhibit No. 2 is a video. That's
15 why I said, it's for identification there.

16 MEMBER SHORT: I specifically said
17 pictures Mr. Chair. There are pictures attached to
18 her report.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

20 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: I will have
21 trouble bringing up the photographs. I have them
22 in hand and I can explain them.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't you
24 just --

25 MR. SHORT: All right.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
2 Short, go ahead. I'm sorry.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 would like for you to explain for the record, since
5 we're going to have problems with the video not
6 being seen and the pictures that attached to your
7 report. Can you explain what that first picture
8 is?

9 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Exhibit Number
10 3 is a photograph of the bar.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Was the bar --

12 MS. DESTA: Wait a minute --

13 MEMBER SHORT: -- with alcohol --

14 MS. DESTA: -- let me interpret.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Was it put up like it
16 should have been if the establishment was closed?
17 Was the alcohol secured?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr.
19 Short, hold on. Remember it's being translated.

20 MS. DESTA: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So she needs to
22 translate the first question. Hold on. Go ahead,
23 ma'am.

24 MS. DESTA: Okay, can you repeat, Ms.
25 Dantzler? Exhibit Number 3 shows?

1 MS. DANTZLER: Photograph of the bar.

2 MS. DESTA: This is the interpreter to
3 Mr. Short. Repeat the question again for me
4 please.

5 MR. SHORT: Okay. The second question
6 was, was the alcohol in the picture secured?

7 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: No, sir.

8 MR. SHORT: Thank you. Now we're going
9 to picture number two. Can you explain that
10 picture?

11 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Exhibit Number
12 2 is the video.

13 MR. SHORT: No, well, forgive me. In
14 Exhibit Number 3, the picture, the second picture
15 in Exhibit --

16 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Exhibit Number
17 4 is also a picture of the bar. Exhibit --

18 MR. SHORT: Thank you. Now did you
19 testify earlier that someone was standing behind
20 that bar when you finally did get inside?

21 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Yes, sir.

22 MR. SHORT: And I believe that the, you
23 asked, did you observe anyone selling alcohol,
24 however, if the alcohol wasn't secure and also
25 there was a person back there serving or in a

1 serving capacity, do you believe with your
2 experience, 14 years' of experience, that something
3 other than bar service being done in that picture?

4 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: I believe
5 bartending was actually being conducted.

6 MEMBER SHORT: The next picture in your
7 exhibits has a clock stating 5:42, but there was a
8 number 5:42, but in that picture, why did you take
9 that picture?

10 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Mr. Brashears
11 took the photographs. Exhibit Number 5 depicts an
12 ice bucket and assorted canned sodas that were
13 opened.

14 Mr. Brashears believed that the opened
15 canned sodas were used to aid in mixing alcoholic
16 beverages.

17 MEMBER SHORT: It was also your
18 testimony earlier that the cups that you saw and
19 observed smelled of alcohol. Is that correct?

20 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Yes, sir.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, I guess this would
22 be Exhibit Number 6. I'm looking at a couple of
23 bottles of alcohol and I'm looking at some other
24 things. Can you explain that picture?

25 INVESTIGATOR DANTZLER: Exhibit Number

1 6 shows an alcoholic beverage, Jameson, I believe
2 that's whiskey, and several cans of open, assorted
3 colas.

4 MR. SHORT: And for the record, there
5 was open bottles of alcohol there behind that bar.

6 MS. DANTZLER: Is that a question, Mr.
7 Short, or a statement?

8 MR. SHORT: The question, and thank you
9 for correcting me, the question is the bottle of
10 Jameson was open and it was, in your opinion, being
11 used or served?

12 MS. DANTZLER: In my experience, the
13 broken seal on the bottle was being used to serve
14 patrons an alcoholic beverage.

15 MR. SHORT: It shows the bottle of
16 Jameson again in a cup beside the bottle of
17 Jameson. Would that have been one of the cups that
18 you smelled alcohol in?

19 MS. DANTZLER: Yes, sir. Yes, Exhibit
20 7 depicts the Jameson alcoholic beverage with a cup
21 with alcohol emanating from it.

22 MR. SHORT: Again, thank you very much
23 for your testimony. And I would like all of this
24 to go on record because apparently there was
25 something, I would think, illegal going on. Would

1 that have been your assumption also?

2 MS. DANTZLER: Yes, sir, and Mr. Brown
3 stated that the establishment was hosting a
4 birthday party.

5 MR. SHORT: Thank you, very much. The
6 last question I have for you, counting the 20
7 people that you said you saw coming out of the rear
8 and the persons you saw inside, and then the others
9 who the Police Officers saw down on the lower
10 level, what were the total amount of people that
11 were observed?

12 And this would have been after 1:00 a.m.
13 in the morning. What was the total number of
14 persons you saw either leaving the building or who
15 were still within the building when you did your
16 investigation?

17 MS. DANTZLER: Over 30.

18 MR. SHORT: Thank you, Investigator
19 Dantzler. Thank you for your testimony and thank
20 you for your excellent report.

21 MS. DANTZLER: My pleasure.

22 MR. SHORT: That's all I have Mr. Chair.
23 I do thank you for allowing me to ask those
24 questions.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.

1 Short.

2 I thank you, Mr. Short. Any other
3 questions from any other Board Members?

4 All right, before I'm going to ask, I
5 should have read an opening statement and so let me
6 go back to read the opening statement before I ask
7 the owner some questions. So good morning, Ms.
8 Yehualashet. I know I'm bad with her name.

9 MS. DESTA: Yehualashet.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yehualashet.
11 Good morning, Ms. Yehualashet.

12 MS. YEHUALASHET: Good morning.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank
14 you for attending the second fact finding hearing.
15 As you know, the Board set this matter for a show
16 hearing on May 12th, 2021, to hear from you and
17 your representative, Mr. Allan Ebert, regarding
18 behavior that took place while your transfer
19 application was pending.

20 MS. DESTA: I forgot the name, sir.
21 What --?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Allan Ebert.
23 As I shared with you last month, the Board doesn't
24 generally hold hearings on applications that
25 transfer a license to a new owner.

1 But because these types of applications
2 are not placard for the benefit of public input, we
3 would be doing the public a disservice if we did
4 not discuss this application with you.

5 MS. DESTA: Sorry, can you repeat the
6 whole thing again for me. This is the interpreter.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But because these
8 types of applications are not placarded for the
9 benefit of public input, we would be doing the
10 public a disservice if we did not discuss this
11 application with you.

12 I say that because the Board is aware
13 that, if true, gives the Board pause regarding your
14 management or operational practices. Specifically,
15 the Board is concerned that you, rather than Kezira
16 Ethiopian restaurant, the transfer may have been
17 responsible for managing the establishment earlier
18 this year while your application was pending.

19 If that is the case, it was done without
20 the Board's approval or without a temporary
21 operating permit in place. Specially, in March of
22 2021, a summary suspension was issued in Case No.
23 2125100005.

24 MS. DESTA: Can you repeat that for me?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Specifically, in

1 March of 2021, a summary suspension was issued
2 against Kezira Ethiopian restaurant for operating
3 after hours, operating without an ABC Manager on
4 duty and for interfering with an ABRA and MPD
5 investigation.

6 These are very serious violations of the
7 law. As a result of the March incident, the
8 establishment has been closed since that time.

9 As I mentioned last month, the Board has
10 reason to believe that you may have been managing
11 the establishment on the night of the incident
12 rather than the owner of Kezira.

13 If that is true, the Board would like to
14 hear from you regarding any assurances that you can
15 provide us to convince us that you'd be a good and
16 attentive owner if we were to grant the transfer
17 application.

18 We need to be convinced that you will
19 operate your new restaurant fully in compliance
20 with the laws and regulations that govern an ABRA
21 licenses.

22 We know that you have completed the
23 requirements for submitting your paperwork for the
24 approval of the transfer so please rest assured
25 that we are only here today to conduct a fact-

1 finding hearing and that we're keeping an open mind
2 regarding your ability to manage a lawful
3 establishment. All right, do you understand,
4 ma'am?

5 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
7 when did you first purchase this building? I'm
8 sorry, let me rephrase the question. When did you
9 decide to purchase this business?

10 MS. YEHUALASHET: August 2020.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so what
12 happened once you purchased the business in August
13 of 2020, what did you do?

14 MS. YEHUALASHET: Can you repeat the
15 question?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Once you
17 purchased the building, once you purchased the
18 business in August of 2020, tell me what did you do
19 after?

20 MS. YEHUALASHET: I signed the lease.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when did you
22 sign this lease?

23 MS. YEHUALASHET: September 1st, 2020.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
25 were you all, have you ever owned a business like

1 Kezira?

2 MS. YEHUALASHET: No.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what type of
4 training, if any, did you participated in owning a
5 restaurant. So what type of training, if any, did
6 you participated in owning a restaurant?

7 MS. YEHUALASHET: So I used to work in
8 a restaurant and back home I also used to work in
9 a restaurant.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
11 have you, what type did you, did you work in a
12 restaurant here in the United States?

13 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And did she say
15 yes?

16 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, I did.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how long did
18 you work in restaurants in the United States and
19 what restaurants did you work in?

20 MS. YEHUALASHET: I worked for five
21 years in a restaurant. It's somewhere around Ninth
22 Street, but it's closed right now.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now,
24 do you know, when did you start the transfer
25 application process with ABRA?

1 MS. YEHUALASHET: January 20, 2021.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was the
3 restaurant open for business? Was it operating?
4 After you purchased the business, was it operating?

5 MS. YEHUALASHET: Officially it was not
6 open, but you know, for my friends sometimes I do
7 prepare Ethiopian food.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Explain that, I
9 mean, was she serving and selling alcohol during
10 this period of time?

11 MS. YEHUALASHET: No, I was not selling.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, tell us
13 about, bring us to March 21st. So what was March
14 21st, what happened March 21st?

15 MS. YEHUALASHET: March 21st there was
16 a birthday celebration so they did a birthday
17 celebration. There was nothing that was, there was
18 no alcohol that was sold.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who was the
20 birthday celebration for?

21 MS. YEHUALASHET: It was my friend's
22 birthday.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who was
24 running the business at that time?

25 MS. YEHUALASHET: You know, I was not

1 there, but they were celebrating a birthday. They
2 asked me to give me the keys so I was not feeling
3 well, I give them the key and I went home.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who did you
5 leave in charge?

6 MS. YEHUALASHET: Mr. Brown was there so
7 I gave the key to Mr. Brown.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who is Mr.
9 Brown?

10 MS. YEHUALASHET: He works there with me
11 and he's a security.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you had a big
13 party, your friend had a birthday party on the 21st
14 and you left the keys to the building to Mr. Brown?

15 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who hired Mr.
17 Brown to work security?

18 MS. YEHUALASHET: I did.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if you're
20 having a birthday party, why you need to hire
21 security for a birthday party?

22 MS. YEHUALASHET: Because I was not
23 there, I just give him the key to take care of.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There was a lot
25 of alcohol and people are drinking alcohol so who

1 brought the alcohol?

2 MS. YEHUALASHET: No, there was nothing
3 that they bought from me, however, there was food
4 and cake and stuff like that, but there was nothing
5 that I provided with alcohol.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The pictures that
7 we saw, ma'am, the pictures that we saw, there was
8 a bar and there's alcohol there. Who brought the
9 alcohol? Where did this alcohol come from for this
10 birthday party?

11 MS. YEHUALASHET: I never had that
12 because I mean before, earlier we have bottle,
13 empty bottle, alcohol bottle there, but I don't
14 know if they brought an alcohol with them, but I
15 never had any alcohol.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is
17 the bar currently, I know the building has been
18 closed, is there alcohol on the shelves in the bar?

19 MS. YEHUALASHET: I did not even open
20 officially. There's nothing I bought, but when I
21 bought the business, those things were in there.
22 It was expired and it's been in the shelf.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you bought a
24 business all the liquor, you also purchased all the
25 current liquor in the establishment. Is that what

1 you're saying?

2 MS. YEHUALASHET: No, I didn't buy it
3 with that. It's what they had it on the shelf,
4 most of, some of them are empty and some of them
5 are expired alcohol.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, ma'am.
7 Now are you aware if we were to approve you as a
8 new owner, that you cannot have a private party and
9 not allow ABRA in the establishment?

10 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, so for the things
11 that happened, I'm sorry and please pardon me for
12 that, but now I'm also going to go on training for
13 in July for the business to open.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right so why
15 did you not go to the training on the 18th when I
16 specifically requested that you go to the training
17 on May 18th? So why did you not go to the training
18 on May 18th?

19 MS. YEHUALASHET: I'm sorry I missed it.
20 I have already registered and I'm going to do the
21 training in July.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now are you
23 aware, ma'am, if we were to approve the transfer,
24 that if you're not going to be at the restaurant
25 when it's open, that you have to have an ABC

1 Manager in charge of the establishment when you're
2 not there?

3 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, I do.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you aware,
5 ma'am, if we were to approve the transfer, that you
6 cannot leave Mr. Brown, security, in charge of your
7 establishment if Mr. Brown is not an ABC Manager?
8 Are you aware of that, ma'am?

9 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, I'm not going to
10 do that anymore. Yes, I do know.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you aware,
12 ma'am, that if you were, if the Board was to
13 approve the transfer application, that if your
14 hours of operation ends at 2:00 o'clock, that means
15 that you cannot have a private party inside your
16 establishment, you cannot have any occupants in
17 your building after 2:00 o'clock drinking and
18 eating if your hours end at 2:00 o'clock in the
19 morning?

20 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you also
22 aware, ma'am, that anytime ABRA or an investigator
23 comes to your establishment, that you have to let
24 them in without delay?

25 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And just so you
2 know onwards, ma'am, why should the ABC Board
3 approve this transfer application? Are you someone
4 who we should approve as an executive owner of an
5 ABC license?

6 MS. YEHUALASHET: So after this, after
7 I get the license, you know, I would abide by the
8 rule and regulation and I'm also going to take the
9 training.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
11 anything else you want to say, ma'am?

12 MS. YEHUALASHET: So after this
13 happened, I learned a lot. This is my first time
14 and I didn't know a lot and I do apologize and I
15 ask for your pardon.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, ma'am.
17 Any questions by any of the Board Members?

18 MR. SHORT: I have a question, Mr.
19 Chair?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
21 Short.

22 MR. SHORT: I'm not even going to try to
23 pronounce your name. I can't pronounce your name.
24 But at any rate, this is to the applicant. Your
25 testimony earlier was that you worked on Ninth

1 Street at a restaurant for five years. Is that
2 correct?

3 MS. YEHUALASHET: The name of the
4 establishment is called Sashamane, but it's not in
5 operation anymore.

6 MR. SHORT: And she worked there for
7 five years. Is that correct?

8 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes.

9 MR. SHORT: Did that restaurant have any
10 violations with ABRA while she worked there?

11 MS. YEHUALASHET: No, I haven't heard
12 anything about that.

13 MR. SHORT: My last question. My
14 question is, was she or did she learn anything
15 about running a business while she worked there for
16 five years?

17 MS. YEHUALASHET: Yes, I did learn.

18 MR. SHORT: No further questions, Mr.
19 Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
21 Short. Any other questions for the Applicant?

22 All right. Thank you, ma'am. And
23 before I close this hearing, any final comments you
24 want to make?

25 MS. YEHUALASHET: No, there isn't.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
2 want to thank everyone for attending this hearing.
3 The Board will close the record and we will take
4 this matter under advisement.

5 All right. Thank you very much. Have
6 a good day.

7 MS. DESTA: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Bye-
9 bye. Thanks. You can tell her she can log off
10 please.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
12 went off the record at 12:08 p.m.)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A

A-D-A-N-E- 7:20
A-N-T 10:16
A-S-H-E-T 7:3
a.m 2:2 11:2,12,20
 17:11 24:12
ABC 3:3 9:4,7 15:16,18
 27:3 33:25 34:7 35:2
 35:5
Abeyance 3:4
abide 35:7
ability 4:6 5:24 28:2
able 16:10,19
above-entitled 37:11
ABRA 1:21,22 7:20
 8:25 10:14 12:23
 15:15 17:2 27:4,20
 29:25 33:9 34:22
 36:10
ABRA's 2:17
account 2:22
accurately 5:22
Act 2:7
activities 18:5
Adanech 1:24 4:23 7:20
adding 16:4
additional 12:21 15:20
 15:24 16:23
address 2:24 9:15
 17:18
advance 2:16
advised 14:15 15:22
advisement 37:4
affirm 5:21
agency 9:19 17:21
agenda 2:20
agent 1:24 7:19
ahead 10:24 17:22
 18:12,13 19:6 20:1,2
 20:22 35:20
aid 22:15
alcohol 16:17 17:13,24
 20:13,17 21:6,23,24
 22:19,23 23:5,18,21
 30:9,18 31:25,25 32:1
 32:5,8,9,9,13,14,15
 32:18 33:5
alcoholic 1:2,13 2:4,8
 16:15 22:15 23:1,14
 23:20
ALIYA 1:17
Allan 25:17,22
alley 12:19
allow 15:23 33:9
allowing 24:23
Amharic 1:22 5:23,24
 6:5
amount 24:10

ANC 1:7

Anderson 1:14,16 2:3
 3:1,8,10,13,15,18
 4:22 5:3,7,12,15,18
 6:1,7,16,22 7:5,10,13
 7:22 8:2,7,12,16,21
 9:3,6,12,17,25 10:3
 10:10,18,20,24 11:5
 16:25 17:4,15 18:1,11
 19:5,13,19,23 20:1,18
 20:21 24:25 25:10,13
 25:22 26:7,25 28:6,11
 28:16,21,24 29:3,10
 29:14,17,23 30:2,8,12
 30:19,23 31:4,8,12,16
 31:19,24 32:6,16,23
 33:6,14,22 34:4,11,21
 35:1,10,16,20 36:20
 37:1,8
Andrews 1:21 4:19,21
 4:23
announce 3:5
answer 13:9 14:8,11
answered 13:10
ANSWERS 7:7
anymore 34:10 36:5
anytime 34:22
apologize 35:14
apparently 23:24
appear 17:16
appears 17:20
applicant 1:23 10:21
 35:24 36:21
Applicant's 1:24
Applicant/Owner 1:25
application 1:9 25:19
 26:4,11,18 27:17
 29:25 34:13 35:3
applications 25:24 26:1
 26:8
approached 15:4
approval 26:20 27:24
approve 33:7,23 34:5
 34:13 35:3,4
approximately 11:2,10
 11:12,20 13:18 15:10
 17:3
arrived 11:11,21
asked 9:1 13:12 14:4,9
 16:2,20 19:11 21:23
 31:2
asking 6:9 17:16 18:25
 19:6
aspect 16:6
assist 11:19
assistance 4:14 14:15
assorted 22:12 23:2
assumption 24:1

assurances 27:14

assured 27:24
attached 19:1,17 20:6
attempt 14:14
attempted 11:24 12:16
 14:11
attendance 3:19
attending 25:14 37:2
attentive 27:16
August 28:10,12,18
authored 10:14
available 2:11
Avenue 1:7
aware 9:19 10:8 26:12
 33:7,23 34:4,8,11,22

B

B-R-O-W-N 8:15
back 14:7 15:4 21:25
 25:6 29:8
bad 25:8
bar 16:18 20:10,11 21:1
 21:17,20 22:3 23:5
 32:8,17,18
bartender 15:13
bartending 22:5
based 9:18
behavior 25:18
believe 17:6,7 21:22
 22:1,4 23:1 27:10
believed 11:2 22:14
benefit 26:2,9
best 5:24
beverage 1:2,13 2:4,8
 23:1,14,20
beverages 16:15 22:16
big 31:12
birthday 24:4 30:16,16
 30:20,22 31:1,13,20
 31:21 32:10
board 1:2,13 2:5,9 3:2,3
 3:18 18:2,6,25 19:3
 25:3,15,23 26:12,13
 26:15 27:9,13 34:12
 35:2,17 37:3
Board's 26:20
Bobby 1:17 3:8,9
bodies 2:13
bottle 23:9,13,15,16
 32:12,13,13
bottles 22:23 23:5
bought 32:3,20,21,23
Brashears 11:1 12:1,22
 12:22 13:3,6,8 14:19
 14:22 15:23 16:14
 22:10,14
Brashears' 11:11
bring 30:13

bringing 19:21

broken 23:13
brought 32:1,8,14
Brown 1:21 8:4,5,5,14
 8:14,15,18,24 9:5,10
 9:16 16:1,2,6,10,20
 24:2 31:6,7,9,14,17
 34:6,7
bucket 22:12
building 14:23,25 24:14
 24:15 28:7,17 31:14
 32:17 34:17
business 3:19 4:17
 16:9 28:9,12,18,25
 30:3,4,24 32:21,24
 33:13 36:15
Butler 12:24 13:2,3,6
buy 33:2
bye 37:9
Bye- 37:8

C

C-H 7:21
cake 32:4
calendar 2:18 3:22 4:1
call 2:20 10:5 11:11
 13:12 14:6,11,14
called 4:1 13:10 17:10
 36:4
camera 4:3,8 5:8,11,13
cameras 4:11
canned 22:12,15
cans 23:2
capacity 22:1
care 31:23
case 4:1,6,9,12,20
 26:19,22
cases 3:25
Cato 1:17 3:8,9,9
celebrating 31:1
celebration 30:16,17,20
cell 11:18
Central 2:18
Chair 19:11,17 20:3
 24:22 35:19 36:19
Chairman 3:1 5:2 18:9
Chairperson 1:13,16
 2:3,4 3:8,10,13,15,18
 4:22 5:3,7,12,15,18
 6:1,7,16,22 7:5,10,13
 7:22 8:2,7,12,16,21
 9:3,6,12,17,25 10:3
 10:10,18,20 16:25
 17:4,15 18:1,11 19:5
 19:13,19,23 20:1,18
 20:21 24:25 25:10,13
 25:22 26:7,25 28:6,11
 28:16,21,24 29:3,10

29:14,17,23 30:2,8,12
 30:19,23 31:4,8,12,16
 31:19,24 32:6,16,23
 33:6,14,22 34:4,11,21
 35:1,10,16,20 36:20
 37:1,8
change 9:19
charge 9:1,1,8 16:1,7
 31:5 34:1,6
chooses 4:11
clean 16:21
clear 3:23 17:19
clock 22:7
close 36:23 37:3
closed 12:15,17 20:16
 27:8 29:22 32:18
Code 2:6
colas 23:3
Columbia 1:1 2:5,23
Columbia's 2:12
come 32:9
comes 34:23
coming 24:7
comments 36:23
complaints 2:25
complete 16:19
completed 27:22
compliance 27:19
concerned 26:15
conclude 4:12 17:11
concludes 16:24
conclusion 4:9
conduct 3:19,23 27:25
conducted 2:10 22:5
constitutes 3:20
consumption 17:13
contact 12:7,14,23 13:4
 13:7 14:10
contacted 11:17
Control 1:2,13 2:5,8
convince 27:15
convinced 27:18
correct 22:19 36:2,7
correcting 23:9
correction 15:6
counting 24:6
couple 22:22
CR 1:7
Crockett 1:17 3:11,12
 3:12
cup 23:16,20
cups 16:16 22:18 23:17
current 32:25
currently 32:17
customers 17:23

D

D 10:16

D-E-S-T-A 6:4
D.C 2:6
Dantzler 1:22 4:24 7:23
 10:4,9,13,14,24,25
 11:7,10,17 12:11,13
 13:2,22,25 14:2,4
 17:1,1,3,7,25 18:7,16
 18:17,19,22,23 19:4
 19:20 20:9,25 21:1,7
 21:11,16,21 22:4,10
 22:20,25 23:6,12,19
 24:2,17,19,21
date 2:19
David 10:16
day 37:6
DC 1:21,22
decide 28:9
decided 12:1,23 14:14
 14:20
delay 34:24
Department 11:18
depicts 22:11 23:20
Desta 1:22 4:25 5:8,9
 5:10,14,16,17,20,25
 6:3,3,15,19 7:4,9 10:7
 10:18,19,20,23 12:9
 12:12,25 13:20,24
 14:1,3 20:12,14,20,24
 21:2 25:9,20 26:5,24
 37:7

determinations 16:16
disabled 4:8,12
discovered 15:20
discuss 26:4,10
disengage 14:20
disservice 26:3,10
distancing 15:12 17:13
District 1:1 2:5,11,17
 2:22
doing 8:6 26:3,9
Donell 12:23 13:2
Donovan 1:13,16 3:1
door 11:25 12:6,14,15
 12:16,17,19 13:13
 14:6,16,18 15:2,4,5
 15:23
drinking 31:25 34:17
drinks 16:18
duty 27:4

E

E- 10:15
E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H 6:4
earlier 13:15 21:19
 22:18 26:17 32:12
 35:25
eating 34:18
Ebert 25:17,22

Edward 1:18 3:15,17
either 14:18 24:14
electronic 2:13,21
electronically 3:4
elevate 4:2,19
elevated 4:24,25 5:1
Elizabeth 1:22 6:3
email 4:16 8:18
emanating 23:21
emergency 2:14
empty 32:13 33:4
enable 4:3,6
ends 34:14
English 5:23,24
enter 11:14
entrance 11:14,21
entry 11:19,25 12:4
 14:21 15:24
equipment 4:6
establishment 6:24
 8:23 11:22,24 12:2,6
 12:13,21 13:13,15,17
 14:16 15:7 16:14,22
 17:8 20:16 24:3 26:17
 27:8,11 28:3 32:25
 33:9 34:1,7,16,23
 36:4

Ethiopian 11:15 26:16
 27:2 30:7
evening 13:15
excellent 18:17 24:20
executive 35:4
Exhibit 19:2,14,14 20:9
 20:25 21:11,14,15,16
 21:17 22:11,22,25
 23:19
exhibits 19:2 22:7
existed 15:5
experience 17:5 22:2,2
 23:12
expired 32:22 33:5
explain 9:23 18:24 19:2
 19:22 20:4,7 21:9
 22:24 30:8
explained 13:11
exterior 12:17
eye 12:7,14

F

F 10:15
fact 1:7 25:14
fact- 27:25
fact-finding 4:18
faithfully 5:22
feature 4:15
feel 14:17
feeling 31:2
Felicia 1:22 10:13

fellow's 8:13
females 11:14
final 36:23
finally 21:20
find 9:21
finding 1:7 25:14 28:1
fire 14:14,15,18
first 4:17 20:7,22 28:7
 35:13
five 3:25 15:20 29:20
 36:1,7,16
focus 16:12
followed 15:8
food 30:7 32:3
forgive 21:13
forgot 25:20
forward 15:17
four 13:18 14:1
Frank 10:15
friend 31:13
friend's 30:21
friends 30:6
front 11:14,21,25 12:2
 14:22,25 15:23
fully 27:19
further 13:16 16:13
 36:18

G

G-E-B-E-R-E-M-E-S-...
 7:21
gain 11:25 12:4 14:21
gathered 11:21
Geberemeskel 1:24
 7:17,20,25
general 18:4
generally 17:16 25:24
Georgia 1:7
give 31:2,3,23
GIVEN 7:8
gives 26:13
govern 27:20
Government 2:12,23
grab 12:16
Grandis 1:18 3:16,17
 3:17
grant 27:16
group 11:13
guess 8:19 22:21
guidance 2:11,15

H

Habtu 13:8,8,10,11,14
 13:16,18 14:4,6,9
 16:5
hand 5:19 19:22
handle 12:18
HANSEN 1:18 3:14

Hanson 3:13,14
happen 10:22
happened 8:20 28:12
 30:14 33:11 35:13
headed 15:4
health 2:14
hear 11:23 25:16 27:14
heard 4:7 15:1 36:11
hearing 1:7 3:22 4:14
 4:18 9:14,18 17:17
 25:14,16 28:1 36:23
 37:2
hearings 3:23 25:24
held 2:13
hire 31:20
hired 31:16
hold 5:18 18:11,12
 20:18,19,22 25:24
home 29:8 31:3
hopes 12:19
hosted 2:22
hosting 24:3
hours 2:16 11:3 27:3
 34:14,18

I

ice 22:12
identification 19:15
identified 15:14 16:1,6
identify 15:18
illegal 23:25
immediately 15:17
incident 9:8,15,18 27:7
 27:11
incidents 16:24
included 2:19
indoor 17:9
information 2:20 16:11
input 26:2,9
inside 15:7,9,10 21:20
 24:8 34:15
instructed 13:3
instructions 3:22
interested 16:8
interfering 27:4
interior 17:11
interpret 5:22 20:14
interpreter 1:22 6:5 7:8
 13:1 21:2 26:6
introduce 3:2 6:9 7:14
investigation 15:25
 16:13,20 24:16 27:5
investigator 1:22 4:24
 10:14 12:23 15:15
 17:2,5 18:16,17,19,22
 18:23 19:4,20 20:9
 21:7,11,16,21 22:4,10
 22:20,25 24:18 34:22

issue 17:18
issued 26:22 27:1

J

James 1:19 3:6,7
Jameson 23:1,10,16,17
 23:20
January 30:1
Jeni 1:18 3:13,14
joined 12:20
JR 1:17,19
July 33:13,21
June 1:11

K

K-Y-L-E 8:14
keeping 28:1
key 31:3,7,23
keys 31:2,14
Kezira 1:6,6 4:18 7:18
 26:15 27:2,12 29:1
Kim 16:4,4
kitchen 15:8
knew 16:4
Kyle 1:21 8:14 15:25

L

L-E-R 10:17
L-I-C-I-A 10:16
law 27:7
lawful 28:2
laws 27:20
learn 36:14,17
learned 35:13
lease 28:20,22
leave 4:10 15:22 31:5
 34:6
leaving 24:14
left 16:23 31:14
level 15:19 24:10
license 1:8,9 4:18 9:4,7
 25:25 35:5,7
licenses 27:21
limited 16:11
line 5:5
liquor 9:10 32:24,25
listening 11:7
location 16:23
lock 16:22
locked 11:25
log 37:9
login 2:20
long 12:20 17:1 29:17
longer 13:16,17
looking 22:22,23
lot 18:5 31:24 35:13,14
Lounge 1:6 4:18 7:18
lower 15:19 24:9

M

M-E-K 6:21
M-E-K-E-D-E-S 7:2
ma'am 5:13 6:10 7:11
 9:22 10:8,22 14:2
 17:22 18:12 20:23
 28:4 32:7 33:6,23
 34:5,8,12,22 35:2,11
 35:16 36:22
males 11:14
manage 28:2
management 26:14
Manager 15:16,18 27:3
 34:1,7
Manager's 9:4,7
managing 26:17 27:10
March 10:17,25 26:21
 27:1,7 30:13,13,14,15
marijuana 15:9
Mark 11:1
marshall 14:14,15,18
mask 17:12
matter 1:5 5:23 25:15
 37:4,11
Mayor's 17:8,10,12
mean 30:9 32:12
means 34:14
meeting 1:3 2:8,10,16
 2:17,18,21
meetings 2:7,13
Mekedes 1:25 5:4 6:20
 7:1,2,9,18 13:19,23
Member 1:17,17,18,18
 1:19 3:7,9,12,14,17
 18:9,15,21,23 19:10
 19:16 20:3,11,13,15
 22:6,17,21
members 3:2,19 18:2,6
 25:3 35:17
mentioned 27:9
met 1:13 8:10
Metropolitan 11:18
microphone 4:4
microphones 4:11
mind 17:19 28:1
minute 20:12
miscommunication
 17:21
missed 33:19
mixed 11:13 16:18
mixing 22:15
moment 4:2
moments 12:5 14:19
month 25:23 27:9
months 13:19 14:1
morning 2:3 6:7 7:11
 7:12,14,22 18:15,16
 18:20 24:13 25:7,11

25:12 34:19
morning's 3:25
MPD 15:19 16:19 27:4
music 11:24 15:9
mute 4:7

N

name 3:1,6 6:2,3,4,18
 6:24 7:1,4,6,16,20,24
 8:13,13,15 10:11,13
 10:15,16 12:25 13:21
 16:3 25:8,20 35:23,23
 36:3
necessarily 9:14 18:5
 19:8
need 3:22 6:12,23 10:5
 10:6,20 27:18 31:20
needed 8:19
needs 20:21
never 32:11,15
new 13:19 25:25 27:19
 33:8
night 8:20,25 9:2,8 17:6
 18:5 27:11
Ninth 29:21 35:25
noise 15:1
NOTED 7:7
notice 2:15,19
number 4:19 13:5,7
 14:10 19:6 20:9,25
 21:9,11,14,16 22:8,11
 22:22,25 24:13
NW 1:7

O

o'clock 34:14,17,18
observe 17:23 21:23
observed 11:13 17:6
 22:19 24:11
obtain 13:4
occupants 34:16
occurred 9:9
odor 16:17
office 2:12 13:3
Officer 12:3,7,15,18
 15:19
Officers 11:20 12:2,22
 14:17,20,22,24 15:3,8
 15:21,24 24:9
officially 30:5 32:20
once 4:1 15:9 16:19
 28:12,16,17
onwards 35:2
OOG 2:25
open 2:6,12 13:12 14:6
 14:16,18 18:8 23:2,5
 23:10 28:1 30:3,6
 32:19 33:13,25

opened 12:6,13 15:2,22
 22:13,14
opengovoffice@dc.g...
 2:25
opening 25:5,6
operate 27:19
operating 11:3 26:21
 27:2,3 30:3,4
operation 34:14 36:5
operational 26:14
operations 17:9,11
opinion 23:10
option 4:10
order 3:4 4:17 17:8,10
 17:12
original 8:22,25
outside 11:13
owned 28:25
owner 6:23 7:3,18 8:11
 8:22,22,25 9:2,23
 10:7,21 13:5,7,17,19
 15:16,18 17:18 25:7
 25:25 27:12,16 33:8
 35:4
Owner/Licensee 1:21
ownership 9:20,22 18:4
owning 8:10 29:4,6

P

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2:1
p.m 17:14 37:12
paperwork 7:19 27:23
pardon 33:11 35:15
part 15:25
participated 29:4,6
participating 3:3
participation 2:21
parties 4:10,20
party 4:3,11 24:4 31:13
 31:13,20,21 32:10
 33:8 34:15
patrons 12:6,11 15:5,10
 15:11,11,20 23:14
pause 26:13
pending 25:19 26:18
people 24:7,10 31:25
period 30:10
permit 26:21
person 7:14 8:1,3,10
 12:10 16:1,7 21:25
persons 24:8,14
phone 5:13 11:18 13:4
 13:9,11 14:8,10,12
photograph 20:10 21:1
photographs 19:21
 22:11
picture 20:7 21:6,9,10

21:14,14,17 22:3,6,8
 22:9,24
pictures 19:1,3,12,12
 19:17,17 20:6 32:6,7
placard 26:2
placarded 26:8
place 25:18 26:21
playing 15:10
please 2:24 3:5 4:14,19
 4:20 5:8,9,19 6:2,18
 6:25 7:23,24 8:13
 9:23,23 10:12,22 11:6
 21:4 27:24 33:11
 37:10
pleasure 24:21
point 15:1,22
Polecat 11:3,12,15
Polecat's 13:4
Police 11:18,20 12:3,18
 12:22 14:17 15:8,21
 24:9
practices 26:14
prepare 30:7
present 1:15,20 3:7,9
 3:12,14,17 16:2
presiding 1:14
previous 1:21 8:11
previously 8:11
prior 14:1

private 33:8 34:15
problems 20:5
proceedings 5:22
process 29:25
pronounce 6:14 35:23
 35:23
pronunciation 13:22
provide 14:9 16:10
 27:15
provided 2:16,22 13:6
 32:5
public 2:13,14,20 26:2
 26:3,9,10
purchase 28:7,9
purchased 28:12,17,17
 30:4 32:24
purchasing 16:8 17:24
purpose 9:14,17 17:17
pursuant 2:10,15 3:4
put 20:15

Q

question 8:20 17:16
 18:10 20:22 21:3,5
 23:6,8,9 24:6 28:8,15
 35:18 36:13,14
question-and-answer
 4:15
questions 2:24 4:13

9:13 17:19 18:7,8
 19:1 24:24 25:3,7
 35:17 36:18,21
quickly 12:15
quorum 3:20

R

Rafi 1:17 3:10,12
raise 5:19
rate 35:24
read 25:5,6
rear 12:3,5,6,14,17,21
 15:1,5 24:7
reason 13:12 27:10
received 11:11
record 6:2,10,18,25
 7:15,24 10:11 13:7
 20:4 23:4,24 37:3,12
records 13:4
refused 14:16
regarding 2:12 25:17
 26:13 27:14 28:2
registered 33:20
regular 2:7
regulation 35:8
regulations 27:20
related 16:5
remain 4:7
remember 18:3 20:19
reopening 12:19
repeat 12:9 13:21 20:24
 21:3 26:5,24 28:14
rephrase 28:8
report 10:5,6,15 18:21
 18:24 19:1,12,18 20:7
 24:20
representative 25:17
requested 11:19 15:15
 33:16
require 4:13
required 17:12
requirements 27:23
respond 3:5
responsible 26:17
rest 27:24
restaurant 8:23 11:3,15
 26:16 27:2,19 29:5,6
 29:8,9,12,21 30:3
 33:24 36:1,9
restaurants 29:18,19
result 27:7
Retailer 1:7
reversed 15:3
rights 4:2,20,24,25 5:1
rule 35:8
running 30:24 36:15

S

S 1:18
Sashamane 36:4
saw 22:18 24:7,8,9,14
 32:7,7
saying 8:18 33:1
scheduled 2:8
seal 23:13
second 21:5,14 25:14
Section 2:6
secure 21:24
secured 20:17 21:6
security 16:7 31:11,17
 31:21 34:6
seen 20:6
selling 21:23 30:9,11
September 28:23
serious 27:6
serve 23:13
served 23:11
service 22:3
serving 16:15 21:25
 22:1 30:9
set 16:18 25:15
share 19:7,8
shared 16:7 25:23
she'll 6:14
shelf 32:22 33:3
shelves 32:18
Short 1:19 3:6,7,7 18:9
 18:12,14,15,21,23
 19:7,10,16,25 20:2,3
 20:11,13,15,19 21:3,5
 21:8,13,18,22 22:6,17
 22:21 23:4,7,8,15,22
 24:5,18,22 25:1,2
 35:18,21,22 36:6,9,13
 36:18,21
show 16:14 25:15
shows 20:25 23:1,15
side 11:8
sidewalk 11:23
sign 28:22
signed 28:20
SIMONE 1:21
simone.andrews2@d...
 4:16
Simultaneous 6:6
sir 8:6,17,19 9:4,5,11
 10:9 17:25 19:4 21:7
 21:21 22:20 23:19
 24:2 25:20
six 3:18
slow 14:25
slowly 10:7
smell 15:9
smelled 22:19 23:18
social 15:11 17:12
soda 16:18

sodas 22:12,15
sold 30:18
solemnly 5:21
soon 12:20 15:21
sorry 5:4 8:16 11:5 12:9
 12:25 13:20,22 19:5
 20:2 26:5 28:8 33:11
 33:19
speak 11:6 15:15
speaking 6:6
specialists 4:2
Specially 26:21
specifically 18:25
 19:16 26:14,25 33:16
spell 6:1,17,24 7:15,24
 10:11
spelled 7:4 10:15
Staff 1:21
standby 4:21
standing 15:14 21:19
start 29:24
state 6:2,24 7:15,23
 10:11
stated 6:13 13:14,16,18
 14:6,7 24:3
statement 16:24 23:7
 25:5,6
States 29:12,18
stating 22:7
stay 4:11 12:2 16:21
stepped 15:17
stop 6:11
story 11:8
Street 29:22 36:1
stuff 32:4
submit 4:15 7:19
submitting 27:23
summary 26:22 27:1
Sunday 10:25
supervisor 11:1
supposed 11:6
suspension 26:22 27:1

T

t/a 1:6
talking 11:23
technical 4:14
Tekleab 13:8
telephone 14:5
telephoned 11:1 13:8
tell 10:21 11:5,6,8 28:18
 30:12 37:9
temporary 26:20
testify 21:19
testimony 22:18 23:23
 24:19 35:25
thank 4:22 6:8,8 7:10
 16:25 17:4 18:1,13,17

20:3 21:8,18 23:8,22
 24:5,18,19,19,23,25
 25:2,13 35:16 36:20
 36:22 37:2,5,7
thanks 6:17 37:9
themselves 7:15
things 22:24 32:21
 33:10
today 3:20 4:17 27:25
today's 2:16 3:21
total 24:10,13
training 29:4,5 33:12,15
 33:16,17,21 35:9
transfer 1:9 25:18,25
 26:16 27:16,24 29:24
 33:23 34:5,13 35:3
translate 6:12 10:7
 20:22
translated 20:19
trouble 19:21
true 26:13 27:13
try 12:4 35:22
trying 9:21
turn 5:8
two 21:9
type 29:3,5,11
types 26:1,8

U

unable 14:13,21
understand 10:1,2 28:3
understood 3:24
underway 3:21
United 29:12,18

V

video 19:6,7,9,11,14
 20:5 21:12
videoconference 1:13
violation 17:8
violations 27:6 36:10
visit 16:12

W

W 1:13,16
wait 12:20 20:12
waited 12:18
walk 14:25 15:3
wasn't 21:24
watched 15:5
way 14:13,22 15:6
wearing 17:12
Web-X 2:22
WebEx 1:13
website 2:17
Wednesday 1:11
welcome 18:22
welcoming 2:7

went 12:3 15:19 31:3
 37:12
whiskey 23:2
work 29:7,8,11,18,19
 31:17
worked 29:20 35:25
 36:6,10,15
working 17:2
works 31:10

X

Y

Y-E-H-U-A-L- 7:2
year 26:18
years 17:3 29:21 36:1,7
 36:16
years' 22:2
Yehualashet 1:25 5:4,6
 6:13,15,16,20,20 7:1
 7:2,9,12 8:4,9 9:24
 10:2 11:4,9,16 13:19
 13:25 14:5,8,10 16:2
 25:8,9,10,11,12 28:5
 28:10,14,20,23 29:2,7
 29:13,16,20 30:1,5,11
 30:15,21,25 31:6,10
 31:15,18,22 32:2,11
 32:19 33:2,10,19 34:3
 34:9,20,25 35:6,12
 36:3,8,11,17,25

Z

Z 10:17
zebra 10:17

0

1

1:00 11:12 24:12
1:03 11:20
10 15:11
10:00 17:13
10:51 2:2
117490 1:8 4:19
12:00 17:11
12:08 37:12
12:51 11:2
12:52 11:10
12th 25:16
14 17:3 22:2
15 15:11
16 1:11
18th 33:15,17,18
1A 1:7
1st 28:23

2

2 19:2,6,14,14 21:12
2:00 34:14,17,18
20 15:5 24:6 30:1
2020 28:10,13,18,23
2020-054 3:4
2021 1:11 11:1 25:16
 26:22 27:1 30:1
2125100005 26:23
21st 10:25 30:13,14,14
 30:15 31:13
2576 2:6

3

3 20:10,25 21:14
30 24:17
3013 1:7

4

4 21:17
48 2:16

5

5 22:11
5:42 22:7,8

6

6 22:22 23:1

7

7 23:20

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Kezira Lounge

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-16-21

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

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701