



**ALSO PRESENT:**

**JUSTIN ALLEN, Applicant**

**EVERAL CAMPBELL, Applicant**

**JACKSON CARNES, Protestant, Group of Seven**

**PAULA EDWARDS, Protestant, Group of Seven**

**SARAH FASHBAUGH, DC ABRA Staff**

**NAIMA JEFFERSON, Protestant, Group of Seven**

**MARK PATTISON, Protestant, Group of Seven**

**MARK RUIZ, DC ABRA Investigator**

**DON SQUIRES, Protestant, Group of Seven**

**STEVEN WHATLEY, Protestant, Group of Seven**

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

2 2:26 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case  
4 in our calendar is Case #22-PRO-00022, Premier  
5 Lounge, License #120372. Ms. Fashbaugh, can you  
6 please elevate the rights of the rights of the  
7 parties in this case please.

8 MS. FASHBAUGH: Please stand by.  
9 Everal Campbell, your rights have been elevated.  
10 Justin Allen, your rights have been elevated.  
11 Naima Jefferson, your rights have been elevated.  
12 Jackson Carnes, your rights have been elevated.

13 I do not, oh, Paula Edwards, your  
14 rights have been elevated. Mark Pattison, your  
15 rights have been elevated. Don Squires, your  
16 rights have been elevated. And, one moment.  
17 Mark Ruiz, your rights have been elevated.  
18 That's all, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.  
20 Fashbaugh. All right, give me one minute please.  
21 I'm trying to show that I have all the parties.

22 All right, I think everyone has, I see  
23 a lot of names in front of me, so if you have a  
24 camera can you please turn your camera on,  
25 please.

1 All right, we will start with  
2 introductions. I would like everyone to spell  
3 and state their name for the record. And let's  
4 start with the licensee. Mr. Campbell, can you  
5 please spell and state your name for the record  
6 please? Mr. Campbell, you're on mute. You need  
7 to unmute your phone, sir, I can't hear you.

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Oh, sorry about that.  
9 My name is Everal Campbell, E-V-E-R-A-L, C-A-M-P-  
10 B-E-L-L.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your  
12 role with this establishment, sir?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: I am the owner, serving  
14 as president.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Allen, can  
16 you please spell and state your name for the  
17 record please?

18 PARTICIPANT: State your name.

19 MR. ALLEN: Hey, good afternoon.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Allen.

21 MR. ALLEN: My name is Justin Allen,  
22 J-U-S-T-I-N, last name Allen, A-L-L-E-N. Partner  
23 at Premier Lounge.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
25 Mr. Allen.

1 MR. ALLEN: Good afternoon.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
3 can you please spell and state your name for the  
4 record please.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Good afternoon. Naima  
6 Jefferson. It's spelled, N-A-I-M-A. And the  
7 last name is Jefferson, J-E-F-F-E-R-S-O-N.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.  
9 Jefferson, I'm going to ask for your assistance.  
10 So can you call all the names of the other  
11 parties, as you call their names then I'll ask  
12 them to spell and state their name for the record  
13 please.

14 MS. JEFFERSON: Absolutely. The other  
15 members of the group of five or more individuals  
16 are Marc Pattison.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, just  
18 call their names.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And once you  
21 call their name, let that person identify  
22 themself please.

23 MR. PATTISON: Marc Pattison. Marc,  
24 M-A-R-C, Pattison, P-A-T-T-I-S-O-N.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, Marc. The

1 next individual is Jackson Carnes.

2 MR. CARNES: Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N,  
3 Carnes, C-A-R-N-E-S.

4 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. The next  
5 individual is --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hello --

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Mr. Carnes,  
9 good afternoon. Go ahead, Ms. Jefferson.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: The next individual is  
11 Mr. Squires.

12 MR. SQUIRES: Hi. Don Squires, D-O-N,  
13 S-Q-U-I-R-E-S.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
15 Mr. Squires.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, Don. The  
17 next individual is Ms. Paula Edwards.

18 MS. EDWARDS: Paula, P-A-U-L-A,  
19 Edwards, E-D-W-A-R-D-S. And I have a firewall  
20 issue with my video so I'm not able to implement  
21 it at this time.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Edwards.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: And Mr. Whatley should  
24 be here sometime, he had a doctor's appointment.  
25 But we have already had the group of five before

1 at the roll call hearing.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm just  
3 saying, not everyone, all the people are  
4 testifying, or others can be. So those are the  
5 folks that are currently online. Okay, that's  
6 fine. Mr. Ruiz, can you please spell and state  
7 your name for the record please?

8 MR. RUIZ: Yes. First name is Mark,  
9 M-A-R-K, last name is Ruiz, R-U-I-Z.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And your  
11 relationship, sir?

12 MR. RUIZ: Investigator with ABRA.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're here at  
14 a protest this afternoon. And this is an  
15 application for a new license. And we have  
16 protest hearings because the parties are unable  
17 to reach a settlement agreement.

18 And so, as I've stated before, the  
19 Board has always been in favor of settlement  
20 agreement, and so let me ask a question. And if  
21 the Board, and I don't mind working with the  
22 parties if we can get to an agreement, and if we  
23 can't get to an agreement, the parties are close  
24 to an agreement, than I don't have a problem  
25 with, if there are issues that the parties have

1 agreed upon, and so we can memorialize those  
2 issues. And if there are issues that are  
3 outstanding, then we can have a hearing on those  
4 issues.

5 So, I mean, the parties can let me  
6 know whether or not this is a road we can, are  
7 there areas that the parties have reached an  
8 agreement. And if they have not so, then we can  
9 issue a board order memorializing those areas of  
10 agreement.

11 And if there are outstanding issues,  
12 then we could just have a hearing on what those  
13 outstanding issues are. I'm just trying to,  
14 preliminary, just trying to find out where the  
15 parties are.

16 I'll start with you, miss, let me  
17 start with the Licensee, from their position.  
18 Where are we?

19 Or let me ask, well, I know what the  
20 Licensee wants, the Licensee wants a license.  
21 And the protest, they're protesting the Agency  
22 granting the license. So, Ms. Jefferson, are  
23 there areas of agreement that we can memorialize  
24 or do we need to move forward with a full  
25 hearing, whether or not we should even grant this



1 license?

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, Chair  
3 Anderson. I think that's a fair question.

4 We believed several days ago that we  
5 were at an agreement. We had a agreement that  
6 just had very few amount of red lines. And there  
7 was just one particular section that was not  
8 clear in what the intent was. And the group of  
9 five or more presented language.

10 In response, the Applicants came back  
11 essentially, basically renegeing on a lot of the  
12 terms that we had initially agreed upon. We  
13 requested a continuance no less than four times.  
14 They rejected each time.

15 We, up until yesterday around close of  
16 business, there was a proposition to have a  
17 mediation before this hearing. And as you know,  
18 many of us work and so we had already taken off  
19 work for several hours for a mediation, as well  
20 as address this, and to request at the end of the  
21 business day for us to take off again when we had  
22 all scheduled to be off of our jobs today for  
23 this protest hearing, we did say that that was  
24 something that we thought was reasonable and  
25 again, asked for a continuance. There was no

1 response from the Applicant.

2 So we have used our available time to  
3 prepare to protest. And as we mentioned in our  
4 initial protest, we don't believe that the  
5 Applicant is qualified. And the Applicant has  
6 already violated several laws to begin with.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As you stated,  
8 Ms. Jefferson, that it appears that the party had  
9 were amenable. I don't have a problem agreeing  
10 to a continuance.

11 I think, as for the Licensee's  
12 concern, there are a period of time that an  
13 Agency has to issue a license. And so we'll have  
14 a hearing today, we'll have a hearing today and  
15 we will issue, depending on whether or not the  
16 parties decide to do findings of facts or  
17 conclusions of law, the Board will not issue a  
18 license for at least another 60 days.

19 So if the parties believe that they  
20 can negotiate in good faith, and say for example,  
21 if the parties were to negotiate and come to the  
22 Board with a settlement agreement, within, as  
23 soon as the Board signs off on the settlement  
24 agreement, you will be issued your license.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: We're in the process.

1 Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I know that  
3 you are, Ms. Jefferson. I'm not speaking to you  
4 because I know you are.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm speaking  
7 more so to the Licensee because the Licensee is  
8 not, at least the Licensee has not appeared  
9 before me before, so I was just pointing out the  
10 process.

11 So if the parties are amendable to  
12 settle this matter, if time is of the essence for  
13 the Licensee, if a settlement can be reached, if  
14 the parties are confident that a settlement can  
15 be reached, then that is the quicker way to get  
16 your license because, as I stated before, if we  
17 have the protest hearing today, your license will  
18 not be issued until, at a minimum, 60 days.  
19 That's all I'm saying.

20 As, factually, the law said that we  
21 have this period of time. We're not, I'm not  
22 saying that we're going to sit there and count  
23 the days and say we're not going to issue your  
24 license before 60 days, but I'm just giving you  
25 the time factor that it's going to take about two

1 weeks for once the hearing is convened.

2 It's probably going to take about two  
3 weeks for the transcript, for the legal office to  
4 review the transcript, write a decision. We need  
5 to review it and vote on it and then issue it.

6 So if the parties believe that they  
7 can, that they can in theory, actually settle  
8 this matter, from a time perspective, I would be  
9 inclined to grant the continuance. But again,  
10 the Licensee would have to agree with it because  
11 that's up to them.

12 But I'm not telling you that, but  
13 we'll do the hearing today, but I'm just pointing  
14 out where we are.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Ms.  
17 Jefferson.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Can you just clarify  
19 that, for all parties that are involved, even if  
20 we move forward with the protest agreement, while  
21 the Board is deliberating and the entire process  
22 goes through, we always are still open to a  
23 mediation, is that not correct?

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well --

25 MS. JEFFERSON: In other words, the

1 protest hearing could go forward and maybe either  
2 party does or doesn't like what they hear, and  
3 mediation is still an option to submit that  
4 before the Board issues an order?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I'm not,  
6 the parties, I believe -- I guess my position is  
7 that I don't want us to, I don't want us to have  
8 a hearing for however long it's going to take  
9 this afternoon if the parties believe that  
10 they're going to settle the case and so therefore  
11 we take all this time and then tomorrow it's  
12 like, oh by the way, we have here the settlement  
13 agreement so everyone wasted their times today to  
14 have a hearing. And so I would prefer that not  
15 occur.

16 That's one of the reasons why I'm  
17 taking the time before we start the hearing to  
18 say, of course, parties are always free to come  
19 up to an agree, to come to any type of an  
20 agreement before we issue a final decision. But  
21 I don't necessarily believe that's a good  
22 utilization of public resources, if that's going  
23 to occur.

24 So I'm taking the time to say, if the  
25 parties believe that it can be settled and they

1 are, they are saying, okay, fine if we have a  
2 continuance, we're going to negotiate in good  
3 faith and we're going to have a settlement  
4 agreement, then yes, I would support that.

5 But if parties, but if the parties are  
6 not confident that this is going to occur, then  
7 we'll have the hearing today and the Board will  
8 make a decision whether or not to grant this,  
9 whether or not they're going to grant the license  
10 or whether or not they're going to deny or  
11 whether or not they're going to grant the license  
12 with conditions, depending on what's presented  
13 here today. So you can let me know what it is  
14 that the parties want to do.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: So I haven't been able  
16 to confer with everyone because we're not in  
17 person where we can all kind of huddle.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can take --  
19 we can be off the record for, let me see, it is,  
20 all right, it's 2:41. What about, how much time  
21 would you want?

22 MS. JEFFERSON: If you can just give  
23 me one second. One minute.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
25 we'll be, all right, we'll be on pause. We're

1 going to all sit here, but you can turn your  
2 camera off until 2:45. All right, 2:45 we'll be  
3 back on the record.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 went off the record at 2:41 p.m. and resumed at  
6 2:45 p.m.)

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
8 we're back on the record. Yes, Ms. Jefferson?

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank, many thanks to  
10 you and the Board and the Applicants. We're  
11 ready to move forward with the protest hearing.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine.  
13 Just give me a minute please. I'm trying to do a  
14 whole bunch of things at the same time.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
16 went off the record at 2:48 p.m. and resumed at  
17 2:52 p.m.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, good  
19 afternoon, everyone, again. We have our protest  
20 hearing. And this is, hold on one minute.

21 This is the process of having a, we're  
22 back on the record, just in case the court  
23 reporter, I always have to do this because we  
24 have a court reporter transcribing the  
25 transcript.

1           So basically, the process is, I have  
2           made my opening statement, preliminary motions,  
3           and the Applicant will make an opening statement.  
4           The Protestor will make an opening statement.  
5           And the Board will call the Board's witness,  
6           which is the investigator.

7           Once the Board has called its witness,  
8           then Board Members can cross examine, I'm sorry,  
9           the Board Members will cross examine the Board's  
10          witness. Then once the Board Member has cross  
11          examined the Board's witness on his report, the  
12          Applicant will have an opportunity to question.  
13          And then Protestant will have an opportunity to  
14          question.

15          After that is done, after the Board  
16          has rested its case, then the Licensee will  
17          present its case. Once the Licensee present its  
18          case then the Protestant will have an opportunity  
19          to present its case.

20          I believe that, as I have stated  
21          before, each side is limited no more than five  
22          witnesses. You have an hour to present your  
23          case. And I'm going to, it is 2:55. Although we  
24          will work on this as long as ever, but I need  
25          folks to be efficient with their time in calling



1 witnesses.

2 I do not want witnesses to, the Board  
3 will not tolerate redundant or repetitive  
4 testimony or testimony that's not relevant to  
5 this case. So therefore I will impose and object  
6 to questions that have been asked.

7 I know that neither side is an  
8 attorney, but if I believe that questions are  
9 being asked that are not relevant to the  
10 decisions that we should make, I will interject  
11 and state that. Okay?

12 This is an application to provide a,  
13 whether or not the Board will grant a license to  
14 this Licensee. And the case in point is whether  
15 or not this is a fit, that the business model  
16 that they're presenting is to receive a license,  
17 okay?

18 All right. So are there any questions  
19 by anyone before we start? Ms. Jefferson, any  
20 questions before we start?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. Chair Anderson?  
22 In --

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: -- Board Order Number  
25 2022-2402, the Board ruled that the protestants

1 could bring forth any of our allegations  
2 regarding qualifications at the protest hearing.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't, I'm  
4 confused, ma'am. What are you saying?

5 MS. JEFFERSON: In addition to the  
6 appropriateness, I just wanted to make note that  
7 in a prior board order the Board ruled that the  
8 protestants could bring forth allegations  
9 regarding qualifications at the protest hearing.  
10 We had requested a qualifications hearing and the  
11 Board denied our motion for that. And that was  
12 what the Board ruled in that order. That's Order  
13 Number 2022-242.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: My position  
15 that all issues that are relevant to us or not,  
16 if they're fit for a license. So if you have, if  
17 you are presenting testimony, you are presenting  
18 evidence to say that they're not qualified, that  
19 can be relevant.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm just  
22 saying for matters that are not relevant to  
23 whether or not they are fit to receive a license.

24 So, I know that there are some  
25 preliminary issues here I knew that came up at

1 our status hearing. And I stated that that was,  
2 the protestant was asking for us to pause this  
3 hearing so we can do a qualifications. An  
4 qualification hearing.

5 And what I had informed the parties at  
6 the time, that those were two separate tracks.  
7 And we are on a strict deadline to move forward  
8 with this.

9 But if you have information that is  
10 relevant, that's relevant, I mean of course, if  
11 you put something forward, then they can object  
12 to say it's not relevant, I'll make a ruling.  
13 But if it gets the ruling that it's relevant,  
14 then we'll move forward with that. So I don't  
15 have a problem with that, okay?

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any  
18 other questions by the Applicant? Any questions  
19 by the Applicant?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
22 right, so, the Board will call its first witness,  
23 Mr. Mark Ruiz.

24 Mr. Ruiz, can you raise your right  
25 hand please? Do you swear or affirm to tell the

1 truth and nothing but the truth?

2 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can  
4 you state your name for the record, again, sir,  
5 please?

6 MR. RUIZ: Yes. Mark Ruiz.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where do  
8 you currently -- where are you currently  
9 employed, sir?

10 MR. RUIZ: I am employed with the  
11 Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration as  
12 an Investigator.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long have  
14 you held this position, sir?

15 MR. RUIZ: A little bit over three  
16 years now.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are  
18 your duties and responsibility as a Investigator  
19 for the Agency?

20 MR. RUIZ: To inspect and investigate  
21 alcohol establishments licensed in the District  
22 of Columbia.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And have you  
24 testified in a protest hearing before, sir?

25 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, are you  
2 familiar with this application, Premier Lounge,  
3 sir?

4                   MR. RUIZ: I am.

5                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How did you  
6 become familiar with this case?

7                   MR. RUIZ: I was assigned to the  
8 protest investigation and drafted a report for  
9 this case.

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a  
11 copy of the report you can upload? You can  
12 upload for us to share. That you can share for  
13 the agency.

14                  MR. RUIZ: Yes.

15                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, for  
16 the parties. The participants.

17                  MR. RUIZ: Yes. I'll just, yes. I'm  
18 doing it now. Give me one moment.

19                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Ms.  
20 Fashbaugh, can you please --

21                  MR. RUIZ: She did.

22                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
23 thank you. All right.

24                  MR. RUIZ: Do you see it?

25                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. All

1 right. So can you please identify the document  
2 that's on the screen, sir?

3 MR. RUIZ: This here is the protest  
4 report for The New 7307, Inc., trading as Premier  
5 Lounge, located at 7307 Georgia Ave Northwest,  
6 for a new license, Class CT.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are the  
8 protestants in this case, sir?

9 MR. RUIZ: The protestants in this  
10 case are a group of five or more. Specifically a  
11 group of seven. To include Jackson Carnes, Paula  
12 Edwards, Naima Jefferson, Marc Pattison, Don  
13 Squires, Judy Squires and Stephen Whatley.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, did you  
15 get a chance to speak to the Licensee, I'm sorry,  
16 the Applicant in this case?

17 MR. RUIZ: Particularly to protest  
18 issues, I had not been able to speak to them.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you have  
20 spoken to the Applicant?

21 MR. RUIZ: I've spoken to the  
22 Applicant prior, during investigations. Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But not --

24 MR. RUIZ: Regarding this  
25 establishment.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But not  
2 towards, not regarding -- I'm sorry, did you have  
3 -- do you have any reference in your report  
4 regarding any previous correspondence or  
5 communications you have had with the Applicant?

6 MR. RUIZ: Yes. I was assigned a  
7 previous investigation for the application and  
8 prior activity conducted. In which I reference  
9 in a separate report.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying,  
11 is there any reference in this report regarding  
12 that? If there is --

13 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- not --

15 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
17 Well, where is this? Can you tell us where is  
18 this in your report and what is it that you're  
19 referencing in this report?

20 MR. RUIZ: So I referenced, presented  
21 it under the protesting interview when I spoke to  
22 the protestants. Since there was a separate  
23 investigation prior containing the application,  
24 those findings were placed into a case report,  
25 and are scheduled with the Office of Attorney

1 General.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
3 right. All right. I don't think you're  
4 following, but anyway. All right, let's move on.

5 MR. RUIZ: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So let me go  
7 through your report. Who did you speak to as far  
8 as the protestors are concerned?

9 MR. RUIZ: I spoke with Ms. Naima  
10 Jefferson, mostly as the lead. And Mr. Jackson  
11 Carnes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you tell  
13 us, what was the nature of your conversation with  
14 Ms. Jefferson?

15 MR. RUIZ: Ms. Jefferson, the nature  
16 of that conversation was basically the protest  
17 issues that they did outline in the letter that  
18 they submitted, as attached to the report, in  
19 regards to the effects of peace order and quiet.  
20 To include noise and litter.

21 The parking issues, the limited  
22 parking that is within the neighborhood, as well  
23 as their failure to comply with ABRA and District  
24 laws prior to the application.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you tell us



1 about, describe the neighborhood. The  
2 characteristics of this neighborhood please.

3 MR. RUIZ: Yes. The establishment is  
4 located on 7307 Georgia Avenue, which is a four-  
5 lane highway. It is zoned multi-use-4. Which  
6 allows a moderate density, mixed-use development  
7 for shopping and business needs houses and mixed  
8 uses for large site events.

9 The establishment is on a business  
10 corridor that aligns a residential neighborhood.  
11 Around the corner is residential parking for 4A  
12 zone licenses permits.

13 Other than that, the other mode of  
14 transportation within the area would allow for  
15 the Metro Bus Run, Number 70. Which runs north  
16 and southbound in front of the establishment.

17 (Simultaneously speaking.)

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right, I'm  
19 sorry.

20 MR. RUIZ: The establishment, of  
21 course, is on a block with other commercial  
22 establishments. Including another ABC  
23 establishment, Quilox Restaurant and Lounge,  
24 which is a restaurant, as well as two liquor  
25 stores, within close proximity.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So tell us  
2 about the characteristics of the premises.

3                   MR. RUIZ: The building is in the  
4 middle, within the block, a couple doors in. It  
5 is a brown brick establishment with glass and  
6 wood. It has, it's a two-story building, however  
7 the Licensee will only be operating on the first  
8 floor.

9                   The first level will consist of the  
10 main bar, seating, lounge seating area, stage  
11 area, DJ booth, as well as a full kitchen located  
12 within the establishment.

13                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, what are  
14 the hours of operation that -- hours of operation  
15 alcohol sales that the Licensee applied for?

16                  MR. RUIZ: Yes. The hours applied  
17 for, for hours of operation, are from 7:00 a.m.  
18 to 2:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 7:00  
19 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., Friday and Saturdays.

20                  The hours of sales for the alcohol  
21 consumption is Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.,  
22 Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.,  
23 with Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

24                  They also applied for an entertainment  
25 endorsement that reflect the same hours of the

1 alcohol sales. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on  
2 Sunday, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to  
3 2:00 a.m., and Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to  
4 3:00 a.m.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, did you or  
6 any other ABRA investigator visit the  
7 establishment?

8 MR. RUIZ: During the time I was  
9 assigned to protest I visited the establishment  
10 six times, from March 21st up until March 30th,  
11 during my shift. I was the only investigator  
12 that reported to have monitored the  
13 establishment.

14 On the numerous dates the  
15 establishment was found to be closed. So no ABRA  
16 violations were observed during that time.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is it that the  
18 establishment was closed or is it that, are they  
19 not -- were they not operating or did you just  
20 choose a time that they were, I know this is an  
21 application for new license so therefore, is it  
22 that they were not operating or they were closed  
23 at the period?

24 Which I'm trying to --

25 MR. RUIZ: They were not operating at

1 the time.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: They were not  
3 operating, okay. And because they were not  
4 operating, I mean, have you, were you able to  
5 find any noise complaints? Are you aware of any  
6 noise complaints?

7 MR. RUIZ: No. I've done a record  
8 search for noise complaints, we didn't have  
9 anything on record. I did a calls for service as  
10 well to the establishment, and none of their  
11 calls for service indicated the establishment  
12 received any kind of outside calls for any  
13 incidents or noise complaints.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, I'm  
15 reviewing your report, and this is somewhat,  
16 you're saying this establishment is not  
17 operating, but how is it that they have an  
18 investigative history, as reported in your  
19 report?

20 MR. RUIZ: So the establishment,  
21 technically according to that history, they did  
22 begin operating prior to making an application to  
23 the Agency. They worked with a caterer to  
24 operate their establishment on certain days and  
25 weekends, beginning in October of 2021.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I see that  
2 the matter was forwarded to the Office of the  
3 Attorney General for show cause so therefore I'm  
4 not necessarily going to go to prejudice that  
5 case by divulging a whole lot into whatever facts  
6 that case is about. And so I'll lightly tread on  
7 that issue because that matter will be before the  
8 Board at some other point.

9                   So I want the record to reflect that  
10 you stated that there is another case, I'm trying  
11 to make sure that we don't spend a whole of time  
12 in the facts and detail of that case because the  
13 Board, at some point, will be convening a hearing  
14 on that case. All right.

15                   All right, so let's go through your  
16 report. So are there any exhibits --

17                   MR. RUIZ: Yes.

18                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- in your  
19 report, sir?

20                   MR. RUIZ: I've attached 29 exhibits.  
21 Would you like me to go through each one?

22                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, please.  
23 Please.

24                   MR. RUIZ: So, Exhibit 1 is going to  
25 be the protest letter that was submitted by the

1 protestants. It is a lengthy document. Includes  
2 their exhibits as well and issues that they've  
3 had, according with the establishment's  
4 application.

5 Exhibit Number 2 is our GIS map that  
6 was collected for ABC establishments located  
7 within 1,200 feet of the establishment.

8 Exhibit Number 3 is a parking signage  
9 in the area in front of the establishment  
10 indicating a pay to park zone with two hour  
11 permit or pay. From 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

12 Exhibit Number 4 is another signage  
13 within the same block for parking.

14 Exhibit Number 5 is signage in the  
15 residential area for two hour parking, limit in  
16 Zone 4A, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through  
17 Friday.

18 Exhibit Number 6 is another parking  
19 permit sign for two hour parking. This is on the  
20 7200 Block in front of town home. Residential  
21 town homes south of the establishment.

22 Exhibit 7 is another sign with the  
23 metro bus, no parking zone, as well in that same  
24 7200 Block.

25 Exhibit 8 is a photo of no parking and

1 street cleaning sign from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.,  
2 Thursday. This is located across the street from  
3 the establishment, facing south.

4 Exhibit Number 9 is a photo of Bus  
5 Route Number 70 bus shelter. This is located  
6 across the street from the establishment on the  
7 southbound side.

8 Exhibit Number 10 is indicating that  
9 is actually a bus stop area for the Number 70 on  
10 the 7200 Block just south of the establishment.

11 Exhibit Number 11 is another bus  
12 shelter, bus area, bus stop, south, on the  
13 southbound side of the 7200 Block.

14 Exhibit Number 12 will be the GIS map  
15 for any schools, recreation centers, public  
16 libraries or daycare centers located within 400  
17 feet. In which this map indicated there was  
18 none.

19 Exhibit Number 13 is a photo of the  
20 block with the establishment. The green awning  
21 straight ahead to the right of the photograph,  
22 the establishment is located, is the fourth door  
23 up, behind the second large tree. This is also  
24 indicating the parking on the street as well.

25 Exhibit Number 14 is from the

1 establishing viewing across the street. With  
2 residential apartment building, as well as other  
3 commercial establishments across the street.

4 Exhibit Number 15 is another view more  
5 southbound of that block.

6 Exhibit Number 16 is the residential  
7 town home building that is just south of this  
8 establishment shown on that block, as well as the  
9 parking.

10 Exhibit Number 17, this is the  
11 alleyway that runs along the rear of the  
12 establishment between the establishments and the  
13 residential homes.

14 Exhibit Number 18 is a photo of the  
15 street of a residential street, on Fern Place,  
16 which bounds the block in which the establishment  
17 is located on, in which there is signage  
18 indicating, asking the public to be quiet after  
19 10:00 p.m.

20 Exhibit Number 19 is a front view of  
21 the establishment, with the Premier banner  
22 signage on top. The entrance to the actual, to  
23 the establishment, will be on the left of the  
24 establishment. Of the front of the building.  
25 This is just another view indicating more of the



1 entrance to the establishment.

2 Exhibit Number 21 is the interior from  
3 the front door pointing to the rear, with the  
4 lounge seating.

5 Exhibit Number 22, is just another  
6 photo from inside the establishment. From the  
7 rear of the establishment by the bar facing  
8 towards the front of the establishment. Straight  
9 ahead, the black area would be where the window,  
10 where there is a tinted window. And that's where  
11 the stage is located.

12 Exhibit Number 23 is a picture of the  
13 full kitchen for the establishment.

14 Exhibit Number 24 is another angle and  
15 view of that full kitchen.

16 Exhibit Number 25 is a corridor  
17 leading from the establishment out to the rear,  
18 to the back yard area.

19 Exhibit Number 26 is a photo of a  
20 restroom. The establishment has to unisex  
21 restrooms.

22 Number 27 is another restroom.

23 Exhibit Number 28 is a photo of the DJ  
24 booth.

25 Exhibit 29 is a photo of the rear of

1 the establishment, with the trash dumpsters on  
2 the property. And that concludes my exhibits.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just, again,  
4 Mr. Ruiz, based on your investigation, what type  
5 of establishment is this?

6 MR. RUIZ: This is a tavern. Well,  
7 it's licensed as a tavern operating as a, as it's  
8 been described, as a neighborhood bar.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jackson.  
11 I'm sorry, Ms. Jefferson.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Jefferson.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson  
14 --

15 MS. JEFFERSON: My objection is just  
16 foundation.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
18 the Board is presenting its case --

19 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you cannot  
21 make an objection. You cannot speak during the  
22 Board's presentation of its case. Once the Board  
23 is done with its presentation of its case, you  
24 will have an opportunity to cross examine the  
25 witness, ma'am.

1                   But now it's the Board's opportunity  
2 to speak to its witness. And once the Board has  
3 disposed of its witness, then you can ask  
4 questions of the Board's witness, ma'am. All  
5 right, thank you.

6                   MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you for  
7 reminding me.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,  
9 Mr. Ruiz, I know it's a tavern, a tavern doesn't  
10 have to sell food, but do you know whether or not  
11 this establishment was selling food? Has any  
12 plans to sell food.

13                  MR. RUIZ: Their application did  
14 indicate they planned on selling food. And prior  
15 they have sold food.

16                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever  
17 seen a menu?

18                  MR. RUIZ: I have not seen a menu.  
19 No.

20                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I  
21 don't have any further questions. Any other  
22 questions?

23                  You can close your screen, sir. Any  
24 other questions by any Board Members?

25                  MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Ruiz, without going

1 into any detail --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. I'm  
3 sorry. Hold on, I'm sorry. Mr. Short, go ahead  
4 please.

5 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you.  
6 Investigator Ruiz, thank you for your report and  
7 your testimony today.

8 MR. RUIZ: You're welcome.

9 MEMBER SHORT: I know we can't go into  
10 history because there are some other things  
11 pending, but when was this application filed for  
12 this establishment?

13 MR. RUIZ: December of 2021.

14 MEMBER SHORT: And they didn't have  
15 any permits to do anything prior to that date?

16 MR. RUIZ: Not as a Licensee.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, thank you, that's  
18 all I have, Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, that's all I  
19 have, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Short. Any other questions by any of the Board  
22 Members?

23 Any questions by any of the Board  
24 Members? All right, hearing none, who wants to  
25 ask, all right, Mr. Allen or Mr. Campbell, one

1 person can ask questions. Who wishes to ask  
2 questions of the witness?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: We have no questions  
4 for Mr. Ruiz.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Campbell. So you're saying that you have no  
7 questions for the -- all right.

8 Ms. Jefferson, any questions you have  
9 of the witness?

10 MS. JEFFERSON: (No audible response.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're on mute,  
12 Ms. Jefferson.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Sorry. Yes, I do.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead,  
15 ma'am.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you,  
17 Investigator Ruiz, for your service to the  
18 District of Columbia.

19 You mentioned our community. Have you  
20 performed investigations on this corridor of  
21 Georgia Avenue before?

22 MR. RUIZ: I have. Yes.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So is it fair  
24 to say you're familiar with the community?

25 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

2 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. You  
4 mentioned in your report that they had been  
5 operating prior. Was alcohol being served?

6 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. You  
8 mentioned that parking is limited in the area.  
9 And on your report, under the characteristics of  
10 the building, exterior, and I'll just pause.  
11 Chair Anderson, do I need to show that for him?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, if you're  
13 referencing to his report you can direct him to  
14 where in his report you are --

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Your report  
16 mentions that there is a limited amount of paid  
17 meter parking directly in front of the  
18 establishment, and across, lining the 7300 Bock.  
19 And then you also mention Quilox Lounge. And  
20 your report states that they're at 7303 Georgia  
21 Avenue. And that's illustrated on your Exhibit  
22 2. Is that correct?

23 MR. RUIZ: That's correct.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: Is Quilox Lounge next  
25 door to Premier?

1 MR. RUIZ: It's separated by another  
2 establishment.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And according  
4 to ABRA's records, which are public information,  
5 Quilox has a maximum occupancy and seat load of  
6 49.

7 So if there were a busy night and  
8 Premier were to maximize its occupancy load of  
9 75, so you have 75 and 49, would you say that  
10 there is ample parking in the area?

11 MR. RUIZ: I would say it would be  
12 rough and limited. Yes.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. In your  
14 experience, when you've performed in  
15 investigations in this section, how often have  
16 you seen establishments, patrons come to these  
17 establishments on buses?

18 MR. RUIZ: I have never observed  
19 anyone come on a bus.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. In  
21 your report you have Exhibit 18, which is a  
22 photograph of the residential street on Fern  
23 Place, closest to Premier Lounge. That's how you  
24 identified it.

25 When you saw this sign, obviously it

1 drew your attention, were you given the  
2 impression that residents wanted to have patrons  
3 walking through the community late at night,  
4 after 10:00 p.m., that would cause any noise or  
5 rowdiness or loitering?

6 MR. RUIZ: I would take that there was  
7 a concern with the residents regarding noise  
8 based off of that sign.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. And  
10 on Exhibit 19 and 20 you have photographs of the  
11 exterior of Premier. And do you mind if I just  
12 pull that up?

13 Is there, can someone pull that up?  
14 Is there a way to do that? Because I want to ask  
15 him to identify something.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ruiz, can  
17 you just share your screen again please? If you  
18 still have that ability.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: This is Exhibits --

20 MR. RUIZ: You said 19?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: -- 19 and 20.

22 MR. RUIZ: Okay, I see. Yes.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, could you  
24 just read what it says at the top? Maybe 20.  
25 Between the two, what does it say?



1 MR. RUIZ: On the black banner?

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

3 MR. RUIZ: It says Premier. And then  
4 on the front it says bar and lounge, which I  
5 believe -- Yes, bar and lounge. And then their  
6 Instagram handle.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And did you  
8 ever look up their Instagram handle?

9 MR. RUIZ: I have. Yes.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: And did you see any  
11 posts regarding the sale and consumption of  
12 alcohol at the premises?

13 MR. RUIZ: Yes, I've seen  
14 advertisements relating to events being held  
15 there. Yes.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And did any of  
17 those advertisements indicate that a promoter was  
18 involved?

19 MR. RUIZ: Not to my recollection.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. My next  
21 question is, in your building, under the section  
22 of building interior in your report, you say that  
23 Premier Lounge is a one-level establishment that  
24 has one main entrance on Georgia Avenue. The  
25 establishment has a back door that leads to the

1 trash area in the alley.

2 And that Premier Lounge does have an  
3 interior door that connects to a stairwell that  
4 will lead to the future planned barbershop  
5 operated by the same owner. Do you see that on  
6 there? That's under --

7 MR. RUIZ: Yes, I remember that. Yes.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, based on  
9 that, what you wrote, there is only way. Is it  
10 correct to say that there is only one way to get  
11 into the barbershop?

12 MR. RUIZ: So, the entrance -- there  
13 is, if you go through, on that photograph, the  
14 brown door.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

16 MR. RUIZ: That is the entry to a  
17 stairwell. That's the entry that goes upstairs.  
18 From that bottom landing there is also a door,  
19 and it's in the photo, that leads into the bar  
20 area. Which is, can be locked from the bar area.  
21 So if the bar was to keep that locked, nobody  
22 would be able to enter through there, but go  
23 straight up to the barbershop.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: So, is the barbershop  
25 applying for an alcohol license or is it Premier

1 Lounge?

2 MR. RUIZ: Premier Lounge. And the  
3 alcohol license was applied for just the first  
4 floor.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. When  
6 we go back to Exhibit 19, I'm sorry, I think  
7 there was an echo.

8 If we go back to Exhibit 19 with the  
9 sign, was there anything on that photo that  
10 indicated that a barbershop would be anywhere on  
11 the premises?

12 MR. RUIZ: No, there is no indication.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So if a patron  
14 were to come, there is -- no one would assume  
15 that the barbershop is not a part of the bar and  
16 lounge because there is no sign that indicates  
17 that there is a barbershop?

18 MR. RUIZ: Correct.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You mentioned  
20 that you were not able to get a hold of either  
21 applicants for the protest hearing. In your  
22 experience with ABRA, is that a regular  
23 occurrence?

24 MR. RUIZ: Not normally.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And typically

1 are applicants and licensees cooperative?

2 MR. RUIZ: Regularly.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And when you  
4 meet with them, what is required of you to  
5 ascertain?

6 In other words, what are you trying to  
7 find out?

8 MR. RUIZ: Their business. The model  
9 of the business, how they desire to operate, as  
10 well as their responses to the protest and  
11 issues. And anything they might, how they plan  
12 on to address some of the concerns in the  
13 neighborhood.

14 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So since you  
15 were not able to reach them, then you're not able  
16 to surmise whether they actually plan to address  
17 any of the concerns in the protest letters, is  
18 that correct?

19 MR. RUIZ: Yes. I've had no specific  
20 conversation with them in regards to the protests  
21 and concerns.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Your protest  
23 report also indicates that Mr. Campbell rented  
24 the use of a catering license in order to operate  
25 and offer alcohol and food. Can catering

1 licenses be rented?

2 MR. RUIZ: No. There was a caterer  
3 license presented during that operation. But we  
4 were unable to ascertain the alcohol purchase.  
5 Where the alcohol was purchased from.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So I, I'm  
7 sorry, there is an echo that keeps coming back.

8 Based on -- did you have an  
9 opportunity to review the application itself?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Pardon me. Ms.  
11 Jefferson, do you -- he doesn't need to refer to  
12 his report anymore I need him to close his screen  
13 because I want to see everyone. So please close  
14 your screen. Please.

15 MR. RUIZ: Yes, sir.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Were you able  
17 to review the application that was submitted?

18 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: And is that part of  
20 your regular duties in terms of a protest?

21 MR. RUIZ: I usually review what  
22 they're applying for. Yes.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And in  
24 reviewing that application, did you find any  
25 discrepancies?

1 MR. RUIZ: These are things related to  
2 the case that's currently before the OAG. I'm  
3 not sure if I can answer that.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That wasn't  
5 what you're asking. I guess what, where Ms.  
6 Jefferson, you're just asking if there was any  
7 discrepancies, so I don't understand, what's the  
8 relevance, what's the basis?

9 You need to --

10 MS. JEFFERSON: So I'll give you --

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- some  
12 foundation.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. The foundation  
14 is that the protestants have made allegations --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying  
16 you need to ask him --

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm just  
19 saying you have to ask him questions to lay a  
20 foundation because you're just saying, are there  
21 discrepancies in the application. I'm not quite  
22 sure why are we even talking about an application  
23 being in discrepancy, so you need to lay a  
24 foundation --

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- so we can  
2 get there.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I appreciate  
4 that. So, Investigator Ruiz, since you were not  
5 able to speak with the Applicants about their  
6 intentions of the nature of the business, did you  
7 look to the application to ascertain the content  
8 of your report in terms of the nature of  
9 operations?

10 MR. RUIZ: I reviewed the application,  
11 seen how they plan to operate, yes, under the  
12 description.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And as part of  
14 your investigation, did you look into the names  
15 of the Applicants to verify that they are in fact  
16 whom they say they are?

17 In other words, were their names  
18 correctly represented on the application?

19 MR. RUIZ: I'm not sure if I can  
20 answer that because that does detail the separate  
21 investigation into that application.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I --

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson, this  
24 is why we requested a qualifications hearing, so  
25 --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But that's a  
2 different --

3 (Simultaneously speaking.)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is a  
5 different issue, ma'am. That's a different  
6 issue.

7 If you're asking, this is what you're  
8 asking Mr. Ruiz, your using his report, his case  
9 report that's in the record, you have to ask him  
10 questions off his case report.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: His case report --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So this  
13 --

14 MS. JEFFERSON: -- references the  
15 other case report.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. But  
17 I've said to you it's an active case, and so if  
18 you want to bring something independent, but all,  
19 I think all that's in his report, he lists an  
20 investigative history that there is a pending  
21 show cause case in front of the Office of  
22 Attorney General.

23 This is a case that's going to come to  
24 the ABC Board, for the ABC Board to make a  
25 determination. Now, I'm not going to allow



1 extensive testimony on the facts on that case,  
2 because this same Board has to make a  
3 determination whenever the case is presented to  
4 us.

5 So that's one of the reasons why I'm  
6 not going to allow extensive, yes, he can say  
7 there is an investigative history, which he did,  
8 but that's not the subject of this matter. If  
9 you have, if you want to, as part of your case in  
10 chief, that you have factual information that  
11 you're presenting to the Board, of course, I'm  
12 going to do that.

13 But we can't go into his case report,  
14 which is not the subject of this hearing, because  
15 the investigative report. This is a case that  
16 will possibly come to this Board for us to make a  
17 determination. Okay? So --

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson, part  
19 of the application --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: -- process is for the  
22 Board to determine if the Applicant is qualified.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. And  
24 what I'm stating to you, you need to ask that in  
25 your case in chief. I don't believe that, that

1 is not a question for this investigator to  
2 respond, that's all I'm saying.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: He is the same  
4 investigator in that report.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you're  
6 missing the point, ma'am. I can't allow him to  
7 prejudice a case that we haven't heard yet.  
8 Because this is a case that the Office of the  
9 Attorney General will present to us. And we have  
10 to make a determination.

11 As you know, the person is innocent  
12 until proven guilty. So what we have right now  
13 are allegations. There are allegations that were  
14 raised, so therefore we can't deal with  
15 allegations.

16 So that's why I'm saying, you're  
17 better off in your case in chief presenting  
18 information that you have.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: I do have that. I  
20 have it as an exhibit that I'd like to enter into  
21 evidence.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When you start  
23 presenting your case, ma'am, you can do that.  
24 I'm limiting you by saying, you can only ask this  
25 investigator about what's in his report, what he

1 just testified to. You can't ask him questions  
2 that he didn't testify to. So that's all I'm  
3 saying.

4 I'm not saying that -- when you start  
5 presenting your case, let me see what exhibits  
6 you're presenting. And if you have a witness who  
7 is going to testify, that's fine. But I'm  
8 limiting the questions you can ask this  
9 investigator because he can only testify about  
10 what is in his report that's in the record.

11 And the other document, the case  
12 report that you're saying that he investigates is  
13 not in the record.

14 MS. JEFFERSON: It actually is. He --  
15 (Simultaneously speaking.)

16 MS. JEFFERSON: So the full, you are  
17 correct, the full report is not in there, but it  
18 is referenced.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He referenced,  
20 and I did ask him a question. I did ask him a  
21 question to say this establishment is not open,  
22 how is it that they have an investigative  
23 history. And he said, there is an allegation,  
24 basically there's an allegation. And what I  
25 stated, because when I looked at it, it stated

1 that it was referenced, it was referenced to the  
2 Office of Attorney General.

3 And so I'm going to say to you, that  
4 because this is a case that will come back to  
5 this Board for this Board to make a  
6 determination, I can't have testimony about the  
7 facts in that case from this Investigator.

8 If you have independent, if you have  
9 a witness in your case in chief that you want to  
10 present information, so be it. If it's relevant  
11 information.

12 But this is not something that's in  
13 this, this Witness cannot testify on that issue,  
14 in this case. That's all I'm saying, ma'am.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So there are  
16 two cases, just to be clear. One has already  
17 been adjudicated by the Board. I want to clarify  
18 that.

19 So there is Case 21-CMP-00079, in  
20 which Mr. Ruiz was the investigator. That has to  
21 do with --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But is that --

23 MS. JEFFERSON: -- this case.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But is that  
25 referenced in his report? No. Hold on.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: I will continue on.  
2 I have asked, in my PIV, and in my report, I have  
3 listed Mr. Ruiz as a witness.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, this is  
5 the Board's witness, you are, he is testifying.  
6 And in --

7 So you're saying that in his, is there  
8 any reference to that case in his report? In  
9 this report that's in the record?

10 MS. JEFFERSON: So I will go back to  
11 my question in which Mr. Ruiz, I'm sorry,  
12 Investigator Ruiz mentioned that they had been  
13 operating in 2021. That is in reference to Case  
14 Number 21-CMP-00079.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, hold on  
16 one minute.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: So I will ask him  
18 questions about his observations in their prior  
19 operations.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, hold  
21 on. Hold on. Hold on. In Mr. Ruiz's report, in  
22 the investigative history it says, May 19th,  
23 2022, Case Number 22-CMP-00038.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm not referring to  
25 that.

1 (Simultaneously speaking.)

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That is the  
3 only case that's in the -- that's the only --  
4 that's what I'm trying to say, you can't ask him  
5 about any other case, Ma'am. There is no  
6 reference in his report for Case Number 21, or  
7 whatever case that you're talking about because -  
8 -

9 MS. JEFFERSON: The case number is not  
10 explicitly referenced. He says, Mr. Campbell  
11 rented the use of the catering license belonging  
12 to District Space, ABRA License Number 112204, in  
13 order to operate and offer alcohol and food.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Campbell stated  
16 that the caterer was solely responsible for the  
17 alcohol and food expenses and sales during that  
18 time. That was in Case Number 21-CMP-00079, in  
19 which Investigator Ruiz was the investigator.  
20 That was not in the case that is being  
21 adjudicated and going before the OAG.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, hold  
23 on Miss.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: District Space was  
25 resolved in a different --

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I think  
2 you're missing the point I'm making. And I'm not  
3 trying to be argumentative with you, okay?

4                   I am reading his case report, okay?  
5 I don't see any, that's not in this case report  
6 that I have in front of me. That's why we're  
7 having this conversation. Hold on.

8                   MS. JEFFERSON: Would you like me to  
9 show you the page?

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to  
11 try, I have my computer -- I have my computer  
12 screen in which I --

13                  MS. JEFFERSON: This is under  
14 Applicant Everal Campbell. The third paragraph.

15                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, ma'am.  
16 I just lost my page. All right. Just give me  
17 one minute. Let me get back to my page. Let me  
18 get back to the report.

19                  What page is this? What page is this  
20 now, ma'am?

21                  MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. It's on Page 3,  
22 right above characteristics of the neighborhood.  
23 It's the paragraph that starts with, Investigator  
24 Ruiz had discussions with Mr. Campbell  
25 previously, when Mr. Campbell was operating

1 Premier Lounge prior to his application.

2 During that time Mr. Campbell rented  
3 the use of the catering license belonging to  
4 District Space, ABRA License Number 112204, in  
5 order to operate and offer alcohol and food.  
6 That case, in which that matter has already been  
7 adjudicated. That is a matter of public record.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
9 what's the question are you asking him now,  
10 ma'am?

11 MS. JEFFERSON: So the question that  
12 I asked Mr. Ruiz was, and I've almost forgotten  
13 the question because we've gone back and forth so  
14 much, but, Mr. Ruiz, my question was, I'll start  
15 with foundation. Is that related to the case  
16 that is referenced later on in your report? Is  
17 that the same case?

18 Let me re-frame it, sorry. Is that  
19 the same case? District Space and the case that  
20 you reference later in your report, under  
21 investigative history.

22 MR. RUIZ: It's not the same case.  
23 No.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. When you say  
25 Mr. Campbell rented out the use of the catering



1 license, did you go to the premises?

2 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: And you met Mr.  
4 Campbell then?

5 MR. RUIZ: I've met Mr. Campbell.  
6 Yes.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: And at that time  
8 period, how did he introduce himself?

9 MR. RUIZ: Initially ABC manager, and  
10 then owner after further conversation.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: And when he mentioned  
12 that he was an ABC manager, did you look into  
13 that to determine whether he was or did he show  
14 you something?

15 MR. RUIZ: He showed his, he presented  
16 me the ABC manager's card at that time.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. And  
18 would you happen to recall what the name was on  
19 that card?

20 MR. RUIZ: Everal O. Campbell.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. And  
22 is it part of normal practice that the premises  
23 owner -- I'm sorry, I asked that question  
24 already.

25 Hold on just a second. Have you met

1 Mr. Allen at any point in time?

2 MR. RUIZ: Yes.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And when did  
4 you meet Mr. Allen?

5 MR. RUIZ: March 2022 approximately.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I'm just  
7 looking through my list of questions. I just  
8 want to go back to one statement that you made  
9 earlier at the beginning. This is when I  
10 inadvertently objected and Chair Anderson correct  
11 me. Corrected me.

12 I just want to clarify. You said that  
13 they, their testimony stated that the Applicant  
14 was licensed as a tavern. Do they currently have  
15 a license or are they applying for --

16 MR. RUIZ: They're currently in the  
17 application --

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you for  
19 clarifying that. Let me just see if there is any  
20 other questions. Hold on. I'm sorry, I wrote  
21 notes.

22 I apologize, Chair Anderson and Board  
23 Members. I know you've seen me with all my  
24 binders before in the past, so this is a digital  
25 world so it's a little different. And I'm trying

1 to be mindful of the time. No further questions.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
3 thank you. Any questions that any other Board  
4 Member would like to ask? Not hearing none.

5 Are you saying, Ms. Jefferson, that  
6 you plan to call Mr. Ruiz in your case and chief?

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. Not as the chief  
8 witness but as one of two witnesses.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As one of your  
10 witnesses.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.  
13 Ruiz, you will be called, recalled --

14 MS. JEFFERSON: Sorry.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- once the  
16 Applicant, I'm sorry, once the Protestant has  
17 called its case, that you will be called as a  
18 witness. So I need you to be available to be a  
19 witness later on in the hearing, sir, okay?

20 MR. RUIZ: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
22 thank you. All right, thank you.

23 All right, the process, this is where  
24 the process now goes. Is that the Applicant will  
25 present his case. I just want to advise the

1 parties that what I'm going to do is that I'm  
2 going to take a break every two hours.

3 And so we started this hearing at 3  
4 o'clock, so probably around 5 o'clock, a  
5 reasonable period around 5 o'clock we'll take a  
6 break. And if this hearing goes till 7 o'clock  
7 we'll take another break at 7 o'clock. So just  
8 so everybody knows that, we will take a scheduled  
9 break every two hours for folks to - so.

10 All right, so, Mr. Allen and Mr.  
11 Campbell, how do you present to, who is  
12 presenting this case? Who is presenting this  
13 case and how do you plan to present this case?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: I will be presenting  
15 the case. Also, for the exhibits we do not  
16 really submit exhibits.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I saw your PIP,  
18 and so there's no documents submitted in a PIP.  
19 So, what were you saying, sir?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: No. No, just letting  
21 you know there will be no exhibits that we have  
22 to present.

23 Like I said, this is our first hearing  
24 to the Alcohol Board, so we're new to this.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,

1 how do you present? Do you plan to call  
2 Mr. Campbell? You're Mr. Allen or you're Mr.  
3 Campbell?

4 MR. CAMPBELL: No, I'm Mr. Campbell.  
5 I'm Mr. Campbell.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're  
7 Mr. Campbell. So, are you planning to call  
8 Mr. Allen, or are you just going to testify  
9 yourself?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: I'm just going to  
11 testify myself.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, can  
13 you raise your right hand, please? Do you swear  
14 or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the  
15 truth?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go  
18 ahead, Mr. Campbell.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: All right. The  
20 establishment, Premier Lounge, the license that  
21 we're applying for, there was a previous  
22 establishment there for a little over twenty  
23 years, with the same license, which, to my  
24 knowledge, there were no issues with violations  
25 with that particular establishment.

1                   And we're opening the same type of  
2                   establishment, a neighborhood bar and lounge,  
3                   catering to the community, and to basically  
4                   facilitate the community, and to engage in events  
5                   for the community.

6                   And we've made numerous attempts to  
7                   work something out with the community to get  
8                   their issues addressed and resolved, even  
9                   previously. Even right after our first  
10                  appearance in front of the ABC Board.

11                  I sent out two emails to  
12                  Ms. Jefferson. None of them were  
13                  actually -- uh-huh?

14                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
15                  I don't mean to cut you. If you want to just  
16                  generally say that you have been trying to  
17                  negotiate, but I don't want to hear -- clearly  
18                  the parties were unable to negotiate, to work to  
19                  an agreement.

20                  So, that's the only other purpose  
21                  here. So, what I need from you is to tell us  
22                  about your business plan, why is it you believe  
23                  that we should give you a license. Those are the  
24                  type of information that I expect to hear from  
25                  you, sir, in presenting your case.

1                   So, yes, you can generally say we  
2 attempted to negotiate with the community, but  
3 clearly you were not able to reach a settlement  
4 agreement. I try to see if we could do that  
5 earlier today.

6                   But since there's no settlement, we're  
7 at a hearing.

8                   And so, here it is that the Board  
9 needs you to present us with information, why is  
10 it that you're a fit owner for the Board to grant  
11 you a license.

12                   And that's what I expect to hear from  
13 you, sir. Okay?

14                   MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Well --

15                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell me about  
16 the business model, what it is that you're  
17 presenting. Go ahead, sir.

18                   MR. CAMPBELL: Like I said, Premier  
19 Lounge is going to basically be a neighborhood  
20 restaurant, bar and lounge. We'll sell finger  
21 foods.

22                   Currently our menu's up online also,  
23 UberEats, we're licensed, actually, open now and  
24 sell food to the public.

25                   We'll be doing comedy shows, as well

1 as jazz shows. We also work with MPD. We're  
2 close with MPD.

3 I'm in the security business as well.  
4 I own a security company, which has over 160  
5 employees.

6 Background, I ran waste management  
7 companies for well over -- the largest companies  
8 within the city for over twenty years.

9 I served as operation manager. I  
10 managed accounts such as NSA, Architect of the  
11 Capitol, Reagan Airport, just to give you a  
12 background of my history.

13 As far as the restaurant industry,  
14 this will be my first restaurant business I'll be  
15 opening.

16 But our manager is fully experienced,  
17 well over 15, to close to 20 years, and will be  
18 assisting us in this endeavor. So, that's it.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's all you  
20 have to present, sir?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, just -- we're  
22 good. Yeah, that's it.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
24 do you have any questions? You're on mute,  
25 Ms. Jefferson.



1 MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson,  
2 please remind me. I'm sorry, it's been three  
3 years since the last protest hearing, as well as  
4 a pandemic and everything else.

5 I would like to admit some items into  
6 evidence to ask Mr. Campbell about them. Would  
7 you like me to do that now?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibits  
9 do you have, ma'am?

10 MS. JEFFERSON: Do you want me to go  
11 through all of them, or just the ones for him?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibits  
13 are you asking us to move into evidence?

14 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I just want to,  
15 first of all, confirm the investigator's report  
16 and the attachments would be invited into  
17 evidence. That's Exhibit 1 on my PIV. Would you  
18 like me to show my screen, or you have  
19 everything?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so you're  
21 saying Exhibit -- what's Exhibit 1?

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 1 was just  
23 going to be the investigator's report. Just  
24 making sure that that gets admitted into  
25 evidence.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're talking  
2 about the case report that Mr. Ruiz just  
3 testified to?

4                   MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. Yes.

5                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's  
6 automatically record. That's part of the  
7 Agency's record, so that's in the pack.

8                   MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Exhibit 2 was  
9 the placard.

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's in the  
11 investigator's report.

12                  MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 3 was our  
13 protest letter.

14                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's in the  
15 case report, so it's already in the record.

16                  MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 4 was our  
17 motion for continuance.

18                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It was denied,  
19 so I understand -- it's not relevant to be in  
20 this case, so I'm not going to allow that to be  
21 there.

22                  That's not relevant that you made a  
23 motion, the Board denied your motion, and I  
24 believe the Board denied your motion because, as  
25 we've stated, because it's a new license, by law

1 we have a specific timeline to issue a license.

2 So, unless the licensee had agreed to  
3 the continuance, the Board cannot on its own  
4 grant the continuance. So, I'm not going to  
5 allow that into evidence because that's not  
6 relevant to this case.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 5, which is  
8 Board Order 20-22-242, where the Board indicates  
9 that we may bring up our concerns about  
10 qualifications of the protest hearing.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is a Board  
12 Order that was issued, so it's -- that's fine.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, Exhibit 8, which  
14 is the purchase of the business in which  
15 Mr. Campbell just referenced.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is the  
17 purchase of the building relevant to your  
18 protest?

19 MS. JEFFERSON: The business, not the  
20 building. The business.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just  
22 saying, why is that relevant to your case?

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Because the business  
24 was a prior licensee that was suspended.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the

1 purpose of including this as a document for the  
2 Board to consider?

3 MS. JEFFERSON: It has to do with  
4 qualifications and representations on the  
5 application itself.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you going  
7 to have someone testify about this document,  
8 ma'am?

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's going to  
11 testify about this document?

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Campbell. He just  
13 mentioned that he bought the --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine.  
15 So, he's here, so why don't you ask him about the  
16 document.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, we have  
19 this document.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. And then,  
21 there's just a few more items.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We can -- all  
23 right --

24 MS. JEFFERSON: This is not my hundred  
25 list of evidence like I've done in the past.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no. What  
2 I'm saying is, I don't have a problem -- if you  
3 want me to move documents into evidence, you need  
4 to have someone testify on the document. So, you  
5 can call the exhibit what the exhibit is --

6                   MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- have the  
8 person testify --

9                   MS. JEFFERSON: I will do that.

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- and then,  
11 once the person's testified on the document, then  
12 you can make a motion that we move it into  
13 evidence.

14                  MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, happy to do  
15 that.

16                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, eight is a  
17 document. All the other Board documents, they're  
18 part of the Agency's record. So, I'll take  
19 administrative notice --

20                  MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that they're  
22 part of the Agency's notice. So, now you have  
23 the lease agreement that you want -- the purchase  
24 agreement, I believe, which is Exhibit 8 --

25                  MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  -- so, if this  
2 is something that is asked -- since Mr. Campbell  
3 is a witness, you can ask him about it.  And  
4 then, the testimony is that I need to make a  
5 motion to include this in the record.

6                   MS. JEFFERSON:  Okay.  So, I'd like to  
7 bring up Exhibit 8.  Do I need to share my  
8 screen?  How does this work?

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  In order to do  
10 that, ma'am, you would have to share your screen.  
11 So, I will --

12                   MS. JEFFERSON:  Okay, Ms. Fashbaugh?  
13 Thank you.

14                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Ms. Jefferson,  
15 I need to tell Ms. Fashbaugh that she needs to  
16 allow you to share your screen.

17                   MS. JEFFERSON:  Okay.

18                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  So,  
19 Ms. Fashbaugh, can you please allow Ms. Jefferson  
20 to share her screen, please.

21                   MS. FASHBAUGH:  This has been  
22 accomplished.

23                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Thank you.

24                   MS. JEFFERSON:  Thank you.  I don't  
25 know what you can see and can't see.  Okay,

1 Exhibit 8. There we go.

2 So, Mr. Campbell, good afternoon. How  
3 are you?

4 MR. CAMPBELL: Very good.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Do you recognize this  
6 document?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you please  
8 open the document first, ma'am.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: I did. It says I'm  
10 sharing.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am, but  
12 you need to click on the document to open the  
13 document. I'm seeing all your exhibits, so you  
14 need to click on the document that you want us to  
15 look at, to open it.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I did that.  
17 I'll do it again. Can you --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to use  
19 your cursor. Double click on the document so it  
20 can open.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: So, I did that. It's  
22 open. It says you're sharing your screen.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.  
24 But then, you're sharing your screen, I'm looking  
25 at all your exhibits. So, now you need to go to

1 the exhibit and --

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, it says you're  
3 sharing two documents. Let me see why it says  
4 I'm sharing two. People are viewing two. I  
5 don't know how you're viewing two.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know  
7 what, but I'm just saying, you need to go on the  
8 document, click on the document and open the  
9 document.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm going to try this  
11 again. There we go. I think this is it.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Correct.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Can you  
15 make the document larger, and then can you please  
16 ask him to identify the document? Please, ma'am,  
17 before you ask him a question.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Can you see the  
19 documents?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We can all see  
21 the document, yes.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Mr. Campbell,  
23 does this document look familiar to you?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Can you please



1 identify what the document is?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: The document shows the  
3 bill-of-sale for a new 7307.

4 (Whereupon, the above-referred-to  
5 document was marked as Exhibit 8 for  
6 identification purposes.)

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And what is the  
8 new 7307?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, the name is  
10 formerly, I believe that formerly owned  
11 Charlie's.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, you were  
13 sold this business. Is that not correct?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: And what did you pay  
16 for this business?

17 MR. CAMPBELL: One dollar.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: And you actually paid  
19 the dollar.

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I paid it.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. I'd  
22 like to -- sorry, Chair. Did you say you want me  
23 to move to admit them now, or move to admit them  
24 at the end?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is all the

1 questions you'll ask him about this document?

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, you  
4 want me to move this document into evidence?

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, please. So, I  
6 did recall you said wait until the end and ask,  
7 or wait after --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I said  
9 after -- when you ask him questions and you're  
10 done, then you can make a motion to move the  
11 document into evidence.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you for  
13 the clarification.

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MS. JEFFERSON: I actually have a  
16 follow-up question on this.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead  
18 please, ma'am.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: So, Mr. Campbell, when  
20 you bought the business, what was the trade name?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: The trade name was  
22 Charlie's.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: And were you aware of  
24 any lease that Charlie's may have had?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And where was  
2 Charlie's located?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: 7307 Georgia Avenue.

4 MS. JEFFERSON: Is that the same place  
5 or same premises as Premier Lounge?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And based on  
8 your knowledge, did Charlie's have a prior  
9 alcohol license?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: They did. Okay.  
12 Okay, thank you. I move that Exhibit 8 be moved  
13 into evidence.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
15 do you have any objection?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: I have none.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved. So,  
18 we have moved Exhibit 8 into evidence. Go ahead.

19 (Whereupon, the above-referred-to  
20 document was received into evidence as  
21 Exhibit 8.)

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Sorry.  
23 Mr. Campbell, do you plan to sell alcohol on the  
24 Internet?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And you  
2 mentioned several times that you've been  
3 operating as a restaurant.

4 MR. CAMPBELL: I said we're licensed  
5 to operate as a restaurant. I didn't say we've  
6 been operating.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, can you  
8 please clarify for us exactly what endorsements  
9 you're applying for.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Endorsements?

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, we're applying  
13 for a tavern license, and an entertainment  
14 license as well, to serve alcohol. Specific? I  
15 don't know what DC calls it, but we're applying  
16 for an entertainment license and tavern license.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're  
19 applying for a tavern license with an  
20 entertainment endorsement. Is that what you're  
21 requesting, sir?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you  
24 also requesting for a cover charge?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Oh yes. Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're  
2 applying for a tavern license with an  
3 entertainment endorsement and a cover charge.

4 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct, yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead,  
6 Ms. Jefferson.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Campbell, do you  
8 know -- who completed the application?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: I did.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: You did. Okay, and so  
11 are there any other endorsements that you are  
12 aware of that you're applying for, based on the  
13 nature of the business?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: An outside caf,.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Anything else?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: Just the outside caf,.  
17 That's it.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, with this  
19 entertainment, do you propose that dancing would  
20 be occurring?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Inside, yes.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, and do you  
23 recall Investigator Ruiz mentioning that there  
24 was a stage near the front?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Would dancing  
2 be occurring on that stage?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: I would say, it's  
4 mainly for comedians and so forth, but it's not  
5 made for that particular -- for dancing. Like I  
6 said, it's for when we have comedy shows and so  
7 forth. That's what the stage is for. But  
8 entertainment for the property? Yes.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, your  
10 entertainers would be dancing on the dance floor.

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, always --

12 MS. JEFFERSON: On the stage, excuse  
13 me.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, on the stage. On  
15 the stage, yeah.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And is there  
17 anywhere else to dance within the premises? On  
18 the inside?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: On the inside? Yes,  
20 there's room for dancing. Yes.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And does this  
22 include employees, or is this just the patrons?

23 MR. CAMPBELL: The patrons. Not a lot  
24 of them, but there is room, yes.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. How often have

1 you been to the establishment since it was  
2 placarded?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: I could not tell you  
4 the exact amount of times. And I go by and make  
5 sure everything's in order, make sure there's no  
6 trash or anything around the premises. But I  
7 cannot tell you exactly how many times my office  
8 has been placarded. Maybe about eight or so?  
9 Ten?

10 I check on it. You know, make sure I  
11 go check on it. We also, I can monitor the  
12 cameras from my phone. We have cameras  
13 surrounding the building, Georgia Avenue, the  
14 back alleyway, cameras all over. So, I can see  
15 right from my phone as well.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, have you  
17 actually seen the placard?

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. I put the placard  
19 on the door myself.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, you did. Okay.  
21 And would you read it?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I'd like to  
24 present Exhibit 2, which is the placard.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's already

1 applied. You want to show him the exhibit of the  
2 placard?

3 MS. JEFFERSON: I would like to show  
4 him the exhibit.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
6 go ahead, ma'am. It's already part of the  
7 record. I will take administrative notice of the  
8 placard, so you can ask him about the placard.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Hopefully, it's  
10 working. Okay, are you there, Mr. Campbell? I'm  
11 sorry, all my little windows got smaller. So --

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I'm here.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. Can  
14 you read the licensee name?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: The New 7307A.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And your prior  
17 testimony was that was the same name of the  
18 business that you purchased. Is that correct?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And will you  
21 read the trade name?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: Premier Lounge.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Is that the  
24 same trade name as the prior business that you  
25 purchased?



1 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Under the  
3 nature of the operations, can you just read what  
4 it says?

5 MR. CAMPBELL: The bar and lounge will  
6 serve finger food. Seating capacity of 55, with  
7 an occupancy load of 75. Sidewalk caf, with  
8 eight seats, entertainment endorsement to include  
9 dancing and cover charge inside the premises  
10 only.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you.  
12 Chair Anderson, you took administrative notice  
13 that this was already on the record. I'm going  
14 to move to another exhibit. I don't mean move as  
15 in move motion, but move -- because I'm  
16 establishing foundation.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The placard  
18 is -- I'll take administrative notice that the  
19 placard is a part of the Board's record. Go  
20 ahead, ma'am.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Can you see  
22 this document?

23 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I can.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: The application?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Mm-hmm.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, do you see  
2 this section right here where my mouse is? I  
3 don't know if you can see --

4 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, yes.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Can you read just what  
6 it says at this top banner?

7 MR. CAMPBELL: What? To be completed  
8 by applicant?

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And it was your  
10 prior testimony that you completed this.

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Under number  
13 five, can you read the items that are marked?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Sidewalk caf,, tasting  
15 permit of the brew pub, onsite sales and  
16 consumption.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

18 MR. CAMPBELL: But there's a  
19 correction. There was a correction made and the  
20 pub was actually -- that was ruled out of the  
21 application in the face of permits. Those were  
22 actually removed.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: And so, when you say  
24 removed, by which means were they removed?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a

1 minute, Ms. Jefferson. The only license that's  
2 up for discussion today that the Board will rule,  
3 is what was placarded. It's irrelevant what's on  
4 the application.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If it was not  
7 on the placard, it is not something that we'll  
8 discuss today. So, it's not relevant for us to  
9 go through the application to see what was  
10 checked off on the application itself.

11 The only type of endorsements that are  
12 subject to this hearing today are the endorsement  
13 and the license class and category that's on the  
14 placard. Okay?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: I appreciate that. I  
16 wanted to ask Mr. Campbell how the folks in  
17 licensing knew how many people to put for the  
18 sidewalk caf,.

19 He said that that was marked. So, I  
20 don't see a number next to that. So, I'm trying  
21 to understand what he applied for.

22 So, Mr. Campbell, under sidewalk caf,  
23 it has seats and blank. How were they able to  
24 ascertain what your intent was for the sidewalk  
25 caf,?

1           MR. CAMPBELL: An amended application  
2 was submitted to ABRA and was accepted. So, with  
3 the seating capacity of eight and removal of the  
4 pub and tasting permit.

5           MS. JEFFERSON: And do you recall the  
6 date that that amended application was submitted?

7           MR. CAMPBELL: I may not recall the  
8 exact date, but I could try to find the record.  
9 I do not recall the exact dates right now. I'll  
10 try to find it for you.

11          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you waiting  
12 for him, or --

13          MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, I was waiting for  
14 him. I was waiting for him. I'm sorry.

15                   (Simultaneous speaking.)

16          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Remember, as I  
17 stated before, if the Board is going to grant the  
18 license, it will be based on what was placarded.  
19 Okay? That is the limitation of what the Board  
20 can do.

21                   The Board can limit what's on the  
22 placard, but the Board cannot expand what's on  
23 the placard.

24                   So, it's irrelevant what's on his  
25 application. We can only make decisions -- and

1 I'm glad that you had him go through the placard,  
2 because that limits the jurisdiction of the  
3 Board.

4 So, we will only make determination  
5 based on what's on the placard, not what's on the  
6 application.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. That was  
8 my intent, sir. I appreciate that.

9 If you don't mind, let's go to the  
10 next page, item number six. Can you read your  
11 response to item number six on this page?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Barbershop will  
13 be operating upstairs on the second floor.

14 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And did you  
15 have an opportunity to talk to Investigator Ruiz  
16 about this barbershop?

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Not extensively,  
18 because the barbershop is not even open as yet.  
19 But he asked when he visited, do we have another  
20 establishment that will be operated, and which I  
21 told him the barbershop upstairs. But the  
22 barbershop is not open as yet and the barbershop  
23 has its own entryway and a door that closes off  
24 from the bar itself and locked.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Given your

1 proposed hours of operation of the tavern -- and  
2 this is just getting more information on the  
3 nature of the business -- will patrons in the  
4 barbershop be able to come down and get a drink  
5 without going outside? Like, can they just come  
6 down the stairs and go through?

7 MR. CAMPBELL: No. No. No, no, it's  
8 completely separate, and entry and exit, two  
9 different establishments. They need to go out  
10 one door and enter into the other establishment.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And will you be  
12 serving alcohol in the barbershop?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

14 MS. JEFFERSON: None at all.

15 MR. CAMPBELL: None. It's a  
16 barbershop.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And your  
18 certificate of occupancy that you have, is it  
19 based on just the first floor, or is it based on  
20 the entire premises?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: First floor.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: The first floor. And  
23 do you have a basement on the premises?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

1 MR. CAMPBELL: The first floor is the  
2 basement. Yeah.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Basement meaning  
4 subterranean.

5 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Below-ground. Okay.  
7 Can you read number seven?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 MR. CAMPBELL: -- did he have or  
11 previously held a license for the sale of alcohol  
12 beverage?

13 MS. JEFFERSON: And what was your  
14 response?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Now, this is  
17 related to the business. Was it your prior  
18 testimony that the business had a license?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. Before I  
20 purchased it, yes.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, thank you.  
22 Sorry, wrong mouse. I'm going to scroll down.  
23 Do you see item number fourteen?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I do.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Can you explain

1 your rationale for not completing that?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: This application, I'm  
3 not sure this application you've seen, but the  
4 other application, this was filled out here.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

6 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, this was filled  
7 out.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, I'm not sure what  
10 application you have, but yes, this was filled  
11 out.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
14 why are we going through -- I've never had a case  
15 where we're going through an application.

16 So, why are you cross-examining a  
17 witness on an application? Why is this relevant  
18 to what we have to do? I mean, why are we going  
19 through an application?

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, it's relevant to  
21 their qualifications.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The  
23 application?

24 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you get to



1 the point, ma'am? Because I don't see --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MS. JEFFERSON: It's relevant to the  
4 licensure. Adhering to laws and regulations,  
5 including making false statements on an  
6 application.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know  
8 where you are. I think what Mr. Campbell has  
9 testified, that the application that you are  
10 reviewing, that it was amended.

11 He just stated that, that it was  
12 amended. That's what he stated. He stated that  
13 there was an amended application. So, this is  
14 not the application.

15 He filed an application and it was  
16 subsequently amended. So, I'm not quite sure why  
17 we're going through an application.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: So, we're going  
19 through this, Chair Anderson, because you  
20 mentioned the timeliness in which a protest  
21 hearing may occur.

22 And so, if the placard is based on an  
23 application that was amended, then the tolling  
24 and the timing changes.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but the

1 placard gives you the 45 days. Now, a person can  
2 send an application in at any point, but then,  
3 for whatever the Agency will the application and  
4 say it's not ready to be placarded.

5 But once the Agency accepts the  
6 application as complete, then the Agency will  
7 notify the community that someone's applied for a  
8 license, and your 45-day period starts this date.

9 So, we, the Agency, are the one who  
10 establishes a timeline. So, I'm not quite  
11 sure -- how is this an issue if we've already,  
12 based on the date on the placard, we're the ones  
13 who have now decided, not based on the date of  
14 the application, but when we issued the placarded  
15 notice, we're the ones who have stated that this  
16 document is ready to -- the community is now on  
17 notice that this is the period that they can  
18 protest this application.

19 So, that's why I'm saying, it's not  
20 relevant for us to go through this application,  
21 because --

22 MS. JEFFERSON: It actually is. If  
23 you'll please allow me to --

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, let's  
25 move -- remember, you're cross-examining a

1 person. And if I was counting this time against  
2 your time, you'd be losing your hour.

3 So, it's always better for us to use  
4 our time to do direct testimony. Okay? To do  
5 direct testimony. Not in the sense of -- I'm  
6 being very honest, I don't know where you're  
7 going with this and this is not helping me make a  
8 decision. Okay?

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Mr. Campbell,  
10 can you look at number nineteen? This has to do  
11 with appropriateness.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, can you read  
14 your response to 19A?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: 19A?

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: I'll zoom it up a  
19 little bit.

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, if you could zoom  
21 it up a little bit for me.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Sorry, this -- oh  
23 goodness. This thing at the top. There we go.

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, I believe I  
25 could --

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Oops, too big.

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, that's fine. You  
3 could just --

4 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry.

5 MR. CAMPBELL: That's fine. Okay,  
6 19A, correct?

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, can you please  
8 read your response.

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. We are providing  
10 the surrounding residents with a neighborhood  
11 establishment they can walk to for a drink, watch  
12 a football game, even listen to live band,  
13 keeping the money in the Ward, offering incoming  
14 residents local entertainment in walking  
15 distance.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Can you explain  
17 what that has to do with real property values?

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, the establishment  
19 like ours can actually enhance the community. We  
20 have an establishment, a restaurant that someone  
21 can walk to within the vicinity. They don't have  
22 to leave the neighborhood.

23 And, like I said, it's a viable  
24 contribution to the residents. It actually helps  
25 bring the value up to the neighborhood, to where

1 they have, like I said, live entertainment that's  
2 within walking distance, versus leaving the area  
3 and going to another area.

4 MS. JEFFERSON: And are you a licensed  
5 real estate agent?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: No, ma'am.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Are you a licensed  
8 appraiser?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: No, ma'am.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, so is there  
11 anything in this application that indicates that  
12 the community told you that this would increase  
13 their real property values?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Nothing that -- no.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: So, is it fair to say  
16 that this is just your opinion?

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Based on research data,  
18 yes. I would say yes.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: But you're not a  
20 licensed real estate agent.

21 MR. CAMPBELL: No, I'm not a licensed  
22 real estate agent.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Can you read  
24 your response to item B?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. We have uniform

1 security also. Close relationship with MPD for  
2 our guests.

3 We'll be inside for our facility, not  
4 hanging on the sidewalk, which our security will  
5 enforce such rules.

6 And also. D.C. blocking of passage law  
7 at the close of business each day, our staff  
8 police calls out of perimeter within a block, and  
9 premises.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: So, you mentioned  
11 uniform security. Who is this uniform security?  
12 Who are they employed by?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: Uniform security?  
14 Well, we have Mr. Allen's agency. We also have  
15 numerous agencies that we work with also.  
16 Security agencies.

17 I've been in the security field since  
18 2012 as well. I work closely with MPD. So, we  
19 have a wide variety of contacts with security  
20 officers, also MPD, which I work closely with.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Are you a security  
22 guard?

23 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I'm a licensed  
24 security officer as well.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: In which jurisdiction?

1 MR. CAMPBELL: In D.C.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: You're a licensed  
3 security guard in D.C.

4 MR. CAMPBELL: District of Columbia.  
5 I'm an SP. I'm a special police officer.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And is it your  
7 plan to perform the function of security when the  
8 establishment is having entertainment?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: No. We would have  
10 officers onsite. I would not be performing the  
11 security. I will be an addition, but I will not  
12 be the primary security officer.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: But you would be  
14 performing security.

15 MR. CAMPBELL: No, we would have a  
16 security officer there. But --

17 MS. JEFFERSON: You said you would be  
18 performing. I'm just looking for clarification.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: I said we'd have a  
20 security officer there. If needed, I will  
21 assist, but there will be officers there.

22 Just like the staff is answering, I  
23 will staff everyone. It's a team effort, but we  
24 would have licensed security guards there as  
25 well.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: And would you be  
2 carrying your firearm at that time?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

4 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You mentioned  
5 Mr. Allen's security agency. Is it licensed in  
6 the District of Columbia?

7 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Are you sure about  
9 that?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: As far as I know, yes.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, do you  
12 recall the sign that Investigator Ruiz showed?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: What sign did he show  
14 me? I'm sorry.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: About the sign that  
16 the neighbors have. That was his exhibit. I'll  
17 go back to the -- yeah, his Exhibit 18. The  
18 photograph where the neighbors ask for people to  
19 be quiet. Do you recall seeing that?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. Yes.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Item C, because  
22 I want to move forward. Item C, can you read  
23 your response?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: I wasn't prepared for  
25 this. All right, let's see here. A little



1 smaller, is it?

2 MS. JEFFERSON: I'll try to zoom it.  
3 Every time I zoom it --

4 MR. CAMPBELL: I'm fine with this.  
5 I'm fine. I don't want you to mess with it.  
6 That's fine. All right, C, right?

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Many of our  
9 customers are from the surrounding neighborhood,  
10 walking distance also. The traffic we anticipate  
11 will be after 9:00 p.m., when other businesses on  
12 the block will be closed, leaving parking for our  
13 customers.

14 In addition, 70 percent of our  
15 neighborhoods have private parking lots.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, you said m  
17 any of your customers are from the surrounding  
18 neighborhood. Are these customers that have  
19 already gone to your establishment?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Or catering. Premier  
21 Lounge is geared to cater to the community. Our  
22 target customers is the community. We want the  
23 community to come, to walk from their homes, get  
24 a drink, watch sports games, and go back home.

25 It's geared for the communities.

1 That's what it's for. It's a neighborhood bar  
2 and lounge. So, what we're targeting is  
3 customers within walking distance. The walk to  
4 the establishment and walk back home. That's our  
5 target group.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And have you  
7 met with any of the local civic or citizen  
8 associations, or ANCs?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, we met with ANC  
10 Commissioner.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Which one?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Gates.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Okay.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: And which actually  
15 endorsed us.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: He endorsed you.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, for provisional  
18 license and --

19 MS. JEFFERSON: So, he submitted an  
20 ANC resolution?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, for -- we were  
22 applying for a stipulated license, which he  
23 endorsed us, and we have that document.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: Well, stipulated  
25 license and the application for licensing is not

1 the same.

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I know. Yes.  
3 Yes, this was previously -- this was before this  
4 was contested, yes.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: So, as it relates to  
6 this application, did the ANC support you? Did  
7 they provide a letter of support?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: No, we did not actually  
9 request a letter of support. It was off the  
10 record we'd spoken as well. But we did not  
11 actually request on record a letter of support.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: So, this is just your  
13 assumption that this is something that the  
14 community wants and would go to. Because you've  
15 never actually met with the formal ANC, have you?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: We've met with  
17 individuals from the community. And we have met,  
18 like I said, Mr. Gates, which he stated he lived  
19 in that area for years and have been going to  
20 Charlie's, and wants to come to Premier Lounge as  
21 well, once we fully open.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Do you know where  
23 Mr. Gates lives? Where Commissioner Gates lives?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: No, I haven't look up  
25 his address. No.

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MS. JEFFERSON: I'll just state as a  
3 matter of public record, he lives at Takoma, near  
4 Takoma Metro, which is not within the impacted  
5 area. I'll move on. I'm almost done.

6 Do you recall meeting Investigator  
7 Ruiz back when you rented the catering license?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: I recall meeting  
9 Mr. Ruiz.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: Investigator Ruiz? Do  
11 you yourself have any licenses with ABRA?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: You don't.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: So, you don't have an  
16 ABC manager license.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry,  
18 I apologize. Yes, I'm sorry. Yes, I guess --  
19 yes, I have an ABC manager license. Yes, I do.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Did you go to  
21 the required training?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And when you  
24 went to that training, did you read the ABRA  
25 regulations?

1 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: And when you read  
3 those ABRA regulations, after that did you sign  
4 any document stating that you had read them? Do  
5 you recall that?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, you  
8 understand that by certifying that, you are  
9 stating that you understand what the law is and  
10 what's required of you.

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, can you  
13 help us to understand when Investigator Ruiz met  
14 you in the prior, did you present the license  
15 to -- when the caterer was there, did you present  
16 a license for Premier?

17 MR. CAMPBELL: No. I presented the  
18 license for a catering company. The catering  
19 company, as a representative, presented their  
20 license.

21 I showed Mr. Ruiz my manager's  
22 license, but the catering company showed their  
23 documents, their license, as well. Their  
24 documentation for the event, and I showed  
25 Mr. Ruiz my manager's license and I identified

1 myself as the owner.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Did you show any type  
3 of license to consume alcohol at the premises?

4 MR. CAMPBELL: No. For Premier, no.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: What about for  
6 Charlie's?

7 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Are you  
9 familiar with your Instagram handle?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Actually, no. To be  
11 honest, I'm not a social media guy. I don't do  
12 any social media at all.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Do you all pay someone  
14 to do it for you?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, we kind of  
16 outsource it. Mr. Allen generally handles that.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Allen handles  
18 that? Okay --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, he takes care of  
21 that. So, he outsources it to have individuals  
22 handle that, but I do not do social media at all.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: And if Mr. Allen or  
24 you saw something on social media that was  
25 incorrect, would you ask someone to take it down?

1 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, absolutely.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, is it fair  
3 to say that the representation of your  
4 establishment on social media is a fair  
5 representation of what Premier Lounge is and how  
6 it operates?

7 MR. CAMPBELL: I would say no. I have  
8 not really -- like I said, I've not really been  
9 on social media a lot. Mr. Allen -- like I said,  
10 I've not been on there probably as much as I  
11 should have. So, in general, Mr. Allen handles  
12 that. So, I don't want to go into specifics  
13 because, I'll be honest with you, I have not -- I  
14 couldn't tell you -- if you ask me about  
15 something on there, I really couldn't tell you,  
16 because I don't even have a Facebook page.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I'm going to  
18 move on. Do you recognize this page?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And are you the  
21 actual owner of the property?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: No, that would be  
23 Eileen Gear. That was who I was giving the  
24 amended application to. I know where you're  
25 going with that. That's who was handling that

1 case.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. And  
3 I just have -- let me see -- one more thing. Two  
4 more. Have you ever been interviewed for any  
5 publications about your business?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: No, not myself. No.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: You haven't.

8 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Let me do this.  
10 Can you see the screen?

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I can see the  
12 screen.

13 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, is that you?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: No, that is not me.

15 MS. JEFFERSON: That's not you.

16 MR. CAMPBELL: No. It looks like me,  
17 but it's not me.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, okay. So, that's  
19 not you. So, who is this?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: That is Mr. Allen.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: That's Mr. Allen. And  
22 where is this picture taken?

23 MR. CAMPBELL: I'm not sure. I was  
24 not there, but that appears to be Premier.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Okay, let me



1 just -- let me see if there's any other  
2 questions. Otherwise -- hold on. Okay, no  
3 questions. I'll turn it over to the Board.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,  
5 Ms. Jefferson. Any questions by the Board  
6 members?

7 MEMBER SHORT: I have one, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

9 MEMBER SHORT: I guess it's good  
10 afternoon, Mr. Campbell. Good afternoon,  
11 Mr. Campbell.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. I can  
13 barely hear you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can barely  
15 hear Mr. Short. You're not on camera and I can  
16 hardly hear you.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Can you hear me now?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your voice  
19 is -- I don't know why your volume is so low, but  
20 your volume is very low.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Same volume I've been  
22 using all day, but at any rate though, I'll try  
23 to --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we cannot

1 hear you, Mr. Short. We can't hear you. No, I'm  
2 serious, we cannot hear you, sir. You're going  
3 to try to ask your question?

4 MEMBER SHORT: Yeah, I'm trying.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, go  
6 ahead. We can hear you better now. Go ahead,  
7 sir.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. The question I  
9 wanted to ask Mr. Campbell, Mr. Campbell, have  
10 you ever operated a business and didn't have a  
11 license to do so? Ever?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

13 MEMBER SHORT: Have you ever  
14 represented that you had a license when you did  
15 not have one?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

17 MEMBER SHORT: When you were asked to  
18 produce your ABC manager's license and using a  
19 caterer, did you know that you couldn't do that  
20 until you had a license to do so?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: You can -- repeat that  
22 for me, please?

23 MEMBER SHORT: Did you present an ABC  
24 manager's license to an ABRA investigator while  
25 having a caterer open that business for you that

1 had not been licensed as of yet?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: You said the caterer  
3 was not licensed as yet?

4 MEMBER SHORT: You were not licensed  
5 as of yet. Did you do that?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: I guess I presented my  
7 manager's license to ABRA. To the investigator.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Did you have a business  
9 license to operate a business at that time?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

11 MEMBER SHORT: You had a business  
12 license? From whom?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: I had a basic business  
14 license.

15 MEMBER SHORT: To sell alcohol?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: No, not to sell  
17 alcohol. No.

18 MEMBER SHORT: So, that means, with  
19 your theory, anybody with a basic business  
20 license can get a caterer and start selling  
21 alcohol. Is that correct? Is that your  
22 understanding?

23 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

24 MEMBER SHORT: Why did you do that?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: That was a special

1 event, which they were able to host events, like  
2 birthday parties and so forth, and a caterer,  
3 naturally they would provide refreshments and  
4 food, so forth, for the events, which they're  
5 permitted to do.

6 MEMBER SHORT: But you know that you  
7 didn't have a license to sell alcohol. Correct?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, we weren't --

9 MEMBER SHORT: The caterer can only  
10 use his license at licensed alcohol  
11 establishments.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: I was not aware of  
13 that.

14 MEMBER SHORT: So, you did all the  
15 training to get your manager's license, but you  
16 didn't know that.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: I wasn't -- no, I was  
18 not aware of that.

19 MEMBER SHORT: What made you think  
20 that you could have a party with a basic business  
21 license and a caterer, and you had not got  
22 permission from the ABRA ABC Board to sell  
23 alcohol in the District of Columbia?

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, I reached out and  
25 requested some information, and I did some

1 research to see if they were able to host it,  
2 those waters were approached.

3 And I did not see anything that would  
4 prevent it, that negated us from hosting it. I  
5 don't know what provisions actually you're  
6 speaking of, but I was not aware of that.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Well, that was October  
8 of 2021, correct?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct.

10 MEMBER SHORT: How many days had you  
11 been operating prior to that October date when  
12 the investigator came by?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: October was the first  
14 time we was in the events hosting. October.

15 MEMBER SHORT: How many did you do  
16 before the investigator came and told you that  
17 you were doing it illegally?

18 MR. CAMPBELL: I think they might have  
19 done maybe like two, three shows. Or, maybe like  
20 two shows, two events. Yes, I think they might  
21 have did like two or three events.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Well, had not the  
23 investigator came by, you would have been still  
24 operating now, correct?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: We were aware -- no,

1 pretty much kills operations that -- like I said,  
2 it wasn't an everyday thing. Like I said, they  
3 hosted, what, I would not say we would continue  
4 to operate, but we did shut down once we spoke to  
5 the investigator.

6 And that was not brought to our  
7 attention either. So, we still weren't -- even  
8 after speaking with the investigator, I still  
9 wasn't aware that we were breaking the law. We  
10 weren't aware of that.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Why did you stop then?  
12 Why did you stop then? Why did you stop?

13 MR. CAMPBELL: Because I know the  
14 attention that was being brought, and I didn't  
15 want any issues. And it seems that there was a  
16 problem, like the investigator even being out  
17 there. I didn't not want to draw that kind of  
18 attention.

19 Like I said, I wasn't aware that what  
20 we did we were not permitted to do. Otherwise, I  
21 wouldn't have even done it in the first place.  
22 And like I said --

23 MEMBER SHORT: So, you all -- mm-hmm.  
24 Okay. So, you are a special police officer  
25 registered with the Metropolitan Police

1 Department.

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct. Correct.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Are there any  
4 regulations that you're trained under as a  
5 special police officer and registered with the  
6 Metropolitan Police Department, about businesses?  
7 Special policemen go through training. Correct?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct.

9 MEMBER SHORT: At the Training Academy  
10 in Southwest in the Metropolitan Police  
11 Department. Correct?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: No, special police  
13 officers undergo a different training. Undergo a  
14 different training, a 48-hour class, which is  
15 conducted by different schools and instructors.  
16 But not the training facility down in Southwest.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Where did you register  
18 with the MPD? Where did you register with MPD to  
19 get your special policemen's license in the  
20 District of Columbia?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: The region, SOMB.  
22 SOMB. SOMB and DCRA pretty much handles it, but  
23 SOMB manages the security license.

24 MEMBER SHORT: So, you're a special  
25 police officer and you're on duty, and someone is

1 breaking the law, do you have arrest powers?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I do, on those  
3 premises that we're employed by only. Our  
4 jurisdiction -- as special police officers,  
5 jurisdiction is limited.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, I understand  
7 that. Very much so, I won't tell you why, but I  
8 do understand public safety very well.

9 I would just simply say this to you.  
10 As a special police officer, and you were working  
11 a building, and someone had a basic business  
12 license, was selling alcohol, and did not have an  
13 alcohol license, what would you do if someone  
14 called you as a special police officer on a  
15 property that you had sworn to protect?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: If they were operating  
17 on my premises without an alcohol license?

18 MEMBER SHORT: Yes.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Naturally, that  
20 party would be shut down, but it would cause -- a  
21 first call would be to MPD and we would notify  
22 District of Columbia. MPD would then, we would  
23 shut that party down.

24 MEMBER SHORT: So, it didn't come to  
25 your mind in October of 2021 that you were doing



1 something illegal, and you're a special police  
2 officer who knows better.

3 MR. CAMPBELL: That's not -- for  
4 special police officers, that is not part of our  
5 training. That is completely -- that's out of  
6 our jurisdiction as well.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all  
8 I have, thank you. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

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

12 Hearing none -- well, you can only ask  
13 a question, Ms. Jefferson, based on the questions  
14 that Mr. Short asked. Okay? So, it's only based  
15 on the questions that Mr. Short asked. Go ahead.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Short mentioned to  
17 you about the violations. And your prior  
18 testimony was that you had read the regulations  
19 and certified to such. Is that correct?

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Correct.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, you mentioned at  
22 the very beginning when you introduced yourself,  
23 that there were no prior violations. Is that  
24 still a correct statement?

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Prior violations? We

1 weren't cited for any violations. To my  
2 knowledge, Mr. Ruiz -- we never received any  
3 violations. I was shut down. We spoke, like I  
4 said. This is first news to me. I was never  
5 told that it was illegal to do.

6 The catering company has a legal  
7 license. We was unaware that this was not  
8 permitted.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. That caterer,  
10 was it District Space?

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, and were you  
13 aware that District Space was renting its license  
14 to other similarly situated business doing the  
15 same thing?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: You were not aware of  
18 that.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: How did you learn  
21 about the caterer?

22 MR. CAMPBELL: That was through  
23 Mr. Allen. That was through Mr. Allen.

24 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. But did you do  
25 any due diligence on who this caterer is? You

1 just trusted your business partner?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, we had a trusting  
3 relationship. With anything, we trust.

4 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. No further  
5 questions.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
7 any clarifications? I know you're under cross-  
8 examination, so you're still presenting your  
9 case.

10 But any clarification that you need to  
11 give regarding the testimony that you just gave,  
12 based on the questions that Mr. Short had asked,  
13 or Ms. Jefferson had asked? Any clarification  
14 that you need to clarify the record, sir?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: Just the license part.  
16 The license for the caterers hosting events. To  
17 my knowledge, like I said, if we were breaking  
18 the law, so to speak, I'm a little confused why  
19 we weren't shut down, where Mr. Ruiz didn't  
20 instruct us at that point.

21 And we even reached out, like I said,  
22 to members at ABRA, just a clarification. I was  
23 not aware of this statute that this was  
24 unpermitted. Otherwise, like I said, we wouldn't  
25 have even allowed them to rent.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.  
2 Anything else you want to say before you rest  
3 your case?

4 MR. CAMPBELL: No, that's it,  
5 Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. You  
7 know, Ms. Jefferson, I said that I was going to  
8 take a break at five o'clock, but since you're  
9 going to now present your case, I believe that  
10 this is an appropriate time to take a break.

11 So, we'll be off the record until five  
12 o'clock. So, we'll take like a twelve-minute  
13 break, so we'll be off the record.

14 Everyone can just turn your camera off  
15 and turn your microphone off, and we'll be back  
16 on the record at five o'clock.

17 Could all the Board members look at  
18 your email, please, and please look at your  
19 emails. This is about an unrelated case, so  
20 please look at your emails, please. But we'll be  
21 back on the record at five o'clock.

22 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter  
23 went off the record at 4:48 p.m., and  
24 resumed at 5:02 p.m.)

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on

1 the record. Do you have a witness you wish to  
2 call Ms. Jefferson? You're on mute ma'am.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you sir. I'd  
4 quickly like to call Mr. Allen if he's still  
5 available.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is Mr.  
7 Allen?

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Allen was the  
9 other co-owner, is he not available?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you want to  
11 call the owner as a witness?

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, I don't see him  
13 online.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I mean  
15 did you -- I'm sorry, Mr. Campbell?

16 MR. CAMPBELL: Let me check, he might  
17 have gotten disconnected here.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: He was on earlier.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Allen  
20 voluntarily testifying?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Only Mr. Allen can  
22 speak for Mr. Allen I guess. Thank you all for  
23 your patience with us, and thank you all for your  
24 service to the District of Columbia. I know the  
25 last two years have been very challenging for you

1 all, and I do remember late night, and early  
2 mornings with the board down at 441 with reams of  
3 paper.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, Ms.  
5 Jefferson, you're giving us a late night again  
6 tonight.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: No, we're not going to  
8 have a late night, I've got things to do, I've  
9 got my summer wear on, I've got things to do, so  
10 we're going to wrap this up.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
12 thank you for the compliment, we're here, we're  
13 public servants here to serve the public. All  
14 right, so Mr. Allen is testifying?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, I'd like to call  
16 Mr. Allen.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right Mr.  
18 Allen, can you raise your right hand please? Mr.  
19 Allen, can you raise your right hand? I can't  
20 see you sir. Do you swear, or affirm to tell the  
21 truth, and nothing but the truth? I can't hear  
22 you sir, you're on mute. You're on mute, you're  
23 still on mute. You need to unmute your phone  
24 sir.

25 MR. ALLEN: Unmute my phone?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you  
2 now sir.

3 MR. ALLEN: I can hear you, okay,  
4 good.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, just raise  
6 your hand, do you swear, or affirm to tell the  
7 truth, and nothing but the truth?

8 MR. ALLEN: Yes.

9 WHEREUPON,

10 Justin Allen  
11 was called for examination by Counsel for the  
12 Protestant, having been first duly sworn, assumed  
13 the witness stand, was examined and testified as  
14 follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead Ms.  
17 Jefferson.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Mr. Allen, good  
19 afternoon.

20 MR. ALLEN: How are you doing Ms.  
21 Jefferson?

22 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm doing okay, we're  
23 getting close to the end.

24 MR. ALLEN: That's great.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm going to be very

1 quick, hopefully.

2 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

3 Q You, and Mr. Campbell are 50 50  
4 business partners, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And you have a security business?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did you hear Mr. Campbell's testimony  
9 when he stated that security services possibly  
10 could be handled by your business?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay, is that a factual statement?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay, and can you tell us the type of  
15 events that would have security services, or  
16 warrant security services?

17 A Well, if we're anticipating a big  
18 crowd for a particular event, we would definitely  
19 make sure that we have security present. We like  
20 to make sure we over staff to make sure we have  
21 adequate security on premises, to make sure that  
22 we control the patrons on the interior, as well  
23 as keeping people moving along as they leave, and  
24 to keep the noise down, and have them walk around  
25 in the alleys in the neighborhood, the traffic,



1 to assist with making sure everything in the area  
2 is taken care of.

3 Q Okay. Do you mind sharing the name of  
4 your security company?

5 A Executive Security Services.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, Chair Anderson,  
7 I would like to request Ms. Fashbaugh to allow me  
8 to share my screen.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't think  
10 she took it away from you, so you can try again.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: There it is, okay.  
12 I'm just opening what I need to open.

13 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

14 Q Okay, Mr. Allen, are you familiar with  
15 this document?

16 A I can't see anything at this time.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: No one sees anything?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can see the  
19 screen, can you see her screen, can you see  
20 Exhibit No. 5 sir?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: 15.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 15.

23 MR. ALLEN: No sir.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you can't  
25 see the document she shared?

1 MR. ALLEN: No, I just see the grid of  
2 people -- okay, I can see it now.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

4 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

5 Q Are you familiar with this document?

6 A Yeah, I sure am.

7 Q Okay, and this is the same company you  
8 just mentioned?

9 A Yes ma'am.

10 Q Okay, can you read what number two  
11 says?

12 A The screen is small, no, I cannot.

13 Q Let me -- can you see it? I've zoomed  
14 it pretty large.

15 A Yeah, I'm zooming it too, defendant  
16 Executive Security Services LLC is a Maryland  
17 corporation.

18 Q Can you read the second part? It goes  
19 to the next page, please.

20 A Okay, that provides security services  
21 business for Columbia in the district and the  
22 surrounding metropolitan area.

23 Q And then can you read number three  
24 please?

25 A Defendant Allen is the founder, and

1 co-owner --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I cannot hear  
3 you sir, can you raise your voice?

4 MR. ALLEN: The defendant Justin Allen  
5 is the founder, and co-owner of ESS.

6 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

7 Q Can you explain what this document is  
8 about as it relates to security services?

9 MR. ALLEN: Can you be more specific?

10 MS. JEFFERSON: I mean why does this  
11 document exist?

12 MR. ALLEN: I have to go through it  
13 again, I'm not familiar with it, can you scroll  
14 back down?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

16 MR. ALLEN: Okay, here it says with  
17 the District of Columbia.

18 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

19 Q Okay, and were you assessed from the  
20 Office of the Attorney General related to this  
21 security business that is proposed to provide  
22 security services?

23 A We provide security services in D.C.

24 Q Is ESS licensed in D.C.?

25 A Yes, we have a license in D.C.

1 Q What kind of license, who gave you  
2 this license? Let me start back with that.

3 A SOMB (Phonetic.) Security Office.

4 Q Do you have a license with DCRA? We  
5 can't hear him, he's -- can you repeat yourself?  
6 There was a glitch.

7 A SOMB, Security Office Management  
8 Branch.

9 Q Okay, and are you licensed with DCRA?

10 A I'm licensed in D.C.

11 Q That was not my question, I asked you  
12 if you were licensed with DCRA.

13 A Yes.

14 Q So, why does this document say that  
15 you're a Maryland corporation, why does it say  
16 that you're a Maryland corporation --

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
18 Ms. Jefferson, let me cut to the chase. It said  
19 that they are a Maryland corporation who does  
20 business in the district. So, the law says you  
21 can be licensed, you can be a corporation,  
22 meaning that you are incorporated, you can be  
23 incorporated in Delaware, you can be incorporated  
24 in California. All it says is that they are  
25 incorporated.

1           What it means is that they formed  
2 their business in a different state, but they can  
3 operate in the District of Columbia, and that's  
4 what it says.

5           MS. JEFFERSON: That's not what it  
6 says, it doesn't say that they can operate, it  
7 says that they provide security, there's a  
8 difference, there's a legal distinction.

9           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No ma'am. It  
10 says that they're a Maryland corporation that  
11 operates in the District of Columbia, nothing is  
12 wrong with that. Go back to --

13          MS. JEFFERSON: It doesn't say that  
14 they are licensed to operate in the District of  
15 Columbia, there is a legal distinction.

16          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you  
17 a question --

18          MS. JEFFERSON: And I'm bringing this  
19 up in light of Betty's Dojo, and Champion Kitchen  
20 that had a Maryland licensed security firm that  
21 was not licensed in the District of Columbia to  
22 provide security.

23          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson,  
24 hold on Ms. Jefferson, hold on. Okay, this is a  
25 court case --

1 MS. JEFFERSON: It's been settled.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But listen. Is  
3 there anywhere in this court document that was  
4 issued by the District of Columbia that said they  
5 were operating illegally in D.C.? Is that in  
6 this document?

7 MS. JEFFERSON: This document doesn't  
8 say that they are operating, it is silent, so I  
9 asked the question.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, I'm just  
11 trying to cut to the chase.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I asked the  
13 question.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's a court  
15 case, is there anywhere in this document that  
16 says they were illegally operating in D.C.? Is  
17 that in that? If that's not here, then that's  
18 not an issue, because a court would have fined  
19 them saying that you're illegally operating in  
20 D.C. So, if the document says that, then let's  
21 address that issue.

22 But if it doesn't say that, I'm just  
23 saying nothing is wrong with them being a  
24 Maryland corporation, they said they're a  
25 Maryland corporation that operates in D.C., and

1 nothing is wrong with that.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: I agree with you. The  
3 attorney general's action was related to wages,  
4 and not licensing. It's totally different, there  
5 are two different parts of the code. So, I will  
6 move on, I'm just going to say for the record  
7 that operating as an employer under title 32 of  
8 the code is not the same portion of the code as  
9 being licensed. So, I will move onto other  
10 questions I have.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But Ms.  
12 Jefferson, I'm just stating though, if they were  
13 operating illegally within the District of  
14 Columbia, the attorney general would also fine  
15 them for illegal operation. So, therefore if  
16 that's not a part of this matter, one of the  
17 reasons why this matter was brought in the  
18 District of Columbia is because the District of  
19 Columbia has jurisdiction.

20 Although they are a Maryland company,  
21 they do business in D.C., so D.C. has  
22 jurisdiction over them to issue a decision. If  
23 D.C. did not have jurisdiction over them, the  
24 superior court would issue a decision, and D.C.  
25 superior court would have to take the decision,

1 take it to Maryland, and have Maryland implement  
2 it.

3 But what this has said is that D.C.  
4 has jurisdiction over them, that's why they are  
5 ordering them to do certain things in D.C.

6 That is actually not what the document  
7 says, I have litigated it pro se in superior  
8 court, as well as in federal court. The  
9 jurisdiction is the District of Columbia because  
10 the wage theft occurred in the District of  
11 Columbia. This is a consent order, it doesn't  
12 include all the issues, but I will move on in the  
13 interest of time.

14 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

15 Q Exhibit No. 16., Mr. Allen, do you  
16 recognize this?

17 A Yes, those are photos taken at one of  
18 the events.

19 Q Okay, where is this location?

20 MR. ALLEN: Ma'am?

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Where was this picture  
22 taken, you said one of the events, where?

23 MR. ALLEN: At Premier.

24 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

25 Q At Premier, and what's behind you?



1 A Bottles, and wine.

2 Q Okay, and how did it get there?

3 A How did it get there? It was placed  
4 there.

5 Q I mean did you buy it, was it there  
6 when you bought the business?

7 A You said how did it get there, it was  
8 placed there.

9 Q Yeah, how did the liquor, how did the  
10 alcohol, and wine get there?

11 A It was placed there.

12 Q It was placed there, by whom?

13 A I can't recall at this time.

14 Q Okay, and at the time this photo was  
15 taken, did you have an alcohol license for sales,  
16 or consumptions on the premises?

17 A I can't recall at this time, this was  
18 at an event that the picture was taken.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. For board  
20 members, this is Exhibit No. 16.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What about  
22 Exhibit No. 16 Ma'am?

23 MS. JEFFERSON: He has identified  
24 himself in this photo. I'm not going to restate  
25 his testimony, but he has authenticated the

1 document.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, Mr. Allen  
3 has stated that this is him in this, so you want  
4 to bring this into evidence, you want me to move  
5 this into evidence?

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes please.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
8 do you have any objection?

9 MR. ALLEN: No sir.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: No objection.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
13 moved.

14 (Whereupon, the above-referred to  
15 document was marked, and received into evidence  
16 as Exhibit No. 16.)

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.

18 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

19 Q Mr. Allen, you're very familiar with  
20 security, so is there a security plan in place?

21 MR. ALLEN: A security plan in place  
22 for Premier?

23 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

24 MR. ALLEN: Yes.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Is it reduced to

1 writing?

2 MR. ALLEN: I'm sorry?

3 MS. JEFFERSON: Is it written?

4 MR. ALLEN: Is there a written  
5 security plan in place for Premier?

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

7 MR. ALLEN: No, nothing is in writing  
8 as of yet, we're not open to the public.

9 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

10 Q Okay, and do you have a plan for fire  
11 escape, like the barbershop, since there appears  
12 to only be one exit?

13 MR. ALLEN: So, are we discussing  
14 Premier, or are we discussing the barbershop now?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Well, Premier, there's  
16 a door that connects the two, so when there's a  
17 fire, where do people go?

18 MR. ALLEN: Through the door to the  
19 exit. What is your question? I'm sorry, I'm not  
20 understanding your question.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm just wondering if  
22 there's a fire, do you have a written plan for  
23 fire escape?

24 MR. ALLEN: Yes, there is a plan in  
25 place for fire escape.

1 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

2 Q And it's written?

3 A There's a plan in place for the fire  
4 escape.

5 Q Is it written?

6 A There are signs posting on how to get  
7 out of the building when there's a fire.

8 Q Is there a written plan in place?

9 A Sure, yes.

10 Q Do you have that?

11 A Not on me right now.

12 Q Okay. Mr. Campbell mentioned that  
13 you're responsible for social media, is that  
14 correct?

15 A No, he didn't say I'm responsible for  
16 social media, he said I normally handle that, and  
17 out source it as well.

18 Q Okay, thank you for the correction.  
19 Do you give them guidance as in what to post?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay, in terms of content?

22 A I don't micro manage them, as far as  
23 like the content, I just give them an idea of  
24 what we would like, and they go from there.

25 Q And if there was something

1 objectionable on social media, or something that  
2 wasn't accurate, would you have told them to take  
3 it down?

4 MR. ALLEN: What do you mean in  
5 regards to accurate, like wrong times, or?

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Wrong time, wrong  
7 event. Let's say they say we're having taco  
8 night, but you're having barbecue. Let's say the  
9 hours are wrong.

10 MR. ALLEN: Right, if there's  
11 something wrong, I would have them adjust it, or  
12 I would adjust it myself.

13 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

14 Q So, what about if they said that there  
15 was a cover charge, would you have told them to  
16 take it down if that was incorrect?

17 A If anything was incorrect, and I  
18 actually see it, then I would move to get it  
19 removed.

20 Q Okay, and so are events, is that the  
21 main avenue in which events are promoted, or have  
22 been promoted in the past?

23 A We have events at our establishment.

24 Q But how do people know to come? Is it  
25 the Instagram?

1 A One way was Instagram, yes.

2 Q What were the other ways?

3 A Word of mouth.

4 Q Okay, so you use no other social  
5 media?

6 A No, no, not for Premier, no.

7 Q Okay, and at any time did you say that  
8 there would be drinks available?

9 A I can't recall at this time, I'm not  
10 looking at the social media platform.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I think that's  
12 it for Mr. Allen.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
14 do you want to ask Mr. Allen any questions sir?

15 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CAMPBELL:

18 Q Mr. Allen, when did you start your  
19 company?

20 A 2013.

21 Q And your primary place of business,  
22 where was that, D.C., or Maryland?

23 A My office is located in Maryland, and  
24 we operate more so, 90 percent of our contracts  
25 in the District of Columbia.

1 Q And from that time you obtained the  
2 D.C. securities license from SOMB, correct?

3 A Correct.

4 Q I couldn't hear you.

5 A Correct, yes.

6 Q And to this day, you still currently  
7 have a license to operate as a security entity in  
8 D.C.?

9 A Correct.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: That's it, I have no  
11 more questions for Mr. Allen.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any  
13 questions by any board members?

14 MEMBER SHORT: Yes Mr. Chair, I would  
15 like to ask a question of Mr. Allen.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead Mr.  
17 Short.

18 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Again, good  
19 afternoon Mr. Allen.

20 MR. ALLEN: Hey, how are you doing  
21 sir?

22 MEMBER SHORT: Fine. Now, the picture  
23 that was taken with you standing in front of  
24 alcohol, where was that picture taken?

25 MR. ALLEN: That was at Premier at our

1 establishment. I really can't recall.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Can you tell us who  
3 purchased that alcohol, and how did you get the  
4 alcohol there, was it there when you bought the  
5 building?

6 MR. ALLEN: Any time we have alcohol,  
7 it's through the catering licensee that we use.

8 MEMBER SHORT: So, that was the  
9 caterer's alcohol that was on the back of your  
10 bar?

11 MR. ALLEN: Any time we have alcohol  
12 in the establishment, it's through the catering  
13 company that we use.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, thank you, that's  
15 all I have Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any  
17 other questions by any other board members? Mr.  
18 Campbell?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I'm here.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any  
21 questions to ask Mr. Allen based on the questions  
22 that Mr. Short asked? Just based on the  
23 questions that he asked sir.

24 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Ms.



1 Jefferson, any questions you want to ask?

2 MS. JEFFERSON: No.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.  
4 Allen for your testimony, thank you very much.

5 Ms. Jefferson, do you have another witness?

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, I'd like to call  
7 Mr. Jackson Carnes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Carnes, can  
9 you raise your right hand please? Do you swear,  
10 or affirm to tell the truth, and nothing but the  
11 truth?

12 MR. CARNES: Yes.

13 WHEREUPON,

14 Jackson Carnes  
15 was called for examination by Counsel for the  
16 Protestant, having been first duly sworn, assumed  
17 the witness stand, was examined and testified as  
18 follows:

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, your  
20 witness ma'am.

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

23 Q Good afternoon Mr. Carnes. You are one  
24 of the protestants, correct?

25 A Correct.

1 Q Do you live in Shepherd Park?

2 A I do.

3 Q How close is your residence to Georgia  
4 Avenue?

5 A It's abutting.

6 Q And how long have you lived there?

7 A I have lived there for I want to say  
8 about five years.

9 Q Okay. Two years ago, where were you  
10 employed?

11 A I was an employee of the Council  
12 District of Columbia.

13 Q For which council member?

14 A Council Member Brandon Todd.

15 Q Okay, and what was your role?

16 A I was the director of constituent  
17 services.

18 Q Okay, and in that role you talked to  
19 a lot of communities, businesses, and residents,  
20 is that correct?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q Okay. At any point during your tenure  
23 in Council Member Todd's office, did  
24 constituents, residents, or businesses tell you  
25 that they want taverns, bars, lounges, or night

1 clubs on Georgia Avenue?

2 A I cannot recall a single instance of  
3 that ever occurring.

4 Q Do you recall residents telling you  
5 that they do not want them on the corridor?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay, was it once?

8 A Multiple times.

9 Q Okay, and can you tell me, last year  
10 in the fall -- I'm sorry, last summer, starting  
11 around July, who did you work for?

12 A I was the executive director of the  
13 upper Georgia Avenue Main Street.

14 Q Okay, and what are the boundaries of  
15 that Main Street?

16 A Georgia Avenue from Missouri Avenue on  
17 the south side, to Eastern Avenue on the north  
18 side.

19 Q Okay, so would 7307 be within those  
20 boundaries?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay, and as it relates to your role,  
23 is some of it promoting businesses?

24 A It is.

25 Q Okay. And in doing so, the main

1 street program, which is run by DSLBD, is it not  
2 correct that main streets can develop plans, or  
3 strategies for their corridor?

4 A Absolutely.

5 Q And have you seen one before for  
6 Georgia Avenue?

7 A I have.

8 Q Was there anything in there that said  
9 a tavern, or bar would enhance real estate values  
10 for Georgia Avenue?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. How often do you walk on  
13 Georgia Avenue?

14 A Almost every day.

15 Q Okay, would you say that Georgia  
16 Avenue is a clean street?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay, in your opinion what do you  
19 believe contributes to the litter on Georgia  
20 Avenue?

21 A I think there's a multitude of  
22 factors, I think some of the businesses,  
23 particularly restaurants that operate as night  
24 clubs, or other types of establishments  
25 contribute. There's also other issues with the

1 clean team along upper Georgia Avenue that  
2 contributes to additional litter in the area.

3 Q Okay. And as it relates to peace  
4 order, and quiet, if we were to combine your  
5 tenure with Council Member Todd's office, your  
6 tenure as the director of Main Street, and just  
7 being a resident in this community, have alcohol  
8 licensees assisted with maintaining the peace,  
9 order, and quiet in general, or have they been a  
10 detriment to them?

11 A Generally a detriment.

12 Q Okay, and let's see, I think I have  
13 one more question for you, maybe two. Have you  
14 been to Premier when you were the Main Street  
15 director?

16 A I did visit once, I'm not sure I  
17 stepped in, but I did look inside. I was a walk  
18 through with community members, including Council  
19 Member Janice Louis George, and we observed a  
20 fully stocked bar inside Premier.

21 Q Do you remember when that was?

22 A I believe it was the first, or second  
23 week of October.

24 Q Of which year?

25 A 2021.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, no further  
2 questions for Mr. Carnes at this moment.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.  
4 Campbell, do you have any questions of Mr.  
5 Carnes?

6 MR. CAMPBELL: Just a couple  
7 questions.

8 CROSS EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. CAMPBELL:

10 Q Mr. Carnes, you said you walk up, and  
11 down Georgia Avenue pretty much daily. Have you  
12 ever found any trash debris in front of Premier,  
13 is that an issue for you?

14 A I have observed trash, yes.

15 Q Okay, in the area of the property?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay, also you stated that you've  
18 lived there for five years, there's several other  
19 businesses within the vicinity that have similar  
20 licenses, Cork and Bottle has an entertainment  
21 license, and so forth. How do you view those  
22 businesses, were they a benefit to the community,  
23 or were they a detriment to the community? Since  
24 they've been there before you moved there.

25 A So, Cork and Bottle is a liquor store,

1 I'm not aware that they have an entertainment  
2 license, and they actually recently closed. I  
3 will say in the immediate area around Cork and  
4 Bottle, there has been an enormous amount of  
5 littering, as well as day time drinking in public  
6 space.

7 Q Okay, what about Quilox Lounge?

8 A There have been numerous noise  
9 complaints, as well as a group of neighbors that  
10 protested the liquor license for that  
11 establishment.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, but they are in  
13 operation with entertainment, and liquor license,  
14 okay, that's it. I have no further questions for  
15 Mr. Carnes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.  
17 Campbell. Any questions by any board members?

18 MR. ALLEN: I have a question sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No sir, you  
20 can't ask a question. Well, the way it works is  
21 that Mr. Campbell is basically the lawyer, and so  
22 he has to ask the questions, I can't have two  
23 people asking the witnesses questions. So, if  
24 you have a question, maybe you can text Mr.  
25 Campbell, let him ask the question, I'll give you

1 that since you're an owner, so you can text him,  
2 and he can ask the question for you.

3 MR. ALLEN: Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you still  
5 have a question that you want to ask? Mr. Allen?  
6 I think he's frozen. Mr. Allen was frozen, Mr.  
7 Campbell, do you have any other questions that  
8 you want to ask?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: One more question for  
10 Mr. Carnes here.

11 BY MR. CAMPBELL:

12 Q On the day you said where you were  
13 walking, and you looked inside Premier, did you  
14 see anybody at that time, was myself, or Mr.  
15 Allen present?

16 A There was somebody present, I don't  
17 recall if it was you, or Mr. Allen.

18 Q Okay, now how were you able to see  
19 inside of the establishment?

20 A Either you, or Mr. Allen opened the  
21 door of the establishment.

22 Q Okay, you stood outside, the door was  
23 left open, or you walked inside, how did you see?

24 A I did not walk inside, and I don't  
25 believe anybody else did from the walk through.



1 But the door was propped open, and you could  
2 visibly see alcohol on the bar inside.

3 MR. CAMPBELL: All right, no further  
4 questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Ms.  
6 Jefferson, do you have any recross that you want  
7 to ask?

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

9 RECCROSS EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

11 Q Mr. Campbell -- sorry, Mr. Carnes --  
12 I'm sorry, the C's. Mr. Carnes, Mr. Campbell  
13 asked you about the trash in the front, and the  
14 rear, how familiar are you with trash on Georgia  
15 Avenue?

16 A I'm very familiar.

17 Q Do you participate in clean ups?

18 A I do, I do a cleanup of Georgia Avenue  
19 nearly daily.

20 Q And when you walk Georgia Avenue, is  
21 it always during the day?

22 A It is.

23 Q Have you ever walked Georgia Avenue  
24 when it's dark, or night time?

25 A I have.

1 Q Okay, and you mentioned the trash at  
2 Cork and Bottle?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is that attributed to patrons, or some  
5 other means?

6 A I would say some could be patrons,  
7 there are many individuals that loiter in the  
8 area, and frequently drink all day long, and  
9 emergency services is called regularly to the  
10 block to aid individuals.

11 Q And do you think that enhances  
12 property values, seeing people publicly  
13 intoxicated in our community?

14 A Absolutely not.

15 Q Okay, and is Cork and Bottle on the  
16 same block as Premier?

17 A It is not. It is the next block to  
18 the north.

19 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, no further  
20 questions.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank you  
22 Mr. Carnes for your testimony today. Ms.  
23 Jefferson, how many more witnesses do you have  
24 ma'am?

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, just -- I told

1 you, it's summer time, look at you smile, I got a  
2 smile out of Chair Anderson, I should have done a  
3 screen shot. Usually you're looking at me, and I  
4 just want to, Ms. Fashbaugh, if she can just do a  
5 screen shot so I can save that, because this is a  
6 rare moment, and you don't know, my eyes are  
7 tearing up to have you smile at me.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Ms.  
9 Jefferson.

10 MS. JEFFERSON: And then I got a smile  
11 out of Mr. Short too, he doesn't smile too often  
12 either.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's why I'm  
14 asking you, because I'm trying to schedule  
15 something else after.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: You've got plans.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm talking  
18 about another hearing, I'm trying to schedule  
19 another hearing.

20 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I thought you  
21 had plans.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, but as a  
23 matter of -- I always keep my Wednesdays open to  
24 do this, because I never know when this will end.  
25 But anyway, so --

1 MS. JEFFERSON: We've had that 6:30  
2 hearing spot before, I feel sorry for those  
3 folks.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

5 MS. JEFFERSON: I'll be quick.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is your  
7 next witness please?

8 MS. JEFFERSON: I wanted to call  
9 Investigator Ruiz, I just had a quick follow up  
10 question.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Ruiz?  
12 I don't -- Mr. Ruiz, you're still under oath.

13 MR. RUIZ: Yes sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you can ask  
15 your question.

16 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, Mr. Ruiz, hold  
17 on, let me get ready. Your prior testimony was -  
18 - hold on just a second. Chair Anderson, does he  
19 need to be sworn in again?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I started off  
21 by telling him he's still under oath.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you.

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

25 Q Mr. Ruiz, you mentioned the catering

1 incident, and we talked about that prior. Were  
2 you the investigator in that matter?

3 A I was, yes.

4 Q Okay, and I'm sorry, I'm closing other  
5 documents so that -- okay, there we go. Are you  
6 familiar with this document?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay, and I'm going to just --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me just  
10 ask, has this case been adjudicated as yet?

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

12 MR. RUIZ: Yes, this case had an OIC  
13 done.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, we're  
15 fine, go ahead.

16 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

17 Q Okay. Can you just kind of give us an  
18 overview, let's limit it to Premier, what the  
19 date was, and what this document is about?

20 A Yes. So, this was from November 26th,  
21 2021. I visited the location to verify basically  
22 just a regulatory inspection as far as to  
23 determine how the license was being used at the  
24 time, due to knowing that it was routine on  
25 license location. So, I went in, made contact,

1 and discovered through my investigation that a  
2 caterer's license was being used to operate for  
3 that evening.

4 Q Okay, and when you say you went  
5 through, is this Premier you're referring to?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Okay, and were you just randomly in  
8 the corridor, or was this in response to a  
9 complaint?

10 A So, the visit to Premier rose out of  
11 findings from visiting another location that this  
12 particular caterer was operating at in which  
13 another investigator shared information that they  
14 were also at Premier Lounge possibly operating as  
15 well. So, at that time I decided to go up, and  
16 just verify, and make sure everything was in  
17 order.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And I'll just  
19 go down to the part that's relative to this  
20 issue. So, it says here in your report, it's  
21 very faint, and I can't make it harder, I  
22 apologize, I'm going to try to zoom.

23 MR. RUIZ: It's fine on my end, I can  
24 read it.

25 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, it's a very long

1 paragraph, so I'm just going to ask you to read -  
2 - let's see, what is it? The part that says with  
3 the male employee comma, later, do you see that  
4 part?

5 MR. RUIZ: Male employee later  
6 identified?

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, that part, I'm  
8 trying to put my cursor there, I don't know if  
9 you can start there.

10 MR. RUIZ: Got you, I got it. So, the  
11 male employee later identified as Everal  
12 Campbell, and I list the ABRA license for that  
13 card that I observed, gathered the documents, and  
14 directed Investigator Ruiz to a hallway to speak.  
15 Investigator Ruiz reviewed the ABC license, and  
16 noted that it was issued to a previous tenant of  
17 the address whose license expired in 2016.

18 Investigator Ruiz asked for the  
19 current ABC license, and Mr. Campbell stated that  
20 he misunderstood Investigator Ruiz's request. A  
21 male district space representative produced a  
22 copy of a caterer's ABC license for district  
23 space, and of course their ABRA license number,  
24 and showed Investigator Ruiz a contract that was  
25 similar to the contract reviewed at the previous

1 location I visited for Chuck's.

2 Investigator Ruiz asked Mr. Campbell  
3 if he was the owner of the establishment, and Mr.  
4 Campbell said that he was. Investigator Ruiz  
5 asked the male representative for district space  
6 if he was an ABC manager, and he stated he was  
7 not. Investigator Ruiz asked if the caterer was  
8 on site, and the male representative stated no,  
9 but he had Mr. Numoconda (Phonetic.) on the  
10 phone.

11 Investigator Ruiz inspected the  
12 establishment's kitchen, and found food  
13 available, and being cooked on site.  
14 Investigator Ruiz also observed a fully stocked  
15 bar. Investigator Ruiz also observed  
16 approximately 40 patrons in the establishment  
17 smoking hookah, dancing, and consuming alcoholic  
18 beverages. Investigator Ruiz asked Mr. Campbell  
19 where the alcohol came from. Mr. Campbell stated  
20 that the caterer provided the alcohol, and the  
21 food. Mr. Campbell also stated that it was a  
22 private birthday party, and not an event open to  
23 the public.

24 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

25 Q Okay, and as you mentioned earlier,



1 this has already been adjudicated. So, is it --  
2 there was a license for the prior tenant that was  
3 shown to you. When a license is expired, is the  
4 licensee required to turn it in, what happens to  
5 the license?

6 A Normally it would be destroyed if it  
7 was turned in. It really depends I guess. It  
8 probably was left behind.

9 Q Okay, but the license is not valid for  
10 the sale, and consumption of alcohol at the  
11 premise, that license that you were shown?

12 A It was not.

13 Q Okay, and it says right here that you  
14 conducted a review of social media, and those are  
15 the Instagram account that the establishment had  
16 been operating since September of 2021, and was  
17 advertising being open to the public on Fridays,  
18 and Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:00, and Sundays from  
19 1:00 to 8:00, so those are your Exhibit Nos. 23,  
20 and 29.

21 A 23 to 29, yes.

22 Q So, I'm going to just scroll through  
23 in the interest of time. Let me get to 23.  
24 Okay, can you identify what this is Investigator  
25 Ruiz?

1           A           This is an Instagram post posted by  
2 Premier Lounge in regards to a soft grand  
3 opening.

4           Q           Okay, and what about this one? Is  
5 this still -- this is Exhibit No. 24, I'm sorry,  
6 I'm trying to make it big enough for the board to  
7 see, but large enough for them to see the image.  
8 What is in this exhibit?

9           A           This is a photo of the stocked bar  
10 posted on the Instagram account.

11          Q           Okay, and what's on this exhibit?

12          A           This is an advertisement for the  
13 location of Premier Lounge inviting the public to  
14 party every Friday, and Saturday, doors open at  
15 6:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

16          Q           Okay, and this one here?

17          A           This is another Instagram post for  
18 advertising a Halloween party on Saturday,  
19 October 30th.

20          Q           Okay, and I can't see what this is, I  
21 don't know what this is.

22          A           This was, I believe a screen shot, or  
23 a photo of just people inside the establishment  
24 off the Instagram account.

25          Q           Okay, and I'm not going to ask you

1 about this one. So, let me ask you, when you saw  
2 the Instagram account, did you get the impression  
3 that alcohol was being served, and consumed, or  
4 being advertised to entice people to come,  
5 because they would be served, and they would  
6 consume alcohol?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay, and your report that I just  
9 showed you for the matter that's been  
10 adjudicated, that was in 2021?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay, and District Space, how familiar  
13 are you with them? Let me reframe the question.  
14 How many investigations in the last year have you  
15 participated in where District Space was the  
16 caterer, and they were operating on the premises  
17 of a non-ABRA licensee?

18 A Three.

19 Q Three, okay. Mr. Campbell stated in  
20 his testimony that there were only two, or three  
21 events without the license. So, you were  
22 possibly at one of those two, or three. Based on  
23 your observations, do you believe that's an  
24 accurate assessment?

25 A Two to three events that were thrown

1 with the caterer's license, correct.

2 Q That occurred at the premises where  
3 alcohol was sold, and consumed, do you think that  
4 was an accurate assessment?

5 A I've been to three of their events  
6 myself, as far as visiting. I would say it could  
7 be roughly accurate that I've personally  
8 witnessed.

9 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, no further  
10 questions, thank you for staying on Investigator  
11 Ruiz, I really appreciate it. I know you  
12 probably have to work tonight, so thank you very  
13 much.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Campbell,  
15 do you have any questions for Mr. Ruiz?

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CAMPBELL:

18 Q Mr. Ruiz, just one question, just on  
19 that night when we first met, when you requested  
20 to get the license, how did I hand over, I guess  
21 the license, was it just a single license pulled  
22 out, or was it several licenses in something that  
23 I gave to you, how did I present that?

24 A The license was in a, I guess a  
25 picture frame of some sort behind glass, or

1 plexiglass of some sort with other permits, and  
2 licenses if I'm not mistaken.

3 Q Okay, so with food manager's license,  
4 and so forth, okay. Once we got clarity on what  
5 you were requesting, that was presented, correct?

6 A Yeah, when I requested the alcohol  
7 license, yes.

8 Q Okay, and was I cooperative at that  
9 time with you, with your investigation?

10 A Yes, currently at that time you were  
11 cooperative, yes.

12 Q Okay, did you find any wrongdoings,  
13 any illegal activities?

14 A Those that evening were attributed to  
15 the caterer, yeah.

16 Q Okay, but not to us, there was no  
17 illegal activity that we were partaking in, there  
18 was no illegal activity found, correct?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Appreciate it. And we weren't shut  
21 down, we weren't told to cease any operations,  
22 correct?

23 A No.

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, thank you so  
25 much, appreciate it, thank you.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The question  
2 that he asked, I don't know what the answer is.  
3 You asked one question, and he said no. But if  
4 he's saying that you are correct that there was  
5 nothing illegal, or is he saying that the  
6 question is incorrect? Because the response is  
7 no, and I don't know what that means. So, Mr.  
8 Ruiz, can you please clarify by what you mean no?

9                   MR. RUIZ: Premier Lounge that  
10 evening, I did not find violations of the law  
11 for.

12                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you sir.  
13 Are you done Mr. Campbell?

14                   MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, I'm finished.

15                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions  
16 by any board members?

17                   MEMBER SHORT: I'd like to ask a  
18 question Mr. Chair.

19                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead Mr.  
20 Short.

21                   MEMBER SHORT: Again, hello  
22 Investigator Ruiz.

23                   MR. RUIZ: Hello Mr. Short.

24                   MEMBER SHORT: You said you found no  
25 illegal activity the night you were there?

1 MR. RUIZ: Pertaining to the Premier  
2 Lounge itself, no.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Is operating a  
4 business, and not paying any taxes on the whiskey  
5 you're selling in the District of Columbia, is  
6 that legal, or illegal?

7 MR. RUIZ: That would be illegal.

8 MEMBER SHORT: So, you did witness  
9 illegal activity, if you saw people consuming,  
10 and paying for drinks at the Premier Lounge the  
11 day you were there, and you were given false  
12 papers, so there was a lot of illegal activity.  
13 And the testimony I've heard today, unless I'm  
14 wrong.

15 MR. RUIZ: If I may just clarify?

16 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

17 MR. RUIZ: For that particular  
18 evening, which was my first visit to this  
19 location, they had a caterer, catering license  
20 presented by the caterer, which I verified with  
21 the caterer that they were operating at that  
22 location. But so technically there was  
23 compliance, but there were violations that the  
24 caterer sustained to include not providing  
25 paperwork for that evening.

1           So, the caterer at that time, I found  
2 to be in control of what was going on.

3           MEMBER SHORT: So, am I to assume that  
4 if I had a B, a basic business license, and I  
5 hired a caterer, I could just operate? I'm not  
6 doing anything wrong, I'm not paying any taxes of  
7 course, I'm not doing everything everybody else  
8 who has a legal license -- so what, I'm just  
9 trying to understand, that's okay for a basic  
10 business license to go out, and get a caterer,  
11 and start an alcohol establishment, is that  
12 right, or wrong?

13           MR. RUIZ: I don't believe so, that's  
14 incorrect.

15           MEMBER SHORT: Okay, that's all I  
16 have, thank you. That's all I have Mr. Chair.

17           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.  
18 Short. I just want to correct the record, that  
19 Mr. Ruiz had talked about the case, I don't  
20 remember the case, I think it's 21, regarding  
21 District Space.

22           MR. RUIZ: 79.

23           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what  
24 was the case Mr. Ruiz?

25           MR. RUIZ: 22-CMP-79.



1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And it's  
2 correct that all the violations that were found  
3 that night was against the caterer, and not  
4 against this particular potential applicant, is  
5 that correct?

6                   MR. RUIZ: That's correct.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is it  
8 that -- do you know what a caterer's license, or  
9 responsibility of a caterer Mr. Ruiz?

10                  MR. RUIZ: Yeah, somewhat.

11                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what is a  
12 caterer supposed to do?

13                  MR. RUIZ: So, a caterer is hired for  
14 an event, contracted by a customer to prepare,  
15 and provide food, alcohol being incidental to the  
16 service that they do provide, which allows them  
17 to have an alcohol license. They're also  
18 supposed to purchase the alcohol, because they  
19 are the licensee, and control the alcohol, and  
20 then remove that alcohol from the event that day,  
21 from the premises.

22                  So, they can't store the alcohol, so  
23 each event is its own event in its right.

24                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're  
25 stating that for that event Premier Lounge had

1 contracted with District Space, the caterer's  
2 license to provide the food, and at least what  
3 your understanding to produce the food, and  
4 alcohol for that night, is that your  
5 understanding?

6 MR. RUIZ: That's correct.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, any other  
8 questions by any board members? That's not you  
9 miss. Board members, any other questions by any  
10 of the board members? He's your witness ma'am,  
11 this time he's your witness, you'll get the last  
12 bite at the apple. Any other questions by any  
13 other board members? Since there are no  
14 questions by any other board members, Mr.  
15 Campbell, any questions of the witness based on  
16 the questions that were asked by Mr. Short, and  
17 myself?

18 MR. CAMPBELL: No chairperson.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right Ms.  
20 Jefferson, don't make a fool of me now, this is  
21 your opportunity, you have the last -- it's your  
22 witness, so you have the last say.

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. JEFFERSON:

25 Q Investigator Ruiz, I think -- the

1 license that was shown to you by Mr. Campbell,  
2 was it posted on the wall?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay, so when you entered the  
5 establishment without looking at it closely, and  
6 seeing the ABRA logo on there, would your initial  
7 -- is it fair to say your initial impression  
8 would have been without reading it, that this is  
9 an ABRA licensee?

10 A That's what I thought at the time.

11 Q Okay, and so in your opinion, why  
12 would someone post, and keep on the wall an  
13 expired license? What's the point?

14 A I'm not sure.

15 Q Okay. If you went to an  
16 establishment, and didn't see an ABRA license  
17 posted, would that be a violation?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. Once you found out that the  
20 license was expired, the fact that it was posted,  
21 was that a violation?

22 A No.

23 Q That was not a violation?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. When you went there, was it

1 your prior testimony that your intent was to  
2 examine the caterer?

3 A Yes.

4 Q So, you didn't go there with the  
5 intent to look for violations at Premier, is that  
6 correct?

7 A I went there to review the premises,  
8 and the establishment, and what was going on that  
9 evening, knowing that it may have been a caterer  
10 on site, but wasn't 100 percent sure.

11 Q But that's what provoked you to go  
12 there in the first place, was another  
13 investigator, or at least your prior testimony  
14 stated that it was another investigator that  
15 prompted you to go to Premier in the first place  
16 because they were alleging that the caterer, not  
17 the premises was conducting, or participating in  
18 illegal activity?

19 A That's correct, yes.

20 Q Okay, when you go somewhere, and you  
21 have a particular focus, has it ever happened  
22 where you may have overlooked something because  
23 your intent was to look at one particular issue,  
24 or do you do a full compliance review for every  
25 premise you go to?

1           A        I mean, I think it's possible to miss  
2 something.

3           Q        Okay, is it possible that you could  
4 have missed violations when you went there in  
5 November, and the caterer was there? Is it  
6 possible? I'm not asking you if you did, I'm  
7 just asking you is it possible?

8           A        It could be possible, I'm not sure.

9           MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, no further  
10 questions. Is this when I move to admit exhibits?

11           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
12 thank you very much Mr. Ruiz, for your testimony  
13 today, and I think that you are now free to go.

14           MR. RUIZ: Thank you.

15           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.  
16 Jefferson, do you rest?

17           MS. JEFFERSON: I'd like to do a  
18 closing -- no more witnesses, but I'd like to do  
19 closing.

20           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, both  
21 sides are going to have an opportunity to do  
22 closing. So, what documents are you asking us to  
23 admit?

24           MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I just want to  
25 confirm you had stated earlier that Exhibit Nos.

1 1, and 2 --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was  
3 Exhibit No. 1?

4 MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit No. 1 was the  
5 investigator's report, Exhibit No. 2 --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's in the  
7 administrative records.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: That's what I'm  
9 confirming.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

11 MS. JEFFERSON: Number two is in the  
12 administrative record.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was number  
14 two please?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: That's the placard.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's part of  
17 the administrative record, so yes.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit No. 3 is in  
19 the record, that is the group of five protest.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's a part  
21 of the administrative record.

22 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Exhibit No. 8,  
23 which is the purchase of the business.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That was moved  
25 into evidence, yes.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, the Exhibit No.  
2 10 is the application for licensing, is that  
3 already a part of the record?

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's part of  
5 the administrative record.

6 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Exhibit No.  
7 11, which is the investigative report that we  
8 just talked about with Mr. Ruiz that's been  
9 settled with District Space.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's part of  
11 the administrative record.

12 MS. JEFFERSON: And I assume the order  
13 associated with that as well, which is Exhibit  
14 No. 12.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's part of  
16 the administrative record.

17 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, Exhibit No. 15  
18 -- I'm sorry, let me skip over that. Exhibit No.  
19 16.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's 16  
21 please?

22 MS. JEFFERSON: That was the article  
23 with the picture of Mr. Allen.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That was number  
25 16, I did admit number 16 to the record.

1 MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, that's it.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
3 thank you. So, now you rest. Where is -- there  
4 is Mr. Campbell. Now, each side will have five  
5 minutes to do a closing statement, this is what I  
6 want. I need you to tell us what is it that you  
7 want the board to do specifically. So, you have  
8 five minutes Mr. Campbell to make a closing  
9 statement, and I need you to be specific, what it  
10 is that you want the board to rule.

11 And then Ms. Jefferson, you'll have  
12 five minutes to tell the board what it is that  
13 you want the board to do. Go ahead Mr. Campbell.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. We would like  
15 the board to approve our application. We've had  
16 that facility for over three years without  
17 incident, including the recent visit by ABRA, Mr.  
18 Ruiz, the inspector, which no violations were  
19 found for conducting ourselves in any illegal  
20 manner. We're in no way trying to circumvent  
21 ABRA. We believed in our operation, that we were  
22 operating perfectly legally by contacting with  
23 the catering company, which we had an agreement  
24 with for those three events.

25 We believe Premier would be a valuable



1 addition to the community, and we're working to  
2 work with the community to enhance it, and to  
3 have an open dialogue. So, we hope that the  
4 board will move to approve our application moving  
5 forward. That's it.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.  
7 Campbell, go ahead Ms. Jefferson.

8 MS. JEFFERSON: Good afternoon, thank  
9 you all for your patience this afternoon, with  
10 all of us, and again, thank you for your service  
11 to the residents, and businesses of the District  
12 of Columbia. As a border community that  
13 straddles the District of Columbia, and Maryland  
14 line, Shepherd Park, and Tacoma neighborhoods are  
15 unfortunately becoming accustomed to an over  
16 concentration of last chance ABRA licensed  
17 establishments.

18 That exploit, or have exploited the  
19 differences in alcohol beverage regulations  
20 between the two jurisdictions while maintaining  
21 their Maryland residency, and derelict clientele.  
22 While normally our civic, and citizen  
23 associations would protest such an application,  
24 several long standing members of our community  
25 have decided to take a different approach.

1           And we have protested in our personal  
2 capacities as this group of five, or more  
3 individuals in the unfortunate event that any of  
4 us would need to seek appellate level review. We  
5 have stated this before this board on multiple  
6 occasions, but I will reiterate it again. Enough  
7 is enough, we are fed up, and we are determined  
8 not to return to the old days of inappropriate  
9 alcohol establishments proliferating in our  
10 community.

11           Because they believe that they can  
12 operate without impunity, or are given multiple  
13 chances time, and time again. We surmise that  
14 this licensing hearing should be looked through a  
15 racial equity lens, and that regardless of the  
16 racial makeup of the protestants, or the  
17 applicants, that the board should be reminded  
18 that communities of color are disproportionately  
19 impacted in a negative manner by alcohol  
20 establishments.

21           Especially those that have already  
22 proven to violate the law. To be clear, and for  
23 the folks watching online, our community welcomes  
24 appropriate, and law abiding establishments. And  
25 in fact we even support them financially. But

1 inappropriate establishments that don't obey  
2 district laws, such as Premier, are not welcome  
3 in our community.

4 The public depends on its licensed  
5 establishments to observe, and follow all  
6 applicable laws, and regulations. Premier Lounge  
7 has demonstrated through substantial evidence on  
8 the record today, that they have violated the law  
9 time, and time again since opening, and have  
10 demonstrated even an unwillingness to follow  
11 district laws, and regulations despite certifying  
12 that they have read them.

13 The group has numerous concerns about  
14 the nature, and operations of Premier Lounge, and  
15 we believe that this establishment is not  
16 appropriate for this locality, and section in the  
17 district, which includes many family, young  
18 children, senior citizens, and houses of worship.  
19 As we mentioned in our protest letter, we are  
20 protesting the application based on peace, order,  
21 and quiet, including litter, and noise.

22 The adverse effect on real property  
23 values, the negative impact on residential  
24 parking, and vehicular, and pedestrian safety,  
25 and also the poor record of compliance. In

1 addition, we believe that the board lacks the  
2 authority to grant this license because of false  
3 representations that were made, including  
4 omitting the fact that the New 7307 was a prior  
5 licensee that had its license suspended, and then  
6 was expired for fail to renew.

7 We believe that the applicants are not  
8 qualified, and have shown that they are not of  
9 good character, and have demonstrated that by  
10 substantial evidence on the record, and that they  
11 are not fit for the responsibilities of licensure  
12 because they've already shown to you that they  
13 don't even understand what the requirements are.

14 So, today we are asking you to deny  
15 the application, and to save our community from  
16 another establishment that will further  
17 deteriorate our community, and cause a  
18 deterioration in property values, cause problems  
19 in public safety, trash, and litter, and also  
20 cause challenges as it relates to parking, and  
21 vehicular safety, and pedestrian safety, thank  
22 you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Ms.  
24 Jefferson. I want to thank the parties for their  
25 presentations today, and I appreciate the brevity

1 of the case in chief. I mean we are here to  
2 serve the public, and we'll do whatever we need  
3 to do to serve the public. Do the parties wish  
4 to file proposed findings of fact, and conclusion  
5 of law? All right, so what that is, and you can  
6 change your mind if you so desire, but let the  
7 board know.

8 So, what that means is that the  
9 transcript will be available I believe within two  
10 weeks, and so therefore that means that you would  
11 review the transcript, state what was in the  
12 transcript. You cannot add the legal brief  
13 you're providing the board, you cannot add any  
14 new facts that did not come out today at the  
15 hearing.

16 So, therefore, those responses will be  
17 due to the agency 30 days after you have received  
18 the transcript, okay? Mr. Campbell, do you have  
19 -- I mean that's -- it's not required, but the  
20 protestant is going to file it, and so you can  
21 also file if you so require, but that -- it's not  
22 required, but that's being done. As I said  
23 before, we'll send you the transcript, you'll  
24 have to read the transcript.

25 And then you draft to say factually

1 this is what was presented, and this is what the  
2 law states based on the facts that were presented  
3 at the hearing. No new information, if it's not  
4 in the transcript, it cannot be argued in the  
5 document that would be provided to us. All  
6 right, so as I said before, you should get the --  
7 you'll get the transcript approximately in the  
8 next two, to three weeks.

9 And the proposed findings of fact, and  
10 conclusions of law, they're due to us within 30  
11 days after receiving the transcript. Thank you.  
12 So, you will get that. So, let me close the  
13 record in this case. Any questions by anyone?  
14 All right. As chairperson of the Alcoholic  
15 Beverage Control Board for the District of  
16 Columbia in accordance with D.C. official code  
17 section 2575 of the Open Meetings Act, I move  
18 that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting.

19 For the purpose of seeking legal  
20 advice from our counsel on case number 22-PRO-  
21 00022 Premier Lounge pursuant to D.C. Official  
22 Code Section 2575(b)(4)(a) of the Open Meetings  
23 Act, and deliberating upon case number 22-PRO-  
24 00022 Premier Lounge for the reasons cited in  
25 D.C. Official Code Section 2575(b)(13) of the

1 Open Meetings Act. Is there a second?

2 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has  
4 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call  
5 vote on the motion now that it has been properly  
6 seconded. Mr. Short?

7 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

9 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?

11 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I  
12 agree.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

14 MEMBER HANSEN: I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

16 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I  
17 agree.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.  
19 Anderson, I agree. The matter passes six, zero,  
20 zero. As it appears the motion has passed, I  
21 hereby give notice that ABC board will recess  
22 these proceedings to hold a closed meeting  
23 pursuant to section 2575 of the Open Meetings  
24 Act. Again, I would like to thank everyone for  
25 their presentation today, and the board will take

1 this matter under advisement. Have a great day,  
2 thank you very much.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 6:14 p.m.)

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Before: DC ABRA

Date: 06-29-22

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