#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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# ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:

:

Aberash, LLC,

t/a Signature Lounge :

1727 Connecticut Ave NW : Protest Hearing

License #117485 : Retailer CT - ANC 2B : Case #21-PRO-00017 :

:

(Application for a New : License) :

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Wednesday
June 30, 2021

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

#### PRESENT:

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

#### ALSO PRESENT:

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff
RICHARD BIANCO, Applicant's Counsel
CATIE BUTLER, Witness

DONNELL BUTLER, Witness

DEREGE DANEALE, Applicant
GLENN ENGELMANN, Witness
RHODA GLASGOW, DC ABRA Investigator

JAMES McGLADE, Witness

LIEUTENANT JOHN MERZIG, DC MPD, Witness

OFFICER BRIAN O'SHEA, DC MPD, Witness

MEG ROGGENSACK, Protestant

JEFF RUECKGAUER, Witness

MIKE SILVERSTEIN, ANC 2B

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

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1:36 p.m.

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### SIGNATURE - PART 1 START

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CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're on the

Joining me today are Board Member

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Good afternoon everyone. My name is record.

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Donovan Anderson. I'm the Chairperson of the

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Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

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James Short, Board Member Rafi Crockett, Board 9

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Member Jeni Hansen, and Board Member Edward

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The Board has five members in Grandis.

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attendance for the conduct of business today, and

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that constitutes a quorum.

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Before we get underway with this afternoon's hearing, I need to make a few instructions very clear so the conduct of this hearing is understood by everyone. There's only one hearing this

afternoon. We have a protest hearing. during the hearing should you have any questions or require technical assistance during the hearing, please submit them using the question and answer feature or email simone.andrews2@dc.gov.

The one afternoon hearing today is a

protest hearing case that we have. 1 It's Case 2 #21-PRO-00017, Signature Lounge, License Number 3 117485, and Ms. Andrews can you please elevate the rights of the Protestants and the Licensee 4 5 in this case please. MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. 6 Mr. 7 Daneale, your rights have been elevated. 8 Bianco, your rights have been elevated. 9 Silverstein, your rights have been elevated. 10 Investigator Glasgow, your rights have been 11 elevated. Officer O'Shea, your rights have been 12 elevated. Mr. Rueckgauer, sorry if I pronounce 13 it wrong, your rights have been elevated. 14 Investigator (audio interference), your rights 15 have been elevated. 16 MR. SILVERSTEIN: This is Mike 17 Silverstein, can you hear me? 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear 19 you, Mr. Silverstein. 20 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay, thank you. 21 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. McGlade, your 22 rights have been elevated. Mr. or Ms. 23 Francisco, your rights have been elevated. 24 or Ms. Engelmann, your rights have been 25 elevated. I do see Mr. Tillman (phonetic) but I

don't see that he's assigned to this case. 1 2 Could you please announce yourself in the chat 3 if you do belong to this case, I'll elevate your rights. Otherwise, that's all Mr. Chair. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms. Andrews. All right, good afternoon 6 7 everyone. This is a protest hearing for 8 Signature Lounge. I will start with 9 introductions and I will start with the 10 Applicant's counsel. 11 MR. BIANCO: Good afternoon, Mr. 12 Anderson. This is Richard Bianco, last name 13 spelled B-I-A-N-C-O on behalf of the Applicant, 14 Signature Lounge, and with me is Derege Daneale, 15 and I will have him introduce himself as well. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Daneale, 17 if you have a camera, please turn your camera on 18 but also I would like to say and spell your name 19 for the record please. 20 MR. DANEALE: Good afternoon 21 My name is Dereje Daneale. everyone. D-E-R-E-22 J-E last name is Daneale, D-A-N-E-A-L-E. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Daneale, 24 do you have a camera, sir? If you don't, that's

fine, I'm just asking do you have a camera.

MR. DANEALE: I do, he show me that, 1 2 I don't know so I might be. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right, so let's start, yes, I can see you, 4 sir. 5 MR. DANEALE: Come in now? 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I do see 8 All right, thank you. I'm also going to you. 9 ask all parties if you're not speaking please 10 mute your phone so you're not speaking. All right, let's start with the 11 12 Let's start with the ANC. protester. 13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Good afternoon, 14 Mr. Chairman. My name is Mike Silverstein 15 representing ANC 2B. I am the Commissioner of 16 ANC 2B06. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good 18 afternoon, Mr. Silverstein. I just want to 19 alert the public that as being the Chair of the 20 ABC Board for the past six years, and I believe 21 I served with Mr. Silverstein, he was a Board 22 member that served along with myself and Mr. 23 Short for four years while I was Board Chair. 24 But I just want to alert the public

that although I served as a Board Member with

Mr. Silverstein, my knowledge of him will have no impact on the determination that's made today. So I'm confident that I can move forward and make a decision. Also, Mr. Silverstein has served as a Board Member during the tenure I have been Chair of the ABC Board.

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.

Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Like yourself, I, too, served with Mr. Silverstein on our esteemed ABC Board, and my knowledge of him and my service with him during this time will have no bearing on this case whatsoever. Thank you.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.

Grandis?

MEMBER GRANDIS: I also want to the record to know that I used to be on the ANC 2B and during some of those years Mr. Silverstein was very active with the ANC. And then when Mr. Silverstein was appointed to the ABC Board, I as an attorney would have clients in front of the Board and he would serve in that capacity. And I will say that will not influence my

	deliberations today. Thank you.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
3	Mr. Grandis. All right. So we have
4	MR. SILVERSTEIN: To clarify, Mr.
5	Chairman.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
7	Silverstein?
8	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I do know Mr.
9	Grandis well, and we have worked I do know
10	Mr. Grandis and we have worked on a number of
11	things, but we never did serve at the same time
12	on the ANC. I believe his service was before
13	mine.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
15	thank you, Mr. Silverstein. Who else is on from
16	the ANC with you, Mr. Silverstein? Please call
17	their names and I would like the folks to
18	identify themselves for the record.
19	MR. SILVERSTEIN: That will be Meg
20	Roggensack. She is delayed. She's at a Webex
21	seminar and is on her way here. She's delayed
22	by work. She will be here.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
24	she's not on as yet, is that correct?
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: That's correct,

sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, that's fine. All right, so we have the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. Mr. Engelmann, please state and spell your name for the record please.

MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Glenn Engelmann. First name's spelled G-L-E-N-N, last name E-N-G-E-L-M-A-N-N and I'm the Immediate Past President of DCCA and I'm here today as their designated representative.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All right, so those are all the parties that need to be identified at this moment. All right, hold on.

All right. This matter comes before the Board as a protest hearing on an application for a license. The establishment is Aberash, LLC; trade name Signature Lounge; retailer class CT license number 117485 located at 1727 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. The applicant is Derenje Daneale and he is represented by Mr. Richard Bianco.

By way of background, the Board's

record reflects the following. The license application was placard on January 29, 2021.

ANC 2B represented by Commissioners Meg Roggensack and Mike Silverstein, and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association were represented by Glenn Engelmann. Each filed a protest.

The Protestants were granted standing at the roll call hearing held on April 26, 2021, and a status hearing was held on May 12, 2021. Here we are today for the protest hearing.

Let us now turn our attention to those preliminary matters that need to be addressed by the Board before we proceed with the hearing.

The Applicant filed a motion to quash the Protestants' subpoena and a motion in limine to limit evidence. The Protestants filed a timely response yesterday afternoon.

Because the filings were made very recently and because the Board has not had an opportunity to fully consider the motion in opposition, the Board is taking oral argument at this time. We'll hear first from Mr. Bianco who is the movant in the preliminary matter, and

then we'll hear from the Protestants. Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much Mr. Anderson. Richard Bianco on behalf of the Applicant in this case.

It's our position that any evidence related to Secret Lounge, which is another establishment located in another neighborhood, specifically Shaw, is inadmissible in this matter to determine either the character of Mr. Daneale or the appropriateness of the establishment in question, which is Signature Lounge located on Connecticut Avenue.

Specifically, D.C. Code 25-301(a)(1) states that to determine character the Board shall examine 10 years of records "regarding prior violations of the District of Columbia alcohol laws." The proffered evidence goes far beyond that seeking to provide information regarding a three year old investigation and not resulting in a violation of any kind.

The information sought to be admitted today would not be admissible against Secret

Lounge because the Board does not consider unadjudicated violations. Coincidentally, Secret

Lounge was renewed by this very Board earlier today, meaning the Board has already made the finding that Mr. Daneale is of good moral character and fit for responsibility of holding a license.

Now, if I could turn for a moment to the evidentiary issues under the appropriateness standard, there are specifically three cases that I think have bearing here that I want to go into.

First, it's our position that anything that happened at Secret Lounge is simply irrelevant to the question before the Board today, and that is the appropriateness of this establishment in this particular neighborhood.

And I know that in many past cases, the Board relies on a Court of Appeals case called Panutat v The ABC Board, which can be found at 75 A.3d 269 D.C., and it is 2013 case.

It may be more familiar to the Board under the licensee's trade name which was Shadow Room. And in that case, the Board considered a different question than the one that is before the Board today.

Essentially, the Board considered evidence of how the prior nightclub operating at

the same location could be indicative of the peace, order, and quiet impact of the subsequent club.

And the holding in that case is really simple. And basically what the Court of Appeals said is that the Board's practice of considering the adverse effect on the neighborhood attributable to operation of existing establishments in the relevant area is appropriate.

So the Court of Appeals found that the Board's consideration of the operation of the prior establishment, as well as the operation of neighboring establishments is appropriate.

That's not what we have here. What we have here is the proponent of the evidence offering evidence of a non-violation investigation that took place at another establishment outside of the relevant area unrelated to this neighborhood in any material way whatsoever, and that is not appropriate to consider.

Mr. Silverstein in his opposing brief argues 800 Water Street v The ABC Board is controlling here. And the citation there is 992

A.2d 1272, and that is a 2010 case. However it's not. In fact, it has nothing to do whatsoever with the (audio interference). That case was about a revocation on a show cause.

The Board made no finding with respect to appropriateness. Merely, that a licensee could not cancel a license with a show cause proceeding pending. It was a simple holding having nothing to do with appropriateness.

Now I think what is the control and the precedent here from the Court of Appeals is a case called The Jimmy (phonetic) v ABC Board, and it's 433 A.2d 1010, and that is a 1981 case. And here's what that case says and why I think it controls here.

The Board is to evaluate each "unique location" in an attempt to determine the "prospective effect on the neighborhood," and to get there it's appropriate for the Board to include (1) the applicant's efforts to mitigate any operational concerns; (2) the character of the neighborhood; (3) the character of the establishment; and (4) the owner's future plans.

Now the Shadow Room case adds to that analysis by allowing consideration of prior

establishments at the same address and other establishments currently in the neighborhood. There's nothing in any case about the Board considering unadjudicated violations for another establishment in another neighborhood.

To allow this evidence to come in is extremely prejudicial. What it essentially does is it allows the ANC to throw bombs at my client and require us to re-litigate a four year-old issue that did not result in a violation of any kind.

The prejudice far outweighs any probative value which is (audio interference). Trying to equate two neighborhoods and two different establishments is not a relevant consideration when the Board is looking at the appropriateness of this establishment for this area.

And for those reasons, it is our contention that Officer O'Shea should not be allowed to testify, and any evidence related to Secret Lounge on 9th Street is irrelevant in this proceeding and should not be received by the Board as evidence on the record. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.

Bianco. Let's start with Mr. Engelmann and then 1 I'll have Mr. Silverstein. 2 3 MR. ENGELMANN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Silverstein will be speaking on behalf of both 4 Protestants with respect to this motion. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead 6 7 MR. Silverstein. I apologize, go ahead. 8 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. 9 Chairman. We respectfully ask the Board to reject the motion to quash the subpoena and to 10 11 limit the testimony of MPD Officer Brian O'Shea. 12 The Applicant's owner does not want the Board to hear about how he's run his other 13 14 business, but his written objection to the 15 testimony of Officer O'Shea on the grounds it's 16 too remote in time goes to the weight of the 17 evidence afforded by the Board and not its 18 admissibility. 19 You can give it the weight it 20 deserves, but it is admissible taking into 21 account the time in between when that occurred 22 and now, more than a year of that was under 23 lockdown and nothing has occurred during that 24 time.

The Applicant incorrectly in his

motion lists the scope of Office O'Shea's testimony. He has extensive knowledge of the Applicant's other business, Secret Lounge, how it is operated and affected the neighborhood, is being subpoenaed to provide testimony regarding matters of peace, order, and quiet at Secret Lounge, including an incident that took place in October of 2018 in which Mr. -- Officer O'Shea had responded to the reports of a large fight, and had a table broken over his head during that fight.

The assault took place inside the establishment and affected Officer O'Shea directly. He has had many dealings before and after that.

The Applicant claims that fitness for licensure is not a protest issue in this case. But the Court of Appeals says there's a statutory obligation to satisfy itself in that regard even if it's not raised as a protest issue. And that was Craig v. District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, 21 Atlantic 2nd, 584-590 1998.

Regardless, the Applicant (audio interference). This is going to be a new

business. The Board will be required to predict how its operation may impact on peace, order, and quiet. Evidence of how the Applicant's owner runs his other licensed business is relevant if he seeks to meet his burden in this case.

And the Water Street case does mention that, but the Gerber case, Gerber v. District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, 442 Atlantic 2nd -- 499, I'm sorry, Atlantic 2nd, 1193, 1195 D.C. 1985 speaks of a case where a police officer's past service supported his finding that the applicant's business should be run responsibly. So things in the past and things of that sort can be done to prove a person is going to do a good job, they should also be allowed to show that a person has not done a good job.

The Applicant's owner should not be permitted to hide from, nor should the Board be kept in the dark about his history in the alcohol business. The only history that the Board has to go by, that we all have to go by in this case is precisely the evidence the Applicant's owner seeks to keep from the Board.

The Applicant's going to argue that

his ABRA record is relatively clean. He's going to point to the lack of violations, penalties, and sanctions against his current establishment, but the instant case here, Mr. Chairman, is about peace, order, quiet, and public safety.

And since he's going to bring up the clean record, we need to respond by demonstrating without doubt that these events that he wishes to hide from or exclude all had serious effects on peace, order, quiet, and public safety.

This is not about taking away an existing license, Mr. Chairman. This is about whether the Applicant meets his burden of proof that granted him this new license will not adversely affect peace, order, and quiet at the new location.

And the Board is obligated to make that decision and to take it -- that's why we're here -- and to take into account all available evidence and history, and the only history we have to go on is precisely the evidence that the Applicant doesn't want us to hear.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Silverstein. All right. Do you have any

comments you want to make, Mr. Bianco, before I made a determination?

MR. BIANCO: I do. I have three based on what Mr. Silverstein said. We'll take the last one first.

It seems to be the ANC's belief that we intend to bring up the clean record at Secret Lounge. Nothing could be further from the truth. I don't want to put in anything about Secret Lounge. The only reason it is, the investigative history is attached to my motion is because they brought it up as if to say look how bad these guys are. But the reality is they're virtually clean in terms of their operation history over the last four years. So if the evidence of Secret Lounge is excluded, our evidence of compliance will not be brought into this case.

Second, I would just say as a general evidentiary matter pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 404, which I realize is not binding but is persuasive, prior bad acts, if there even are any here, are inadmissible to show action and conformity therewith. And here, they're not even trying to show action and conformity. They're trying to show the potential that maybe possibly

there will be action and conformity at some point inappropriate.

Finally, the ANC puts out there that the Board has an obligation to consider character. Absolutely. At the outset I quoted the statute. The Board has to make a finding of good character and two things. One, you already did earlier today; and two, the considerations of what constitutes good character is related to 10 years of Alcoholic Beverage Control Board records with respect to violations. And that is not what's being sought to be put into evidence. Violations are not their point. They want to dirty my guy up with investigations and it's not appropriate.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you, Mr. Bianco. I thank Mr. Bianco and Mr. Silverstein for their arguments. They're very -- not actually arguments, persuasive arguments from both sides that were made. And I'm going to ask the Board to deny the Applicant's motion.

The Applicant cites The Jimmy, Inc. v
D.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, 43 A.2d
290, 293, D.C. Circuit 1981, and suggests as part

of its analysis that we should evaluate each unique location according to the particular circumstances involved in an attempt to determine the prospective effect of the establishment on the neighborhood.

The Board, I know that you did quote this case. Mr. Bianco believes that its more relevant and controlling case law in the Court of Appeals decision in Panutat LLC v. District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, 75 A.3d 269, 275 D.C. Circuit 2013.

There the Court held that considering another establishment operation under the same ownership is permitted and is reasonable. Specifically, the Court stated that as the Board reasonably observed in its declaration order, how the owners operate Shadow Room is indicative of how they would operate Sanctuary 21.

Therefore, the Protestants may introduce evidence indicative of the Applicant's management and operation at his other establishment.

But, and I want to be very clear here, the Board will only entertain evidence that speaks to the appropriateness standards under

1	Section 25-313. So that's what it is.
2	So therefore, I'm going to ask the
3	Board to deny the motion, however we will only
4	entertain evidence that speaks under the
5	appropriateness standards of 25-313. So
6	therefore, I make a motion to the Board that we
7	deny the Applicant's motion.
8	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there a
10	second?
11	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
13	seconded the motion. We'll have a roll call vote
14	on the motion that was seconded by Mr. Short.
15	Mr. Short?
16	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett.
18	MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I
19	agree.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen.
21	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.
23	MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
24	agree.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

Anderson, I agree. The matter passes 5, 0, 0.

Are there any other motions or matters that the Board needs to consider before we start this case?

MR. BIANCO: Nothing from the Applicant. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm not an attorney and I would ask for further clarification on what it is that we are permitted and when you speak of to the appropriateness standard. I assume that includes peace, order, and quiet, and includes cooperation with public safety officials. Is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. The appropriateness standards on 25-313 -- yes, Mr. Silverstein. To be more specific, 25-313, appropriateness standards. (A) To qualify for issuance, renewal, transfer of a license to a new location, or an application for approval of a substantial change in operation as determined by the Board under section 25-404, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the establishment is appropriate for the locality, section, or portion of the District is located.

1	(B) In determining the
2	appropriateness of an establishment, the Board
3	shall consider all relevant evidence of the
4	record including (1) the effect on the
5	establishment on real property values; (2) the
6	effect on the establishment on peace, order, and
7	quiet including the noise and litter provision
8	set forth in section 725 and section 726; (3) the
9	effect on the establishment of residential
10	parking needs and vehicle and pedestrian safety;
11	and (4) in the case of a license renewal well,
12	this is not relevant because it's not a license
13	renewal. But yes, all right. So you are correct
14	on the appropriateness standards.
15	I mean we can have some limited
16	testimony, but this should be focused however on
17	the appropriateness standard.
18	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
20	It's my understanding that Ms. Roggensack has
21	joined. Can you please state and spell your name
22	for the record please and identify yourself,
23	ma'am? Ms. Roggensack, are you there? All
24	right, I
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: She's logging back

She's having trouble. I'm sorry. 1 in. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well I was told 2 3 she was logged in, so that's why --MS. ANDREWS: Sorry, Mr. Chair. 4 She 5 lost service so I'm going to go ahead and elevate her rights. Okay, your rights have been elevated 6 7 Ms. Roggensack. You can go ahead and unmute 8 yourself and turn your camera on if you have one. 9 MS. ROGGENSACK: Thank you. Thank you 10 very much. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Could you 12 please identify yourself for the record, ma'am, 13 and spell and state your name. 14 MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes, I am Meg 15 Roggensack. I am the Advisory Neighborhood 16 Commissioner for the single member district in 17 which this proposed establishment will be located 18 which is (audio interference). 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Roggensack, 20 are you in the same location as Mr. Silverstein? 21 MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I think 23 he needs to turn, well, both of your mics cannot 24 be open at the same time. So if one person's 25 going to speak, then the other one needs to be

muted because there's a feedback. I just wanted you to know that one person, their line has to be muted. If we have a problem, I'll let you know moving forward. Okay, that's all. Nothing wrong, there's just a feedback and we can't hear clearly.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: My bad, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you, Mr. Silverstein. Okay, fine. All right. So we're going to start. I just want to remind each party that each side will have one hour to present its case. And each side, you can, I don't know how many witnesses each side has, however, you can only call five witnesses.

Each side only has five witnesses.

The one hour to present your case will be taken -- once the case starts, will be taken from your cross-examination. So please do not spend your time cross-examining the other party because that is going to take away from the one hour. Your time will start after the Board has presented its case.

And so the procedure that we're going to follow today is that we'll have preliminary

matters. The Applicant will get five minutes to present its case. The Protestants will have five minutes to present its case. Then the Board will call its first witness.

After the Board calls its first witness, the Applicant will present its case in chief. Once the Applicant presents its case in chief, both sides will have an -- the Protestants will have an opportunity to cross-examine.

After the Applicant has presented its case, the Protestants will present its case and cross-examination. Then we'll have rebuttal witnesses. And then we'll have five minutes for closing from the Protestants and five minutes for closing from the Applicant. I'm sorry, five minutes for close from the Applicant and five minutes for close from the Protestants.

I just want to ask -- let me ask this question. Is the ANC and the Citizens
Association, are you presenting one case or are you presenting your separate cases? Which one is it, please?

MR. SILVERSTEIN: We are presenting separate cases.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the ANC is

calling its own witness, and then the Protestant is going to call its witness. So ANC will have an hour, the Citizens Association will have an hour to present its case, and so therefore just please remind me so to make sure that each side is properly represented.

So what we're going to do now is that the Licensee will have five minutes to present its case. Then I'll have the ANC have five minutes, and then the -- I'm sorry, Mr. -- you're from the Dupont Circle, let them have five minutes to present its case. Okay.

Your opening and closing does not take away from your 60 minutes. It's five minutes but it's not taking away from the 60 minutes you have. So we'll start with the Applicant and the Applicant has five minutes to do an opening.

#### APPLICANT OPENING STATEMENT

MR. BIANCO: Thank you, Mr. Anderson. We're here today on a new application for Signature Lounge at 1727 Connecticut Avenue. The establishment is in a one-story building featuring a ground level and mezzanine. There are no outdoor operations as part of this application.

The establishment has a full service and quite a large kitchen, and they will serve three meals per day, seven days per week. The establishment is built out and equipped for a restaurant, but it will be a tavern. After 10:00 p.m. the establishment will offer entertainment.

You will hear about the measures my client has taken and will put into place to ameliorate noise and disturbance, and to ensure a safe and clean environment for patrons and neighbors alike.

You will hear about the 38 licensees and the roughly 1200 square foot area. Not all, not all 38, but particularly the five tavern licenses and two full-blown nightclubs that either have no restrictions or nowhere near the restrictions that the ANC and DCCA has and continues to demand from my client.

Over our objection, the Protestants will introduce into evidence information about another establishment owned by my client, Secret Lounge. This is a different bar in a different neighborhood with a vastly different operation.

Nonetheless, my client has Secret
Lounge in one of the most raucous and difficult

areas of the city which garners very strict 1 2 scrutiny from ABRA and MPD alike, speaks for 3 itself. In four years of operation, they have 4 5 one violation and one warning in Shaw. That is a record that any establishment on 9th Street would 6 7 be proud of. After you hear all of the evidence 8 9 today, we are confident that you will find the 10 proposed Licensee is appropriate for the area, 11 and will not adversely impact the peace, order, 12 and quiet. 13 To be clear, the Protestants are 14 asking that my client be denied a license. 15 Denied. Flatly denied. There is absolutely no 16 cause for that and no evidence to support such an 17 extreme measure. Thank you. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 19 Bianco. All right. So let's go to Mr. -- are 20 you, Mr. Silverstein or Ms. Roggensack, who's 21 doing the opening? 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I will do the 23 opening. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.

PROTESTANTS' OPENING STATEMENT

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Board Members. My name is Mike Silverstein. I'm an ANC Commissioner, I'm not an attorney. My fellow Commissioner Meg Roggensack and I will represent ANC 2B. We are asking respectfully that the license application be denied. We take no pleasure in asking nor do we take this protest lightly, sir.

This is a tale of two lounges. One, the Applicant already owns and operates, that's Secret Lounge. And two, an even larger one where he now seeks a license to serve alcohol, that's Signature Lounge. That's the instant case.

When this application came before the ANC two months ago, we were told this would be a full-service Ethiopian restaurant, open for breakfast, for lunch, for dinner. The Applicant could not appear. He was out of the country on family business and we were told that -- well, his representative said there would be entertainment; a small dance floor, a deejay, entertainers singing beautiful Ethiopian songs we were told, and we wouldn't have to go down to 9th Street to get good Ethiopian food. And it sounded great.

Several folks at the meeting asked if it was going to be a restaurant, why the application for a tavern license, and why the 3:00 a.m. closing time on weekends. There were other questions and the representative couldn't answer them, and the owner would be back in a couple of weeks.

We were told the Applicant owned and operated another establishment, Secret Lounge, on 9th Street and knew there had been several events of concern there. So the ANC voted to protest the application so that we might negotiate a settlement agreement to provide peace, order, and quiet protection for our neighborhood.

We're not going to go into those negotiations. We can't. But the more that we learned, the more we've become certain that the Applicant's actions in the operation of Secret Lounge make it clear they granted him a license to operate an even larger establishment that borders on a residential historic district where people can't even double-pane their windows without getting D.C. permission. It would be a terrible mistake.

And more important, we don't think it

would meet the standards for licensure. Remember of course that the burden of proof here is on the Applicant.

The more we see, the more we're certain that what we were handed at first was just another version of a high-end steak house gambit where an applicant promises a high-end steakhouse but delivers a rowdy nightclub.

Here, they started by starting a fullservice Ethiopian restaurant, but now it's
completely obvious that they cannot succeed
without morphing into a nightclub and a hookah
bar with a capacity of nearly 300 people.

They are going to provide testimony from an MPD officer from 3D who was assigned to the area where Secret Lounge is located. Officer Brian O'Shea was himself the victim of violence inside the establishment, peace, order and quiet.

You will also hear from MPD Officer who formally worked that area and is now assigned to 2D which is where the new establishment, Signature Lounge, will be located. Lieutenant John Merzig will provide insight into the operations in Secret Lounge, and testify how granting a license to this Applicant to open

Signature Lounge north of Dupont Circle will impact not only on the immediate neighborhood, but on the deployment of police resources in Club Central, on M Street and 19th Street.

The clubs south of Dupont Circle which is the largest nighttime entertainment zone in the City, and is the goose that laid the golden egg for the City in terms of business, in terms of tax revenue, in terms of entertainment, it's an area that needs the protection that it has now.

You will also hear from a gentleman named Jim McGlade who owns and operates a retail shop next door and who for a number of years lived upstairs from that retail store in the abutting structure. Mr. McGlade will speak about how this business will affect his business, how it will affect the current residents of the apartment upstairs which may become unlivable if there's a deejay blasting music at 3:00 a.m. He will explain to you why this former grocery store is simply not built to operate as a nightclub.

I'll testify on ANC issues, and an Inspector/Investigator Rhoda Glasgow will be called to testify about a violation of COVID

protocols that will show in her investigative report the Applicant's lack of concern for the safety and well-being of his own customers, the willful disregard, and the health and safety of the community at large during the worst public health crisis of the past 100 years.

We believe the evidence, Mr. Chairman, will show the Applicant should not be granted a license, but we don't have that burden of proof. The burden of proof of licensure is on the Applicant to prove he deserves it. And it seems that upon viewing the evidence and hearing the testimony that we're going to present, the Board will be compelled to take into account peace, order, quiet, public safety concerns, and the record of the Applicant in his current establishment, and invoke respectfully to deny the application.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr. Silverstein. Mr. Engelmann.

MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you Mr.

Chairman. I'm here today on behalf of the Dupont

Circle Citizens Association which is a community

association open to all residents in Dupont

Circle. Like the ANC, we are protesting this application because of the negative effects of the proposed establishment on peace, order, and quiet.

The Dupont Circle neighborhood
benefits from a strong residential community and
indeed a vibrant restaurant environment. The
vibrancy of the neighborhood though requires a
balance between the needs of business and the
need to maintain peace, order, and quiet in the
residential areas of the neighborhood.

Part of that balance as has been noted has been locating nightclubs in the neighborhood south of the Circle in the so-called Club Central District. This has ensured that the late night noise and crowds associated with establishments focused primarily on alcohol and entertainment are located in the business district a good distance away from most residents, and certainly away from the historic district.

In addition, this arrangement has fostered a vibrant night life for the neighborhood, and as Commissioner Silverstein noted, for the City as well. However, the neighborhood has a long history of issues with

taverns which operate essentially as nightclubs causing disturbance and havoc to the neighborhood.

The use of outside entertainment promoters with no accountability to the neighborhood has been a particular flashpoint for us, and it has resulted in the ANC adopting guidelines requesting that taverns a no promoter settlement agreement.

The testimony of Jeff Rueckgauer, longtime resident, will discuss some of these issues and details, and we have placed into evidence our most recent settlement agreement with the tavern which includes the no promoter provision.

Maintaining the balance in the neighborhood requires mutual respect, transparency, and a willingness to reach mutually acceptable compromises. As it's been noted, the history of interaction of this Applicant with the neighborhood has demonstrated none of those characteristics.

In the PIP we have submitted, we do prefer and request that this application be denied, but we have also offered a lengthy series

of requirements that if the Board in its wisdom 1 2 determines otherwise, be imposed upon the 3 Applicant including most importantly a no promoter provision. 4 5 Thank you for your time. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 6 7 thank you. Before we move on, I just want to get 8 some clarification from the ANC. How are the two 9 representatives going to -- tell me what are you 10 going to do, Mr. Silverstein, and what are you 11 going to do, Ms. Roggensack. 12 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Ms. Roggensack will 13 question me. I will handle the rest of it. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, fine. Ι 15 just want to make sure that I know what role 16 everyone is going to play. All right, thank you. 17 All right, so the Board -- all right, the Board 18 will call its first witness, Mr. Donnell Butler. 19 Mr. Butler, can you spell and state your name for 20 the record please. 21 Yes, good afternoon Mr. MR. BUTLER: 22 Chairman. My name is Donnell Butler, D-O-N-N-E-23 L-L B-U-T-L-E-R.

Butler, can you please turn your microphone up

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right Mr.

24

1	because your voice is very soft. I want to make
2	sure that we hear you clearly.
3	MR. BUTLER: How's that?
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's much
5	better.
6	MR. BUTLER: That's much better?
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's better.
8	BY CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:
9	Q All right, Mr. Butler, where are you
10	currently employed, sir?
11	A Say again?
12	Q Where are you currently employed?
13	A Oh, I'm employed for the Alcoholic
14	Beverage Regulation Administration.
15	Q How long have you been employed with
16	ABRA?
17	A I've been employed with the Alcoholic
18	Beverage for nearly 22-plus years.
19	Q Now what is your current job title at
20	ABRA, sir?
21	A My title is as an Investigator.
22	Q And what are your duties and
23	responsibilities as an Investigator?
24	A My duties and responsibilities are ABC
25	violations of licensed establishments in the

1	District of Columbia to regulate Title 23 and 25.
2	Q So what does that mean, sir? What do
3	you do? What is it that you do daily, sir?
4	A I go out and I look for violations of
5	licensed establishments within D.C. area.
6	Q What do you mean by you look for
7	violations?
8	A Any violations that occur within the
9	licensed establishment under D.C. 25 and 23, make
10	sure that the licensee is in compliance.
11	Q So tell me, so what do you do? So
12	tell me what you do when you go out. Normally
13	what is it that you do?
14	A When I go out I look for the ABC
15	establishment that I'm addressing. I make sure
16	that the managers are there, the owner is there,
17	and alcohol is not being served to minors, and
18	everything is compliance with the laws.
19	Q Now, are you familiar with this
20	establishment, sir?
21	A Yes, sir.
22	Q And how are you familiar with this
23	establishment?
24	A I was assigned as an investigator to
25	look into the protest matters of a new

1	establishment.
2	Q And, all right. So, did there come a
3	time that you wrote a report, a case report
4	regarding this establishment?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q Now, do you have the ability to share
7	your screen?
8	A Yes, sir.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,
10	can you please give him the ability to share his
11	screen please?
12	MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by. Okay,
13	Mr. Butler, you can share your screen.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So
15	MR. BUTLER: Okay. I have to re-pull
16	it up. Standby for a minute, sir.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
18	MR. BUTLER: Okay, I have it now.
19	Thank you.
20	BY CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:
21	Q All right. So have you can you
22	bring the case report up?
23	A My case report is up, sir.
24	Q We can't see it.
25	A You can't see it?

1	Q No.
2	A One second. Let me adjust something
3	here.
4	Q All right. So can you identify the
5	document on the screen, sir?
6	A Yes, this is a case report that was
7	written by me regarding the protest issues of
8	Signature Lounge.
9	Q Now did there come a time that you
10	spoke to any, you interviewed any of the parties
11	in this case?
12	A Yes, sir.
13	Q Tell us who you interviewed sir, and
14	what were you able to gather from them?
15	A Okay. On Thursday, June 3rd,
16	approximately 1:15 p.m. I contacted Glenn
17	Engelmann, protest representative for Dupont
18	Circle Citizens Association via telephone to
19	speak with him regarding the protest
20	investigation of Signature Lounge.
21	Q And what information what I need
22	you to do, Mr. Butler, just summarize who you
23	spoke to about the protest and what information
24	you were able to gather from that person.
25	A Okay. Mr. Engelmann basically stated

that Signature Lounge would impact peace, order, and quiet, and the concerns surrounding Signature Lounge.

I also spoke to -- one second here -I spoke to Commissioner Roggensack. Ms.
Roggensack said she did not want to speak on
record, but she referred me to Mike Silverstein
and his concerns were Signature Lounge is mainly
for safety of the community and the number of
times that the establishment would utilize
outside promoters for evening entertainment.

And Mr. Silverstein also stated that three times per week outside promoters and entertainment would not be acceptable, stating further that residents would feel unsafe due to various events that have already occurred throughout the city.

Mr. Silverstein stated that he believes allowing the establishment to use outside promoters once a month may be acceptable.

Q Did you get an opportunity to interview the licensee?

A Yes. I interviewed the licensee. I spoke to him Wednesday, June 16, by telephone.

And Mr. Daneale, regarding the Signature Lounge

applicant, Mr. Butler arranged a meeting to meet with him at 1:00 o'clock p.m. at the establishment.

He stated that he complied with the ANC's request regarding music and noise by putting speakers away from the windows, and adding approximately 13 cameras.

Mr. Daneale also stated that he wants to be able to have entertainment at least three times a week to keep his business solvent and revenue stable.

He also stated that he does not have the client following that outside promoters would be able to generate revenue for his business. He also stated that he plans to operate a family-style restaurant offering breakfast, lunch, dinner and et cetera. And he also stated that, the Licensee also stated that he would ensure trash pickup four times a week.

He also mentioned that, he stated that the previous owner at 1727 Connecticut Avenue operated a restaurant with a CT license and no stipulations with a nightclub. He believes that this CT license is grandfathered in under the previous owner's CT license.

And the licensee also mentioned in 1 2 regards to the establishment on 9th Street N.W., 3 he stated that it does not have any violations. That's the gist of that conversation. 4 5 All right. So can you tell us a little bit about the characteristics of the 6 7 neighborhood, sir? The characteristics of the 8 Α Okay. 9 neighborhood, the zoning is MU20, zoned to intend 10 to permit minimum density, compact mixed-use 11 development with emphasis on residential 12 development and the nearby establishments. 13 0 Yes. So how many other establishments 14 are in the area? 15 Okay. According to the District of Α 16 Columbia Geographic Information System, there are 17 38 Board-approved ABC licenses located within 18 1200 feet of the Signature Lounge. And please 19 note that of the five CT restaurant 20 establishments, two have entertainment 21 endorsements, two have sidewalk cafes, one has 22 games and skills endorsement, and none have 23 settlement agreements. 24 All right. So did -- what type of 0 25 establishment is this that's being proposed based

1	on your investigation? What is the mission for
2	your to gather about what type of establishment
3	is being proposed?
4	A If I understand you, they propose to
5	have a CT license, a tavern license with the
6	hours of operation.
7	Q I'm saying based on your conversation
8	with them and what you wrote in your report, what
9	is it that they plan to have? I mean, do they
10	plan to have entertainment? I mean, is this a
11	restaurant? I mean, tell me, what is it?
12	A They plan to have a family-oriented
13	restaurant with American cuisine and Ethiopian
14	cuisine, and entertainment at night. That is
15	what
16	Q I'm sorry?
17	A That is what the restaurant is set up
18	to be.
19	Q Did they provide you with, like a
20	menu? Did you see a menu? Did they provide you
21	with one?
22	A They didn't provide a menu, no sir.
23	Q Okay. So what are the hours that are
24	being requested for operation?
25	A The hours are from Sunday to Thursday,

the hours of operation 7:00 o'clock to 2:00 a.m. 1 2 And Friday and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.; 3 Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. That's the 4 hours of operation. If anything, the hours of 5 sales of beverage, alcoholic beverage are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.; Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. 6 7 to 3:00 a.m. 8 Let me go back to their menu. 0 9 said you didn't see a menu. Did you ask them for 10 a menu? 11 No, I'm sorry, I didn't ask for a menu Α 12 because they were still under construction at the 13 time. 14 But they told you that -- but did you Q 15

Q But they told you that -- but did you ask if they had a menu proposed? How did you know what type of food they were going to provide? Did they tell you that specifically?

A Yes, sir. During the conversation he said he was going to serve American food along with Ethiopian cuisine.

Q Now, and if you don't know the answer you can say you don't know the answer, but the hours of operation that have been requested by this establishment, is it different or similar to the hours of operation for the 38 other

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1 establishments that you mentioned that operate in 2 the area? 3 Α I'm not certain about the difference 4 between the hours, sir. 5 I didn't ask if there was a 6 difference. I'm saying are these hours in line? 7 Do you know whether or not they are similar to the hours for the other establishments? 8 If you 9 do not know you can say you don't know. But are 10 they similar, are they different, do you know? 11 I don't know, sir. Α 12 All right. Did you or any other Q 13 investigator visit the premises? 14 Α No, it was only myself, sir. 15 And did you visit the premises? many times did you visit and what did you see? 16 17 I visited the establishment Α approximately five times. And out of the five 18 19 times that I visited there was no -- the establishment was closed first of all -- no 20 21 trash, no loitering, no litter was observed, no 22 alcohol regulation violation was noted. 23 Did you -- is this establishment open? Q 24 No, sir. Α 25 So, did you, what time -- did you go 0

at different times of day to observe the area?

Since this establishment is not operational, did
you go at different times of day to get a feel of
the neighborhood?

A Yes, sir. Mostly --

Q What times of the day -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

A During my work schedule, I visited them on a Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The neighborhood was pretty quiet, not a lot of people, not a lot of pedestrians walking around. Traffic was pretty moderate.

Wednesday on June 9th I visited them at 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and pretty much the same view. Pretty quiet, not a lot of pedestrians walking around. No loitering, no trash.

And I also visited at 10:30 p.m. on the Friday, and you know, it was pretty mild. No pedestrians walking, no loitering, maybe one or two people walking back and forth, but nothing out of the ordinary, and no ABRA violations. And as I said, the establishment was closed the whole time, so there was not -- it was pretty quiet in the neighborhood.

1	I also visited on Saturday which was
2	10:00 p.m looks like 10:00 a.m. to 10:15.
3	And then on Wednesday, 6/17, 12 o'clock p.m. to
4	1:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m.
5	Q All right. Are there any exhibits
6	attached to your report?
7	A Yes, sir.
8	Q And can you go over the exhibits
9	attached to your report, please?
10	A Okay. Let me see if I can bring them
11	up. You can start with Exhibit 5 which is the
12	exterior photograph of Signature Lounge.
13	Q Can you show that to us, please? So
14	why don't you show us the exhibit and then
15	(Simultaneous speaking)
16	A Okay, here's Exhibit 5, the exterior.
17	Q Why don't you go through the
18	exhibit doesn't start at 5. So why don't you
19	just go through all of the exhibits that are
20	attached to your report, sir.
21	A Okay. Exhibit 1 shows Dupont Circle
22	Neighborhood Commission ANC B2 protest letter.
23	Exhibit 2, a copy of Dupont Citizens
24	Association DCCA protest letter.
25	Exhibit 3, the District of Columbia

1	Geographic Information System within 1200 feet.
2	Exhibit 4 shows another District of
3	Columbia Geographic System, no public schools
4	within 1200 feet.
5	Exhibit 5, exterior photographs of
6	Signature Lounge.
7	Exhibit 6 is another view of the
8	establishment of Signature Lounge.
9	Exhibit 7 is another view of Signature
10	Lounge, the exterior.
11	Exhibit 8 is the left side adjoining
12	building at 1727 on the left side of the building
13	which is under construction.
14	Exhibit 9 is exterior of the adjoining
15	building on the right side of the establishment.
16	Exhibit 10 shows the exterior of
17	Signature Lounge in the rear of Signature Lounge.
18	Exhibit 11 also shows the exterior
19	rear, another angle.
20	Exhibit 12 shows the storm bin, it's
21	kind of on the side. It shows the oil bin.
22	Exhibit 13, as you can see that's on
23	the side view too. That shows Signature Lounge
24	trash cans in back of Signature Lounge.
25	Exhibit 14 shows a nearby residence at

1724 20th Street, brownstone apartment on 20th 1 2 Street in the rear of Signature Lounge. 3 Exhibit 15 shows a nearby residence, 4 1717 20th Street. It's an apartment building 5 also on the rear of Signature Lounge. And Exhibit 16 is the inside lounge 6 7 facing the street, looking out at Connecticut 8 Avenue. 9 Exhibit 17 is the interior lounge 10 facing the bar area as you enter Signature 11 Lounge. 12 And here's another view. Exhibit 18 13 is facing the tables in Signature Lounge. Exhibit 19 is from the second floor or 14 15 the mezzanine overlooking the first floor. 16 Exhibit 20 is the staircase leading to 17 the second floor. Exhibit 21 is the interior of 18 19 Signature Lounge second floor lounge area. Exhibit 22, interior lounge, second 20 21 floor, table seating area facing the bar. 22 There's a small bar to the right-hand side of the second floor. 23 24 Exhibit 23, the interior of Signature 25 Lounge, second floor table seating area,

approximately seven tables. 1 2 Exhibit 24, they have bench seating 3 around the left side of the second floor on the 4 wall. 5 Exhibit 25 shows a photo of the women's and men's restrooms on the first floor. 6 7 Exhibit 26 shows the kitchen area; 27 shows the kitchen area of the stoves; 28 also 8 9 shows the kitchen area of the sinks. 10 29, it shows proposed license, ABC 11 hours of operation of Signature Lounge, ABRA 12 117485. And number 30 is the email from the 13 14 Unified Communications showing no calls for 15 service. And 31, oh 31 is the no call for 16 17 service. What is 30 please? 18 0 19 Α 30 is showing the public notice of 20 Signature Lounge, nature of operation. 21 All right. So you said 31 is the 22 response from the office of Unified 23 Communication. Were you able to -- did they have 24 any information regarding any complaints from 25 that address?

1	A None at all, sir. No complaints at
2	all for the area from April to the current June.
3	Q Now let me ask the question it's
4	correct that this establishment is not open, is
5	that correct?
6	A Correct.
7	Q And I saw you showed several interior
8	shots of the establishment. Did the owner
9	represent to you that this is an actual
10	representation if a license was granted this is
11	what the business would look like?
12	A When I was there during a walk-
13	through, he was currently talking about re-doing
14	the wallpaper, remodeling the place, so I don't
15	know what it would look like from this day to the
16	next.
17	Q So what I'm trying to find, so all the
18	furniture and chairs and stuff that you shared,
19	did you get an impression during the walk-through
20	that if the license would be granted, that this
21	would be an accurate representation of what the
22	place would look like?
23	A Yes, sir.
24	Q So, I'm sorry. You're saying yes to
25	what?

1	A Yes, I'm saying that is a pretty much
2	accurate representation of what the establishment
3	would look like if they granted the CT license.
4	Q All right. Thank you, Mr. Butler.
5	You can close your screen now, sir.
6	A Okay.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do any other
8	Board Members have any questions for Mr. Butler?
9	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
10	have a couple for him.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short.
12	BY MEMBER SHORT:
13	Q Good afternoon Investigator Butler.
14	A Yes, sir. Good afternoon.
15	Q How many visits did you make to this
16	Applicant's location?
17	A Approximately five, sir.
18	Q And they're closed, so what did you
19	expect to find when they are closed?
20	A Well, I was looking for what I was
21	assigned to do with peace, order, and quiet; if
22	there was any noise in the area, any loitering,
23	any littering, any trash that may be around the
24	establishment. Other than that, the
25	establishment was closed and no visible signs of

1 anything unordinary. This question is to your ability to 2 3 maybe predict. Since it was quiet and peaceful on those visits you made, would it be like that 4 5 with the business open in your opinion? I can't say. Because once the 6 А 7 business is open, I don't know what the atmosphere would be like. 8 9 Thank you. That's a very honest 0 10 answer. Now, this is going to be a CT in a 11 tavern, and they are asking the Board for 12 entertainment how many nights a week? I'm not certain. At least three 13 Α 14 nights, at least three nights a week. 15 Okay, and how many nights did they say 0 they would have a, they would lease the club out 16 17 to other people or other agents? 18 Α From what I understand, he will have 19 promoters at least three nights a week, sir. Did he commit to that? 20 O 21 Α That was in conversation. It may not 22 be a commitment on his part, but that was in 23 conversation in order to begin his revenue and 24 make his business payable. Three nights week 25 would definitely do that.

Q Okay. And what kind of business do you think he -- I know you said CT, and we know that most CTs don't function until -- at least the ones that do more than 70 percent of their food sales. So, in your opinion, it looked like a pretty large kitchen equipped to handle any kind of crowds, that's a commercial kitchen.

And he had no menu or couldn't tell you any idea of what kind of food he was going to serve other than telling you it was going to be American and Ethiopian. There was no menu as you said to the Chairman, is that correct?

A Correct, sir.

Q So in your 22 years of service to ABRA, how many establishments have you visited that have a CT that don't have a menu?

In the years that I have been an Investigator visiting CTs that don't have a menu, there's not a lot. There's probably none if any. Most of them do have some type of menu. But I would say that if he's up and coming, he's getting his establishment online, then he's probably prepared a menu for this establishment. But at that time I didn't ask for one, he didn't present one at the time.

1	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much
2	Investigator Donnell Butler. Those answers were
3	right on time, and thank you very much. That's
4	all I have Mr. Chair.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.
6	Short. Any other questions by any of the Board
7	Members?
8	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
10	Grandis.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.
12	BY MEMBER GRANDIS:
13	Q Mr. Butler, I want to thank you for
14	attending today, fulfilling your obligations, and
15	the good presentation you made. Thank you very
16	much.
17	A Thank you.
18	Q Would you be able to put the document
19	back up so we can see it so I can go through some
20	questions I have?
21	A Yes, give me a second please.
22	Q Thank you.
23	A Okay.
24	Q Thank you, sir. Could we go to
25	Exhibit 16?

1	A Okay, Exhibit 16.
2	Q And you explained this that this is
3	the rear of the establishment that is facing on
4	20th Street N.W.?
5	A No, sir. That's inside the
6	establishment facing Connecticut Avenue.
7	Q Thank you. I wanted that
8	clarification. Looking at the windows, and you
9	may not be an engineer, but do you have any
10	observation on whether those windows actually are
11	soundproofing or just typical windows?
12	A As you said, I'm not an engineer so
13	from my observation they look like typical
14	windows.
15	Q And I we won't take that as an
16	engineering comment, but it is something I think
17	we need to discuss. Number 20, could you go to
18	number 20 please? And as you do that, I'm seeing
19	tables and chairs, I just want to clarify.
20	That's actually how it looks today oh no,
21	that's actually how it looked when you went in?
22	A Correct.
23	Q And did you find out if those tables
24	and chairs are placed by the new owner with

potential licensing, or is that how they found

	them when they rented the place?
2	A I'm not certain, but when I visited
3	the establishment that's what I saw and that's
4	what was there when I visited the establishment.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry to
6	interrupt. Are we talking about Exhibit 19 or
7	I just want the record to be clear.
8	MEMBER GRANDIS: No, no, we're talking
9	about Exhibit 19 right now. Yes, I apologize.
10	That's my error, Mr. Chairman.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
12	BY MEMBER GRANDIS:
13	Q Okay. Can we go back to 16?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Oh, I'm sorry, we already talked about
16	it. Number 20.
17	A Number 20.
18	Q I just don't have the document in
19	front of me, I apologize.
20	A Okay, number 20 is up.
21	Q Okay. It looks like you're going from
22	one floor to another, is that correct?
23	A Yes. As you enter into the
24	establishment and you walk towards the rear,
25	there's a set of stairways that you see on the

1 right-hand side leading up to either the second floor it's called or the mezzanine, whichever you 2 3 prefer to call it. And do you know if this is a poster 4 0 5 that has been put up by the proposed licensee, or 6 is this something he inherited? 7 Α I believe that's something that he inherited. 8 9 I thought during the presentation 0 there was a statement about this being a family-10 11 style restaurant? 12 Α Correct. 13 0 Okay. I just wanted to make sure I 14 understood that correctly. Thank you. Let's 15 see, number 24? 16 Α 24, okay. Number 29? 17 I think we discussed that. 0 18 Α 29. 19 Q Oh, can you stop one moment? Do you 20 know, and maybe you did inquire, all that kitchen equipment, is that something that the current 21 22 potential licensee inherited or has he already 23 been, you know, putting in new equipment? 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Are 25 you talking about exhibit 28?

1	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.
2	BY MR. BUTLER:
3	A 28. I'm not certain if he inherited
4	it or he acquired that particular equipment.
5	Q Thank you. We can now go to 30 no,
6	no, 29, that's where we were heading, 29.
7	A Okay, 29.
8	Q And because of my screen, and I
9	apologize it's very small, can you just, for the
10	record, go through the standard hours that
11	they're requesting and whether it's for,
12	including the hours for entertainment?
13	A As it stands, the hours of operation
14	are from Sunday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to
15	2:00 a.m.; Friday and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00
16	a.m. The alcohol
17	Q Could you report I'm sorry, go
18	ahead.
19	A The alcohol sales on Sunday through
20	Thursday are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and Friday
21	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to
22	3:00 a.m.
23	Q Okay, thank you. And did you talk
24	about the hours of entertainment?
25	A No sir, we didn't get into that.

1	Q Oh you didn't, okay. I thought I
2	heard you mention something about 10:00 p.m. is
3	when they would bring the entertainment on?
4	A No, sir.
5	Q Oh, okay. I misunderstood you then.
6	Okay, let's go to number 30.
7	A Okay.
8	Q Now we're looking, I think, it's
9	pretty small for me to read, but there's
10	something occupancy on there.
11	A Yes. The nature of operations, the
12	notice of public hearing. The occupancy is, what
13	they state here is 267. A total occupancy load
14	is 277.
15	Q And it looks like they say, looks for
16	a cover charge. Is that what they're asking for?
17	A Yes. Entertainment, dancing and cover
18	charge.
19	Q And did they talk to you about where
20	the dance floor would be if there is a dance
21	floor?
22	A No, they didn't.
23	Q Did they talk to you about moving
24	tables and chairs?
25	A No.

1	Q Okay. Did you have an opportunity to
2	get a current C of O? Not the one that they're
3	applying for but on the building now?
4	A No, sir.
5	Q Okay, good. That's a good answer,
6	thank you.
7	MEMBER GRANDIS: That's all the
8	questions I have. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
9	you for letting me do that. Thank you.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thanks Mr.
11	Grandis. Mr. Butler, you can stop sharing your
12	screen, please.
13	MR. BUTLER: Okay, there you go.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any
15	other questions by any other Board Members?
16	Hearing none, Mr. Bianco.
17	MR. BIANCO: Sure, sure. Good
18	afternoon Mr. Butler.
19	MR. BUTLER: Good afternoon.
20	BY MR. BIANCO:
21	Q I'm going to have a few questions for
22	you about your investigation. When you visited
23	the establishment, on the occasions that you
24	visited the establishment, did you take note of
25	any other licensed establishments in proximity to

	this location?
2	A Yes. There are a couple licensed
3	establishments in that area.
4	Q Okay. Are you going from your records
5	or are you going from your recollection of your
6	actual visit?
7	A My recollection, sir.
8	Q Okay. So did you observe the
9	establishments that are in proximity actually
10	operating?
11	A I am trying to remember. Yes, I did
12	at one point remember, but I can't recall the
13	name of the establishment. It's on the south
14	side of the, going southbound on Connecticut
15	Avenue.
16	Q Okay. And how about the nightclubs
17	that are in the area, are you familiar with
18	those?
19	A Yes, I'm somewhat familiar with the
20	nightclubs.
21	Q Okay. Are you let me ask you this
22	just taking a step back. Is this an area that
23	you were assigned to in the course of your duties
24	as an ABRA investigator?
25	A No, sir. No particular areas are

assigned.

Q Okay. So on your exhibit, you said there was 38 nearby establishments within 1200 feet, and two of the ones you list are nightclubs. So I want to go down to the second of two which is Assets at 1805 Connecticut Avenue. Is that the establishment that you observed on one of your visits? Is that the one you're talking about?

A No, sir.

Q Okay. Have you observed Assets in operation?

A In passing on some of my night tours,
I have observed Assets, yes.

Q Okay. And what can you tell me about that particular location?

A That location, during the time I was making my rounds, the nightclub Assets was in operation. They had one, two, maybe three security guards outside of the establishment. I did not interview the establishment. There wasn't a lot of patrons outside. They were open for business though.

Q Okay. So were there patrons outside?
You said there wasn't a lot, but does that mean

there were some patrons outside waiting to get 1 2 in? 3 Α I think what I noticed on one 4 particular time was maybe one or two patrons 5 waiting to get inside or just standing on the 6 outside of it. 7 So what did you know about foot traffic on the street in that area? 8 There's not a lot of foot traffic in 9 Α From Connecticut Avenue in front of 10 that area. 11 Signature Lounge there wasn't a lot of foot 12 traffic at all. On that particular corner, 13 Florida Avenue where Assets is located, maybe one 14 or two patrons observed walking to and from. 15 Maybe from the CVS across the street, but not a lot of foot traffic at all. 16 17 I want to go back up to the Okay. 18 first nightclub that appears in your report which 19 is Gazuza at 1629 Connecticut Avenue. familiar with that establishment? 20 21 I know it's there. There's a lot of Α 22 establishments that we have to deal with, so I'm 23 not, you know, totally familiar with that 24 particular one. If I have to go there for a 25 reason, then yes, I would be familiar with it.

2	Q Okay. So you've never been inside
	that establishment?
3	A Not that I can recall at this
4	particular time. At a later date maybe.
5	Q Have you observed it in the course of
6	your duties as an investigator in operation?
7	A I didn't pay particular attention to
8	whether it was open and operating or not, no sir.
9	MR. BIANCO: Okay great. Thank you
10	very much. I don't have any more questions for
11	you.
12	MR. BUTLER: Okay.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
14	Engelmann, do you have any questions for Mr.
15	Butler?
16	MR. ENGELMANN: No questions Mr.
17	Chairman.
	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
18	
18 19	Silverstein, do you have any questions for Mr.
	Silverstein, do you have any questions for Mr. Butler?
19	
19 20	Butler?
19 20 21	Butler?  MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, I do.
19 20 21 22	Butler?  MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, I do.  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead sir.

1	BY MR. SILVERSTEIN:
2	Q You mentioned that you had been in
3	that area at night?
4	A Yes, sir.
5	Q You said that it is a quiet area at
6	night?
7	(Simultaneous speaking)
8	A Yes, in the area of Signature Lounge
9	you're talking?
10	Q Yes, sir.
11	A Yes, sir. For my visit to Signature
12	Lounge at night, and at night because the
13	restaurant is not currently open, there is not a
14	lot of foot traffic in that area. It's very
15	quiet. Not a lot of trash or loitering.
16	Q Both front and back?
17	A Front and back, there's not a lot of
18	foot traffic, no sir.
19	Q Okay. Mr. Bianco mentioned Assets.
20	Has it been quiet around there lately?
21	A Yes, from the past few weeks that I
22	drove through the area it has been fairly quiet.
23	Q Has there been a shooting there
24	lately?
25	A Not within the past week or so. I

know what you're referring to, but no. 1 2 Okay. I would like to go to some of 0 3 the exhibits very quickly and point some things out. And it's important that I point them out 4 now because I'm not sure, and I'll ask the Chair. 5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Would be best for me 6 7 to point these out now, these things we're going 8 to be asking people about, regarding the location 9 and the proximity to things. Will we have the 10 opportunity to do that later Mr. Chairman, or 11 would it be good to just do it now? 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Not with this 13 witness sir. So if you have a question that you 14 want to ask the witness about, you ask the 15 witness. You can ask more questions, but you won't have this witness. 16 17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. 18 BY MR. SILVERSTEIN: 19 Q Could you go to first, Exhibit 5, if 20 you could share your screen. We're going to 21 refer to these later, and these are critical as 22 to the effect on the neighborhood. 23 Okay, Exhibit 5. Α 24 That is the front of, am I 0 Okay.

correct, this is the front of the proposed

1	establishment, and on the right of it is an
2	establishment called Bite the Fruit?
3	A Correct, sir.
4	Q And are they abutting?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q There's nothing between them, there's
7	just a party wall?
8	A Just a fire wall, party wall.
9	Q Okay. Number 9 please.
10	A Okay.
11	Q That so there's a place called
12	Chocolate City Wellness on the bottom, and Bite
13	the Fruit is on the top, so it would be up
14	against the second floor and the mezzanine of
15	what will be Signature Lounge, correct?
16	A It appears to be, yes. I can't say
17	the structure inside of Signature Lounge, the
18	wall is abutting the top floor as you see the
19	windows there. But it appears to be.
20	Q I just want to make sure when we refer
21	to these things that the Board has these pictures
22	in their mind. Number 10, the rear of Signature
23	Lounge as taken from the street.
24	A Yes.
25	Q Can you tell us a little about the

1 Is it a one-way street, is it small, and street. 2 how far is it to the properties across the street 3 where all the people live? 4 Α Yes. The rear of Signature Lounge is 5 on 20th Street. And the brownstone apartments 6 are across the street maybe two, three doors down 7 on the opposite side. 8 Could you go to Exhibit 14? Q 9 Α 14, okay. This is 1724 20th Street? 10 Q 11 Yes, sir. Α 12 Is this the one that is almost 13 directly behind Signature Lounge, which is 1727? 14 Α Yes, it's exactly opposite or 15 diagonally across from Signature Lounge on the 16 rear side. 17 So maybe about 50 steps from the front 18 of that to the back of Signature Lounge? 19 Α Yes, about 50. Yes, I would say so. And Exhibit 16 is also going to be 20 0 21 very critical. This is the front of Signature 22 Lounge, the sidewalk there? 23 That's from the inside of Α Yes. 24 Signature Lounge looking out towards Connecticut

Avenue.

25

1	Q There's a railing there to delineate,
2	I assume, a sidewalk caf,, correct?
3	A Yes, sir.
4	Q And there's a tree box there?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q And this is absolutely critical. How
7	much space do you think there is between the
8	railing and the tree box?
9	A I would estimate about five, six feet
10	maybe
11	Q Five or six feet
12	A between that tree box and the
13	railing.
14	Q Yes.
15	A I would say my estimate right now
16	would be about may six, maybe seven from each.
17	Q And they're asking for an occupancy of
18	277, and people standing in line at night?
19	A What I understand is the occupancy,
20	yes, is 277. The occupancy load is 277. Total
21	capacity 267.
22	Q Okay, well, we're going to bring that
23	up. But I just wanted the Board to have the
24	opportunity to see these things, and thank you
25	for taking these shots. Exhibit 20?

1	A Okay.
2	Q The forget the picture. The issue
3	here is one of noise and a noise conduit. This
4	is a stairway that leads up to the mezzanine,
5	correct?
6	A Correct, sir.
7	Q And on the back of behind that
8	photo, behind that picture rather, is the shop
9	next door, correct, or the building next door?
10	A The building next door, yes sir.
11	Q Did you see anything in the way of
12	major noise baffling or anything there?
13	A No sir, I can't say that I have.
14	Q And finally, Exhibit 21, the party
15	wall itself.
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q Again, do you see any that's
18	directly against you have a case where the
19	noise goes up the stairs, but what is there at
20	that point that separates it from the place next
21	door and also the apartment above it?
22	A All I can say is just as you go up the
23	stairway there's just a wall to the right-hand
24	side that you're looking at that leads to the
25	small bar towards the end. I don't know the

sound barrier or how thick the wall is next to the apartment that's adjacent.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Well, your report was thorough. I want to thank you for it, I want to thank you for the pictures, and thank you for the opportunity to present them now to the Board. Mr. Chairman, we may want to go back and refer to those pictures later. Will that be a problem?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:

Mr.

Silverstein, these are part of the Board's records. And so Mr. Butler took the pictures, you have questioned him about these records, so I'm not quite sure. I guess at some point if you have a witness who you want to testify and -- this is the Board's records and you can recall later on if you have someone who can further

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. I don't want to create any additional time problems. It's just when people are describing, for example, where they are in comparison to this and why it's a noise conduit or things like that, that's why we did it now. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any further questions?

elaborate on them.

1	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, sir.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any
3	final questions for Mr. Butler by any Board
4	Member? All right. Mr. Butler, thank you very
5	much for your testimony, sir.
6	MR. BUTLER: You're welcome sir.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
8	Bianco, call your first witness please.
9	MR. BIANCO: Dereje Daneale.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
11	Daneale, can you raise your right hand please?
12	Now I can see. Do you swear or affirm to tell
13	the truth and nothing but the truth?
14	MR. DANEALE: I do.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
16	thank you. Your witness Mr. Bianco.
17	MR. BIANCO: Thank you.
18	BY MR. BIANCO:
19	Q Dereje, can you state your name and
20	spell your last name for the record please?
21	A My name is Dereje Daneale, D-E-R-E-J-
22	E, last name Daneale, D-A-N-E-A-L-E. I'm the
23	owner of Signature Lounge.
24	Q Okay. That was my next question. And
25	the corporate name for Signature Lounge is

1	Abarash, LLC, correct?	
2	A Yes.	
3	Q And it's located at 1727 Connecticut	
4	Avenue, N.W., is that correct?	
5	A Yes.	
6	Q Okay. And you just testified that you	
7	are the owner of that establishment. Are there	
8	any other owners?	
9	A No.	
10	Q Okay. So it's just you?	
11	A Yes.	
12	Q Now, this is a new establishment, but	
13	do I understand correctly that you are not	
14	operating right now even without alcohol service?	
15	A No.	
16	Q No meaning you're not operating,	
17	correct?	
18	A Not operating. We've been closed more	
19	than six months.	
20	Q Okay. And when do you plan to open?	
21	A As soon as we get the license.	
22	Q Do you have all of your other licenses	
23	and permits?	
24	A Yes.	
25	Q Okay. And what is your occupancy?	

1	A 277.
2	Q Okay. And can you describe the setup
3	of your establishment?
4	A Basically, we want to do breakfast and
5	lunch and dinner. At same time, you know,
6	nighttime nightlife, you know, band, deejay,
7	that's the plan.
8	Q I understand, and we're going to get
9	to that. But let me take a quick step back for a
10	moment, and let's talk about the physical layout
11	of the establishment. How many floors is it?
12	A There is one floor and mezzanine too.
13	Q And what's on the ground floor?
14	A The first floor is where we have the
15	tables and a bar and restaurant, and at the same
16	time behind the kitchen.
17	Q Okay. And what's on the mezzanine?
18	A Mezzanine is Signature Lounge. We
19	have food, chairs and tables.
20	MR. BIANCO: All right. So I'm going
21	to ask Mr. Chairman if I could get the ability to
22	share my screen so I could go through my
23	exhibits.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,
25	gan wow please allow Mr. Biango to share his

	screen please?
2	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by. Okay
3	Mr. Bianco, you can share your screen now.
4	MR. BIANCO: Excellent. Thank you
5	very much. Okay.
6	BY MR. BIANCO:
7	Q So Mr. Daneale, you should be able to
8	see on your screen what is marked as Exhibit 1,
9	are you able to see that?
10	A Yes, it's the front side of Signature
11	Lounge.
12	Q Okay. There was some discussion in
13	the Investigator's testimony about this railing,
14	this railing here. What is that?
15	A Basically, outside seats of the place.
16	Q Yes. But does your application
17	include a request for a sidewalk caf,?
18	A No.
19	Q Okay. So did you construct that
20	railing or was that railing there when you moved
21	in?
22	A No. The previous owner, he used the
23	same areas.
24	Q Okay, great. Do you have is there
25	anything in your application that would allow for

1	operations outside?
2	A No.
3	Q Okay.
4	MR. BIANCO: Mr. Chair, is it your
5	preference that I move exhibits as we go through
6	or do you want to wait until the end?
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We can move
8	them as we go through them.
9	MR. BIANCO: Okay. I move Applicant's
10	oh, I'm sorry, one more foundation question
11	before I move it.
12	BY MR. BIANCO:
13	Q Is that how the establishment looks
14	today from the outside?
15	A Yes.
16	MR. BIANCO: I move for admission of
17	Exhibit number 1.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silverstein
19	or Mr. Engelmann, any objection?
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No objection.
21	MR. ENGELMANN: No objection.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved
23	without objection.
24	BY MR. BIANCO:
25	Q I want to go onto what I've marked as

1	Applicant's Exhibit 2. Do you recognize that?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And what is that?
4	A This is the first floor restaurant,
5	the bar and the tables.
6	Q Okay. How many bar seats do you have?
7	A Probably 20.
8	Q Okay. And how about tables? How many
9	do you have?
10	A Same amount, maybe 22.
11	Q Okay. And how many seats at each
12	table?
13	A The first floor we set up like four to
14	six people.
15	Q Per table, okay. And is this how the
16	establishment looks today?
17	A Yes.
18	Q And how about when you open? How is
19	this going to compare to how the establishment is
20	going to look? Will it be the same or different?
21	A A similar look.
22	Q Okay. So what are you going to do, if
23	anything, that is different?
24	A The lounge, you know, will have
25	furnitures.

1	Q Okay. But is the number
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry Mr.
3	Bianco, I did not hear what he said.
4	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Can Dereje
5	MR. DANEALE: It is lounge, lounge and
6	restaurant.
7	BY MR. BIANCO:
8	Q Okay, so what my question is, is the
9	number of tables that you have there going to
10	change?
11	A Yes.
12	Q And how is that going to change?
13	A So basically, if you do the restaurant
14	and the lounge, the difference between the tables
15	and the furniture. So when you put furniture
16	with a couple tables. So that's how it set up.
17	Q Okay. And how many tables is that
18	going to affect? You said a couple, but what
19	does that mean?
20	A So probably the same numbers, 15 or
21	20.
22	Q Okay. So, when you open, you're going
23	to have how many tables?
24	A Around 15 per floor.
25	Q And I see at the top, on the ceiling

1 at the top of the photograph I see a number of white boxes. What are those? 2 Those are speakers. 3 Α 4 Okay. And how many of those do you 0 5 have? 6 I think six. Α 7 Okay. Are there presently any other Q speakers in this area of the establishment? 8 9 Α Yes. 10 Q Okay, where? 11 We had a plan to put a different Α 12 situation in place and we talked to the ANC 13 Commissioner about the situation. I switched the 14 place to a different direction so it's not noisy 15 and disturbing the people. I didn't 100 percent understand 16 Okay. 17 what you're saying there. So you said something about switching the direction of the speakers. 18 19 Can you explain that? 20 So we had a plan to put some speakers Α 21 close to the window side. But after the 22 conversation with Commissioner Michael, and I 23 changed you to know put in the middle of the 24 restaurant. 25 0 So you moved the speakers away Okay.

1	from the windows and towards the middle of the
2	restaurant. Is that what you're saying?
3	A Yes.
4	And when you say the speakers, are
5	these white speakers on the ceiling what you're
6	referring to that you moved away from the
7	windows?
8	A Not that one, a different one.
9	Q Okay. You can't see it in this
10	picture? Is that right?
11	A No.
12	Q So how close are the speakers to the
13	windows and doors?
14	A It's really far. After a wall, we had
15	a restroom. After restroom, we had kitchen.
16	After kitchen, then last the window side and the
17	wall. Really far.
18	Q Okay. So by really far, do you mean
19	30 feet, 50 feet, can you put a number on it?
20	A Probably 50 feet, 100 feet.
21	Q Okay.
22	MR. BIANCO: Move admission of Exhibit
23	number 2.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objections?
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No objection.

1	MR. ENGELMANN: No objection.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
3	BY MR. BIANCO:
4	Q Moving on to Exhibit number 3, what
5	does this show?
6	A This is the mezzanine floors, the
7	lounge.
8	Q Okay. And how many tables or seats do
9	you have there?
10	A We have six tables. Each table we can
11	sit 10 people.
12	Q Okay. And is that how the mezzanine
13	looks today?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Is that how it's going to look when
16	you open up?
17	A Yes. It will look similar.
18	Q Well, how is it going to be different?
19	A The difference is maybe remove the big
20	tables to the lounge and the furniture stuff.
21	Q Okay. Are you going to serve food on
22	this level of the establishment?
23	A Yes.
I	
24	Q Okay. And are you going to serve

1	establishment?
2	A Yes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
3	Q And dinner, okay. So, where so
4	when are you going to move these tables?
5	A As soon as, you know, approve of the
6	license so when ready to open up.
7	Q And I see, and there's been some
8	testimony about the benches along the side wall.
9	What are those for?
10	A That is the previous owner. He used
11	them for seats against the wall.
12	Q Okay. So you didn't put those in?
13	A Same concept before.
14	Q Now, I don't see any speakers on the
15	ceiling here. Are there any ceiling speakers on
16	this level?
17	A No.
18	Q Okay. Are there going to be?
19	A No.
20	Q Okay. What's the total number of
21	speakers you intend to have on this level?
22	A Maybe one.
23	Q Okay. And where's that going to be?
24	A On the ramp to the stairway.
25	Q So on the stairway or near it?

1	A In the stairway.
2	Q And is there going to be any dancing
3	on this level of the establishment?
4	A No, first floor, not mezzanine.
5	Q Okay. So what's this area of the
6	establishment primarily going to be used for?
7	A Dining and the lounge.
8	MR. BIANCO: Move admission of
9	Applicant's number 3.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objection
11	by any parties?
12	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No objection.
13	MR. ENGELMANN: No objection.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
15	BY MR. BIANCO:
16	Q Moving to Applicant's number 4, do you
17	recognize that?
18	A Yes. This is the kitchen.
19	Q Okay. And I see some wires that are
20	hanging there. What are those?
21	A That's for our systems, and that
22	refrigerator for foods.
23	Q Okay. Is that going to stay like that
24	or is that going to get fixed?
25	A They are processing to fix now above

1	the dance floor.
2	Q And what kind of cooking equipment do
3	you have in this establishment?
4	A We have food refrigerators, and
5	stoves, and grill. In six months we will have
6	like pizza.
7	Q Do you have a fryer?
8	A Yes, I do. Fry too.
9	Q Do you have an oven?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Okay. You mentioned that
12	refrigerators. Do you have a walk-in?
13	A Yes, we do have a walk-in refrigerator
14	and underground.
15	Q Okay. So there's a basement area that
16	has a walk-in?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Tell me about your food program?
19	A Basically, we have plans to start from
20	brunch to dinner. So that's the plan to make me
21	a place, to convince me to set up in location
22	that we did.
23	Q Okay. And what specific food are you
24	going to offer on your menu?
25	A We try to do, you know, seafood,

burgers, fries, and same time Ethiopian food.
Q Okay. So tell me about breakfast.
What are you going to serve for breakfast?
A We do eggs, pancakes, and you know,
juice, coffee, teas, waffles, French toast.
Q What about for lunch? What's going to
be on your lunch menu?
A So lunch, we try to do some spaghetti,
lettuce, Ethiopian food, and steaks. That's the
plan for lunch.
Q Is the dinner menu going to be
different than the lunch menu?
A It's similar. The difference is we
have a happy hour menu and late night after 4
o'clock with a similar menu.
Q Are you going to have a formal printed
Q Are you going to have a formal printed menu when you open?
menu when you open?
menu when you open?  A Yes. We already ready now.
menu when you open?  A Yes. We already ready now.  Q Okay. You're already ready?
menu when you open?  A Yes. We already ready now.  Q Okay. You're already ready?  A Yes.
menu when you open?  A Yes. We already ready now.  Q Okay. You're already ready?  A Yes.  Q Okay. What type of Ethiopian food are
menu when you open?  A Yes. We already ready now.  Q Okay. You're already ready?  A Yes.  Q Okay. What type of Ethiopian food are you going to serve?

+	A Ribs, pig foot, some veggies,
2	different, you know, wild turkey, different kinds
3	of grapes and lettuce and spaghettis.
4	Q Okay. Tell me about the hours of
5	operation of your kitchen. What hours are you
6	going to be open?
7	A Yes, we have plan to open in 6:00 in
8	the morning, 7 o'clock until closing Sunday-
9	Thursday. Sunday is 2 o'clock and Friday-
10	Saturday is 3:00 a.m.
11	Q So your kitchen is going to be open
12	whenever the establishment is open, is that what
13	I'm hearing?
14	A Just open to closing.
15	Q Okay. Have you hired your kitchen
16	staff yet?
17	A Yes.
18	Q How many have you hired?
19	A Six people.
20	Q And how many are you ultimately going
21	to have?
22	A Around 20 people to include the
23	bartender, barman, hoster.
24	Q I'm just asking about the kitchen.
25	What's the total number of kitchen employees that

1	you're going to have?
2	A Six.
3	Q And you've hired them all already?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Okay. And do you have a chef?
6	A Yes.
7	MR. BIANCO: At this point I'll move
8	admission of Exhibit number 4.
9	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No objection.
10	MR. ENGELMANN: No objection.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
12	BY MR. BIANCO:
13	Q All right. So now tell me, Dereje,
14	tell me about the front of the house staff. What
15	jobs are you going to have in the front of the
16	house?
17	A You mean outside, the front, we'll
18	have uniformed security.
19	Q How many security are you going to
20	have?
21	A We have two security uniforms. Then
22	the next door when in, we have a host, somebody
23	putting the table reservations to assign to
24	people.
25	Q Okay. And how many hosts are you

1	going to have?
2	A I have two hosts.
3	Q Okay. And how about wait staff. How
4	many waiters and waitresses are you going to
5	have?
6	A We just hired a couple, so assuming
7	eight waitresses, and six bartenders, and two bar
8	backs to help the people or to run out to help
9	them, kitchen runners.
10	Q Runners, okay. So tell me about when
11	a guest enters your establishment, what is that
12	going to look like? What are they going to go
13	through when they enter your establishment.
14	A You know first, the security makes
15	sure that no one underage, you know over 21, and
16	make sure search well. Nothing, no guns or knives
17	that cannot get in the building, so make sure
18	really search individual person.
19	Q Okay. Is that going to be in place
20	during breakfast and lunch as well?
21	A Yes.
22	Q You're going to search people when
23	they're coming in for breakfast at 7:00 a.m.?
24	A Yes.
25	O Okay. And then after they go through

security, what's the next thing?

A So the hostess that assigns the seats, the tables, and how many people have reservations or walk-in, you know, as the second step.

Q Okay. And are people going to be handed menus or is there some other process by which they're going to order food?

A So we had a plan to make a website.

Nowadays, people will see the website, you know,
want to look at menu. Some of them just walk in
the halls.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on Mr.

Bianco. It might just be my feed, but I did not hear anything he said because I believe that there were some issues. Mr. Deneale, what type of equipment are you using sir? Are you using your phone?

MR. DANEALE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you just, can you put the phone down so it stays stationary sir, because it's moving. So whatever you're using, can you just have it that it remains stationary sir. Because it's moving. So are you able to put it down so that it stays stationary and it doesn't move? Because I think you have it

in your hand and it keeps on moving. 1 Is that clear now? 2 MR. DANEALE: 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, it 4 shouldn't move. So make sure it stays and it 5 doesn't move. It's kind of distracting that your background keeps on shifting. 6 7 And I believe, I don't know if was 8 just my feed, but I did not hear your answer to 9 the last question because I believe that your internet was -- I heard you, but I didn't hear 10 11 anything you said because of the interference. 12 MR. BIANCO: I could go back and ask 13 him the question again if that helps. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, please ask 15 him the question. And please sir, have the phone 16 stay in a stationary position, sir. 17 MR. DANEALE: Okay. BY MR. BIANCO: 18 19 Q So what my question was is that when 20 customers enter, are you going to be handing them 21 a printed menu or is there some other way that 22 they're going to order? 23 BY MR. BIANCO: 24 So what I said is that we, you know, Α

website and the menu and the venue look like,

25

1 some people even that, but no matter what the 2 cost, that's our job to anybody here in the 3 building to hand out the menu. O Okay. And what times of the day are 4 you going to be handing out menus? 5 We do, that's the reason I hired two 6 А 7 hosts and daytime and a nighttime. So what times? Is it all times or 8 Q 9 less than all the time? All the time. 10 Α 11 Okay. And later on in the evening, 12 after 10 o'clock, can you describe what your establishment is going to look like? How is it 13 14 going to change, I suppose is my question? 15 So, as the night life, we are Α 16 assuming, you know, we have more security, we are 17 assuming five to six securities. Two securities 18 in the front door, to make sure no one underage, 19 no one person to be drunk, and somebody takes 20 care, drinks something, not let them in the 21 building and to search everybody and they have 22 wand to search them. Then the host, she take 23 them to give them menu to let them see the 24 tables. 25 So you said you are going to 0 Okay.

	nave five or six security and two of them were
2	going to be at the door. Where are the other
3	ones going to be?
4	A Two of them on the first floor and one
5	of them in the upstairs, and one of them in the
6	stairway and walk around the building.
7	Q So, I want to show you what I have
8	marked as Exhibit Number 5, do you recognize
9	that?
10	A Yes. This is the back side of the
11	building.
12	Q Okay. On the left-hand side of the
13	screen here I see here I see a door. Where does
14	that door lead to?
15	A That is a door, employees in and out,
16	employees and trash. Any service company to use
17	that entrance.
18	Q Okay, and when you go in that door,
19	where does it lead to?
20	A As soon as you get in the door you see
21	the kitchen.
22	Q Okay. And is that door going to be
23	used by customers for any reason?
24	A No.
25	Q During business hours, are you going

to have that door opened or closed?
A It's closed.
Q Okay. Is it going to be locked?
A Not locked, but it's closed. That is
an emergency exit.
Q Okay. Is this how the rear of it
looks today?
A Yes.
Q And are you making any changes to
that?
A No. We supposed to put in the two
cameras on the back too.
Q Okay. And they are not there yet?
A Not yet, the one, the wire handout,
the cameras system, we are working on it.
Q And when is that going to be
completed?
A Almost done wire but we are waiting
for cameras. We ordered it. We waiting for
shipment.
Q Okay. Move admission of Applicant's
No. 5.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objection?
MR. SILVERSTEIN: No objection.
MR. ENGELMANN: No objection.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
2	(Whereupon, the document previously
3	marked as Exhibit 5 for identification was
4	received into evidence.)
5	BY MR. BIANCO:
6	Q Moving on to Applicant's Number 6, and
7	I am going to turn this so everybody can see it.
8	If you will all bear with me. All right. So
9	what is that?
10	A This is the back side of the building,
11	using an audio and a trash can in place.
12	Q And do you have a trash contract?
13	A Yes.
14	Q And who is that with?
15	A NBB.
16	Q And how often is this trash going to
17	be picked up from your establishment?
18	A Four times a week.
19	Q Okay. And what time of day?
20	A Probably 7 and 8 a.m. until noon.
21	Q Move admission of Applicant's Number
22	6.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objections?
24	MR. ENGELMANN: None.
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
2	(Whereupon, the document previously
3	marked as Applicant's Exhibit 6 for
4	identification was received into evidence.)
5	BY MR. BIANCO:
6	Q Okay. So Derege, you talked a little
7	bit about your plans for security and I want to
8	drill on that in a little bit more detail. Are
9	you going to be hiring your own people in-house
10	or using a private company?
11	A It's a private company
12	Q Okay. Do you have a contract with
13	them yet?
14	A Yes I do.
15	Q Which one is it?
16	A So we have a big company. It was a
17	similar to Secret Lounge, it had an insurance
18	holding and trend (phonetic), and more expansive
19	company.
20	Q Okay and you said it was going to be,
21	I'm sorry you said there was going to be six
22	security guards. Is that going to be every day,
23	or is there going to be a different number on
24	different days?
25	A Yes, different numbers on different

1	days.
2	Q Okay. Can you describe how that is
3	going to be broken down?
4	A Yes. Most probably Monday, it is the
5	slowest day and they don't see that much
6	customers, so the number will be down. So the
7	weekend will be more traffic and so you can add
8	more people that's the way it is set up.
9	Q And how will the security people be
10	trained?
11	A Will trained for the companies.
12	Q How about training for your specific
13	establishment? Will they receive any training
14	there?
15	A Yes you do. Someone in the training,
16	in the security company, you know, learned the
17	company people to how the building looked like,
18	how you are going to work out, to train them.
19	Q And who is going to do that training?
20	A Somebody train person to be known
21	security system.
22	Q And have you identified that person
23	yet?
24	A Yes I do.
25	Q Okay who is it?

1	A His name is David, he used to work at
2	big company, and I think he worked at the
3	government too, so he is familiar with the area.
4	Q Do you know his last name?
5	A Not really, I'm not sure.
6	Q So we talked a little bit throughout
7	the course of your testimony about security
8	cameras. And how many total cameras are you
9	going to have?
10	A You know, when I see the building,
11	when I take over, I see five or six cameras but
12	basically now I changed to sixteen cameras,
13	including the back, the front, and inside
14	upstairs, downstairs, kitchen, entire building.
15	And
16	Q Okay, did you say sixteen, I didn't
17	hear you?
18	A Yes, sixteen cameras.
19	Q And do those does your camera
20	system have the ability to record as well as
21	view?
22	A Yes we do, so we had a, we kept them
23	from to keep the curve until a month, 30 days.
24	Q Okay. Are you familiar with the
25	establishment that operated at this property

1	prior to you?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And what establishment was that?
4	A You mean the, the new restaurant or
5	Q The previous restaurant.
6	Q The previous owner's restaurant was
7	called Bistro Bistro. We meet them and we get
8	some information about the area and the business.
9	Q Okay and do you know if there were any
10	restrictions on Bistro Bistro's license?
11	A Never.
12	Q Do you know if it was a restaurant or
13	a tavern?
14	A It was tavern license, I basically
15	have the same license as we have.
16	Q So how about tell me how people are
17	going to get to your establishment.
18	A So you need, you know, basically when
19	you open new business, you need to promote and to
20	use social media and, you know, Twitter, Facebook
21	and Instagram. We need that, that's our tool for
22	business
23	Q Go ahead, you can finish.
24	A And the same time we need to tell
25	people we know, we need a promo to promote the

1	place.
2	Q Okay. I'm asking you a different
3	question. I am asking you how people are going
4	to physically get there. Are they going to
5	drive, or take metro, or describe that process
6	for me, please.
7	Q Basically, based on the conversation
8	with Mike, you know, I recommend the customers
9	that, you know, and neighborhood parking, that
10	parking illegal but already recommend Uber, taxi,
11	is very close to the metro, that is where we
12	recommend to the people.
13	Q And are you going to have any signage
14	with respect to parking?
15	A We do in front of the building.
16	Q Okay. And what is that going to say?
17	A Say you know, please don't park in
18	neighborhoods area and no parking and illegal
19	parking no. Better to use an Uber, taxi and
20	metro.
21	Q Okay. Can you tell me what kind of
22	buildout did you do at the property when you took
23	over?
24	A So we do, you know, we renovation a

couple of stuff, you know, to upgrade it. And

25

1	wallpapers, you know, to fix some different
2	broken stuff, to fix it. And make sure
3	everything work. The A/C system works, the light
4	system work, to upgrade it and check it.
5	Q Okay. And you have a lease for this
6	premises?
7	A Yes.
8	Q How long is the lease?
9	A Ten years.
10	Q So you were here at the beginning part
11	of the hearing, when we were arguing over whether
12	the Board would hear information for Secret
13	Lounge and over my objection, they ruled that
14	they could. So I'm going to ask you some
15	questions about Secret Lounge if that is okay.
16	A That's fine.
17	Q All right. So, are you the owner of
18	Secret Lounge?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Are you the only owner or are there
21	others?
22	A I am only owner.
23	Q Okay. How long has it been in
24	operation?
25	A Almost four to five years.

_	wilen was that last lenewed:
2	A It was renewed today.
3	Q Okay, and since the time you have been
4	open, do you have any violations?
5	A I can say no but we had one warning
6	for a COVID time, I can explain, if you can.
7	Basically we used six feet you know you see 9th
8	Street and honest and we a tough crowd, we can
9	see, I don't have any violation but one, I have,
10	we do six feet and people are six people at a
11	table. So one of the guys say we are not going
12	to be full capacity, and the officer, when he
13	walked in the door is locked, that is a
14	violation, that is the only I have is warning.
15	Q Okay. So I have brought up on my
16	screen what was attached to my motion as Exhibit
17	B, do you see that?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Okay. And it says investigative
20	history, and I can represent to you that I got
21	this from ABRA and you were just talking about a
22	COVID violation and I am highlighting number one
23	on this investigative history, from 8-29-20. Is
24	that what you were referring to?
25	A That is what I explained to you now.

1	Q And that resulted in a warning,
2	correct?
3	A That's it.
4	Q Okay. Now I want to go back down here
5	to 2018. And this says there was entertainment
6	without an endorsement and you got a \$1,000 fine.
7	Do you remember that?
8	A I do remember that, basically when I
9	was applying for the license, Andrew Klein, I
10	submit all the documents including insurance in
11	the license. So Andrew's office, one of the
12	persons who made the processors, she forgot to
13	put on the insurance license endorsement.
14	So I was assuming I have it because I
15	submit all the documents to him and the
16	investigator when she came, she told me you don't
17	have endorsement license, and I say I have it.
18	And she said check out.
19	And the next day I call Andrew Klein's
20	office. He found out the person she posted the
21	license, she forgot, I never made a payment, the
22	payment went through Andrew Klein office because
23	of he made a mistake.
24	Q But the fine was paid there and that
25	was your only violation. Is that what you are

1	saying?
2	A That's what we have it.
3	Q And can you tell me the difference
4	between how Secret Lounge operates and how
5	Signature Lounge is going to operate?
6	A This is, you know, one thing the
7	initiate the Board should realize, I'm really
8	open and person to do anything you know to work
9	with them. I don't have any issue, I don't have
10	any problem to work with them, but the
11	differences, the reason why I came there, this is
12	two totally different businesses.
13	At 9th Street business, only night
14	life. The Connecticut Avenue, we had a plan. We
15	had a couple of family members, you know, I
16	called them and I will hire more people given the
17	option to work.
18	And the plan is the morning, lunch and
19	dinner and breakfast. That's the difference with
20	9th Street and Connecticut Avenue.
21	Q Let me ask you about 9th Street. Do
22	you serve any food at 9th Street?
23	A Yes we do.
24	Q Okay what do you serve there?
25	A We do chicken wings, fries, chicken

1	tender, fries, you know, burgers, steaks.
2	Q Okay. And what are your hours at the
3	9th Street location?
4	A The hours 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
5	Thursday to Sunday. Then the weekend is 10:00
6	a.m. to 3:00 a.m. and Friday and Saturday. And
7	included, you know, any holidays.
8	Q And the hours that you are asking for
9	at Signature Lounge are earlier. Correct?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Because you want to serve breakfast.
12	Is that right?
13	A Yes breakfast, lunch and dinner.
14	A Okay. Can you describe the 9th and U
15	Street areas compared to 1727 Connecticut?
16	A Yes. That's the reason, you know, a
17	difference is this is more night life and really
18	people walk around, people are really hard to
19	come in the building. The difference is at
20	Connecticut Avenue, we want to go out this kind
21	of situation to better business, to do breakfast,
22	lunch and dinner. That is the concept to come
23	there, but I don't know this kind of situation to
24	control.
25	Q Are there a lot of establishments at

1	9th Street, 9th and U Street NW?
2	A Most of them, you know,
3	(unintelligible) you see the records, you know,
4	and this block, records to have a good record,
5	better than anybody in this block.
6	Q But are there a large number of
7	establishments? Are there a lot?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Do you know how many?
10	A Probably at least ten, in just one
11	block.
12	Q Okay.
13	A About ten businesses.
14	Q How does it compare to the number at
15	1700 block of Connecticut Avenue? Is there more
16	on 9th Street or less?
17	A I think less.
18	Q All right. Derege, thank you very
19	much for your testimony and I'm sure Mr.
20	Silverstein will have some questions for you at
21	this point.
22	A Thank you.
23	CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right.
24	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Mr. Silverstein,
25	this is Lieutenant Merzig, and if I could

interrupt, I am kind of on a time crunch here. 1 Ι 2 know my Officer Brian O'Shea, he is about to hop 3 on a train, so if you want to get his testimony, 4 he has got to do it now. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry sir we're not in that part of the case of yet, so 6 7 you'll. Mr. Silverstein cannot call you as a 8 witness, because Mr. Silverstein has not 9 represented his case. We are, the Applicant is 10 presenting his case, so that's not an issue that 11 we can deal with because we're still in the 12 presentation of the Applicant's case sir. 13 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Okay, understandable. 14 15 MR. SILVERSTEIN: We will do our best to be in touch with Officer O'Shea and Lieutenant 16 17 Merzig, you will be able to testify as well sir? 18 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Assuming my 19 battery doesn't last. I'm on the street working 20 right now. 21 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. 22 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: So I'll do my best 23 to stay with you guys. 24 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Mr.

1	Silverstein, do you have any questions for the -
2	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes I do.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Go ahead
4	sir.
5	BY MR. SILVERSTEIN:
6	Q Thank you Mr. Daneale. How many
7	tables do you have in the place, upstairs and
8	downstairs?
9	A Downstairs I would assume probably 15-
10	20, the first floor. Upstairs we have six
11	tables, some big tables, we have (audio
12	interference) can seat it.
13	Q How are you going to fit 267 people in
14	there with all of those tables? Do you move
15	them?
16	A Some of them is going to move, the
17	setup is different.
18	Q Okay. You move them every night or on
19	those nights when you have a large crowed,
20	correct?
21	A Yes sir.
22	Q Okay. You say it's going to be you
23	are going to be wanding people and checking
24	people when eating breakfast and lunch?
25	A We do.

1	Q And no one under 21?
2	A No.
3	Q Not even for breakfast or lunch?
4	A Maybe breakfast. We do check the ID
5	but not allowed to drink alcohol.
6	Q But you will allow people under 21 so
7	that say it is a family a restaurant? Why are
8	you so insistent on promoters who take a 25 to 35
9	percent cut on your take three or four nights a
10	week if you are going to be mostly a restaurant?
11	A Yes, you know, basically, I'm not even
12	happy to do it to promoters. But this is a new
13	business, so I'm not willing to give someone
14	thirty percent on my sale and they have a lot of
15	employees. But we have a new place. You need to
16	have promoters to make, you know, the money and
17	to survive. So if you know the people a couple
18	of months, you don't need it. I don't have any
19	promoters at Secret Lounge, I promote by myself,
20	because we promote it as a business, that's the
21	concept. So we don't want to pay more money for
22	outside promoters to do the business.
23	Q Is this going to turn into a night
24	club and a hookah bar at night?
25	A A night club, yes.

1	Q Do you plan to do with hookah?
2	A I don't decide yet.
3	Q Okay. You go with promoters at Secret
4	Lounge, or you don't
5	A We don't have right now.
6	Q Can you make it without promoters?
7	A Why not, yes I do.
8	Q I mean at Signature Lounge.
9	A I don't think it's a new business,
10	only if you need promotions. My only concern to
11	me is the promoters. I told you I don't want to
12	spend more money for promoters on myself, not
13	about to give the entrance or something. Now it
14	used to be doing only outside the entrance to get
15	the promoters.
16	Now all the promoters ask you on
17	yourself, so I'm not willing to give my sale to
18	30 to 40 percent for somebody to promote my
19	place. That's why I just show the people I am
20	here right now, I give discounts for services to
21	come in and enjoy the place. Just need the promo
22	a couple of times.
23	Q How would you describe the crowds that
24	you have at Secret Lounge, is it quiet, lively?
25	Do things get lively or louder as the night goes

on? And how much security to you have there for how many people, on a weekend?

A I have six securities, the people I have security at Wood Trend (phonetic) and we have insurance on two premiums, if anything, incidents happen. Because I learned from the beginning, we have company, we not have insurance, now admit that, I do have a good company to have insurance to structure people and to control the crowd.

Q Back in 2018 there were several outbreaks of violence in and around your current establishment, and the police requested the ABC Board hold a fact-finding hearing. And in answer to that, you voluntarily, and I stress voluntarily, offered to have an RDO unit. Did the RDO unit calm things down for you? Help calm things down? Was it helpful?

A We do, you know, if we ask even if the 9th Street people to encourage them to use an RDO system, because I'm really tired when I start, I see the difference. So it is safety for everybody not only for business owners, not only neighborhood, for everybody.

Q So things got calmer with the RDO?

1	A Yes.
2	Q Is the RDO part of your business plan
3	for Signature Lounge?
4	A Yes I do.
5	Q You offer one?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Do you still have an RDO at Secret
8	Lounge?
9	A We do have, when all business owners
10	get together to hire more police officers and
11	start and RDO. When COVID come, I have RDO
12	services.
13	Q You still have an RDO? Did you
14	maintain the RDO during the shutdown or do you
15	still have it? What is the status of your RDO,
16	I'm trying to -
17	A The RDO status right now I used to
18	have it by myself and is now during almost eight
19	to ten business others to go together.
20	Q Are you telling us that you are not
21	getting an RDO personally or you are telling us
22	you are involved in it? I'm trying to figure
23	this out. You say from the beginning an RDO at
24	Signature Lounge.
25	A Yes I do. I had a plan to start RDO

1	at Signature Lounge.
2	Q And you are paying for one now at
3	Secret?
4	A Say again?
5	Q And you are paying for one now at
6	Secret? You are paying for one at Secret?
7	A I explain to you, as a group, we pay
8	for it for 9th Street now, we used to pay for it
9	myself. I pay a lot of money and pay half of
10	them, but now we get together to hire more
11	officers on the block.
12	Q Why aren't you are hiring your own?
13	A I mean it's not only hire by myself to
14	make safety on the block because the crowd is
15	more and more business than one block, so we need
16	more police officers on the block. And we see a
17	couple of incidents happen, and so now police try
18	to resolve that as we get together.
19	Q Is it true that you are behind on your
20	RDO payments?
21	A No.
22	Q Okay. How would you describe your
23	level of cooperation with police?
24	A As I say, you can't see other records.
25	This is a time right now in the District of

	Columbia, so many crowds. There is a lot of
2	people fighting and violated, but they see this
3	block all business owners have a good record, I
4	can say that, it's one, why wait?
5	Q Okay. And did you meet your nextdoor
6	neighbor, Mr. McGlade, who owns the shop in the
7	abutting business, in the abutting building next
8	door and do you know his concerns?
9	A I do, I met him. I just walked
10	through there, I talked to him. I hear you guys
11	you have, you know, worrying about nighttime. He
12	is going to broken the line, this and that, I
13	talked to him personally. He don't have any
14	issue. I told him we work together, the
15	neighborhood. There is no issue with him.
16	Q No further questions. Thank you very
17	much. Thank you for being here.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.
19	Silverstein. Mr. Englemann, do you have any
20	questions?
21	BY MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, just a couple.
22	Thank you. You mentioned that you are going to
23	have five to six security on weekends. Fewer on
24	Mondays through Thursdays. How many security
25	folks to you plan on Monday through Thursdays?

1	A Assuming two securities.
2	Q And the training the security is going
3	to get, you indicated, outside contractor you are
4	hiring is going to be responsible for, is that
5	correct?
6	A Yes that is the reason we had
7	insurance and responsible to sign it. So if you
8	have insurance the responsible is so you and is
9	literally are going to be responsible.
10	Q Right, but have you personally
11	reviewed what that training is going to look
12	like, and are you comfortable it is going to be
13	adequate for the size of your establishment?
14	A Yes I review that. I have been
15	helping companies with Signature Lounge, I have
16	the best experience now. I took them there I
17	showed them the area, the back, the front, the
18	inside, how we are going to control the place.
19	It was very comfortable and liked the job.
20	Q You mentioned, it sounds like you have
21	some plans to renovate the space before you open.
22	Can you describe what your plans are?
23	A We not like renovate, it's just
24	changing the wallpapers, you know. That's what
25	we do. And the previous owner, he has, like I

1	said, five to six security cameras, security
2	cameras, were I removed that and we made a more
3	sixteen cameras is clearly in the front, the back
4	and the side of the building, upstairs,
5	downstairs and in the hallway.
6	Q Okay, and one of the pictures the
7	inspector showed of the walkway to the upstairs
8	portion, are you going to paint that area and
9	take off the wallpaper?
10	A And we do wallpaper. If you see the
11	wall, it's two different colors, white and the
12	other one is a blue something. So basically when
13	you see the light side you see the other colors
14	in the wallpapers, we come through all the way
15	down.
16	Q Okay. I think there was a picture of
17	a woman there. Is that going to remain?
18	A We are going to remove that. We are
19	going to cover.
20	Q Okay. Those are all my questions,
21	thank you.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
23	Thank you Mr. Engelmann. Mr. Daneale, can you
24	please, no, all right, no don't close. I was
25	about to ask you to close your screen, but don't

Mr. Bianco, I need you to go to Exhibit 1 do that. Is that Exhibit 2, is that correct? 2 3 Daneale? MR. DANEALE: Yes. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you tell me if a license was granted to you, what changes, if 6 7 any, will you make to Exhibit 2? 8 MR. DANEALE: Basically we would 9 probably change most of the chairs. We see some 10 of them were broke and fixed, so we, assuming we 11 could change couple furnitures to remove the old 12 tables and chairs. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let 14 me ask a question sir. Approximately how many 15 tables and chairs are currently in this area? 16 MR. DANEALE: Probably for this one it 17 is around 15, it is pretty long. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are 19 saying there are approximately 15 tables in this 20 Exhibit? If a license was to be granted, how 21 many tables would be there? 22 MR. DANEALE: Similar or same I guess. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't want 23 24 similar. How many would be there? There were 15 25 there, you said you would remove, how many would

Five, two, ten, fifteen, how many, 1 be there? 2 approximately how many are going to be here sir? 3 MR. DANEALE: Probably ten? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Daneale, 4 5 let's go to Exhibit 3. All right. If a license, approximately how many tables are in this Exhibit 6 7 3 sir, currently in the establishment? 8 MR. DANEALE: Around ten. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If a license 10 was to be provided to you, how many tables would 11 be in this area? 12 MR. DANEALE: Ten. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, can 14 you please stop sharing your screen for the moment, please? Mr. Bianco? 15 16 MR. BIANCO: Yes, I'm trying to turn 17 off the screen share here. I'm just having an 18 issue with it. Got it, thank you, appreciate the 19 indulgence. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 21 You're asking for the alcohol consumption will be 22 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, 23 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. So you said you were 24 going to serve breakfast. 25 So when will, I mean when, when will

you start serving breakfast sir, because what you have asked the Board for, unless something, I'm looking at the wrong information.

But it says that hours of sale and consumption is Sunday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Friday and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. So if you are going to serve breakfast, how are you going to open at 9 o'clock?

MR. DANEALE: So we have different shifts. So the people work night shift are not going to be in the morning, so the morning shift is going to do the breakfast and lunch.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, I'm somewhat confused. Hold on a minute sir. I'm looking at what information. Let me go back to, let me go back to, I want to see what - hold on. So I can ask more questions. I'm looking at conflicting information so let me, hold on a minute. Give me one minute. All right. Okay.

Say, so it says that from the hours of operation, Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., Monday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Tuesday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Friday 7:00 a.m.

to 3:00 a.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 1 2 So if you are going to serve 3 breakfast, you are going to tell me you are going 4 to start serving breakfast at 7:00 a.m. 5 MR. DANEALE: Yes. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so you're 6 7 also stating that your kitchen will be 8 operational from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. or from 9 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. during the times that the 10 business is open? 11 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 13 Now, you also stated that you are going to have 14 five or six security. So when is that the 15 security, when is it that you will have security 16 working in the establishment? 17 MR. DANEALE: Seems it when I open, I 18 start security. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you 20 are going to do what sir? 21 MR. DANEALE: Since I open, I will 22 start security. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are 24 telling me at 7:00 a.m. in the morning you are 25 going to have five or six security guards

1 working? 2 MR. DANEALE: No I didn't say that, I 3 said --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking --4 5 MR. DANEALE: Two guards. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Listen, listen 6 7 to the question I am asking you sir. If the 8 course of operation that you have asked for are 9 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, 7:00 a.m. to 10 2:00 a.m. on Monday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on 11 Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 13 3:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 14 3:00 a.m. 15 You stated that you are going to have 16 five or six security. When is it, what times are 17 you going to have five or six security? Are you 18 going to have five or six security personnel 19 working at this establishment at 7:00 a.m. in the 20 morning? I'm asking you, when do you plan to 21 have security at your establishment sir? 22 MR. DANEALE: So, the plan is the 23 security staff after 2:00 p.m., so in the morning

brunch and lunch, the waitress and the person at

work just check the ID and those you know

24

underage liquors or something. 1 2 So the security staff, 2:00 p.m., two 3 security Monday through Thursday as the slowest day. And if we had a weekend, the same two 4 5 security continue until 10:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. another four security is going to be hired to 6 7 cover all night. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't have 8 9 any other questions. Any questions from any Board members? 10 11 Yes, Mr. Chair I would MEMBER SHORT: 12 like to ask a question. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes Mr. Short, 14 go ahead. 15 MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon Mr. 16 Daneale. 17 MR. DANEALE: Good afternoon. 18 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Daneale, you are a 19 law-abiding business owner, correct? 20 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 21 MEMBER SHORT: Are you familiar with, 22 and this question has been asked already, but 23 I'll just lay some foundation before I ask this 24 question. 25 Are you familiar with DC law 3-22 or

better known as the Mayor's Smoke Free and 1 2 Tobacco laws and was signed into law earlier this 3 year in the District of Columbia? MR. DANEALE: I'm not familiar but not 4 5 make that a law, I think in the process. MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me? Please 6 7 repeat that answer, I didn't hear you. MR. DANEALE: I'm not familiar with 8 9 that. MEMBER SHORT: 10 Okay, well can I 11 familiarize you with it before I ask the next 12 question? 13 MR. DANEALE: Sure, sure. 14 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. The law states, 15 according to the law, smoking is prohibited in 16 all enclosed public places in the District of 17 Columbia, including but not limited to the 18 following: banks, health care facilities, educational facilities, monuments, public 19 20 transportation facilities and areas, restaurants, 21 retail and food production establishments, retail 22 service establishments, retail stores, shopping 23 malls, theatres, sports arenas, waiting rooms. 24 So smoking is prohibited anywhere

where there is closed, when your doors are

1	closed, there is not supposed to be any smoking.
2	MR. DANEALE: We understand. I
3	respect the law.
4	MEMBER SHORT: I see where you had one
5	violation in your previous establishment for
6	disobeying the Mayor's order, is that correct?
7	MR. DANEALE: What kind of violation?
8	MEMBER SHORT: No? Did you ever
9	violate the Mayor's order during this health
10	emergency on 9th Street?
11	MR. DANEALE: I mean I had a warning
12	violation but
13	MEMBER SHORT: Yes, you tell me you
14	violated the law, you got a warning for violating
15	the law right?
16	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
17	MEMBER SHORT: So you know the
18	difference between smoking and not smoking in the
19	Mayor's order that the Council just recently
20	passed this year? You know the difference then,
21	correct?
22	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
23	MEMBER SHORT: So there will be no
24	smoking at your establishment? Is that correct?
25	MR. DANEALE: Yes, I followed the

1	rules and regulations.
2	MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me.
3	MR. DANEALE: I just followed the
4	rules, whatever the Mayors and the violation, I
5	followed the rules.
6	MEMBER SHORT: So in your settlement
7	agreement that you get with the community, you
8	would be willing to put that in the settlement
9	agreement?
10	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
11	MEMBER SHORT: That you are a law-
12	abiding citizen, you obey all the Mayor's orders
13	and the Council's laws?
14	MR. DANEALE: I followed the Mayor's
15	orders.
16	MEMBER SHORT: Are you willing to put
17	that in the settlement agreement?
18	MR. BIANCO: Sir, I am going to
19	object.
20	MEMBER SHORT: I am asking the
21	question
22	MR. BIANCO: Hold on Mr. Short, there
23	is no settlement agreement, we have a hearing so
24	
25	MEMBER SHORT: I'm quite aware of

1	that. I simply said if there were to be, if
2	there were to be. Since he is a law-abiding
3	citizen, he has violated the Mayor's order before
4	and he said he will never do it again. Now said
5	he knows, I read the law to him, so there will be
6	no excuses if this happens again, would it?
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short asked
8	you a question Mr. Daneale, do you have an
9	answer, please answer. Do you have an answer
10	sir?
11	MR. DANEALE: I don't have an answer.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, that
13	is very plain to me that he knows the law, and I
14	hope he never comes before this Board again, and
15	I'll remind him of his testimony. Thank you very
16	much. That's all I have at this time.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr.
18	Short. Are there any other questions by any of
19	the Board members?
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes Chair, and I
21	would thank you for the opportunity.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes Mr.
23	Grandis.
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: Sir, we all
25	appreciate you being here today and I know it may

seem like it is tough grilling but this is a new 1 license and we want to make sure that the 2 3 community is comfortable with the type of 4 establishment and the hours you are having. 5 So we appreciate you being here and being patient with us. If I could ask the 6 7 attorney to put up the exhibit again, I would 8 like to go through some of the exhibits with the 9 Applicant. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews, 11 can you please, I don't know if Mr. Bianco is 12 still going to be able to share his screen. 13 MS. ANDREWS: Yes he can share. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 15 MR. BIANCO: Bear with me for one 16 second while I bring it back up. All right, here 17 we go Mr. Grandis, he's all yours. 18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Can you help me find 19 the picture? 20 MR. BIANCO: Absolutely. Here you go. 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Bianco, I want to 22 thank you for your assistance. Thank you so 23 much. 24 MR. BIANCO: Sure. 25 MEMBER GRANDIS: Something just popped up, is that something that can be -- thank you. Okay. Can we go to Exhibit 2? I think we have talked about it, but I would like to go back to number 2. Thank you.

Sir, the reason I think you, we ask questions about tables and things, because there is sort of a culture in DC that CT's that offer food, often morph so into late hours into, really would be a CN.

And if the Applicant is going for a CT we want to give the community assurance that it will ask for what a CT generally have. So if I understood the responses you gave to our Chairman, you're not going to, you are going to reduce the number of tables a few, which I understand because you want to upgrade and not have broken old furniture.

But I think my question is, if you plan to have entertainment starting at 10 o'clock, and that is how you are going to advertise it, and I heard you say are going to be marketing, marketing, marketing, which is something a new establishment should do.

When your patrons at 10 o'clock come in, are there going to be 12 tables with the

I think there are six at each table, is 1 chairs? 2 that, are the tables going to stay stationary 3 where they are? But do you plan in your business 4 model to have to relocate stuff on the first 5 floor? MR. DANEALE: So basically we have a 6 7 lot of tables in the first floor, that's why we 8 move a couple of them, is to have the people 9 We have to have a dance floor and walk, come. 10 standing and to use in a bar, more access to our 11 place. 12 MEMBER GRANDIS: You just confused me 13 Because I thought you already stated more. 14 earlier that you're not going to have a dance 15 floor on the first floor. So now you are saying 16 you are going to have a dance floor on the first 17 floor? 18 MR. DANEALE: I did, I say I have a 19 dance floor first floor, no you did --20 MEMBER GRANDIS: So I misunderstood 21 you? 22 MR. DANEALE: I did, I say that. 23 Do you know how big MEMBER GRANDIS: 24 a dance floor you are going to apply for? 25 MR. DANEALE: Not really.

MEMBER GRANDIS: That's an answer.

Thank you. So you do plan to relocate some of
the tables every night for your patrons who come
in after 10 o'clock?

MR. DANEALE: So what was my plan is the right side of the wall is empty, so we try to make all the wall side two furniture to make more space in the middle.

MEMBER GRANDIS: I understand. So you are going to make it more like a night club on the first floor so you move the tables against that wall, which I understand is what you believe your business model. Well that is a concern I think the community would have is that it doesn't look like a restaurant after 10 o'clock and your license doesn't require a restaurant.

But you are telling us in your application you are going to be a restaurant and now it looks like you actually are going to be a restaurant until 10 o'clock, but at 10 o'clock you will become a CN, but your license is not a CN. So I just want to make sure that I understood that will be a dance floor on the first floor if you get the license as you like.

MR. DANEALE: Thank you.

MEMBER GRANDIS: And I think you talked about speakers. I thought I understood you to say there are no plans to have speakers in the space but maybe in the stairwell. So are you committing to the Agency that there will no speakers in the picture that I see until they get to the stairwell to go upstairs? Is that what you are committing to?

MR. DANEALE: So the plan for speakers is downstairs.

MEMBER GRANDIS: That is downstairs?

MR. DANEALE: Yes.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Earlier you said, and maybe I misheard you. Earlier, I think you were asked that question, and I think that you said there are no speakers planned for that area until you get to the stairwell. Did I misunderstand you?

MR. DANEALE: I think you misunderstand what I say. The way I say it is the first floor around the dancing floor area, we tried to put speakers in left and right, we hang the speakers, we have big rooms and big rooms, we have big kitchens, after the kitchens is the last wall in outside 20th Street.

1 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Thank you. So 2 if the Board determines that there should be no 3 speakers in that area, would that be acceptable 4 to you? 5 MR. DANEALE: So there is no speaker in upstairs and how is going to use entertainment 6 7 without any speakers? 8 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. So let's 9 go to the next Exhibit No. 3. I think that is 10 the upstairs, thank you. Now are you saying for the record that those, I think you said maybe ten 11 12 tables currently, are you going to keep those 13 tables at 10 o'clock until closing or do you plan 14 to move some? 15 MR. DANEALE: I am going to plan to 16 move them. 17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Why? 18 MR. DANEALE: The way you set up 19 against the wall, we have more tables for people 20 to use it. 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Wait a second. On 22 the second floor, you are going to, you say you 23 are going to move the tables against the wall so 24 more of the center is open for the public, for 25 your customers?

MR. DANEALE: What I say is we had six 1 2 tables in the middle of the pictures. 3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes sir. MR. DANEALE: So we made them in the 4 5 middle of those tables and the rest of the tables is against the wall to have all entire walls, to 6 7 have furniture the way you see the pictures. see the furniture on the walls, so when you put 8 9 the tables in front of the furniture, that is 10 what we planned. 11 So what I am seeing MEMBER GRANDIS: 12 in the picture is the way you plan to have it? 13 MR. DANEALE: This, this is the way that it is. You see the furniture is still 14 15 So basically we put a table full of there. furniture. 16 17 Is there going to be MEMBER GRANDIS: 18 a dance floor on the second floor? 19 MR. DANEALE: No. 20 MEMBER GRANDIS: Are there going to be 21 speakers on the second floor? 22 MR. DANEALE: No. 23 Therefore, you are MEMBER GRANDIS: 24 asking us to approve speakers on the first floor 25 but no speakers on the second floor?

1 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 2 MEMBER GRANDIS: And you are also 3 saying that you are going to have food service 4 until 3:00 a.m., which I think is something the 5 community would applaud that people who drink have access to a meal, and so therefore these 6 7 tables that are there, they will be able to sit at those tables after 10 o'clock? 8 9 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 10 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. 11 looking at the back of the picture, I believe 12 that's the back wall that's facing 20th Street, 13 is that correct? 14 MR. DANEALE: No. 15 MEMBER GRANDIS: Where would 20th 16 Street be in this picture? 17 MR. DANEALE: You cannot see this 18 picture, it's only the street. 19 MEMBER GRANDIS: 20th Street from the other side? 20 21 MR. DANEALE: The other side. 22 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, you answered that question. I think that is a bank 23 24 of windows on the wall that is abutting 20th

Street.

MR. DANEALE: You don't see it in the 1 2 20th Street for this picture. 3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Not in this picture. So my question is do you understand that to 4 5 protect the quiet of the neighborhood after 10 o'clock, you may not be able to open those 6 7 windows? 8 MR. DANEALE: Never opens. That's the 9 reason I moved the speakers. The previous owner 10 had a speaker upstairs. I moved that because of noise complaint and, you know, to assuming maybe 11 12 it is going to be humid outside. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, you have 14 been very helpful. And you mentioned something 15 about a walk-in refrigerator. Where is that 16 walk-in refrigerator located? 17 MR. DANEALE: It was underground the 18 business. 19 MEMBER GRANDIS: In the basement? And 20 where do you plan to store your alcohol? 21 MR. DANEALE: We have a space to have 22 a storage in the basement. MEMBER GRANDIS: So I don't have the 23 24 full application in front me, I have what's part 25 of the hearing here. It's my understanding you

are looking for an ABC license for the basement, 1 the first floor and the mezzanine, the entire 2 3 building? 4 MR. DANEALE: Yes. MEMBER GRANDIS: Will customers be 5 allowed to go into the basement? 6 7 MR. DANEALE: No. 8 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, let me 9 Mr. Bianco, can you help me find the see. 10 picture that shows the back of the building 11 Thank you. Sir, I see there are cars please? 12 parked there. Do you know what that area, do you 13 know if that area is part of the ownership of the 14 owner of the building? 15 Or are you made aware that the 16 property line is really along the building and that area is public space and not private space? 17 18 Are you aware of that? 19 MR. DANEALE: Which one, the car 20 parked over there? 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes sir. 22 MR. DANEALE: I believe that is for 23 the building. 24 MEMBER GRANDIS: I thought that may be 25 your belief. I am just suggesting that the

property line for all those buildings is the line of the building and the area that's between that building wall and other walls in the street, including the sidewalk, is public property.

And therefore you can apply for a permit, but if the landlord has given you a lease and it says that you have a legal right to that space, you may want to confirm that. I'm just giving you a heads-up. Areas below Florida Avenue is called the Auto Stop. Areas below Florida Avenue is the Old City, and in the Old City property lines were generally along the back of buildings.

Now you get north of Florida Avenue, that probably will be a parking lot. I'm just sharing. Your lease may say something, but I don't believe you or your patrons can actually park there.

Now I see there is a hood that's going up the building, so I guess that is for a hood that's in the kitchen to use as an exhaust, correct?

MR. DANEALE: Yes.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Do you know if you have a permit for that?

1	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
2	MR. GRANDIS: Okay. Thank you. Can
3	you go to the picture with the trash receptacle?
4	Can you turn that? Thank you. Okay. These
5	trash receptacles along the back wall of your
6	building and the building next to you, but there
7	is no enclosure. Correct? In other words,
8	anyone can walk up to those?
9	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
10	MEMBER GRANDIS: Do you know the ones
11	that you have leased, do you know if you keep
12	them locked?
13	MR. DANEALE: Lock what?
14	MEMBER GRANDIS: I believe on the
15	regulation that commercial receptacles need to be
16	locked until they are empty, but I'm just sharing
17	that with you? Do you know where your grease
18	will be collected?
19	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: Where will your
21	grease be collected?
22	MR. DANEALE: See the picture, see the
23	grease tank, is one of them on our properties.
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: So okay, I'm ignorant
25	on this issue. So are you saying one of the ones

along the back wall collects your oil, that you put oil in it? Is it one that and how often is it collected, by contract?

MR. DANEALE: Once a month, about every fifteen days.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Now, you are aware that you don't, your property does not back up to an alley, correct? It backs up to 20th Street, is that correct?

MR. DANEALE: Yes.

MEMBER GRANDIS: So therefore many commercial buildings back up to the alley so your building directly faces apartment buildings and town houses that are all residential and there are some businesses on your side of the street, but there are very few businesses right across the street, it's residential.

So how do you plan to keep the noise from interfering with the residents on the other side of 20th Street?

MR. DANEALE: So as I explained to you earlier, first I admitted when I see, when I talked to Mike, so I removed the speakers in the second floors that encloses to the 20th Street to add a (simultaneous speaking).

The second plan is more make sure 1 2 protect the windows as being closed and anytime 3 chance you never open that windows. MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes. 4 Third, is make sure the 5 MR. DANEALE: back door is always locked, it was business 6 7 hours. 8 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you for that. 9 Do you currently have a security plan for Secret? 10 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 11 MEMBER GRANDIS: Do you plan to have 12 a security plan submitted to ABRA to see if it's 13 consistent with the security policy for this establishment? 14 15 MR. DANEALE: The new one? 16 MEMBER GRANDIS: Well it wouldn't, yes 17 because it's a new establishment. 18 MR. DANEALE: Yes. 19 MEMBER GRANDIS: I'm asking, because 20 it sounds like you are morphing into a night club 21 after 10 o'clock, that's just the way is see it. 22 You are going to have a cover charges. Very few 23 CRs and CTs have cover charges. So it sounds 24 like to me something night life. Have you been asked to submit a security plan for this one?

1	MR. DANEALE: Yes I am willing to
2	submit that one?
3	MEMBER GRANDIS: A document or a
4	security plan?
5	MR. DANEALE: A security plan.
6	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you sir. And
7	would you consider an RDO with this establishment
8	on the nights when you have cover charges?
9	MR. DANEALE: Yes.
10	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Have you
11	looked into valet parking?
12	MR. DANEALE: No.
13	MEMBER GRANDIS: Well let me just
14	finish up by sharing with you that like many
15	neighborhoods in the city, some have become more
16	night life and some have become less. This area
17	north of DuPont Circle has been, I would say,
18	vigilant to not have new night clubs north of
19	Connecticut Avenue.
20	And I'm not saying that's a legal
21	issue, you are entering, as you said yourself,
22	you are entering a neighborhood that is quiet at
23	night. It's not hustle and bustle. There are
24	very few restaurants open after 10:00 p.m.
25	I know myself having a late-night

restaurant opportunity is a great thing. 1 2 not the restaurant I am concerned about, I am 3 concerned you say you want to be a CT, so 4 therefore, I want you to behave like a CT. Ι 5 want to thank you for your time. Mr. Bianco, thank you for sharing the exhibits. 6 7 MR. DANEALE: Thank you. 8 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, I have one 9 follow-up question, if I could, just one question. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDRESON: Yes Mr. Short. 12 MEMBER SHORT: I would like to ask Mr. 13 Daneale, if or what is the number of persons he 14 is allowed to have on the second floor. 15 It is probably fifty. MR. DANEALE: 16 MEMBER SHORT: How many people on the 17 second floor? 18 MR. DANEALE: Fifty peoples. 19 MEMBER SHORT: Are you aware if you 20 have more than 50 or more people than you need a second means to leave with an exit off the second 21 22 floor. You can't exit all those people down the 23 same, downstairs because they will be sharing 24 that way to get out with the people already

downstairs.

Are you aware that if you have over 50 people, 50 or more people or 49, north of 50 people on that floor, you need a second exit from the second floor?

MR. DANEALE: So I was just I assuming when you often see how it is going to be how many people are going to be fitted in the upstairs.

MEMBER SHORT: Well Mr. Daneale, before you go any further, I just would like to simply say to you, someone should answer those questions down in Florida where the people who lost their lives.

I say that because I'm a former person who Department of Safety and I would hate to see you have to go through that explaining to people why people couldn't get out of the second floor because you didn't have enough exits. That's all I have Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you Mr. Short. Mr. Bianco, please close your screen.

Are there any more questions by any Board members? Now Mr. Silverstein, do you have any questions of the Licensee based on the questions that were asked by the Board.

MR. SILVERMABN: No I do not.

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1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann,
2	do you have any questions of the Licensee based
3	on the questions that were asked by the Board?
4	MR. ENGELMANN: Just one. With
5	respect to speakers, are you going to allow
6	promoters to bring in their own sounds systems?
7	MR DANEALE: No.
8	MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDRESON: Any other
10	questions sir? Is that it?
11	MR. ENGLEMANN: That's it.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, do
13	you have any follow-up questions to your client
14	based on the questions that were asked by the
15	Board?
16	MR. BIANCO: No I don't.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Do
18	you have another witness sir?
19	MR. BIANCOE: No I don't have any
20	other witnesses, sir. The Applicant rests.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
22	Thank you very much. Who wants to go first, the
23	ANC or the Civic Association? It doesn't matter.
24	Who wants to go first?
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: The ANC.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
2	Silverstein, do you have a witness?
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Is Officer O'Shea
4	available, can you hear him?
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Officer
6	O'Shea, I see his name on the line, so if Officer
7	O'Shea is there, he can testify. Officer O'Shea,
8	are you there? Officer O'Shea, are you there?
9	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Officer O'Shea is
10	supposedly on the metro and may have lost contact
11	with us.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But he is still
13	signed in online. I see his name in front of me,
14	so I don't, he is not. Ms. Andrews, is he logged
15	in?
16	MS. ANDREWS: Yes he is logged in. It
17	appears he has, he doesn't have the best service,
18	but he is able to share and show his camera if he
19	so desires.
20	MR. BIANCO: Could I suggest we take
21	a quick five-minute break. I could use one, I
22	don't know in the case of anyone else.
23	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Let me ask, so could
24	I. Do we still have a 5:15 hard stop?
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, we

1 don't have a 5:15 hard stop. We are, we have a 2 hearing that we are doing today. 3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay, I was not advised of that, I was sitting here panicking. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It was that I, the parties had a hard stop, they had to let me 6 7 know and I told them the parties would have acted 8 accordingly to ensure that this hearing moves 9 forward so each side has an hour to do their 10 case, and so therefore we are moving accordingly. 11 So Mr. --12 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'm told, excuse me, 13 I'm told that Officer O'Shea is on the phone and 14 his phone number is, well I can't give that out 15 but --16 CHAIRPERSON ANDRSON: Why doesn't 17 Officer O'Shea, if he's on the phone, why doesn't 18 he identify himself so Ms. -- just give me a 19 couple of numbers on his phone number. MS. ANDERS: Mr. Chair I hate to 20 21 interrupt but there is only one call in and that 22 is the court reporter. Mr. O'Shea has joined the 23 meeting today on his device, if that's a phone, 24 that's fine, but we can see his name.

unmute himself.

1	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, he is calling us
2	on his phone. Should we give him a number to
3	call or how do we work this out?
4	CHAIRRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,
5	what is the call-in number so he can call in? He
6	needs to disconnect from the, if he is going to
7	call in. Is there a call-in number that he can
8	use to call in?
9	MS. ANDREWS: Yes, Mr. Silverstein, I
10	am going to send you the call-in information via
11	the chat, okay?
12	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay, go ahead.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It will be in
14	the chat sir, so look in the chat and get back to
15	Officer O'Shea.
16	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. I will mute
17	and I will give that information to him.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
19	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Hi Brian
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
21	Silverstein, you are not, Mr. Silverstein, you
22	are still, we can hear you.
23	MEMBER SHORT: You know he is hard of
24	hearing, Mr. Chair.
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I muted

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDRESON: Mr.
2	Silverstein, we can still hear you.
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN. Okay, I will mute
4	right now. Okay I have given him that, do you
5	want to take a quick five-minute break.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
7	It's 4:48 p.m. We will be off the record until
8	4:55 p.m.
9	(Whereupon the above matter went off
10	the record at 4:48 p.m. and came back on the
11	record at 4:55 p.m.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We
13	are back on the record. Mr. Silverstein, you
14	have 51 minutes and 27 second left, you have 51
15	minutes and 27 seconds left in your case. Do you
16	have a witness to call?
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: My witness I would
18	like to call Officer Brian O'Shea.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Officer O'Shea?
20	OFFICER O'SHEA: Yes, good afternoon
21	sir.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
23	your right hand please?
24	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes we can.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Officer O'Shea,

1	can you raise your right hand please?
2	OFFICER O'SHEA: Yes sir.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear
4	and affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
5	truth?
6	OFFICER O'SHEA: I do.
7	WHEREUPON,
8	BRIAN O'SHEA
9	Was called as a witness for the ABCB and, having
LO	been first duly worn, was examined and testified
L1	as follows:
L <b>2</b>	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
L3	Thank you. Your witness Mr. Silverstein.
L <b>4</b>	MR. SILVERSTEIN: First and foremost
L5	Officer O'Shea, could you confirm to us the
L6	status of the RDO unit for the account for Secret
L <b>7</b>	Lounge?
L8	OFFIER O'SHEA: Yes sir, the most
L9	recent information I have from this morning, and
20	I was informed that Secret Lounge is in arrears
21	in the amount of roughly \$4,900 to the City for
22	failure to make payment for the cost of the RDO.
23	MR. BIANCO: Mr. Anderson.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's okay.
25	He asked the question, you allowed the witness to

1 answer the question. Let's move on sir, you need 2 to object. 3 MR. BIANCO: That's where I wanted to 4 address specifically, not the answer to the last 5 question, however, the procedural matter. 6 Although the Board decided my motion against me 7 I would like to avoid having as to the evidence. 8 to object to every single question. 9 So it would be my hope that the 10 parties and the Board would agree to allow me to 11 note a running objection as to all testimony that 12 Secret Lounge so the issue is preserved without 13 having to interrupt after each and every 14 question. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So noted sir. 16 17 MR. BIANCO: Thank you. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So noted. 19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Officer O'Shea -20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. 21 BY MR. SILVERSTEIN: 22 Officer O'Shea, were you referring to 23 collections, or? 24 Yes, sir, that would be correct. Α 25 Very well. You were on, how long have 0

you been with APD?

A Just under six years.

Q You are on the receiving end of an APO, an assault on a police officer at Secret Lounge on October 28, 2018. And the event you described to the Board as complete pandemonium in a fact-finding hearing. Could you tell the Board what happened that night and that particular episode and the lack of peaceful and quiet?

A Yes sir. To the best of my recollection, that evening my partner and I responded to, I believe it was, went to 1928 9th Street, but at any rate, the establishment at Secret Lounge for the report of some sort of melee in progress and another officer had called for assistance.

Upon arriving, both the entry to the establishment and some folks were trying kind of fleeing out, and we walked up the flight of steps and at that point we encountered a very large fight.

The lighting was very low and dim, there was broken furniture all about and people were actually assaulting one another. At that point, we attempted to break up the melee,

separate those, the fighting parties, and make arrests as appropriate and during that interaction I was assaulted by a subject prior to placing him under arrest.

Q What happened here and what was with the table?

A Yes I was, while I was attempting to separate the fighting parties, to break up the fight, the subject who I subsequently arrested was able to get ahold of me and physically throw me into a table which had broke and my body weight and I messed up my back and my head after breaking the table.

Q Was this your first interaction, or so to speak, with the interior of Secret Lounge?

Had there been any previous fight inside?

A I can't recall being involved in any previous fights inside, specifically inside the establishment. I also can't say that I haven't been. This was a very busy beat that I used to work on that included 9th Street. I certainly had many interactions and encounters in the immediate vicinity and outside of Secret, and stuff like that.

Q There were fights outside?

Yes I would call them, disorderly, 1 Α 2 simple assaults, in the time that I was assigned 3 to the beat that included the 9th Street, it was the third time to respond to or even to witness 4 5 the initiation or start of a fight or simple assault and conduct other disorderly events. 6 7 So again, when I was assigned to that beat it was not uncommon to deal with both coming 8 9 out and going in being involved in disorderly behavior and criminal offenders. 10

Q Two months before that particular -CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on Mr.
Silverstein. Ms. Roggensack, your phone needs to
be on mute, you are kicking up feedback. Okay go
ahead.

## BY MR. SILVERSTEIN:

Q Two nights before the incident there had been a murder in the area, in the vicinity of the club, and a 22 year old young man was shot and killed out on the street. Was this club area at times out of control? The area itself?

A I think that's a fair characterization of the night on the block of 9th Street, to include this particular club. As I said previously, responding to that area for a variety

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of events was a very, very common event for me at that time, and for my colleagues.

And at times, due to the events that were more serious in nature to include felony offenses, some violent, and just to include the homicide that you just referenced, which to the best of my recollection was a actually double-shooting, two victims were shot and one unfortunately subsequently passed way.

But yes, the 1900 block of 9th street
I would describe on that block as a chaotic
neighborhood, where a chaotic crowd, was more
accurate where more often facing challenges
regarding people fighting, acting violent toward
one another, generally disregarding, you know,
the law, that kind of thing.

Q Did things get better at Secret Lounge after the assault, which was two months after the murder? Or did things get better in the vicinity after the assault?

A It would not be, I would not judge it to have gotten better in my estimation of my time working there. I don't actually recall anything serious time where the 1900 block of 9th street was not problematic.

Q Are the issues with peace, order and quiet around, are there issues with peace, order and quiet around 1928 9th Street and does Secret Lounge contribute to the problem?

A In my opinion yes. There is a problem with peace, order and quiet there particularly during the hours of club operation and specifically on weekends and holiday nights, is anything but peaceful or quiet in my opinion.

Q But they are not the only one. Mr. Daneale has said, and I don't think anybody could deny, there are ten other clubs or licensed establishments in that block, so how do you parcel out the blame? How do you point to one establishment -- and I'm not saying necessarily, they do 10 percent, 90 percent -- something like that, how to you parcel out the blame and say --

A Yes, I don't think I could do that.

I would have to say that in my experience in that block, is generally speaking, a variety of establishments and clubs contribute to the overall chaotic nature of what goes on there.

I wouldn't be comfortable allotting portion of the share. I think it's kind of a shared outcome of what is going on in those

establishments.

Q But how does Secret Lounge contribute to the problem in terms of perhaps the way, how do they contribute to the problem?

A Well, in my estimation, based on my judgment and my observations, I believe that they habitually over-serve people. I regularly would observe people walking out who appeared to me, in my experience, to be highly intoxicated.

I would quite often and see folks

getting out of cars to go inside who were holding

alcohol or even, you know, small bottles of

liquor suggesting to me, you know, of course,

people were having a good time.

I'm not above that certainly, but people would regularly frequent the establishment who perhaps were already intoxicated and then the club engaged in over-serving, which unfortunately, we see the result of people acting foolishly and sometimes criminally because they of their lack of inhibitions and all that kind of thing.

Q You are saying, the incidents inference appear to be people who have been and being over-served once they get in there.

1	A Yes, that's what I'm saying.
2	Q That is an establishment with a
3	capacity of 188 and from the standpoint of peace,
4	order and quiet and public safety. How well do
5	they manage this establishment, which is smaller
6	than the one they are asking for?
7	A Generally speaking, I guess I would
8	have to refer to my previous comment about over-
9	serving. I think that is indicative of how the
10	place is managed, largely kind of, and again, is
11	based on the time that I worked on that block,
12	but I would say it is managed irresponsible in
13	fashion.
L <b>4</b>	Q And from your experience as a police
15	officer, with all this experience with Secret
L6	Lounge, do you believe the same owner would have
L7	the same problems or even bigger problems with a
18	larger reestablishment and the capacity of 277?
19	MR. BIANCO: Objection, speculation.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on Officer
21	O'Shea. Mr I know that you are a lawyer Mr.
22	Silverstein. Mr. Bianco is asking the Officer to
23	speculate, do you have any arguments before I
24	make a ruling?
25	MR. SILVERSEIN: I'll withdraw the

1	question and I am finished. I will turn him over
2	to you folks. No further questions. Thank you
3	Officer O'Shea and thank you for your service.
4	OFFICER O'SHEA: No problem sir.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on Officer
6	O'Shea. Mr. Engelmann, do you have any questions
7	of Officer O'Shea?
8	MR. ENGELMANN: No questions Mr.
9	Chairman.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11	Thank you. Mr. Bianco, do you have any questions
12	for Officer O'Shea?
13	MR. BIANCO: I do. Good afternoon
14	Officer O'Shea. This is Richard Bianco, I
15	represent the Applicant in this case.
16	OFFICER O'SHEA: Good afternoon sir.
17	BY MR. BIANCO:
18	Q I am going to have a few questions for
19	you and then I'll let you go. Hopefully it won't
20	be too long.
21	A Sure no problem at all.
22	Q So when you, the first part of your
23	testimony, you talked about responding to a call
24	at 1928 9th Street and there was a fight in
25	progress, correct?

1	A That is correct. Yes.
2	Q When was that?
3	A To the best of my recollection, it was
4	in October of 2018.
5	Q Okay. And as I understand your
6	testimony correctly, you broke up the melee and
7	in doing so you were assaulted and you made an
8	arrest.
9	A That is correct.
10	Q Who is the person that you arrested?
11	A Unfortunately I couldn't answer that
12	sir, I don't have all the recollection of that
13	and I don't have that information in front of me.
14	Q Fair enough. Is it to be best of your
15	recollection somebody that worked for the
16	establishment?
17	A I don't believe, I couldn't tell you
18	with absolutely certainly, but my feeling is that
19	it is not. I can tell you that several people
20	were arrested and that incident but my answer
21	would be the same, I couldn't tell you with
22	certainly but I don't recall it being closed.
23	Q Okay. And did you or anyone of your
24	colleagues issue a citation to the establishment
25	for that incident?

I did not issue a citation but I can't 1 Α 2 speak for anybody else, and I'm not aware that. 3 Q Okay. Are you aware whether or not the Chief of Police closed the establishment for 4 5 96 hours in accordance with the authority to do so in relation to that incident? 6 I can't say, I actually, I don't know. 7 So moving on from that 8 0 Okay. 9 incident, you testified a bit about being assigned to the 9th and U Street area as a beat, 10 11 or as I suppose the 1900 block of 9th Street is a 12 better way to refer to it. Can you describe that 13 area on a Saturday night? What's it like? 14 Α Sure, and for clarification, at that 15 time, my beat did include the 1900 block of 9th 16 Street in the area we are referring and then 9th 17 and U, all the way to 14th Street. So you know, 18 I wasn't, I couldn't say that I was constantly on 19 9th Street, you know, as for calls and things like that. 20 21 But to your question, my experience is 22 on 9th Street figuratively is very, very corrupt. 23 We have problems, largely being the impetus 24 problem, the distribution of alcohol which leads 25 to fights, leads to occasionally to robberies, or

more violent offenses, double parked, DUIs, loud 1 2 screaming, disorderly behavior, just generally 3 speaking, very chaotic. So you mentioned the double-4 5 parked cars. I take it there was encumbered traffic with that as well? Was there a lot of 6 traffic on 9th Street during busy times? 7 I would say the traffic problem is 8 Α 9 exasperated by that, it would appear to me largely patronizing the clubs are double-parked. 10 Okay and how about foot traffic? What 11 12 are the sidewalks look like? Is there a lot of pedestrian traffic? 13 14 Α Usually no, yes I would, yes and I 15 would say particularly during the hours of club 16 operation, is lot of foot traffic. I think a lot of those (audio interference) traffic incurred 17 18 from place to place, but I would say particularly 19 during the hours of club operation that is a heavily traffic, full of pedestrians and others. 20 Okay. And how about with respect to 21 22 Is there noise of people? You mentioned 23 people screaming, how about noise coming out of 24 establishments, what is that like? Yes, it is pretty loud, I couldn't 25 Α

give you a decibel count or anything like that, 1 2 but it's loud, it's definitely loud. 3 So we have street traffic. We have pedestrian traffic. We have noise. We have 4 5 people screaming. That is not isolated to Secret 6 Lounge, is it? 7 Α No, no. It's that entire block. 8 Okay. And do 9 you know how many establishments are located in 10 that general area? I couldn't tell you exactly. 11 I think 12 one of the previous witnesses said something like 13 were ten, but I would say 8 to 10 probably is a 14 reasonable estimate, depending on what you 15 consider closest to that, you know. If we are 16 just talking about the 1900 block of 9th Street, 17 I would say ten would be a reasonable estimate. 18 So what is the line specifically in 19 terms that we use, that the ABC Board uses? Let's say within 1200 feet of Secret Lounge, 20 would you be surprised to learn that there were 21 22 70 establishments in that area? 23 Α No, I would not be surprised at all, 24 1200 feet, certainly, yes. And to be clear, the incident that 25 Q

we're discussing here in October of 2018, on the 1 2 1900 block of 9th Street, does that impact the 3 peace, order and quiet of the DuPont Circle neighborhood in any way that you could discern? 4 5 Α I couldn't make that judgment. Okay. So let's go, let's fast forward 6 to two months later. So now we are in December 7 of '18, roughly when we have this shooting issue. 8 9 Α I believe the shooting was prior to 10 the (audio interference). I can't tell you for 11 certain, but I remember the shooting being more 12 toward the end of the summer, maybe two months 13 prior to, not after it, but I can't tell you that 14 for certain. 15 Q Okay, so we're dealing with roughly, 16 thank you for the clarification. We are dealing 17 roughly with August of 2018? 18 That's my best guess. 19 0 Okay. And if I understood your testimony correctly, there was shooting on the 20 21 shoot in proximity to Secret Lounge? Is that 22 right? 23 This is correct. 24 Was that shooting in any way linked to 25 Secret Lounge?

I don't, I can't speculate on that. 1 Α 2 You would have, to, I don't even know if that 3 case has been closed, and I can't speculate on I was one of the first officers to respond, 4 it. 5 but you know again, that would be a more 6 appropriate question for a homicide detective for 7 the investigation. I understand completely, thank you. So 8 0 I take it there was no citation issued to Secret 9 at that that time? 10 11 Not to my knowledge. 12 To your knowledge, was there a 96-hour closure? 13 14 Α Not to my knowledge, or not that I 15 recall. Okay thank you. I think that is. 16 17 are you familiar in your scope, in the course of 18 your duties, are you familiar with the 1700 block 19 of Connecticut Avenue NW? I would not say to my duties insofar 20 as you know, marginally, it is a different 21 22 district, I live in the city, I know the city, 23 the periphery of the Third District, so sometimes 24 I would pass through, transfer it, but I don't 25 have any specific similarity about, you know, the

neighborhood or anything really. 1 2 Well let me ask you this. 3 personal observation, how does the 1700 block of Connecticut Avenue compare to the 1900 block of 4 5 9th Street? You know, the traffic, it's hard, it's 6 kind of a large crowd and you know (audio 7 interference). 8 I'm sorry Officer O'Shea, you were, 9 Q 10 most of your response was garbled and broken up. 11 Would you mind saying that again? 12 Sure. I'm just suggesting that it is, 13 you know, I believe the question, comparing to 14 the 1900 block of 9th Street, I'm not sure I can 15 do that in any way that is helpful. But as far 16 as I know it's both blocks, a street that 17 attracts as many people and crowds as the 1900 block of 9th Street. 18 19 Q Very good. Thank you very much for your time, I appreciate it. The Board may have 20 21 some questions for you now. 22 No problem at all. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 24 Does any of the Board members have any Bianco. questions for Officer O'Shea. 25

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair I would like 1 2 to make a comment. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes Mr. Short. MEMBER SHORT: Officer O'Shea, we 4 5 thank you very much for your service sir. You 6 and the other officers (audio interference). OFFICER O'SHEA: No problem at all, 7 sir, happy to do it. 8 9 MEMBER SHORT: Officer O'Shea, can you please again repeat for me so I can put it in my 10 11 notes the report you gave on RDL4, the previous 12 establishment that we are discussing here today. I'll follow behind you. 13 14 Α For the most up to date information I 15 have received from the Metropolitan Police Department this morning was that Secret Lounge 16 was in for (audio interference) for RDO. 17 18 MEMBER SHORT: Please forgive me, you 19 kind of dropped. Can you repeat that number 20 again please? OFFICER O'SHEA: Four thousand and 21 22 nine hundred dollars, forty-nine hundred dollars. 23 MEMBER SHORT: So that indicates that 24 he received, or that Licensee received those 25 services but they have not paid for them.

1	that correct?
2	OFFICER O'SHEAD: That is my
3	understanding, yes.
4	MEMBER SHORT: Does the District
5	government have any way of collecting those funds
6	even when they move to a new location?
7	OFFICER O'SHEA: I don't know what the
8	process, I couldn't speak to the process for the
9	government collection calculation.
10	MEMBER SHORT: Last question. Once a
11	person is dropped because of nonpayment, until
12	they make those payments, they cannot receive RDO
13	again, is that correct?
14	OFFICER O'SHEA: That is correct.
15	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much and
16	be safe out there, Officer O'Shea. Thank you,
17	that's all I have.
18	OFFICER O'SHEA: Thank you sir.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDRESON: Any other
20	questions from any other Board members?
21	MR. DANEALE: Can I ask him a
22	question?
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDRESON: No sir, no sir,
24	you can't ask him a question. Only your lawyer
25	can ask questions sir. Are there any other

questions by any other Board members? You need 1 2 to check with your lawyer and if he asked the 3 question, and I will give him an opportunity. Any other questions by any of the 4 5 Board members? Hearing none. Oh I'm sorry, Mr. 6 Bianco, do you have any questions of the Officer 7 based on the questions that were asked by the Board? 8 MR. BIANCO: I don't but if you would 9 briefly indulge me. It sounded like my client 10 11 wanted to ask something so I sent him the text 12 message to see what he wants to ask. So might I 13 trouble you for a few seconds to see what he 14 wants to ask? 15 MR. DANEALE: I'm texting you. 16 MR. BIANCO: Okay. I do have one 17 question. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay Mr. 19 Bianco. MR. BIANCO: Do you know whether or 20 21 not anyone invoiced Secret Lounge for the RDO? 22 OFFICER O'SHEA: I can't answer that 23 specifically, no sir. I'm not aware of how that 24 process works or how they are notified of that. 25 MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
2	questions Mr. Bianco?
3	MR. BIANCO: No, sir.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
5	Engelmann, do you have any questions you want to
6	ask Officer O'Shea, based on the testimony that
7	was given, based on the testimony that was made,
8	based on the questions that was asked by the
9	Board?
10	MR. ENGELMEN: No, sir.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
12	Silverstein, Do you have any follow up questions
13	to Officer O'Shea or any questions?
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, no, sir.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
16	Officer O'Shea, thank you very much. Thank you
17	very much for being with us today and you are now
18	free to go. Thank you very much sir.
19	OFFICER O'SHEA: Okay. Thank you Mr.
20	Chairman. You all have a nice day.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
22	thank you. All right. We have, Mr. Silverstein,
23	you have 40 minutes. Do you have another
24	witness?
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes sir I do. I have

1	Lieutenant John Merzig? Is Lieutenant Merzig
2	available?
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Lieutenant
4	Merzig on the phone?
5	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes, Lieutenant
6	Merzig here.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8	Lieutenant Merzig, do you have a camera sir? If
9	you do, if you can turn, if you don't have it,
10	that's fine. There you go, I can see you. I
11	hope you are not driving.
12	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Not yet but we are
13	about to pull off so I might have to, I'll put
14	the video off and just be on the speaker.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
16	just need to, can you raise your right-hand sir?
17	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You affirm to
19	tell the truth and nothing but the truth?
20	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I do.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
22	Your witness Mr. Silverstein.
23	BY MR. SILVERSTEIN:
24	Q Thank you. Thank you Lieutenant
25	Merzig. How long have you been with MPD?

1	A Little over a year now.
2	Q And how long were you at 3D?
3	A I worked in the 3rd District for
4	approximately three years.
5	Q And currently you are in 2D?
6	A Yes that is correct.
7	Q So you were where Secret Lounge was
8	and you are now where Secret Lounge or Signature
9	Lounge was required in your service area,
10	correct?
11	A That is correct. Yes.
12	Q When you worked in the supervisory
13	capacity in 2D over near Secret Lounge, were
14	there issues of peace, order and quiet and public
15	safety surrounding that establishment?
16	A Hold on for me for one - all right,
17	I'm sorry, I may have occasional interruptions.
18	We are working on we have been handling
19	protests all day. Can you repeat the question?
20	Q Were there issues of peace, order and
21	quiet and public safety surrounding Secret Lounge
22	when you were in the supervisory capacity over
23	there?
24	A Yes there were.
25	MR. BIANCO: Mr. Chairman, I am going

to object to that question to the extent that is calls for information that is outside of this fact-witnesses' personal knowledge.

If he is being asked to provide information about what somebody has reported to him, I can't cross-examine on that fact, it would be unfair or hearsay. So I want clarification if he is talking his personal knowledge or what somebody else told him.

## BY MR. SILVERSTEIN:

Q Was it your personal knowledge sir, that there are issues of peace, order and quiet in public safety surrounding Secret Lounge?

A Yes, I directly worked on the ground in the 1900 block of 9th Street for at least a year to the best of my knowledge.

Q And your work over there -- you get cooperation, you get interfacing with the establishment and the investigations and things like that, than did the patrol officers?

A Well I was a patrol supervisor, so I was a Sargent there. I oversaw the club zone scene in that area and O'Shea was one of my officers there. As he had said, we covered the 1900 block of 9th Street and U Street from 9th to

14th.

Q Is there anything particular about the clientele at Secret Lounge, and without getting into why the establishment and aura of the place?

A I mean it was an area where when we heard a call go out for service, we knew there was usually going to be problems from that area.

Q And would the violations outside of the place, just in the area, were there problems that required an RDO?

A Yes, between all the fights that happened, the fights spilling out of the club and the homicide that happened in front of the club, you know, I believe there was a multitude of problems that happened in front of that club that caused them to be basically forced by ABER to have an RDO. But I would have to look at the ABER paperwork to see if that was one of their stipulations for remaining open.

Q How would you say the cooperation of MPD and your level of facing the problem?

A I can just give you one example. On the night of the homicide, our investigation did reveal that the dispute arose inside of Secret Lounge.

1 The dispute was pushed out onto the 2 street and then it escalated to such a point 3 where somebody lost their life. And then I believe after that, they closed the doors and 4 5 locked them so that police couldn't get inside. 6 Review that last part again, was this 7 before closing time? The shooting happened at approximately 8 Α 1:15 a.m. and it was, and I believe it was August 9 10 27th if my memory serves me correctly. 11 The crime and violence can happen 12 almost anywhere. You can't always blame the 13 establishment if something bad happens there. So 14 what's the particular issue with Secret Lounge in 15 terms of transparency in working with police, 16 compared to some other clubs where there might be 17 problems? 18 I worked in club zone areas all across 19 the city, from China Town as an officer to the 20 3rd District on U Street, up in Adams Morgan, and now as a Lieutenant here in 2d. I have worked in 21 22 the DuPont Circle area. 23 So I have plenty of experience dealing 24 with clubs and all different parts of the city 25 and it's been my experience, not all clubs are

the same as far as it comes to dealing with the 1 2 police. Some are very cooperative, they give you 3 every asset, to all their cameras, full recording, everything like that. 4 5 And then there is other clubs like 6 Secret Lounge that shut the door on you and lock it, you know, when somebody is out there bleeding 7 to death and you need to look at their cameras. 8 Do they follow the rules generally or 9 Q 10 is it, is it something that they are cooperative 11 when they have to be, or do they go out of their 12 way. 13 I think it's when they are forced into Α 14 compliance they will follow the rules. 15 Q Has this changed at all since the two 16 episodes that we discussed or? 17 I can't really speak to the change 18 because after I worked on U Street for a year, I 19 transitioned over to running the 3rd District 20 Crime Suppression Team, so I haven't been down in 21 the 1900 block of 9th Street. 22 There is a big disconnect here 23 Lieutenant, and it's a disconnect between 24 relatively clean ABRA record for this 25 establishment and what you describe. Which is

you speak of disorder, citywide 1033 calls that Officer O'Shea spoke of, calls for every available officer and you speak of a total lack of cooperation or lack of cooperation with MPD and disregard for public safety.

How can it be that they have a clean record and yet this is what you are talking about? How can that be?

A I'm sorry, we're making movement right now. Can you repeat that question, I had to turn my camera off.

Q I'm sorry, there is a disconnect here and it's a disconnect between the clean ABRA record, relatively clean ABRA record for this establishment and what you are describing, the lack of disorder, the lack of cooperation, and disregard for public safety. How can it have such a clean record and yet still what you are describing?

A I mean, there can be any reasons for that, lack of enforcement, lack of just, lack of accountability, you know, there is any number of reasons. But I would manage to guess if you pulled the MPD reports looking at reports taken for ABRA violations at that location, there would

1 be several of them. 2 How many, there are fewer than 2,000 3 ABRA investigators in the entire agency, and how many police are there and how often are your 4 5 police out there? At least my team, they covered that 6 7 area, there were 20 of us. We had Sunday, Monday, Tuesday off and our typical shift was 8 from 9:00 p.m. till 7:30 in the morning. 9 10 Now you are moving over to 2D, you are 0 11 in 2D? 12 Correct. 13 And the past two weeks we have had two 0 14 shootings in club areas on Connecticut Avenue, 15 I'm just talking about resources here. Two weeks 16 ago an incident just up the block from where 17 Signature Lounge would be. 18 Four days ago a double shooting 19 outside of Decades in middle of club central, south of the circle. Last night a man and his 20 wife were coming home from dinner on 14th Street, 21 22 which is not necessarily DuPont, but close by, 23 and he was shot and killed. 24 And are you looking at the CAT TV, the club actions down there? Are you doing things in 25

the club zone to respond to this, to what's there now, what is happening there now?

A As of yet, a CAT team has not been brought back. On multiple fronts here that has strained our manpower between protests in the city and the rise of violence that is going on right now. But with the clubs opening back up, it is going to be challenging to pull from that unit which would require, I would say at least ten extra officers.

So that would mean pulling ten officers that right now we have patrolling the 2nd District in neighborhoods you know. The 2nd District is very large so they are spread out all across the 2nd District and to have to consolidate them to DuPont Circle, that would definitely strain the manpower.

Q Lieutenant, how would granting a license to this Applicant, with what you have heard about what they are planning to do, how would this affect the deployment of MPD resources in the entire 2nd District?

A Well I would answer that by saying, obviously first, as it is I'm sure with Secret Lounge, it probably wouldn't affect it that much.

But as we are seeing it now with the clubs opening back up and some more violent acts starting to happen directly inside these clubs.

If we have any more, you know, issues of violence, or you know, general disorder calls for people fighting, you know, and DUIs, crashes, it will definitely affect manpower and manpower will have to be dedicated to this area to basically just keep the peace.

Q What would that mean for people who live in the residential neighborhood?

A It will mean longer response times.

It will just pull all of those resources further away from you know, like what I would describe is an ideal deployment where everybody is spread out and able to handle, you know, the randomness of police calls that happen anywhere in the city.

Any emergency can happen anywhere, anytime, so we try to be prepared for that.

Q Finally, and I thank you so much for your service and for, right now you are down there I assume by the White House with all those, with the protests going on there. Do you know anything more than what Officer O'Shea did regarding RDO payments? Are those in a

collection situation? 1 2 Yes so, I'm not in 3D but I spoke with 3 the 3D RDO Coordinator, Lieutenant Markowitz, and he forwarded me along a printout from a 4 5 collection agency with the outstanding balances 6 for Secret Lounge that they never paid. So they basically received nearly \$5,000 of services from 7 the Metropolitan Police Department that they 8 9 never paid for. 10 And it has gone to collections? 11 Α Yes it is with a collection agency 12 right now. 13 Q Thank you. I'm sure that Mr. Bianco 14 has some questions of you. Thank you very much 15 for your service, stay safe. 16 Α Thank you. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, any 18 questions? 19 MR. BIANCO: Yes, I do have some questions. If you'll bear with me for just a 20 moment. 21 22 So Lieutenant, you testified that you 23 responded to the shooting outside of Secret 24 Lounge in August of 2018, correct? 25 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I did not testify

to that. 1 2 MR. BIANCO: What was your involvement 3 with that particular incident then? LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I just said I have 4 5 general knowledge of that case. 6 MR. BIANCO: Okay. So you weren't 7 actually there? LIEUTENANT MERZIG: No, I was not. 8 9 MR. BIANCO: And does all of your knowledge of that case come from reports that you 10 11 read? 12 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes. 13 MR. BIANCO: Okay. And did you 14 receive those reports contemporaneously at the 15 time they occurred or have you since reviewed them for the purposes of testimony today? 16 17 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I've reviewed --18 I would say both. Since that was my area 19 obviously, I was very interested in a homicide that happened in my area. I believe I was off 20 21 that night, but -- so I have the knowledge from officers that were on that scene, they described 22 23 it to me. 24 And then I have the knowledge that I 25 gained afterwards by reading the testimony, to

1	include the after-hearing testimony regarding the
2	shooting at the club.
3	MR. BIANCO: Understood. But all
4	second-hand knowledge nonetheless, correct?
5	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Correct.
6	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Do you know
7	whether or not the establishment was issued a
8	citation for that incident in August of 2018?
9	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: No. I'd have to
10	look at the record to see what
11	MR. BIANCO: Okay.
12	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: was determined.
13	MR. BIANCO: Do you know whether or
14	not there was an ABRA violation found by the
15	establishment in August of 2019?
16	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I don't know that
17	either.
18	MR. BIANCO: Do you know whether or
19	not there was a MPD closure of the establishment
20	in August 2018?
21	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: No, I don't know
22	that.
23	MR. BIANCO: Okay. So you describe
24	the situation whereby following the shooting,
25	somebody at the establishment closed and locked

1	the doors, correct?
2	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Correct.
3	MR. BIANCO: How did you come to gain
4	that knowledge?
5	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I believe that was
6	in the testimony that I read from the ABRA
7	hearing.
8	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And when shooting
9	starts, wouldn't closing and locking doors be a
10	prudent response?
11	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I would say
12	running and hiding would be a prudent response.
13	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And closing open
14	doors and locking them would not fall within that
15	category?
16	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: If somebody was
17	shooting, I would not take the time to lock my
18	door.
19	MR. BIANCO: Okay. But you wouldn't
20	say that's inappropriate though when shooting
21	starts that somebody close and lock a door?
22	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I'm sorry. Repeat
23	the question?
24	MR. BIANCO: You wouldn't say that
25	that is a inappropriate response?

1	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: No. No, that's
2	fine.
3	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And wouldn't that
4	prevent a gunman from coming inside and shooting
5	more people?
6	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes.
7	MR. BIANCO: Okay. So you talked
8	about the size of your team covering the 9th to
9	14th Street area, I suppose, around the time of
10	the shooting and I believe you said that it was
11	20 officers that were on that particular
12	assignment, right?
13	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: That there's
14	yes, I would say an approximation. Our numbers
15	would sometimes move from, you know, 19, 20, 21,
16	22 that were assigned to the unit.
17	MR. BIANCO: Okay. But that wasn't
18	isolated just to Secret Lounge, was it?
19	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: No.
20	MR. BIANCO: So those 20 officers or
21	roughly 20 officers would have been assigned to
22	cover all 70 establishments in that particular
23	area, correct?
24	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Correct.
25	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And you also

testified about a recent rise in violence. 1 2 did you mean by that? 3 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Just referring to the violent crime statistics that are on the rise 4 5 in the District of Columbia. MR. BIANCO: Okay. And I read news 6 7 stories as much as anybody but, could you be more specific? When did this rise in violent crime 8 start and where are we now? 9 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Just talking from 10 11 my own knowledge on it, you know, the 12 Metropolitan Police Department keeps stats that 13 you can go and look on their website, as far as 14 the reportable violent crimes. But I'd probably 15 say it started seriously increasing in 2018 and that it continued in 2019 and 2020. 16 17 MR. BIANCO: Okay. And the increase 18 in violent crime that you're referring to, is 19 that city wide or is that isolated to one specific area? 20 21 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: We've seen 22 percentage increases in every district in violent 23 crime. Most of it is centered usually, in the 24 Sixth and the Seventh District, but you're 25 correct in saying that it's spread out in the

city. 1 2 MR. BIANCO: Okay. So Mr. Silverstein 3 asked you about how you think Signature Lounge might impact the deployment of manpower in the 4 5 1700 block of Connecticut Avenue; do you remember 6 that? 7 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes, I do. MR. BIANCO: Okay. And I just want to 8 9 make sure I understood your answer correctly, which is well, if there's issue of violence then 10 11 it would affect manpower, but until that happens 12 you won't know; is that accurate? 13 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes. I mean, so 14 typically, you know, we are -- if there's 15 incidence, we will react to them and if there's enough, we will set up a team or taskforce, 16 17 something along those lines, to address what's 18 going on or if we see patterns going on. 19 MR. BIANCO: Okay. And having worked both the 1900 block of 9th Street and now the 20 area including the 1700 block of Connecticut 21 22 Avenue, how would you describe the difference 23 between those two areas? 24 LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I would say the U

Street corridor that I would refer to, which

25

1	includes the 1900 block and 9th Street, if you'll
2	allow that. The amount of foot traffic and club
3	density is much higher than the whole Dupont
4	Circle and north of Dupont Circle area.
5	MR. BIANCO: Right. Okay. Thank you
6	very much, Lieutenant. I appreciate your time.
7	I'm sure the Board will have some questions for
8	you.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10	Thank you. Any questions by the Board members?
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, sir.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.
13	MEMBER GRANDIS: Officer, I want to
14	thank you for your valuable time. I know you're
15	probably engaged with global issues and we don't
16	want to distract you too much, but I do want to
17	ask you a couple questions.
18	It's been cited that there was a
19	hearing that was regarding this shooting in front
20	of the, I guess it's Secret's; is that correct?
21	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes. To my
22	knowledge, I'm referring to testimony that
23	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.
24	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Assistant
25	Stuart Emerman gave

1	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes. Yes.
2	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: at that
3	hearing.
4	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. And I
5	thought you also said that in that hearing it was
6	acknowledged that the confrontation, prior to the
7	shooting, was actually inside that establishment?
8	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Correct.
9	MEMBER GRANDIS: And then I also heard
10	you state for this record, that in that hearing
11	it was also noted that the establishment closed
12	the doors and locked them once the shooting
13	occurred.
14	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Correct.
15	MEMBER GRANDIS: Did that testimony,
16	was it able to be determined if the owner was
17	present when the doors were locked? Was the
18	owner present that evening? Is that
19	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I could not I
20	couldn't testify to that. I couldn't tell you
21	that either way.
22	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Well, thank
23	you.
24	Mr. Chairman, is it possible to recall
25	this particular hearing has been brought into

this hearing to have that hearing record made a 1 2 part of this hearing so we can get clarification? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 3 There's a standing objection by counsel regarding the 4 5 nature of -- I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Bianco, you have something? 6 The questions addressed to 7 Well, no. There's a standing objection because remember 8 9 there was a motion filed by the applicant that 10 requested that we -- that a subpoena not be 11 issued and that their testimony be limited. 12 So I do not believe that its 13 appropriate for us to bring that case in this 14 case. I believe --15 MEMBER GRANDIS: Then why did you 16 allow all that testimony --17 (Simultaneous speaking) 18 MEMBER GRANDIS: -- because without 19 having that record in front of us, we can't determine if that was accurate? 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's a 21 22 standing objection and I believe there's a 23 witness also here who is supposed to testify 24 regarding that issue. There is a Board witness. Mr. Silverstein is calling one of the -- I am not 25

1 going to put it into the record. 2 I'm not going to pull it in the 3 record, bring it here, it's up to the protestant to bring things that I imagine that Ms. --4 5 there's a witness here who is going to testify, I 6 believe, regarding the incident. 7 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. And let me 8 just say --9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Chairman? 10 MEMBER GRANDIS: -- that --11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a 12 minute, Mr. Grandis. 13 Yes, Mr. Silverstein? 14 MR. SILVERSTEIN: The protestants would like to bring in -- this was in our path, 15 16 Exhibit 1, the district did have a fact-finding hearing in December 5th, I believe it was, 2018 17 18 regarding a homicide that occurred August 27th, 19 2018, in Secret Lounge, testimony of Assistant Chief of Police, Stuart Emerman. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 21 Mr. 22 Silverstein, all right. It's my understanding, 23 it's not on the record as yet, that the 24 protestant have asked for that information. So 25 in the presentation of this case, if the

1	protestant
2	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: My phone's about
3	to die. O'Shea just testified from the train.
4	Okay?
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. It
6	appears that the witness is stating that his
7	phone is about to die. So I don't know where
8	we're going to go with this. With his further
9	testimony?
LO	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Will I be able to
L <b>1</b>	introduce it now as a
L <b>2</b>	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: I'm sorry. Were
L3	you guys raising me?
L <b>4</b>	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, we were not.
L5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I'm sorry.
L6	All right. So not at this juncture. So
L7	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Okay.
L8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: it's not
L9	the Board does not bring the documents into
20	exhibits in certain, so granted. So that's
21	(Simultaneous speaking)
22	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. Thank
23	you. Thank you. I raised it, just to be clear,
24	I just wanted to be clear. I generally support
25	CTs. I generally support CNs if it's appropriate

1 where it's going to be established. 2 I generally do not support CTs that 3 become CNs. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I would like to 4 5 6 MEMBER GRANDIS: No. I'm just stating that if we're looking at a CT license, I want 7 them to know that I generally support the 8 implement of a CT license. 9 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I -we're in the middle of this hearing and I would 11 12 appreciate all the Board members, we need to keep 13 an open mind. 14 We're not the --15 MEMBER GRANDIS: I have an open mind. 16 I'm just stating that I support CTs as they are 17 designed. And I support CNs as they are 18 designed. I don't think I'm doing anything 19 inappropriate by stating that. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 20 21 This is a protest hearing. The applicant is 22 requesting a CT license. That is the license 23 that's here. There is no application here for CN 24 license. I want to make sure that the record is 25

clear that the protestant -- that the applicant
is asking for a CT license. If Board members or
anyone think that it's morphing into a CN or subCN, that's a different situation. But currently,
this is a new license for a CT.

And I just want to make sure the record is clear that that's the issue that we're discussing, whether or not this applicant can get a CT license.

I don't want us to be talking about a CN license, because that's not here. The licensee is not asking for a CN license. If individuals believe that this is the not the appropriate license for them to request this, this is not the juncture for us to have that conversation.

So all that's been requested here is a CT license and I need us to focus the hearing on whether or not this CT license is appropriate for this area and whether or not -- and the Board actually listen to what the testimony will deliver it and make it a determination whether or not we're going to grant the license, deny the license, or grant the license with conditions or -- and I don't know.

1	But I just want to make sure that the
2	record is clear where we're heading. Okay? So
3	that's where we are. Do you have any other
4	questions you want to ask, Mr. Grandis?
5	MEMBER GRANDIS: I do. Thank you for
6	this opportunity. Thank you very much, sir.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
8	right. Any other questions by any of the Board
9	members?
10	Mr. Bianco, any questions after the
11	officer gave the testimony for that by the Board?
12	MR. BIANCO: No.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann,
14	any questions of the officer based on the
15	questions that were asked by the Board?
16	MR. ENGELMANN: No, Mr. Chairman.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
18	Silverstein, any questions of the officer based
19	on the questions that were by the Board?
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, based on the
21	question of rules and following the CR and CT and
22	CN.
23	How does the way that an establishment
24	is run and follows the rules affect the crowd
25	that they bring?

1	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes, I'm here.
2	I'm here. I mean, this is my personal opinion,
3	but from what I've seen on the streets that clubs
4	that are play fast and loose with the rules,
5	they're going to have clients that are going to
6	be just pretty much the same as them.
7	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No further
8	questions. Thank you. Be safe, sir.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Lieutenant,
10	thank you very much for your testimony today.
11	Thank you for being here with us and have a good
12	day.
13	LIEUTENANT MERZIG: Yes. Thank you.
14	I'm going to disconnect.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. You
16	can disconnect. Thank you very much.
17	All right. Let me see, as far as time
18	is concerned. Mr. Silverstein, you have 26
19	minutes left in your entire case. Do you have
20	any other witnesses? Mr. Silverstein?
21	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'm sorry. I need
22	to unmute myself. We'd like to call ABRA
23	Investigator Rhoda Glasgow.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Remember, you
25	have 26 minutes left in your case. All right.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir. 1 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Glasgow, 3 can you raise your right hand, please. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but 4 5 the truth? 6 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I do. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Silverstein. 8 9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you very much, Investigator Glasgow, for being here and getting 10 11 through this so far. We're going to talk about 12 one specific event and that is the inspection, 13 attempted inspection of Secret Lounge on the 14 night of August 29th, 2020. 15 And I'm going to walk you through it 16 step-by-step. First, what were you doing that 17 night and do you recall, you're aware of which 18 one I'm talking about, right? 19 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes, I do. Ι was monitoring establishments on 9th Street 20 21 actually, when I saw a bunch of people standing 22 in front of Secret Lounge. So I approached the 23 door and I realized it was locked. 24 Some of the patrons were complaining 25 that that's what they were doing for a while now.

1	So I started banging on the door and a security
2	guard, I don't think he noticed me at the time,
3	so I put my badge up on the door. I'm not sure
4	if he noticed it again. I then called my
5	supervisor and asked him how to proceed?
6	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. How long did
7	you knock?
8	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I would say I
9	was knocking for, like, five minutes, actually.
10	MR. SILVERSTEIN: How loud?
11	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I'm sorry?
12	MR. SILVERSTEIN: How loud did you
13	knock?
14	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Oh, I was
15	trying to knock as loud as I could possibly do it
16	because the music was on inside. So
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Do you
18	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: and the
19	street is very noisy.
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Do you know if
21	anybody inside saw you or heard you?
22	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: At that point,
23	no. I remember I think he did see me, the
24	security inside did see me, but he didn't
25	acknowledge that I was there. That's when I

1 called my supervisor. 2 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So you called your 3 supervisor and what did your supervisor say? INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: He said to 4 5 standby and he would contact the fire marshal so 6 he can come out there and address the situation. MR. SILVERSTEIN: And while you 7 waited, did you see anyone leave or enter Secret 8 9 Lounge? INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: 10 11 MR. SILVERSTEIN: The door was locked 12 and left unattended for how long, do you think? 13 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Well, the fire 14 marshal took about 15 minutes to get there from 15 when I got there and he came and started banging at the door as well. 16 And at that point he had, well, 17 18 basically a harder knock than I did. So it got 19 the attention of the security guard who then looked through the door and then ran upstairs to 20 21 get the owner. 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Wait. The security 23 guard saw the fire marshal? Was the fire marshal in uniform? 24 25 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes, he was.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: And he did not open 1 2 the door? 3 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: No. Not immediately, no. He went to the second floor to 4 5 get the owner and then the owner came downstairs. 6 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Did you show a badge 7 at that point as well or? INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: No. The fire 8 9 marshal had the point at that time. MR. SILVERSTEIN: Well, they let you 10 11 in or what happened when he came downstairs? He 12 came downstairs with the owner you say? INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes. 13 The owner 14 came downstairs and opened the door for us to 15 come in. MR. SILVERSTEIN: And when they 16 17 finally let you in, what did you see upstairs? So what did you see on the first floor? 18 19 INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Well, the first floor was kind of empty. There was not a lot of 20 21 people. Mostly staff. When we went up to the 22 second floor, there were people sitting around 23 there. Social distancing was not adhered to. 24 Some people were walking around without masks. 25 saw people sitting at the bar, they were

1	conduction bar service as well. And people
2	weren't socially distanced.
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN: They were not
4	sitting with too many people at a table or what
5	was the things you saw?
6	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes. Yes, they
7	were more than six at a table in some groups of
8	people. You couldn't really tell one table from
9	the other because they were all combined,
10	basically.
11	MR. SILVERSTEIN: And the owner had
12	been up there while this was occurring?
13	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: And there was bar
15	service?
16	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Bar service, this
18	was during what you call Phase II?
19	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Was bar service
21	legal?
22	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: It was
23	restricted. It was not allowed.
24	MR. SILVERSTEIN: So no masks, no
25	social distancing, more than six to a table,

1	people walking around without masks and bar
2	service?
3	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: That is
4	correct.
5	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Anything else you
6	want to add?
7	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: While we were
8	up there, the fire marshal explained to the owner
9	that he cannot lock the door at any point because
10	patrons were inside of the establishment.
11	MR. SILVERSTEIN: And this was Fire
12	Marshal Pennington?
13	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I have no thank
15	you very much for sticking it out this long.
16	Thank you for your help and for your service at
17	ABRA. I have no further questions.
18	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Thank you.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
20	Bianco, any questions of the witness?
21	MR. BIANCO: No questions.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. I
23	should have asked Mr. Engelmann.
24	Mr. Engelman, any questions of this
25	witness?

1	MR. ENGELMANN: No questions.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
3	Thank you. And any questions of the witness by
4	any Board members?
5	
	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, sir.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
7	Grandis?
8	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, Chairman.
9	I want to thank you for being patient
10	with us today as you've heard. I want to thank
11	you for your great service to the city. I'm
12	going to try again.
13	Now, you were at this establishment
14	after the shooting; did I hear that correctly?
15	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I am not sure
16	when the shooting happened. I was there on
17	August 29th of 2020.
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: At what time?
19	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I got there
20	approximately 8 o'clock.
21	MEMBER GRANDIS: Oh, in the evening?
22	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
23	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. And this is
24	when the doors were locked?
25	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes, when I saw

1	the doors were locked. Yes.
2	MR. ENGELMANN: And
3	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: I pulled on the
4	door a couple of times and I verified that it was
5	locked.
6	MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And was this,
7	based on their license, was this legal operating
8	hours that they would usually be open at 8
9	o'clock?
10	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: And the doors were
12	locked?
13	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Yes.
14	MEMBER GRANDIS: And there were
15	patrons inside, not just staff?
16	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: That is
17	correct.
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: Do you know if the
19	owner was present?
20	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: He was.
21	MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you very much.
22	Thank you for your time and thank you for your
23	testimony.
24	INVESTIGATOR GLASGOW: Thank you.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other

1	questions by any other Board member?
2	All right. Hearing none, Mr. Bianco
3	any I'm sorry, let me ask Mr. Engelmann first.
4	Mr. Engelmann, any questions of the
5	witness based on the questions that were asked by
6	the Board?
7	MR. ENGELMANN: No.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
9	Mr., hold on. Mr. Bianco, any questions of the
10	witness based on the questions that were asked by
11	the Board?
12	MR. BIANCO: No, sir.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
14	Thank you. Mr. Silverstein, any follow-up
15	questions for the witness based on the questions
16	that were asked by the Board?
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, Mr. Chairman.
18	But may I, at this time, ask that Exhibit 5, I'm
19	sorry, not Exhibit 5, but Exhibit 3, the
20	Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration case
21	report be entered into the record?
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. Bianco,
23	I'm going to allow it in the record because it's
24	part of ABRA's records. And so it's part of our
25	records, Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Understood. Could I just 1 2 make my objection for the record? 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir. MR. BIANCO: Okay. We have a four-4 5 fold objection. Number one is our standard 6 objection as to relevance of anything with 7 respect to Secret Lounge. Number two, this is an unadjudicated -- it's not adjudicated as a 8 9 violation. It's merely a warning, so it has no relevance to the ultimate issue that that Board 10 11 is deciding. 12 Number three, it's unnecessarily 13 repetitive and cumulative as we have the 14 investigators testimony. There's no need to need 15 to enter a written exhibit. 16 And finally, any prejudice of this 17 exhibit outweighs the probative value. Thank you 18 for letting me make the record, sir. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you, Mr. Bianco. And the only reason it 20 21 is, it is a part of ABRA's records. 22 So it's the same owner as a part of 23 the record and the Board will use the document 24 for whatever, I'm sorry, in a sense of if it's 25 determined that it's relevant at some point, you

can argue a determination for -- we'll give it 1 2 the probative value that it's worth. And I don't 3 know what that is at this at this juncture. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 4 5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: And Mr. Chairman? 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it's a part 7 of the record, Mr. Silverstein. Yes, go ahead, sir. 8 9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: At this time, might I also enter into record Exhibit 2, which is also 10 11 a transcript of a ABRA fact-finding hearing, 12 February 6th, 2019, regarding the APL on Brian O'Shea. 13 14 And Exhibit 1 --15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's do one at The first one you said was Exhibit what? 16 17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Exhibit 2, which is the transcript of the ABRA fact-finding hearing 18 19 of February 6th, 2019. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that's 20 21 fine, Mr. Bianco? 22 MR. BIANCO: I believe that the Chair 23 has already ruled on this issue and that it was 24 not to be admitted. But again, for the record, 25 one, we have a standing objection as to relevance

of anything with respect to Secret Lounge. 1 2 Number two, I think it is repetitive 3 as the officer was here and actually testified and has been cross-examined. Number three, if 4 5 the testimony contained in the transcripts that 6 is of anyone other than Officer O'Shea is hearsay. I can't cross-examine on it. It's 7 going to be accepted for the truth of the matter 8 9 of service, which makes it unfair hearsay. It is unnecessarily accumulative. 10 11 Officer O'Shea is here and prejudice outweighs 12 any probative value. It's simply unnecessary. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 13 I'm 14 going to allow that exhibit in and the Board will 15 give it the weight that it's due. All right. What other exhibits you're trying to 16 17 move into evidence, Mr. Silverstein? 18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: It would be a 19 transcript of ABRA's fact-finding hearing of December 5th, 2018, regarding the homicide which 20 occurred on August 27th, 2018, at Secret Lounge. 21 22 Specifically, the testimony of Assistant Chief of 23 Police, Stuart Emerman. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And this is exhibit what number? 25

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Exhibit 1, sir. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco? 3 MR. BIANCO: Sure. We have our standing objection. I believe the Board has 4 5 already ruled on this issue. But in addition, I would like to 6 submit that Lieutenant Emerman is not here. He 7 can't be cross-examined. It's hearsay. 8 And I 9 think, what is even more problematic, is that our witness that was here has no first-hand knowledge 10 11 of the events. 12 So it is incredibly prejudicial and 13 it's something that we can't explore and I can 14 also, at the time this testimony was taken, I 15 didn't have the opportunity to cross-examine with 16 respect to a totally different establishment 17 three years later. 18 It's incredibly prejudicial. And I 19 think it's totally irrelevant to the underlying issue that the Board is trying to decide and it 20 21 most certainly should be excluded based on 22 Lieutenant Merzig's testimony that he had 23 absolutely no first-hand knowledge of what 24 occurred on that night. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

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1	Thank you for your position, Mr. Bianco. I'm
2	going to allow it into evidence and the Board
3	will give it the weight it so deserves.
4	Any other exhibits or any other
5	questions for Ms. Glasgow, so we can release her,
6	Mr. Silverstein?
7	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No. Thank her for
8	her patience. Thank you very much for your
9	service.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Glasgow,
11	thank you very much for being on the hearing this
12	entire time. Thank you for your testimony today.
13	And have a great day, you are free to go. Thank
14	you.
15	All right. Mr. Silverstein, do you
16	have another witness?
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, I do. Jim
18	McGlade. Mr. McGlade.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Jim Glade?
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Is Mr. McGlade
21	there?
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: James, is it
23	James McGlade?
24	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. McGlade, I

1	see your name is on my screen. Are you there,
2	sir?
3	MR. MCGLADE: Yes.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
5	camera, sir? If not, let me know. Do you have a
6	camera you can access so I can see you at least
7	when I swear you in?
8	MR. MCGLADE: Yes. Just one second.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10	Thank you.
11	MR. SILVERSTEIN: How much time do I
12	have, Mr. Chairman? I don't want to
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 21 minutes and
14	16 seconds, sir.
15	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay.
16	MR. MCGLADE: I don't have a camera.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. If
18	you don't have a camera, it's fine. Mr. McGlade,
19	can you raise your right hand, please? Sir?
20	MR. MCGLADE: Sure.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is it up?
22	Okay. I can see you. Do you swear or affirm to
23	tell the truth and nothing but the truth?
24	MR. MCGLADE: Yes, I do.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you. Go ahead. Your witness, Mr. 1 2 Silverstein. 3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. McGlade, you run a business next door. Tell us the name of the 4 5 business and what your hours are. MR. MCGLADE: The name of the business 6 is called Bite the Fruit. B-I-T-E, T-H-E, F-R-U-7 I-T. Bite the Fruit. Our hours are, during the 8 9 pandemic, 12:00 to 8:00 and until this gets passed us, our normal hours, for over 20 years, 10 was 11:00 to 11:00 and on weekends 11:00 to 11 12 midnight or 12 o'clock. 13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. 14 MR. MCGLADE: Sometimes on holidays 15 we'd stay till 1:00. 16 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So your hours then, 17 overlap the hours of a club we're going over next 18 door? 19 MR. MCGLADE: Yes. MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. We're running 20 a little late. So I'm going to keep this as 21 22 quickly as we can. How did the previous business 23 that was there, Bistro Bistro, affect your 24 business? And let's start with outside, the 25 sidewalk, ingress and egress into your business

1 and how was that?

MR. MCGLADE: It affected it greatly due to the fact that it had promoters and there were trucks at the door for them and lines were forming down the street in front of my store and a lot of people that were coming in late that worked the swing shift were kind of intimidated and called me on the phone and said, look, you know, we can't break the line of people. Who are these people? What's going on?

As far as the cleanliness, the next morning we'd find, all up and down the street, half pints of this or half a bottle of that or loaded with cigarettes or cigar butts. And a lot of debris on the sidewalk.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. Now, let's talk about inside. Let's talk about the noise problem. And let's talk about the building itself. It was built as a grocery store?

MR. SILVERSTEIN: How bad was the noise inside? Could you hear it inside your store?

MR. MCGLADE: Yes.

MR. MCGLADE: Right. Bistro Bistro was originally Larimer's Grocery Store, which was

around for many years. 1 2 Yes. My building is connected to that 3 building and the sound would be so loud that we would just have to turn off our sound in our 4 5 store, which is just retail store music and it 6 would just reverberate right up the wall and at that time, I was living in the apartment on the 7 third floor. And that sound would continue till 8 9 2:30, quarter 3:00 in the morning Friday, Saturday night. 10 And then it got to the point where I 11 12 did just move out of the building and I moved up 13 I Columbia Heights and I've been there for about 14 seven years. 15 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You were forced to 16 move out of your apartment? 17 MR. MCGLADE: Well, no one forced me 18 but I like to get a good night's sleep and I 19 don't really go to bed early, but the point is when you do want to go to bed, you want to go to 20 bed? 21 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Really? 23 MR. MCGLADE: Yes. 24 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Why didn't you 25 complain to ABRA?

MR. MCGLADE: Well, we actually did. We actually talked to the owner several times. And when he realized that the money he was paying promoters and the money he was paying for a quote, security, which I'm not sure how long that lasted, and the DJ that they were doing and all this other stuff, and at the end of the night they were walking away with like \$1,000 and the place was destroyed. All the tables were moved, all the chairs were moved. Everything was moved and you got to get staff to get it back together because if it was a weekend, they were open at 11:00, like a brunch on Saturday's and Sunday's.

So yes. So he finally threw the towel in and said, you know what, it just isn't worth it. Let me just get me a restaurant.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Can you explain to the Board why this is such a serious problem and how much insulation is there between that place and your place?

MR. MCGLADE: Well, there is no insulation and as someone said earlier, I'm not an engineer, but because of the brick wall on my side and the brick wall on his are connected, the sound just reverberates right through. There was

1	not a space. There's not a sound space there, if
2	I'm saying that correctly.
3	So therefore, that noise will come
4	right through, much bigger.
5	MR. SILVERSTEIN: How much, what is it
6	like 10 inches, 12 inches, 20 inches of brick?
7	Do you have any idea?
8	MR. MCGLADE: The idea is, I think the
9	walls are like eight-inch bricks or seven and a
10	half inch times two. So it's 12 to 14 inches is
11	the wall. I also think that's probably a fire
12	code too of buildings that are adjoined.
13	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Is there a person
14	living on the third floor now?
15	MR. MCGLADE: Yes, there is.
16	MR. SILVERSTEIN: What's going to
17	happen to him or her?
18	MR. MCGLADE: Yes. I don't know. You
19	know, I'm at liberty to speak about my store.
20	I've been here a long time and I extended. You
21	know, I just signed another 10-year lease here.
22	Yes, I'm not sure what's going to I would
23	imagine, if they don't wake up about 12:01. I
24	would imagine.
25	Plus, the, you know, what's going on

and of course we have another tenant downstairs 1 2 and I'm sure there going to -- they're very clean 3 downstairs and very neat. I'm sure they will find out in the morning. Okay, we got to do a 4 5 cleanup here. 6 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So are you saying does this makes your business less profitable, 7 more difficult, are you able to -- do you have to 8 shout over the music? 9 MR. MCGLADE: Absolutely. 10 I mean, we 11 would just talk loud and again, there were other 12 people in there previously, and we actually would 13 hire an extra person just to stay on the floor 14 upstairs just for safety and our own security 15 because we know when we locked up, it was at 12 16 o'clock or 12:30 or 1 o'clock, you know there was 17 a 99 percent chance there was a crowd on the 18 sidewalk. 19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: No further 20 questions. Thank you. 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann, 22 thank you. Do you have any questions for this 23 witness? 24 MR. ENGELMANN: No questions. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco? 25

1	MR. BIANCO: Yes, I do.
2	Mr. McGlade, I have a few questions
3	for you.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
5	Hold on one minute, please. Hold on one minute,
6	please. No, I'll do that when I ask questions of
7	the Board. Go ahead, Mr. Bianco.
8	MR. BIANCO: Sure. Mr. McGlade, I do
9	have a few questions for you.
10	The testimony you gave was about an
11	establishment called Bistro Bistro, correct?
12	MR. MCGLADE: It well, it was the
13	same owner of the next thing that's up on your
14	canopy right now. He changed the name a couple
15	times, but the same ownership.
16	MR. BIANCO: Okay. But that was
17	different from Mr. Daneale, it's a separate owner
18	from him, correct?
19	MR. MCGLADE: Separate owner from who?
20	MR. BIANCO: From the applicant who is
21	before the Board right now?
22	MR. MCGLADE: Yes.
23	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And how long did
24	the previous owner operate at the establishment
25	next to yours?

I would say about 2010, 1 MR. MCGLADE: 2 2011, give or take. So probably eight years, at 3 least. The place has been vacated for about two 4 years; I believe. 5 MR. BIANCO: Okay. 6 MR. MCGLADE: So that's six to eight. 7 MR. BIANCO: Okay. And did you ever come to some kind of an agreement with the owner 8 of the establishment to take, sort of actions to 9 ameliorate your concerns? 10 11 MR. MCGLADE: Well, the agreement was, 12 you know, you got to clean your act up. We want 13 the neighborhood, you were going to be a 14 restaurant, a French-style restaurant and you're 15 Then you went into Lebanese food and you're not. still not. You're still, you know, running club 16 17 nights out of it. 18 So we did. You know, we're not 19 enemies. And he just finally threw the chips in and said it's just not paying off. It took him 20 21 two years to figure it out. 22 MR. BIANCO: But by agreement, you 23 mean, a man-to-man handshake agreement or a 24 formal written agreement? 25 MR. MCGLADE: Yes. Sure. Sure.

1 MR. BIANCO: Okay. 2 MR. MCGLADE: Yes, no. I didn't ever 3 threaten to go to ABRA or the ANC and we could work this thing out. And then we eventually did. 4 5 MR. BIANCO: No. I appreciate that 6 and that was actually my next question, which is did you ever go to ABRA or the ANC to try and get 7 a formal agreement? 8 9 MR. MCGLADE: No. MR. BIANCO: Okay. 10 11 MR. MCGLADE: No, I did not. 12 MR. BIANCO: And what is the reason 13 why you didn't do that in this eight years of 14 having to endure these issues? 15 MR. MCGLADE: Okay. Well, he didn't 16 have this club scene for eight years. I would 17 say the first maybe three or four years strong, 18 it was just a restaurant. Every now and then 19 he'd have, you know, a group staying until midnight or something like that. And I believe, 20 21 I believe he also had a CT license. 22 It didn't happen toward the end. 23 think the numbers started to fall off around 24 2014, '15 and he was trying to create revenue and 25 to keep it going. I'm pretty sure he had a

1	pretty substantial rent over there.
2	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Thank you. I
3	don't have anything else, Mr. McGlade.
4	MR. MCGLADE: Thank you.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
6	Thank you. Any questions by the Board and I
7	think before we ask Board questions, Mr. Grandis
8	wanted to say something.
9	MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman, thank
10	you for this opportunity. I just thought once
11	that Mr. McGlade definitely was going to be in
12	front of us, I would like to the record to show
13	that I have known Mr. Jim McGlade, I guess, over
14	30 years maybe?
15	And it's a pleasure to see you, Mr.
16	McGlade
17	MR. MCGLADE: Thank you.
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: but that will not
19	influence me on how we deliberate on this matter.
20	Thank you very much.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
22	Thank you, Mr. Grandis. Any questions by any
23	Board members?
24	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

1 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Good 2 afternoon, Mr. McGlade. 3 MR. MCGLADE: Good afternoon, Mr. 4 Short. 5 MEMBER SHORT: How many years have you been in business on that block of Connecticut 6 7 Avenue? MR. MCGLADE: I've been in this 8 9 location since 1994. The store has changed name, but we've been here since 1994. So if you do the 10 11 numbers, we're talking what, 30 years? 12 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, 30 years 13 ago, what was the neighborhood like when you 14 moved in in 1994? 15 MR. MCGLADE: It was pretty active. A strong presence of people running down. 16 17 mean, the Hilton Hotel was extremely popular. A 18 1200 room hotel with conventions and so. We 19 didn't have the major convention center downtown that they have now. 20 And yes, it was good neighborhood. 21 22 But it was also a neighborhood with diversity of 23 mains. So I mean, I enjoy Ethiopian food. My 24 family's in the food business. I wish them 25 success if they want to be a restaurant.

1 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. For my 2 edification, what was next door to you in 1994 3 when you moved in? What was there? MR. MCGLADE: 1994 for me was 4 5 Larimer's Grocery next door. 6 MEMBER SHORT: Sure? 7 MR. MCGLADE: I am 99 percent sure of that question. 8 9 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Yes, I ask that question because a lot of persons who participate 10 11 in these hearings say to people, why would you 12 move into a neighborhood where there was a 13 nightclub already? Because I want to establish, 14 we have a lot of solid neighborhoods in 15 Washington D.C. I've been here since 1946, so 16 I've been a bit long. 17 But any rate, we have a lot of solid 18 neighborhoods where people just respected one 19 another, whatever kind of licenses they had. I just want to establish, for the record, when 20 21 you moved there there was no nightclub or any 22 atmosphere like that in the neighborhood? 23 MR. MCGLADE: No. The only part --24 the only nightclub that was in the neighborhood was down the street was called the Royal Palace. 25

And I think they've been longer then maybe I've 1 2 been around, so it's about 68 years. 3 But Mr. Laramie was another Italian grocery store, the Origio opened up there and 4 5 they had shop for a couple years, but again, I 6 think the rent got them first. 7 MEMBER SHORT: Was the Royal Palace, was that nudie bar? 8 9 MR. MCGLADE: Yes, you could call that a nudie bar. Yes. 10 11 MEMBER SHORT: I just say that because 12 I'm very familiar with the community and I used to be at the Hilton Hotel a lot and just up and 13 14 down that block when I worked the fire department 15 years ago. I went on the fire department in 1971, 16 so I saw this city and downtown convicted. 17 they use mention because of things first. 18 19 some kind of way we lost our path and so business that open up as one thing morph into another 20 21 thing and then people say to them, well, why did 22 you move next door, move into their neighborhood? 23 You're not the very first, but we have 24 some citizens, like yourself, since 1994 who had a business there and flourished before all of 25

1	this morphing of CTs and CNs and all the other
2	applicants.
3	I just want it on the record, Mr.
4	McGlade, that you've been a D.C. business owner,
5	taxpayer, and you deserve to have some peace and
6	quiet in your business. And I respect that.
7	Thank you very much for your testimony. That's
8	all I wanted to do was get on the record.
9	MR. MCGLADE: Thank you.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
11	questions by any other Board members?
12	Mr. Engelmann, any questions of this
13	witness based on the questions that were asked by
14	the Board?
15	MR. ENGELMANN: No, sir.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, any
17	questions of the witness based on the questions
18	that were asked by the Board?
19	MR. BIANCO: No, Mr. Anderson.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
21	Silverstein, any questions of the witness based
22	on
23	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, sir.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: the
25	questions that were no?

1	Mr. McGlade, can you please, sir, I'm
2	not sure if you have done this but can you please
3	spell your name for the record? Can you say and
4	spell your name for the record, please?
5	MR. MCGLADE: Sure. James, J-A-M-E-S,
6	McGlade, capital M-C, capital G-L-A-D-E.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8	Thank you very much, Mr. McGlade. Thank you very
9	much for your testimony today and you're free to
10	go. Thank you.
11	MR. MCGLADE: Thank you, guys.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
13	Silverstein, do you have any more witnesses?
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes. Commissioner
15	Roggensack is going to question me. I will be a
16	witness.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
18	
19	MS. ROGGENSACK: And because we are at
20	the same location and there are some sound
21	difficulties, what I might suggest is that I
22	raise the four questions and then ask
23	Commissioner Silverstein to respond, would that
24	be acceptable?
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, another

thing that you could do, I mean, how close are 1 2 you to him? 3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: We're sitting at a conference table. 4 5 MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes. 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, are you 7 able to use the same screen, the same line or I don't know if you're doing social distancing. 8 9 I'm not going to ask you to do something that --MR. SILVERSTEIN: Can't hear. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's why 12 I was asking, because if you're able to sit 13 closer so you can use the same screen then I 14 would suggest that. But I'm not asking you to do this space in social distancing. You let me know 15 if that's something that you can do. 16 17 unable to do it, then we'll figure it out. 18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. We'll do it. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Which one are 20 you doing? MS. ROGGENSACK: I can't hear him now. 21 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes. You can see 23 All right. Let me turn on my video. Okay, me. 24 video. Here we are. 25 MS. ROGGENSACK: And Mike, I can't

1	hear because you got the
2	(Simultaneous speaking)
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. I will put
4	this on. Go ahead.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but she
6	said she can't hear you.
7	MR. SILVERSTEIN: You can't hear me?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you'll have
9	to take off your headphones.
10	MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes.
11	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you hear
13	him?
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Can you hear?
15	MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes.
16	MR. SILVERSTEIN: We can hear.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18	Okay. You have 15 minutes left in your case.
19	All right?
20	All right. So who's the next witness?
21	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I am.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise
23	your right hand, please?
24	Do you swear or affirm to tell the
25	truth and nothing but the truth?

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I do. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 3 fine. Go ahead, ma'am. Ask the questions. 4 MS. ROGGENSACK: Thank you very much, 5 Chair. 6 My first question Commissioner is how 7 did you get here and why did everything break down? 8 MR. SILVERSTEIN: We got here and had 9 hoped, as I mentioned before, that we could have 10 11 an Ethiopian restaurant that it would be an 12 addition to the neighborhood, that we wouldn't 13 have to drudge down to 9th Street for really good 14 Ethiopian food. 15 And there were just so many different 16 answers and then we've looked at the record of 17 the other place and we looked also at the size of 18 what was going to be there. And basically, the 19 neighborhood situation. And the more that we looked at it, 20 21 there was also this concern and it's a huge 22 concern, however, the business plan of the 23 applicant that he has to have the ownership with 24 all these things that have caused problems, it's 25 apparent it's not going to be a restaurant from

open to close. 1 2 And the COVID violation, which we just 3 found out the gravity of it, locking the place and not being around the door and things like 4 5 this during COVID, we just felt that we have to 6 protest this because we can't accept this in our 7 neighborhood without a protest. MS. ROGGENSACK: And why all this 8 9 concern over a promoter? What is it about that particular model that leaves us concerns that 10 11 would trigger or feel that you need to go to a 12 formal protest? MR. SILVERSTEIN: This is not new and 13 14 what we're doing here is horrific in its victory. 15 It started with a real concern as a community, as 16 a ANC, started with a legit restaurant Heritage 17 India in a block just south of Dupont Circle. 18 Ran into financial troubles --19 MR. BIANCO: I'm going to, Mr. 20 Anderson, I'm going to interpose an objection Mr. Silverstein --21 here. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the 23 nature of the objection, sir? 24 MR. BIANCO: The objection is 25 relevance. And I'm going to explain what that

is. Mr. Silverstein just testified about an 1 2 establishment called Heritage India, south of 3 Dupont Circle. It has nothing to do with this establishment. 4 5 The incident that he is going to 6 testify to occurred in 2011, which I know from his exhibit form. And most importantly, Heritage 7 India lies outside of the 1200-foot relevant area 8 for consideration of the Board on this particular 9 license. 10 Operations of other establishments, 11 12 it's very clear, can only be considered within 13 the 1200-foot area, this is not it. And it's 10 14 years old. 15 So we object on relevance to anything 16 outside of the 1,200-foot area. 17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: May I respond? 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Silverstein. 19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I am not saying, in 20 21 any way, that what happened at Heritage India has 22 anything to do here other than why we, as a 23 community, have serious concerns about promoters. 24 That we are not picking on this one. That this 25 is an historic thing that was brought about by

incidents, one of which, involved the Secret 1 2 Service having to go and protect the White House. 3 This isn't something that has to do with anything other than real, serious threats 4 5 and bloodshed. We're not doing this because we 6 don't like promoters. We're doing this because we've had 7 these things occur and I'm trying to explain to 8 9 the Board why we have this policy. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 10 11 overrule the objection on relevancy issues. 12 mean, I've given some leeway, but Mr. 13 Silverstein, in the question and answer, I need 14 your questions to be focused and the answers to 15 be focused on this establishment and their 16 appropriateness of the Board. If the 17 appropriateness or inappropriateness of the Board 18 issuing a license for this establishment. Okay? 19 So I need us to focus on the issue at hand. All right, is there another question? Go 20 21 ahead. 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Very briefly. Very 23 briefly even, I can answer the question about 24 promoters? 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can answer

the question, sir.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Very briefly.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Heritage India.

There was a fight. It spilled out onto

They rented the place out to a promoter one

Connecticut Avenue. Jhonte Coleman, 34-years-old

was shot to death. Five other people were

wounded. It's a block from where I live, just

down from Dupont Circle.

There was a promoter night at Caf,
Asia, which was also in our ANC. A fight inside
became a stabbing outside. While MPD was
responding to the stabbing, a gunfight broke out
in the 1700 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. That's
a block away. Secret Service protective unit
responded. The Secret Service actually processed
the crime scene. They wouldn't let MPD near it,
finding more than a dozen shell casings.

This is what has got our neighborhood so concerned about these things. We're not picking on them. There are other cases and I don't want to belay or repeat testimony.

Dupont Circle has had serious problems with promoters. You're going to hear during the

DCCA testimony about the awful saga on P Street, 1 2 which led to the Board restricting the actual 3 operating hours of the place that had been using 4 promoters. 5 And our experience has been, if you 6 allow these things that it's so much better to stop them before they happen because making them 7 stop once that happens is so difficult. 8 9 I don't want to take any more time other than our feeling that here, if you can't 10 11 make it without promoters' night after night. 12 that's your business plan, then your business plan is doomed to fail. Either to fail 13 14 economically or to fail by not providing the 15 neighborhood with an acceptable forever peace, 16 order, and quiet. 17 I think that's shows all I need to say 18 about that. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions? 20 21 MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes. The testimony 22 and another question on that. We've talked about 23 the idea that an RDO could be available to 24 address some of these questions. 25 So I want to just ask how that will,

if at all, belay the concerns of ANC 2B that have 1 2 about this application? 3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Well, that was another area of concern. If there are ever going 4 5 to be any kind of promoters with big crowds or 6 anything like that, and you're talking a latenight establishment of 288 people. 7 So we would certainly need an RDO and 8 9 in order to have one it's got to be paid for. And it's got to be there any night that there's 10 11 that coverage -- that there's that much of a 12 crowd. 13 But having heard what we heard, again, 14 it's sort of like we've been painted into a 15 corner here. MS. ROGGENSACK: Is it fair to say, 16 17 Commissioner Silverstein, that at the end of the 18 day what we have is, what I think even 19 Commissioner Merzig described as a lack of accountability and lack of an enforceability that 20 21 this particular proposition here? Is that really 22 what we're concerned about? 23 MR. SILVERSTEIN: No. I think what 24 we're concerned about, more than anything else, 25 is that the Dupont Circle area, which includes

Club Central, which includes the 19th Street 1 2 corridor, which includes Penn Street and now some 3 of these other locations, is the biggest night 4 entertainment place in the city. 5 The hospitality industry is the second 6 largest industry in our city after government. And before the pandemic, it provided 60,000 jobs, 7 \$3 Billion a year in revenue, \$300 million a year 8 in tax revenue to the city. And this is the 9 piece that laid the golden egg and our concern is 10 11 that people need to a, understand that it's going 12 to be safe, b, that you can still have it as lively and livable for those of us who live 13 14 there. 15 We chose to live there because it's a 16 wonderful neighborhood. Nobody wants this place to be Sterling, Virginia or Lovettsville or 17 18 something like that where you can hear the 19 rooster. It's a city, but we need the lively, but livable. It needs to be safe and that's our 20 21 biggest concern. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other 23 questions? 24 MS. ROGGENSACK: No. No further questions from the Chair. 25

1	MR. SILVERSTEIN: We rest.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I have no other
4	questions
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
6	Hold on. Hold on. All right.
7	Mr. Engelmann, do you have any
8	questions of Mr. Silverstein?
9	MR. ENGELMANN: No, I don't.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, do
11	you have any questions of Mr. Silverstein?
12	MR. BIANCO: I do. I do.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead,
14	please.
15	MR. BIANCO: Mr. Silverstein, and I
16	brought this up in my objections, but I think I
17	need to ask you about it so that it's on the
18	record in the form of testimony.
19	You talked extensively about a
20	situation that occurred at Heritage India. When
21	did that situation occur?
22	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Sometime just after
23	the beginning of time, in 2011.
24	MR. BIANCO: And where was Heritage
25	India located?

1	MR. SILVERSTEIN: In its original
2	iteration, just south of Dupont Circle.
3	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And looking at the
4	investigators report, I could bring it up, but
5	you have such knowledge of the area, I'm going to
6	assume you can do this off of the top of your
7	head.
8	As I read the investigators report and
9	the map that he drew of the 1,200-foot radius,
10	Heritage India falls outside of that, correct?
11	MR. SILVERSTEIN: You bet it does and
12	so does Caf, Asia, which was the other incident.
13	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And Caf, Asia,
14	that incident took place in 2014, if I'm correct
15	about that, right?
16	MR. SILVERSTEIN: December 28th, 2013,
17	just before New Year's Day.
18	MR. BIANCO: Okay. 2013. Okay. And
19	again, outside of the 1,200-foot radius?
20	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir. Now, I
21	would
22	MR. BIANCO: Now
23	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I would point out
24	that this has nothing to do with that. It has to
25	do with why the we are so concerned with

1 promoters. 2 MR. BIANCO: Understood. And now, I 3 want to talk about what the investigator reported with respect to other establishments that are 4 5 actually within the 1,200-foot radius. 6 So according to the investigator, there are five CT licenses within that 1,200-foot 7 area. Did any of those have restrictions against 8 9 using promoters? MR. SILVERSTEIN: I do not know and I 10 11 do not believe so. 12 MR. BIANCO: Okay. Would you be able 13 to say for certain if I told you the names of the 14 establishments? 15 MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, I could not. 16 MR. BIANCO: Okay. 17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Not right now, I 18 couldn't say for certain. I can say I don't know 19 that they do and I'm not sure that they do or If I ask me do you I think they don't? I 20 21 would say, I think they don't. 22 MR. BIANCO: That's good enough. 23 That's good enough. And there are, according to 24 the investigator's reports, report two 25 nightclubs, two CNs within the 1,200-foot radius.

1	One being Gazuza and the other being Assets, are
2	you familiar with those establishments?
3	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'm familiar with
4	them not being, patronizing them, but, yes.
5	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And do you know
6	whether or not Gazuza, I hope I'm saying that
7	right, Gazuza has any restrictions on using
8	promoters in their establishment?
9	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, I do not.
10	MR. BIANCO: Okay. No, you don't know
11	or no, you don't know if they or you don't know?
12	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I do not know.
13	MR. BIANCO: Okay. How about Assets?
14	Do they have any restrictions on promoters?
15	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, they don't.
16	They've had other problems, but not that.
17	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And these other
18	problems that you're referring to, and I think
19	you referred to earlier, do those problems in any
20	way relate to the use of promoters?
21	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, they do not.
22	MR. BIANCO: All right. Thank you,
23	Mr. Silverstein, I don't have anything else.
24	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So

I did ask you already, Mr. Engelmann, if you have 1 2 any questions and you said, no; is that correct? 3 MR. ENGELMANN: That's right. No 4 questions. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. For 6 the Board, does the Board have any questions of Mr. Silverstein? 7 8 MEMBER SHORT: I have one of them, Mr. Chair. 9 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. 11 Short. 12 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Silverstein, your 13 testimony's been a lot about promoters. Very 14 briefly, can you explain your knowledge, 15 personally of promoters, and businesses in Washington D.C.? 16 17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir. I can. 18 And I think I've that it involved first, those 19 two incidents. It also involved a number of incidents that occurred when I served on the 20 Board. 21 22 And there was a series of stabbings 23 and shootings that occurred over an extended 24 period of time and the Board was -- and it was, 25 like, week after week another young person or two

were stabbed or shot at an event where there were 1 2 promoters. And it all seemed to involve one type 3 of music. It all seemed to involve or often 4 5 seemed to involve one particular band. And we 6 wanted to stop the violence but didn't know how 7 because you can't ban a certain type of music, whether it's hip hop or something else. 8 don't do that. 9 And you certainly -- it wasn't the 10 11 band's fault. And you can't say you're not going 12 to let this band play. But what we found was 13 that this particular band, those promoters and 14 promoted events where this would happen all 15 around the city, and the promoters might bring in 16 people from different crews or different 17 neighborhoods who didn't get along or people who 18 didn't -- they were just factions that were not -19 - didn't get along. Okay. 20 MEMBER SHORT: Shorten this up 21 and short a wee bit. During your time while you 22 served on the Board, let's just say not every 23 promoter --24 MR. SILVERSTEIN: No. 25 MEMBER SHORT: -- but there was

1	certain promoters?
2	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Oh, yes.
3	Absolutely.
4	MEMBER SHORT: If it was a live band
5	or no live band, wherever certain promoters, who
6	worked in certain parts of town, there was
7	cuttings, stabbings, shootings and all those
8	things that make a community unsafe?
9	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir.
10	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you so much for
11	your testimony, but I just want to get that on
12	record. Promoters have given themselves a bad
13	name because of a lot of bad things happen when
14	they are takeover businesses.
15	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir.
16	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Thank you
17	for your testimony.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
19	questions by the other Board members?
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes. Yes, Mr.
21	Chairman.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
23	Grandis.
24	MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you. Thank you,
25	Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silverstein, it's a pleasure to 1 2 have you before us today and it's very helpful to 3 our deliberations your experience in ADC matters. 4 So thank you very much. 5 For the record, and you may have 6 already stated, but just for clarification. 7 many years have you been on the Dupont Circle ANC? 8 9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: 18. MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. And during 10 11 that time, the ANC has had applications before it 12 regarding CT licenses? 13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, we have. 14 MR. ENGELMANN: And over these years, 15 based on community input to the ANC, are there any basic guidelines or policies, I don't want to 16 17 use a legal term, that helps format the positions 18 of the ANC when it comes to CT licenses? 19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: There is a -- the policy and procedures manual says that the ANC 20 21 opposes the use of promoters. That's one. 22 The other policies are basically based 23 on location for things like noise, or, you know, 24 what may fly in Club Central did not fly on 18th 25 and Swan when someone wanted to open a, I believe

it was a tavern there, but I'm not positive it was a tavern because I was on the Board and I recused myself as completely as I could from ANC matters.

You have one bite at the apple, and you either did one or the other and I did the Board.

MEMBER GRANDIS: So what about this concept of the endorsement such as here's a CT that wants to have dancing. Does the ANC have any views on that? Or if it wants to have cover charge? For CTs, not CNs.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: I think basically, that we look at these things and if it doesn't, you know, if it doesn't smell right, if it looks more like a nightclub, we say, no.

But what may have occurred ten years ago or something may have slipped under the radar, one of the difficulties that you have with these things is that you have a constant turnover of people. It's a volunteer position. There are seven new commissioners out of nine this year, which frankly is the only reason I stayed on.

We've had some institutional memory, even if it's faltering. And these things --

1	there is not a clear path historically. We do
2	the best we can with a volunteers.
3	MR. ENGELMANN: Mr. Silverstein, I
4	want to thank you for that. I ask questions
5	because neighborhoods over time know what works
6	in their neighborhood and what doesn't. And I
7	think it helps inform us to know what the Dupont
8	Circle neighborhood thinks is healthy for it.
9	Thank you very much.
10	MR. SILVERSTEIN: If I might, Mr.
11	Grandis, we know better what doesn't work than
12	what does work that you learn more from bad
13	experience and from hard knocks then you do from
14	success.
15	But generally, we've been pretty
16	successful.
17	MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you for your
18	testimony today.
19	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, sir.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any
21	questions by any other Board members?
22	Mr. Engelmann, do you have any
23	questions about Mr. Silverstein based on the
24	questions that were asked by the Board?
25	MR. ENGELMANN: No, I don't.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, any
2	questions for
3	MR. BIANCO: Yes, I do.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.
5	MR. BIANCO: All right. Mr.
6	Silverstein, in your testimony, you discussed a
7	policies and procedures manual for the ANC,
8	correct?
9	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir.
10	MR. BIANCO: And if I had your
11	testimony correct, you stated something to the
12	effect of that the ANC opposes use of promoters,
13	is that the policy?
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I think they
15	generally oppose the use of promoters. I believe
16	that's in there. But it doesn't mean they have
17	to do it. It's not in the bylaw.
18	MR. BIANCO: Okay.
19	MR. SILVERSTEIN: It's a guideline.
20	MR. BIANCO: The guideline is just
21	across the board; we don't like promoters or we
22	oppose promoters? What is the guideline?
23	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I don't have it in
24	front of me and to be honest with you, I don't
25	know when it was put in there.

1	MR. BIANCO: But, to your knowledge,
2	the use of promoters in nightlife establishments
3	is perfectly legal, is it not?
4	MR. SILVERSTEIN: It is certainly is
5	if it does not you know, the use per say is,
6	if it does not create other issues.
7	MR. BIANCO: Understood. And I did
8	just have one more question. Did the ANC protest
9	the nightclub license Gazuza?
10	MR. SILVERSTEIN: That was I do not
11	know whether it did or note.
12	MR. BIANCO: Okay.
13	MR. SILVERSTEIN: When did that occur?
14	Could you tell me?
15	MR. BIANCO: 2019, I believe. They
16	were most recently up.
17	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I was probably on
18	the Board then and I do not know.
19	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Okay. Thank you
20	very much, Mr. Silverstein.
21	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
23	Bianco. Do you need to have ma'am, Ms I'm
24	sorry.
25	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Roggensack.

1	MS. ROGGENSACK: Roggensack.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Roggensack, do
3	you have any questions you need to any
4	complication questions that Mr. Silverstein based
5	on the questions that were asked by the Board?
6	MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. Yes,
8	ma'am.
9	MS. ROGGENSACK: Yes, I have I have
10	three. The first is regarding the first hearing
11	of this issue at the ANC. Was the applicant
12	there when the ANC first heard this application?
13	Did he appear?
14	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, he did not. He
15	had a family issue
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
17	Hold on, hold on, hold.
18	MS. ROGGENSACK: Well
19	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I don't think this
20	has to do with
21	MS. ROGGENSACK: My question was
22	whether a legally authorized representative
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
24	Hold on, hold on. Hold on, Ms. please. Ms.
25	Roggensack, once he starts speaking, you need to

1 mute your microphone. Okay? 2 As soon as he's going to start 3 speaking and vice versa. Okay? All right. Go ahead. 4 5 MS. ROGGENSACK: Was there a legally 6 authorized representative at the ANC hearing at which this application was discussed? 7 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Alan Ebert who 8 represented himself as the authorized 9 10 representative. Yes. 11 MS. ROGGENSACK: With respect to this 12 application and this establishment, what has been 13 the level of neighbor engagement or neighbor 14 feedback relative to other applications of this 15 type? Would you say it's more, less, the same? 16 How would you characterize it? MR. SILVERSTEIN: Well, I would 17 18 characterize it that at first the ANC and DCCA 19 were all in favor of this. And no one sent out any alarms. That as we became more concerned 20 21 about the moving and this becoming, morphing into 22 a night club and hookah bar later into the night, 23 there became concern among the neighbors. 24 No one put anything out on any list 25 serves. There was no campaign or anything of

that sort. But there has been, in the past couple of weeks, especially with now three shootings in Dupont Circle area and in this month of June, there's this real concern. And even though this has, you know, none of this is tied to this establishment.

There is just an overall fear about safety and about whether people are safe in the area. Whether we're going to end up losing business and all that because people will be not feel it is safe.

So we've been very -- we've tried to downplay it now. You know, that we can handle this well and now, there's just great concern.

MS. ROGGENSACK: We'll talk more about this in a minute. But there was some photographs that were shown earlier of the street and that showed two buildings. But isn't it correct that there are actually roughly six residential buildings on that 20th Street behind the club? Is that about right?

MR. SILVERSTEIN: There are and there's also an even larger residential building, Chateau Thierry at the corner of 20th and S.

There are, I would assume, several hundred people

who live over there. 1 2 MS. ROGGENSACK: And some concerns 3 about security. Isn't it correct that there was actually a violent car jacking right at the 4 5 corner about a month or two ago? 6 MR. BIANCO: I'm going to object as to 7 relevance and beyond the scope of the Board's questions. 8 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain the objection. You have -- I've been 10 11 generous. You have four and a half minutes left. 12 I thought that you, when Mr. Silverstein was testified, when he rested this case, he had like 13 14 five minutes left. And so I didn't realize this 15 was going out of hand. 16 So I'm just letting you know that 17 you're running out of time. And so I'll give you 18 some leeway and maybe a couple more minutes. 19 we need to -- I told each party they had an hour and you're at the end of the rope and so I'm 20 21 going to sustain the objection. 22 MR. SILVERSTEIN: That's fine. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So go ahead and 24 25 (Simultaneous speaking)

1	MS. ROGGENSACK: Chair, that was my
2	last question.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
4	Thank you. All right
5	MR. SILVERSTEIN: We're done.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann,
7	do you have witnesses, sir?
8	MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, I do. I'd like
9	to call Catie Butler as our first witness.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How many
11	witnesses do you have, sir?
12	MR. ENGELMANN: One other and then a
13	short some short testimony from myself.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15	Okay.
16	MR. ENGELMANN: There are three
17	witnesses including myself. But I'll be brief.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
19	Hold on.
20	MR. BIANCO: Mr. Chair
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How many
22	MR. BIANCO: would it be okay if we
23	took a five-minute break?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
25	Okay. It's 6:56. We're off the record for, I

1	mean, we'll take 10 minutes
2	MR. BIANCO: Very good.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: till 7:05.
4	We're off the record until 7:05.
5	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
6	went off the record at 6:56 p.m. and resumed at
7	7:07 p.m.)
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
9	We're back on the record. All right. So we're
10	now at the stage where D.C., the Dupont Circle
11	Citizen's Association will do its case
12	presentation.
13	Do you have a witness, sir? Who's
14	your first witness?
15	MR. ENGELMANN: Our first witness is
16	Catie Butler.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Butler?
18	Catie Butler.
19	MR. ENGELMANN: She's on as an
20	attendee.
21	MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chair, she's on.
22	I'm going to elevate her rights. Stand by. All
23	right, Ms. Butler, your rights have been
24	elevated.
25	MS. BUTLER: Hi there.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
2	camera, Ms. Butler, or are you just on the phone?
3	MS. BUTLER: Hi.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you
5	MS. BUTLER: I'm on. Yes.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can
7	you raise your right hand, please?
8	Do you swear or affirm to tell the
9	truth and nothing but the truth?
10	MS. BUTLER: I do.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
12	ma'am. Your witness, sir.
13	MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Can you please
14	state your name and address for the record?
15	MS. BUTLER: My full name is Catherine
16	Tara Butler. I go by Catie and I live at 1721
17	20th Street Northwest in Apartment 101.
18	MR. ENGELMANN: And for the Board, can
19	you describe where you would reside in relation
20	to the proposed establishment?
21	MS. BUTLER: So I am right out like
22	you can see their back entrance and I'm right
23	across the street from them, basically. I might
24	be a little bit to the left, but and there's -
25	- my neighbors are directly across, but I'm,

like, right there. 1 2 MR. ENGELMANN: Can you estimate how 3 many feet you are from the back of the establishment? 4 5 MS. BUTLER: So it's one -- well, it's 6 one driving lane with some parking on either side. So I would say, I'm terrible at 7 estimating, but 50 feet, 60 feet? Not that far. 8 9 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And 20th Street there is a one-lane road other than the parking 10 on either side? 11 12 MS. BUTLER: Yes. 13 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Can you 14 describe for the Board your feelings about the 15 proposed establishment? 16 MS. BUTLER: So it's not just my feelings it's a lot of my neighbors as well. But 17 18 since my house is so close and I'm actually in 19 the front of this condo's building. We're about six units that were just built a little over 20 21 maybe a year and a half, two years ago. 22 And so I'm on the first two levels, the ground and first floor and then I have a 23 24 rooftop on the third floor. Or the first, 25 second, and third floor. And my bedrooms

actually face the street and I can hear usually everyone that's going up and down if they're talking.

It hasn't really been too much of an issue because I grew up in the city, so I'm used to the noise. But every now and again, there might be someone loud, you know, coming home from the bar or going to bars, but they usually just pass on by. But you can hear them from my bedrooms.

And I'm sure, I know that's the case for my downstairs neighbors, who live in the basement who have two windows on the street, as well as the countless neighbors around me.

so we're really concerned about the noise that this night club will present. And it's not just about music, it's also about the number of people that they're going to be allowed to have in there, which will eventually spill out at the end of the night.

Other concerns we have have to do with the location. I mean, if you look at -- I'm not an expert at this, but if you look at the actual zoning maps in D.C. there's not really a night club that has this many residential units, you

know, it's on the backside there's what 50 percent, if you drew a circle around it, it's in a residential use zone.

Assets mostly has just mixed-use around it and it's mostly just offices and then South Dupont is all mixed-use. There's really nothing that compares.

So, I mean, this is a historic district, I mean, I can't even get -- I can't get permission to change certain aspects of my fa‡ade like changing the windows.

So it's really just -- it's always been a quiet residential street and I think -- I know, I didn't even realize there was another night club, Gazuza, but if memory serves me correct, that only backs into one apartment building on the backend and it has an alley.

And it also used to have a Chipotle and other places like under it. So I don't think it's that big of a place. Whereas this one will have -- the whole entire building will be for the applicant.

Parking. I mean, that's something you kind of expect in D.C. but I will say that, of late, I

avoid that side of the street when I walk my dog at night because there's just so many rats. I mean, they're everywhere. It's been a problem for all of the condo associations, but there were a lot rats over by the back of their building recently and not just them, but the people next to them too where that's been an issue.

The largest concern I also have is my safety and the safety of my neighbors. So I work at an accounting firm. I work late hours.

Sometimes, I mean, I don't like to stay at the office too late, but I come home at 12:00, 1:00, or 2:00 and I continue working from home and late into the night and I don't want to have to have any issues when I'm coming home or fear for my safety when I'm walking home.

And I know that in the letter that my neighbors sent to the Board, many of us expressed similar concerns. Especially many of us who, well, I'm not but, many of us who are senior citizens who also still work and come home late at night.

And this is just been compounded by the recent crime in the neighborhood. And even though safety is always an issue in D.C., when

you add almost 300 people and liquor to the mix, and then late hours, it's just kind of a recipe for disaster.

So I just wanted to say that on behalf of myself and most of my neighbors, we are generally afraid for our safety for what this applicant is proposing to do with the space.

Now, we do have restaurants in the area and if this is just going to be a restaurant, we would have no issue with it. But based on what they're proposing with the hours, I mean, you can do a simple Google search and see what the hours are for the restaurants in that area.

I mean, I go to Le Diplomate, that's not open past 11:00. There's even, what is it a bar, McClellan's Retreat, that actually has pretty good whiskey if anyone likes it.

There not even open past 12:00 on weekends, and that's a bar. So I just don't understand how this is going to be a restaurant concept when it's open till 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning and then it opens again in four or five hours.

I mean, that doesn't give our

neighbors a lot of respite from any noise or other issues that could arise.

So while I would be more than happy if this was just a restaurant and it actually acts like a restaurant. I just feel like the actions may not match what are being said here at this hearing.

So I think basically, I don't really see how, with other mom and pop shops that are right next door, how that's going to contribute to our neighborhood. I think, if anything, it will just create more problems and think that they will not have a positive impact.

MR. ENGELMANN: Catie, you've described your building. Can you describe the other residences that are in close proximity to where you live?

MS. BUTLER: So directly across the way is a group of, I would have to describe condominium townhouses. So they look like they're separate townhouses, but they're actually one huge condo association and there's some that face the back of their, of Signature Lounge's back entrance. And then there are even some directly behind it because it's kind of a big

1 plot of land. 2 And then you have multiple apartment 3 units. You have the Chateau Thierry and then next door to us is a very large, six, seven, 4 5 eight-story apartment building and then next to 6 them you have the Scientology National Affairs Office, I believe. 7 So a mix of things, but it's all, it's 8 9 a residential, you know, RU kind of zoning space. MR. ENGELMANN: Right. And that part 10 11 of the block is within the historic district, is 12 that correct? 13 MS. BUTLER: Yes. I couldn't even 14 extend my patio on top of my rooftop because 15 that's against the rules. 16 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Well, thank 17 That's been very clear and as sort of in 18 the interest of time, I'll close my questions 19 there. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 20 21 Thank you. Mr. Silverstein, do you have any 22 questions of this witness? 23 MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, I do not, Mr. 24 Chairman. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.

1	Bianco, any questions of this witness?
2	MR. BIANCO: Yes, I do. Thank you
3	very much. I do have a couple of questions.
4	So if I understood your testimony
5	correctly, rats are presently a problem in the
6	neighborhood, is that the case?
7	MS. BUTLER: Yes.
8	MR. BIANCO: And crime is certainly a
9	problem in the neighborhood, is that the case?
10	MS. BUTLER: For recent? Yes. But
11	I've only lived in my present spot for a little
12	over a year. But three years prior to that I was
13	living on 19th and T and I grew up in Georgetown.
14	MR. BIANCO: Okay.
15	MS. BUTLER: And I have to say it's a
16	problem all over the city.
17	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And at this point,
18	the establishments not open, right?
19	MS. BUTLER: No. But there has been
20	a lot of rats, like, I got scared one night
21	because there was about seven of them kind of
22	following each other and one of them kind of came
23	after my dog and I had to push him out of the
24	way.
25	MR. BIANCO: Okay. So you've been

1	living in your present condominium for a year,
2	you said?
3	MS. BUTLER: I moved in in January of
4	2020.
5	MR. BIANCO: Okay. So when you I
6	just want to make sure I understand the timeline
7	correctly. When you moved into that new condo,
8	was there an establishment operating at this
9	location or no?
10	MS. BUTLER: I'm not sure because I
11	was working and trying to unpack and then by the
12	time that I was going to explore COVID hit. So I
13	can't say whether or not there was.
14	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And you gave some
15	testimony about you having some concern about the
16	hours.
17	MS. BUTLER: Yes.
18	MR. BIANCO: The 2:00 and 3:00 a.m.
19	hours. And if I understood your testimony
20	correctly, another establishment that is a tavern
21	at 2131 Florida Avenue called McClellan's
22	Retreat, which has great whiskey, doesn't have
23	hours that are that late, correct?
24	MS. BUTLER: Yes. And that's a full-
25	on bar.

MR. BIANCO: 1 Okay. 2 I think they serve some MS. BUTLER: 3 bar food but they're not like a restaurant. MR. BIANCO: Understood. Are you 4 5 familiar with the hours of any of the other 6 establishments in the surrounding area given your 7 Google search? MS. BUTLER: So Le Diplomate, I think 8 goes till 11:00. City Lights of China, which is 9 not, like, two buildings up from the applicant, 10 11 closes at 9:30. What else? There's a new place 12 called La Casa, I couldn't find their hours. And 13 they're not opening until next month. 14 MR. BIANCO: How about Board Room at 15 1737 --16 MS. BUTLER: So Board Room, Board Room 17 I've actually been to. It's actually a nice 18 laid-back kind of location if you just want to 19 have a beer and play a board game with your friends, for like older millennials we kind of 20 like that kind of stuff because it's not too 21 22 noisy and also it doesn't really abut our road 23 because there's another building. It's not on 24 20th Street, basically. MR. BIANCO: Understood. But their 25

1	hours are until 2:00 during the week and 3:00 on
2	the weekends, correct?
3	MS. BUTLER: I think so. But it's
4	also just a very chill vibe. It's more like a
5	pub.
6	MR. BIANCO: Okay. How about the Bier
7	Baron Tavern at 1523 22nd Street, did you check
8	the hours on that one?
9	MS. BUTLER: No. And I've not heard
10	of it either.
11	MR. BIANCO: Okay. And the night club
12	that we've been talking about, Gazuza at 1629
13	Connecticut, do you know what their hours are?
14	MS. BUTLER: So I don't know if I know
15	exactly their hours, but I'll be quick, I've been
16	up and down that way because I used to go to the
17	Chipotle all the time in high school because my
18	friend lives nearby and I don't know how long
19	it's been there, but even know, I didn't even
20	think it was a club.
21	It has blacked-out windows. It's on,
22	like, an upper level above the old Chipotle and -
23	-
24	MR. BIANCO: Would you
25	MS. BUTLER: Yes. You don't hear

1	anything from it.
2	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Would you be
3	surprised to learn that their hours are till 2:00
4	and 3:00 as well?
5	MS. BUTLER: Well, if they're a night
6	club, that kind of makes sense.
7	MR. BIANCO: All right. Thank you.
8	I don't have any further questions.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10	Thank you. Any questions by any of the Board
11	members?
12	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
14	Grandis?
15	MR. ENGELMANN: Is it Ms. Butler? I'm
16	sorry, my eyesight is not perfect. But it's Ms.
17	Butler, correct?
18	MS. BUTLER: Yes.
19	MR. ENGELMANN: Again, I want to thank
20	you, as a resident, for taking time out of your
21	day and especially the long day that you've had
22	to be tortured by us. But we really all value
23	the residents and businesses that come before us
24	and let us know for our records.
25	I think I only have one question. Mr.

1	Bianco asked you about the Board Room?
2	MS. BUTLER: Yes.
3	MEMBER GRANDIS: And I think he was
4	trying to impress everyone or to yourself that
5	did you know that they had, I think, Mr. Bianco,
6	if I heard you correctly, that they're open till
7	2:00 or 3:00 a.m. depending on the night of the
8	week? I think that's what I heard?
9	You're familiar with them, but you did
10	not know how late their open, correct?
11	MS. BUTLER: I mean, I think I knew
12	that they were open kind of late on weekends,
13	because there was one time I was walking my dog
14	after getting home late and I actually ran into
15	some friends who were heading to the Board Room
16	and it must have been midnight.
17	But I haven't been there in a while.
18	But it a very relaxed atmosphere.
19	MEMBER GRANDIS: And have you ever
20	been there or walked, even just walked by there
21	and they've had a cover charge?
22	MS. BUTLER: You're talking about the
23	Board Room?
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.
25	MS. BUTLER: No.

1	MEMBER GRANDIS: And have you ever
2	walked by there or been told that they've had
3	promoters promoting some event there?
4	MS. BUTLER: No. Not to my
5	recollection.
6	MEMBER GRANDIS: And is the Board Room
7	closer to this applicant then Gazuza, which is a
8	night club
9	MS. BUTLER: Yes.
10	MEMBER GRANDIS: is the Board Room
11	closer?
12	MS. BUTLER: Much closer. It's on the
13	same block.
14	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Well, I just
15	wanted to make sure I understood what you knew
16	about the Board Room and its late hours and that,
17	from your knowledge, it does not use a cover
18	charge, nor does it have promoters.
19	MS. BUTLER: No.
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you very much.
21	MS. BUTLER: Thank you.
22	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you for your
23	time.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
25	questions for any other Board members?

1	Mr. Bianco, any questions of the
2	witness based on the questions that were asked by
3	the Board?
4	MR. BIANCO: No, Mr. Chair.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
6	Silverstein, any questions of the witness based
7	on the questions that were asked by the Board?
8	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, sir. No, sir.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann,
10	any questions you need to ask of your witness
11	based on the questions the Board was asked?
12	MR. ENGELMANN: No, sir.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
14	Thank you. Thank you very much, Ms. Butler, for
15	your testimony. All right. Thank you very much.
16	Do we have another witness?
17	MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, we do. I'd like
18	to call Jeffrey Rueckgauer.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr., what's the
20	last name? Redrush? I'm sorry.
21	MR. ENGELMANN: Rueckgauer.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Rueckgauer,
23	can you raise your right hand, please?
24	MR. RUECKGAUER: Yes.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or

1	affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
2	truth?
3	MR. RUECKGAUER: I do.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
5	Thank you. Your witness, sir.
6	MR. ENGELMANN: Can you restate your
7	name and your address?
8	MR. RUECKGAUER: Jeffrey Rueckgauer.
9	First name, J-E-F-F-R-E-Y, last name, R-U-E-C-K-
10	G-A-U-E-R. I live at 2131 P Street Northwest,
11	Apartment 711.
12	MR. ENGELMANN: And how long have you
13	lived at that address?
14	MR. RUECKGAUER: I've lived here since
15	January of 1992.
16	MR. ENGELMANN: And I believe you live
17	in an apartment building; is that correct?
18	MR. RUECKGAUER: Correct.
19	MR. ENGELMANN: And do you have a
20	particular position within that building?
21	MR. RUECKGAUER: Yes. I am the
22	president of the tenant association since 2007.
23	The building represents 250 units. About half of
24	them are on the P Street side.
25	MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And can you

tell the Board a little bit about the background, sort of the history of the neighborhood with the taverns morphing into night clubs?

MR. RUECKGAUER: Yes. In 2005 a restaurant known as Marrakesh Palace came to the ANC seeking a CT or had a CT license from the previous occupant of that address, but they sought an entertainment endorsement that would allow them to have promoted events.

What they had said though was that that was going to be for a Mediterranean restaurant with belly dancing several nights a week during dinner service.

They eventually got that endorsement, however, I noticed that what the construction that was going on at the building was that there was the second and third floors were not part of the restaurant and that I had observed materials going in that gave me a reason to believe that that was going to be discotheque.

I raised concern with the ANC. The applicant insisted, on the record, that under no circumstances was anything like a discotheque being built there. He would not run a discotheque. And that was that.

Opening night, a few months later,
everyone in the neighborhood just gob smacked
that there was a discotheque that had opened up
in the second floor. It went by the name of
Pasha Lounge. It had a line going to 22nd Street
up 22nd Street and it was quite rambunctious.

It was very loud. A lot of hollering and hooting and just general disruption. Then it was, a few hours later, the main event of the evening, promoter, got on a bull horn and announced the arrival of their performer who arrived with an entourage in three limousines, which caused even more noise.

It just went downward from there. But as the evening ended, people were getting into fights in the street. MPD had been summoned a number of times. And MPD couldn't clear the street until about an hour after closing. So it was about 4:00 a.m.

That went on, more or less, for the next year and a half, until a settlement agreement was signed, which put a prohibition on promoter events and reduced the operating hours by an hour.

That was the result of orders from the

ABRA Board. Because of what their conduct. That didn't stop them from having their promoters. They snuck them in anyway and they just didn't, they tricked us because they didn't bother to tell it was a promoter. The promotion material they'd leave out, that it was a promoted event or another third-party.

So it just got to the point where we were calling the police constantly. ABRA was not responsive. We were just basically left out in the cold to deal with this mess.

And the result, I mean, we finally did get any relief until the establishment changed hands in 2012 and that's when it finally got quiet.

MR. ENGELMANN: Jeff, was there another establishment with this similar problem?

MR. RUECKGAUER: Yes. In 2010, a place called Bento opened in 2120 in the Residence Inn restaurant base on the ground floor. And they followed suit in a very similar manner. They were a CR establishment, but when dinner service ended, they became a night club.

They too, they had illegal valets going. They had promoters coming in, people

getting into fights out in the street. And so some nights we had, literally, both sides of the street were this just sea of people who were making noise and the establishments were basically telling the neighborhood, we don't care about, you know, about your trying to sleep or people -- their trash service, the city cleans up the streets, so leave it to them.

I mean, the attitude was very much were not responsible for what these promoters are coming in and doing. We're just renting them the space. We have no responsibility and it's like, no, it's your space. You get to dictate conditions that the promoters have to abide by and if you can't get them to abide by it, stop doing business with them.

Mr. Bouza from Marrakesh went on to say that there was no way possible for him to continue to operate because of the overhead of the lease, that he had to ask that he able to have promoters in there. And he made this impassioned plea to ABRA to let him continue to do it. They didn't yield, fortunately.

MR. BIANCO: Mr. Anderson, I'm sorry to interrupt. But I really tried to give a lot

1	of latitude, but we're talking about
2	establishments outside of the 1,200-foot range by
3	far in 2005 and 2010. What on earth does this
4	have to do with what's before the Board?
5	(Simultaneous speaking)
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a
7	minute. Once again, Mr. Bianco, you have to
8	object to the question. You can't object while
9	the witness is testifying.
10	So I'm going to overrule the
11	objection. You have to
12	MR. BIANCO: Well
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Mr.
14	Bianco, you need to object to the questions that
15	are being asked by counsel or you have to object
16	that it's been broad.
17	But you can't have the witness for 10
18	minutes and then in the middle of the witness
19	testifying, you're now objecting to the question.
20	So I'm going to overrule the
21	objection. Let's move on.
22	MR. BIANCO: Thank you, Mr. Anderson,
23	but that does put me in a position to have to
24	object to every question.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then fine, sir.

1	That's what you do. And you do and I'll make a
2	ruling accordingly.
3	Go ahead, sir.
4	MR. ENGELMANN: Let me just
5	MR. RUECKGAUER: Go ahead.
6	MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. Jeff, just one
7	clarification. The Marrakesh is around the
8	corner from the Bier Baron?
9	MR. BIANCO: Objection. Relevance.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is this
11	relevant, sir?
12	MR. ENGELMANN: I'm just responding to
13	Mr. Bianco's concern. I'll withdraw the
14	question.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
16	See, Mr. Bianco, next
17	MR. BIANCO: Just trying to get us out
18	of here, Mr. Anderson. I apologize.
19	MR. ENGELMANN: I'm trying to do that
20	too, Mr. Bianco.
21	Mr. Rueckgauer, you're familiar with
22	the ANC's guidelines about promoters?
23	MR. RUECKGAUER: I am.
24	MR. ENGELMANN: Can you share your
25	thoughts on the importance of that?

1 MR. BIANCO: Objection. Relevance. 2 Foundation. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. 4 What was the question? I apologize. What was 5 the question? 6 MR. ENGELMANN: I was asking Mr. 7 Rueckgauer about the ANC guidelines on promoters. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 8 9 allow that, Mr. Bianco. We have had a lot of testimony earlier regarding this ANC guidelines. 10 11 So I'll just allow it and the Board will give it 12 whatever weight it's due. MR. RUECKGAUER: The issues with the 13 14 promoters came in about 2014, it went into the 15 policies and procedures manual. It came out of East Dupont moratorium, which did have language 16 17 that forbade restaurants from having more than a 18 certain number of promoted events during any 19 given year. The problem then became what was going 20 on with the West Dupont side was that there was 21 22 no adequate responsiveness from the regulatory 23 agencies to give any kind of immediate 24 satisfaction or a reasonable time satisfaction. 25 So that it got to the point where an ABRA hearing

or investigation would take over a year before there was any decision made.

That happened in a couple of cases involving Marrakesh. Several of them never received any decision. They were just no action.

so it certainly seems they decided well, because we can't count on the regulatory framework to be responsive to residents when there's an actual problem occurring and that it was the burden of the police department not having adequate resources.

The ANC thought, well, we're just going to have to, well, let's try this. Let's try putting a restriction thing that we're going to oppose or contest any promoted event language in the settlement agreement.

It did not mean to shut out the them entirely. The idea was if an applicant felt they had a compelling reason for having it, the ANC would be open to considering it and perhaps granting it.

It shifted the burden of proof onto the applicant on it to demonstrate that their business model was sound and they could justify having a seed to it, versus letting them have it

1	right from the get go and then everyone has to
2	deal with running to catch up and try to undo the
3	damage.
4	MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Thank you.
5	Thank you, Mr. Rueckgauer. I have no further
6	questions.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
8	Thank you. Mr. Silverstein, you have any
9	questions of this witness?
10	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, I do not, Mr.
11	Chairman.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, any
13	questions of this witness?
14	MR. BIANCO: You testified about the
15	ANC's policy with respect to the use of
16	promoter's, correct?
17	MR. RUECKGAUER: Yes, sir.
18	MR. BIANCO: Are you on the ANC?
19	MR. RUECKGAUER: I am a member of the
20	land use committee. But I am not an elected
21	official.
22	MR. BIANCO: Okay. So does the land
23	use committee deal with ABC Board issues?
24	MR. RUECKGAUER: Generally, no.
25	MR. BIANCO: Okay. Do you speak for

1	the ANC on these ABC Board issues?
2	MR. RUECKGAUER: No, I do not. I am
3	simply a concerned citizen who actually was
4	involved in some of that drafting work. But I'm
5	not, as community participant.
6	MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much. I
7	don't have any more questions.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any
9	questions from any Board members?
10	Hearing none, thank you very much,
11	sir, for your testimony. Thank you very much.
12	MR. RUECKGAUER: Thank you.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do we have
14	another witness?
15	MR. ENGELMANN: I just wanted to make
16	a short statement and then move the admission of
17	the one exhibit I had. The proposed settlement
18	agreement between DCCA and Duffy's Pub.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, if you
20	want to make a statement, sir, you know that I
21	have to swear you in and then you will be subject
22	to cross-examination.
23	MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. Unless there's
24	another way to get the settlement agreement in.
25	I'm happy to do that. It will be very brief.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Raise your 2 right hand, sir. 3 Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth? 4 5 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, I do. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead. 6 7 MR. ENGELMANN: Again, Glenn Engelmann, I reside at 1412 Hopkins Street 8 9 Northwest. Me, a past president of DCCA. There's been a lot of testimony about 10 11 standards in the neighborhood around promoters. 12 I just want to point out to the Board that's sort of consistent with DCCA's position here. 13 14 The most recent tavern license in the 15 neighborhood, which is for an establishment which 16 will be known as Duffy's Irish Pub. We did 17 negotiate a settlement agreement with the 18 operator. Part of that is a promise of no 19 promoters. Again, consistent with what's been 20 21 testified here today. And with that I'd like to 22 move the introduction into the record of that 23 settlement agreement. It's listed as DCCA 24 Exhibit 1. 25 MR. BIANCO: I object --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the 1 2 nature of the objection? 3 MR. BIANCO: The nature of the objection is relevance. Generally, settlement 4 5 discussions aren't admissible and this is 6 settlement discussion and an unsigned agreement, 7 apparently, on behalf of an establishment that is not the subject property before the Board. 8 9 completely irrelevant to the issue before the Board. Has no bearing on the proceedings. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Hold on. 12 Is this a signed settlement agreement regarding another establishment? 13 14 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. It's a signed 15 settlement agreement between DCCA and the establishment. It'll be before the Board, as I 16 17 understand it, in July. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I'm sorry. 19 I cannot allow that. No. I cannot. First and foremost, this is a settlement agreement that is 20 21 going to be presented to the Board for our 22 consideration for a case that's currently being 23 protested. 24 So I thought this was a settlement 25 agreement -- I thought this was an existing

settlement agreement for another establishment in 1 2 But since this is a contested case, this 3 is --MR. ENGELMANN: Well --4 5 (Simultaneous speaking) 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir. 7 MR. ENGELMANN: Just to clarify. It was entered into ahead of settlement. 8 9 operator, in this case, reached out the neighbors ahead of time. There hasn't been a protest 10 11 filed. We agreed to a settlement, which is --12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. But 13 what you're saying though, this is the settlement 14 agreement that the parties are going to provide 15 to the agency, for the agency to sign off on. 16 MR. ENGELMANN: That's correct. Yes. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I'm going 18 to -- this document cannot be admitted into 19 evidence. All right. So it cannot. So this document will not be allowed 20 21 to -- hold on. Hold on one minute, please. 22 This document will not be 23 allowed to be into evidence. If it was a Board 24 approved settlement agreement, yes. But it's 25 not, so, no.

1	So let's move on. Do you have
2	anything that you want to say, sir?
3	MR. ENGELMANN: No, I don't.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
5	Silverstein, do you have any questions of Mr.
6	Engelmann?
7	MR. SILVERSTEIN: No, I don't.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, any
9	questions of this witness?
10	MR. BIANCO: No, sir.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12	Thank you, sir for your testimony. Do you rest?
13	MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, I do.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
15	this is where we are now. Hold on one minute,
16	please.
17	All right. I'm going to give each
18	side; the applicant will be given five minutes to
19	close. And each protestant will have five
20	minutes to close.
21	What I need for each side, for the
22	applicant to tell us what it is that the
23	applicant is asking from the Board. And for each
24	of the protestant, I'm asking the protest each
25	of the protestant, be specific what it is that

1	you're asking the Board to do.
2	All right? So let's start with the
3	all right. All right. Do the parties want five
4	minutes before we do closing?
5	(Simultaneous speaking)
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. We
7	can go directly or we can break for five minutes.
8	MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'm ready to go.
9	MR. BIANCO: I could use five minutes.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
11	What did you say, Mr. Bianco?
12	MR. BIANCO: I could use five minutes.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
14	What is that you want to do, Mr. Silverstein?
15	MR. SILVERSTEIN: If Mr. Bianco needs
16	five minutes, I'm fine with that. I'm ready to
17	go.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann,
19	what is it that you wish to do?
20	MR. ENGELMANN: I'm ready to go, but
21	again, if Mr. Bianco wants five minutes, I'm
22	happy to wait five minutes.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
24	It's 7:42, all right, 7:50, I'll do the eight
25	minutes. 7:50 will be eight minutes and we'll be

1	back on the record to do a closing. 7:50. Thank
2	you.
3	MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much.
4	MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.
5	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
6	went off the record at 7:42 p.m. and resumed at
7	7:50 p.m.)
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on
9	the record. It's 7:50. Where is everyone?
10	Everyone needs to log back on. Mr. Bianco?
11	MR. BIANCO: Yes, I'm here.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Engelmann?
13	MR. ENGELMANN: I'm here.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
15	Fine. Mr. Bianco, you have five minutes, sir.
16	MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much.
17	Mr. Chairman, members of the Board in
18	compliance with your instructions I want to very
19	clearly state what we are asking for. We are
20	asking that the Board grant the CT license that
21	my client has applied for with the endorsements
22	applied for without any condition or restriction.
23	Most of the protestant's case rests on
24	things that occurred at another establishment in
25	another neighborhood and I think it's very

important that the testimony that we heard from the MPD clearly established, it's one of the most difficult and dense neighborhoods to deal with from a night life perspective.

The incidents cited were in 2018 and although thoroughly investigated by the MPD, by ABRA, there were fact-finding hearings on each, exactly zero finding of any wrongdoing on Secret's part whatsoever. No violations. They have operated at that location for four or five years. They've accumulated exactly one violation and one warning in that period of time.

I know the Board is pretty much sick of me before you and having arguments about what goes on at 9th and U Street Northwest, but because you've seen me so much issue, on that neighborhood, I think you very well understand the difficulties that that neighborhood experiences from a night life perspective and those difficulties don't really have anything to do with Secret Lounge.

I feel the character of the Dupont
Circle neighborhood that the applicant proposes
to locate his business in. The protestants point
to incidents that occurred at other

establishments, bearing no relationship to my client's establishment whatsoever, that occurred in 2005, 2010, 2014, all outside of the relevant 1,200-foot radius.

And I think it's important to note that these other incidents that occurred 10 or 15 years ago evidently drove some policy by the ANC, and we unfortunately heard extensive testimony on it, drove some policy by the ANC of promoters are bad. No promoters.

Well, is this really a policy? I think any claimant, this is a policy, is specious based on the evidence before the Board. And what evidence am I referring to but the investigators report and the testimony thereon.

Specifically, of the five taverns that are located within the relevant area, as set forth in the investigators report, zero have settlement agreements. Zero. Zero have promoter restrictions.

Of the two night clubs, full-blown night clubs located within the relevant 1,200 square foot area, zero have promoters' restrictions. One of two night clubs has a settlement agreement.

So what really is this policy, if it's 1 2 not enforced against anybody? They're seeking to 3 enforce it against my client and no one else. What really is this policy? 4 5 And I think it holds up as well when 6 you look at the previous establishment that was 7 at this location. No promoter restriction. No 8 settlement agreement. 9 Why, given the context of this, should these conditions be imposed on this specific 10 11 license when there clearly is no policy? At 12 least not one that is being enforced in any way, 13 shape or form? 14 We put on evidence today to give the 15 Board some insight into what my client's plan is for the property with respect to his seating, 16 17 with respect to his music, entertainment and 18 security. All very important things. All 19 relevant considerations. The Board is in a position where it 20 has to predict the future in this case, 21 22 essentially. What may happen? There's not a 23 track record for this particular establishment. 24 And while that's not easy to do, we do 25 have guidance form the relevant case law as to

what the board should look at. And where that case law puts us is exactly the evidence that we put on.

What does the applicant plan to do?
What are the measurements that the applicant is
putting in place? What is the overall character
of the neighborhood? And we've had evidence of
those and they all weigh in my client's favor to
grant this license.

We think after the Board has the opportunity to consider the voluminous evidence that has been put before it today and deliberate on the same, the conclusion that you will reach is that this establishment, as purposed, is appropriate for the 1,200 square foot area that is a relevant consideration for this particular proceeding. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Bianco. And Mr. Engelmann? Mr. Engelmann, you're next.

MR. ENGELMANN: Thank you. DCCA would like the Board to deny the requested license. As I stated earlier when the initial word was out about an Ethiopian restaurant, it was well received and in fact, DCCA initially wasn't going

to contest the license.

But as things evolved, as the testimony was given to the ANC, it was clear that the operating plan was vague and it had morphed really into more of a night club type establishment and sort of consistent with DCCA's policy, this was something we should contest.

The testimony today didn't add, frankly, a lot of clarity about the operating model. It continues to shift, in our view. And our thought that restrictions might be a way to alleviate some of the real neighborhood concerns sort of evaporated today with the news that the operator is in arrears with respect to RDO payments on the existing establishment.

Clearly, an RDO would be part of it, but if there are arrears, it's hard to see how you can impose any restrictions that we can have confidence on.

So again, the neighborhood has a long history of balance. What's proposed here is not consistent with the neighborhood, not consistent with the area.

I think Ms. Butler's testimony was pretty clear about the character of the block and

we'd ask you to deny the application. 1 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 3 Engelmann. Mr. Silverstein. MR. SILVERSTEIN: 4 Thank you, Mr. 5 Chairman. And I'll be brief. We seek denial of the application. 6 The burden of proof in this case is on the 7 applicant. The applicant's business plan is 8 9 clearly that of a CT that morphs into a night club, and the applicant acknowledges he cannot 10 11 succeed without the use of promoters. 12 Promoters would require enhanced 13 security and an RDO and the applicant's financial 14 dealings are such that, despite his testimony 15 today otherwise, he has not paid for his RDO at 16 his current establishment and that debt is in collections. 17 18 The applicant has failed completely to meet his burden to establish that he would not 19 negatively impact peace, order, and quiet. We 20 respectively ask that the Board deny the 21 22 application and thank you for your attention and 23 your patience. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very 25 much.

1	All right. All right, do the parties
2	wish to file proposed findings of fact and
3	conclusion of law or waive your right to do so?
4	MR. BIANCO: For the Applicant, I'd
5	prefer not to, but if the other parties are going
6	to, I will as well.
7	MR. SILVERSTEIN: We waive. We do not
8	seek to delay this any longer.
9	MR. ENGELMANN: Same for DCCA.
10	MR. BIANCO: Then nothing from
11	Applicant either. We're good.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
13	Well, thank you very much.
14	The record is not closed. This is a
15	new license, so I believe that we will issue this
16	decision within 90 days, but I believe that we
17	will issue this decision as quickly as possible
18	because it is a new license.
19	All right. Bear with me another
20	minute, please. I have too many papers in front
21	of me. All right.
22	As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
23	Beverage Control Board for the District of
24	Columbia and according to the D.C. Official Code,
25	Section 2574(d) of the Open Meetings Act, I move

1	that ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the
2	purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel
3	on case number 21PRO00017, Signature Lounge,
4	pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b)(4)
5	of the Open Meetings Act and deliberating upon
6	case number 21PRO00017, Signature Lounge for the
7	reason cited in D.C. Official Code Section
8	2574(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a
9	second?
10	MEMBER CROCKETT: Ms. Crockett
11	seconds.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett
13	has seconded the motion. I'll now take a roll
14	call for what's on the motion that has been
15	properly seconded by Ms. Crockett.
16	Mr. Short?
17	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?
19	MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I
20	agree.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?
22	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
25	agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.

Anderson, I agree.

As it appears that the motion

As it appears that the motion has passed, I hereby give notice that ABC Board will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting and ABC Board continues its role pursuant to Sections 574(b) of the Open Meetings Act.

I want to thank everyone for their presentation today. I know it's been a long day and so I want to thank everyone who has participated and the Board will deliberate, look at everything presented, review the documents and evidence and carefully consider the evidence presented and make a decision what we believe is the best interest of the residents overall of the District of Columbia.

So I just want to thank you everyone for their participation. And if you give me one more minute, I will close the record officially for the day.

All right. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and according to Title 3, Chapter 405, Office of Open Government, I move that ABC Board hold a closed meeting on July 15, 2021, for

1	the purpose of discussing and hearing reports
2	concerning ongoing or planned investigation of
3	alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violation
4	of all regulations and seek legal advice from our
5	legal counsel as the Board's investigative
6	agenda, legal agenda, licensing agenda, budgeting
7	line 15, 20, 21 as published in the D.C. Register
8	on July 9th, 2021. Is there a second?
9	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
11	seconded the motion. I will now take a role
12	call, go through the motion before it now that's
13	its been seconded.
14	Mr. Short?
15	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?
17	MEMBER CROCKETT: Raif Crockett, I
18	agree.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?
20	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Edward Grandis,
23	I agree.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
25	Anderson, I agree.

As it appears that the motion has 1 2 passed. I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold the beforementioned closed hearing. 3 Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 4 5 notice will also be posted on the ABC's Board 6 hearing room bulletin board, placed on electronic calendar, on ABRA's website, and published on 7 8 D.C. Register in a timely manner as practical. I would like to thank the parties for 9 10 their active participation today. I would also like to thank the Board members for their active 11 12 participation today and I also like to thank the 13 public who has tuned in today for this hearing. 14 We are now formally adjourned for the 15 I now direct all Board members to return to 16 executive session for further development. 17 Have a great night and thank you very 18 much. 19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 8:05 p.m.) 20 21 22 23 24 25

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## <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Before: DCABRA

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Court Reporter

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