

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

-----  
IN THE MATTER OF: :  
 :  
 :  
 Empire, LLC, :  
 t/a Empire Lounge :  
 1909 9th Street NW : Fact Finding  
 License #110702 : Hearing  
 Retailer CT - ANC 1B :  
 Case #21-251-00016 :  
 :  
 (Chief of Police Hearing :  
 Request, June 21, 2021) :  
 -----

Wednesday  
August 11, 2021

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

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

ALSO PRESENT:  
  
SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff  
RICHARD BIANCO, Licensee's Counsel  
JOHN FIORENTINE, DC ABRA Supervisory  
Investigator  
DESSALEGN NIGUSSIE, Licensee

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

2 1:59 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The  
4 next case on our calendar is Case Number  
5 21-251-00016, Empire Lounge, License Number  
6 110702.

7 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate  
8 the rights of the parties in this case. We  
9 should have the owner, the owner's  
10 representative, Mr. Bianco, and I believe that's  
11 the Supervisory Investigator, John Fiorentine, I  
12 believe, are the parties that I'm aware of who  
13 are participating in this hearing.

14 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by.

15 Mr. Nigussie, your rights have been  
16 elevated. Investigator Fiorentine, your rights  
17 have been elevated, Mr. Bianco, your rights have  
18 been elevated. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.  
20 Andrews.

21 Mr. Bianco, is there anyone else that  
22 you're expecting to participate, anyone here?

23 MR. BIANCO: There is not, Mr.  
24 Anderson. So it's just going to be myself and  
25 the owner of the establishment, Mr. Nigussie, who

1 is present with us.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
3 thank you. All right, Mr. Bianco, can you please  
4 identify yourself for the record and please spell  
5 or state your name, please?

6 MR. BIANCO: Sure. My name is Richard  
7 Bianco, last name is spelled B-I-A-N-C-O. I am  
8 Counsel for the Licensee.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.  
10 Nigussie, can you please spell and state your  
11 name for the record, please?

12 MR. NIGUSSIE: Yes. My name is  
13 Dessalegn Nigussie. Last name is spelled as N-I-  
14 G-U-S-S-I-E. I'm the owner of Empire Lounge.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how do you  
16 spell your first name, sir?

17 MR. NIGUSSIE: I'm sorry, D-E-S-S-A-L-  
18 E-G-N.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.  
20 And Mr. Fiorentine, can you please spell your  
21 name, state and spell your name for the record,  
22 please?

23 MR. FIORENTINE: Yes, hello, John  
24 Fiorentine, J-O-H-N F-I-O-R-E-N-T-I-N-E.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.

1 Fiorentine. And what's your relationship to  
2 ABRA, sir, please?

3 MR. FIORENTINE: I am a supervisory  
4 investigator.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
6 thank you.

7 All right, the purpose of this hearing  
8 is that we received a letter from the Chief of  
9 Police on June 21st, 2021, requesting a fact  
10 finding hearing regarding an incident that took  
11 place on June 20th, 2021. And so that is the  
12 purpose that we're here today.

13 As you are aware, Mr. Bianco, that  
14 this is a fact finding hearing. The Board is  
15 just gathering information regarding the incident  
16 and whether or not the Board will take any  
17 further action regarding this incident.

18 As you are aware, the Board cannot  
19 order the establishment to take any specific  
20 action. The establishment can volunteer to take  
21 action. If it seems appropriate, the Board  
22 members might ask. However, that's basically  
23 where we are. So I just want to state, as you  
24 are aware, where we are.

25 So what I will do is that I'll have

1 the Investigator, Mr. Fiorentine, he will give an  
2 overview. And then you are able to respond on  
3 behalf of your client.

4 So I'll start with Mr. Fiorentine.  
5 Can you just let us know how you became familiar  
6 with this establishment, and what is it that you  
7 did, and what did you find out, sir, okay?

8 MR. FIORENTINE: Yes, sir. So on  
9 Sunday, June 20th, at approximately 4:00 a.m., I  
10 received a notification from the Metropolitan  
11 Police Department on the ABRA hotline that an  
12 assault with deadly weapon, gun, had transpired  
13 in front of Empire Lounge located at 1909 9th  
14 Street NW.

15 At approximately 4:30 a.m., I arrived  
16 on scene where I met with officers and detectives  
17 of the Metropolitan Police Department who  
18 provided me with an overview of what had  
19 transpired. I conducted staff interviews and  
20 reviewed security camera footage.

21 In short, at approximately 3:37 a.m.  
22 a male suspect fired a single round and struck a  
23 male victim outside the establishment. The male  
24 suspect fled the location, and the male victim  
25 crossed the street where he sought assistance

1 from nearby Metropolitan Police officers.

2 Neither the victim nor the suspect had  
3 entered the establishment and, of note, the  
4 weekend in question was a holiday extension  
5 weekend for Juneteenth.

6 Following the investigation, a check  
7 of ABRA records indicated the establishment does  
8 have a settlement agreement but does not have a  
9 security plan. And the establishment cooperated  
10 with both the Metropolitan Police Department and  
11 the ABRA investigation. And it was my  
12 understanding that the Metropolitan Police  
13 Department has identified the suspect.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, Mr.  
15 Fiorentine - ah, Mr. Nigussie, are you the  
16 driver or are you a passenger, sir?

17 MR. NIGUSSIE: I am the passenger,  
18 sir, I'm sorry.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, go  
20 ahead. Okay, is that the extent of your  
21 investigation, sir?

22 MR. FIORENTINE: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you  
24 a quick question. Has it been determined whether  
25 or not these two individuals, were they in this

1 establishment?

2 MR. FIORENTINE: Negative, sir. The  
3 suspect attempted to enter the establishment but  
4 decided to turn around and engage in a verbal  
5 altercation that did not involve the suspect.  
6 While engaged in that conversation, the suspect  
7 then took action against the victim. And I have  
8 the security camera footage that might perhaps  
9 provide more clarity than my words.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, do you  
11 want to show us, are you able to show us the  
12 footage?

13 MR. FIORENTINE: I am, if Ms. Andrews  
14 would do the permissions to share.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,  
16 can you please give Mr. Fiorentine the ability to  
17 share his screen, please?

18 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by.

19 Okay, Mr. Fiorentine, you can share  
20 your screen now.

21 MR. FIORENTINE: So the security  
22 camera video starts at 3:37 a.m. The  
23 establishment is located in the lower right-hand  
24 corner. This is the east side of the street with  
25 U Street located to the upper right-hand corner,

1 and we're looking out onto 9th Street NW.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. FIORENTINE: And that concludes  
5 the video.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Actually, Mr.  
7 Fiorentine?

8 MR. FIORENTINE: Yes?

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What time was  
10 this?

11 MR. FIORENTINE: This was at 3:37 in  
12 the morning. The video starts at 3:37 and the  
13 shooting transpired at roughly 3:40.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I know this  
15 is the extended hours, so how long could this  
16 establishment sell and serve? When were the  
17 operating hours for this day?

18 MR. FIORENTINE: They could sell and  
19 serve alcohol until 4:00 a.m. But they could  
20 operate for 24 hours.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
22 right, you can close your screen, sir. Thanks.  
23 Yeah, you can - all right, thanks.

24 And did the establishment cooperate  
25 with your investigation?



1                   MR. FIORENTINE: The establishment  
2 did. Staff of the establishment remained on  
3 scene. They did not contaminate the crime scene.  
4 The crime scene was preserved. They provided  
5 video footage to both the Metropolitan Police  
6 Department and to myself.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
8 thank you. I know that in this particular case  
9 it appears that the victim was trying to enter  
10 the establishment, but he was never allowed in.  
11 Do you know if this individual was, at any point,  
12 inside the establishment? Do you know, prior to  
13 this incident?

14                   MR. FIORENTINE: Based on my  
15 investigation, he had not entered the  
16 establishment that night.

17                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank  
18 you.

19                   MR. FIORENTINE: Yes.

20                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any  
21 questions by any other Board members of the  
22 Investigator?

23                   MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman?

24                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.  
25 Grandis?

1                   MEMBER GRANDIS: This has already been  
2                   stated, but just for my clarification, the  
3                   footage, nor information that the Inspector was  
4                   able to gather, indicated that either the  
5                   assailant or the victim had been in that venue?  
6                   Is that correct?

7                   MR. FIORENTINE: Mr. Grandis, that is  
8                   correct. The suspect, it is believed, arrived  
9                   in a vehicle. The female who points to the  
10                  victim was off to stage left, out of screen. He  
11                  arrived in the vehicle. The female pointed that  
12                  individual out.

13                  The Metropolitan Police Department  
14                  investigation indicated that there was some sort  
15                  of a dialogue between that female and the victim  
16                  and that, once the male companion of that female  
17                  arrived on scene, she pointed him out. He was  
18                  not a party to that original verbal altercation,  
19                  and he entered, confronted the victim, and then  
20                  shot him once.

21                  MEMBER GRANDIS: So then the woman who  
22                  was out of the screen

23                  MR. FIORENTINE: Yes?

24                  MEMBER GRANDIS: -- had she been a  
25                  guest or a customer in that venue as far as -

1 MR. FIORENTINE: Based on my  
2 investigation, no.

3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, any  
5 other questions by any of the Board members?

6 Mr. Bianco, any questions of the  
7 Investigator?

8 MR. BIANCO: No questions for me.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco,  
10 just, you or the owner can tell me. So what were  
11 your operating hours that day?

12 MR. BIANCO: So my client was  
13 operating until 4:00 a.m. Although they had the  
14 right to serve up until 4:00 a.m., they had  
15 actually already had the last call at 3:30,  
16 although they would typically, and did in this  
17 instance, continue to admit people to come in and  
18 pick up their friend or dance right up until the  
19 last moments that they're allowed to be open.

20 So they weren't serving at this point.  
21 And I believe that was substantiated by Mr.  
22 Fiorentine when he did his walkthrough and by MPD  
23 when they did their walkthrough. Based on the  
24 report, and as far as I can tell from speaking  
25 with my Client, the police arrived on the scene

1 within seconds as they were already stationed on  
2 9th Street. And my Client fully cooperated in  
3 all respects with both MPD and ABRA.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.  
5 Bianco. You know, it's never my job to ask any  
6 Licensee about their business practice. However,  
7 the establishment closes at 4 o'clock. That's  
8 their representation.

9 MR. BIANCO: Correct.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the video  
11 was 3:37. And it appears that there is a  
12 significant amount of people who are attempting  
13 to go into the establishment at 3:37. Is there a  
14 cover charge to get in the establishment?

15 MR. BIANCO: That I'm not sure about  
16 Dessalegn, are able to say if there's a cover  
17 charge at that point?

18 MR. NIGUSSIE: Yeah. Well, we don't  
19 charge cover charge, like, for an hour up to the  
20 closing, but we -

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. I can't  
22 hear you, sir. You don't charge a cover charge  
23 what?

24 MR. NIGUSSIE: No, we have a cover  
25 charge license. But we don't charge cover

1 charge, like, after 2 o'clock to the closing.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you don't  
3 charge. So when did you stop charging folks on  
4 this date? What time did you stop?

5 MR. NIGUSSIE: About 3:00 a.m.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?

7 MR. NIGUSSIE: At 3:00 a.m.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 3:00 a.m., so  
9 you stopped your cover charge at 3:00 a.m. But  
10 I'm just asking a question, sir. Why is it that  
11 at 3:37 that there is a line of people trying to  
12 get into your establishment?

13 As you've stated, and our  
14 investigators have also stated, there was no  
15 service after 3:30. At least we can't prove that  
16 there was any service after 3:30, but you already  
17 had the last call. So why is it that you have a  
18 whole bunch of people still trying to get into  
19 the establishment when you've already called last  
20 call, and you're going to close at 4:00 a.m.? I  
21 mean, is this a good practice?

22 MR. NIGUSSIE: That's not. So the  
23 normal practice is that we stop serving alcohol  
24 half an hour before we close. And people might  
25 come up to pick up waitresses and promoters can

1       come in. But we don't serve alcohol. But in  
2       this specific incidence, the Metropolitan Police,  
3       they walked in right away. The panel is clear  
4       when they walk in. We don't have anybody. I  
5       know how it looks from the video, but we don't  
6       have anybody there.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking you  
8       a different question, sir. Is it appropriate,  
9       you're closing on this date. You have already  
10      had last call. Why is there still a line of  
11      people trying to get into your establishment at  
12      3:37 when you have already - you're closing in  
13      23 minutes. You have already had last call. Why  
14      is it that you're having all these people trying  
15      to enter your establishment? That's all I'm  
16      trying to ask you. Is this a good practice, sir?

17                   (Simultaneous speaking.)

18                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?

19                   MR. NIGUSSIE: That's not (audio  
20      interference) I'm aware.

21                   (Simultaneous speaking.)

22                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear  
23      you, because you're moving, and your Internet  
24      connection is not stable. So I'm not sure how  
25      much longer you'll be driving, sir, but I can't

1 get an answer, because your Internet connection  
2 is not stable.

3 MR. NIGUSSIE: Okay. Can you hear me  
4 now?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you,  
6 sir, but this is my problem, sir.

7 MR. NIGUSSIE: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This hearing  
9 was scheduled for 1:30. I don't understand why  
10 is that you cannot be in a stable establishment,  
11 in a stable secure location to do this hearing.  
12 You know, my problem with this is that you know  
13 about this. So you can schedule your day to be  
14 in a secure location to do this hearing.

15 I can't have you - we're doing a  
16 hearing and the screen is moving. I can't hear  
17 you because you're - and this is a planned,  
18 scheduled hearing, sir. I appreciate the fact if  
19 you can be in a secure location where your  
20 Internet is working so I can hear what you're  
21 saying.

22 I'm not saying that you - I  
23 appreciate the fact that you cooperated with our  
24 investigator. It appears, based on the video,  
25 that you did not do anything correct. I'm asking

1 you about your business practices, because if  
2 you're already closed, I don't see why there's a  
3 crowd of people still trying to get into your  
4 establishment.

5 MR. NIGUSSIE: I apologize, sir. I'm  
6 really sorry. I had an emergency, that's why I  
7 get into Uber.

8 Pull over for me, if you don't mind,  
9 sir.

10 But yes, that's not a good practice.  
11 Normally we allow people in up to half an hour  
12 before we close if they are family of the  
13 employees, or the promoters. In this specific  
14 case, I'm not sure who those people are. But  
15 perhaps you could verify.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I would ask,  
17 sir, for you to revisit this issue. Because I  
18 know that if I'm going - if you let me into your  
19 establishment at 3:30, 3:40, and you're going to  
20 close at 4 o'clock, I can't buy liquor, that  
21 cannot necessarily be a positive experience.

22 And that's just something that I would  
23 like you, sir, to revisit in your business. I'm  
24 just asking to look at that issue. Because there  
25 is - I don't think it's good business practice



1 that you have already done last call, so you're  
2 not selling alcohol anymore. And then there's a  
3 crowd of people still trying to get inside your  
4 establishment.

5 I mean, there's a difference if you  
6 have a crowd of people and you have already told  
7 them that we're closed, and people want to come  
8 in, and then you're not letting them in. But  
9 you're actively letting people into the  
10 establishment.

11 And I don't know if this could have  
12 been preventable, but it doesn't appear to me  
13 that this is a good business practice, to be  
14 allowing folks into, that many people into the  
15 establishment when you have already done last  
16 call, and everyone has to be out by 4 o'clock.

17 MR. NIGUSSIE: I understand, sir.

18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.  
20 Grandis?

21 MEMBER GRANDIS: I just really want to  
22 underscore my support for all the comments you've  
23 just made. Because this is not the first hearing  
24 that we've been confronted with a situation where  
25 there seems to be a bit of chaos towards the end

1 of the evening on sidewalks and particularly on  
2 Licensees who requested to come to these fact  
3 findings in moving vehicles.

4 I agree with you that I think it's not  
5 helpful to the Licensee to be in an unstable  
6 environment and we have to - we are challenged  
7 with being able to hear them. And I just would  
8 like the future to see that our Licensees respect  
9 this process and be in a stable, secure  
10 environment as you suggest.

11 I want to thank you very much for  
12 making that part of the record. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
14 thank you, Mr. Grandis. Any other comments by  
15 any of the investigators, I'm sorry, any of the  
16 Board members, or Mr. Bianco, or Mr. Nigussie?

17 MR. BIANCO: Not from the Licensee.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
19 Thank you very much for your presentation today,  
20 Mr. Fiorentine, Mr. Nigussie, and Mr. Bianco.  
21 The Board will take this matter under advisement.  
22 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

23 MR. FIORENTINE: Thank you, sir.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
25 went off the record at 2:23 p.m.)

**A**

**a.m** 5:9,15,21 7:22 8:19  
11:13,14 13:5,7,8,9  
13:20  
**ability** 7:16  
**able** 5:2 7:11 10:4 12:16  
18:7  
**above-entitled** 18:24  
**ABRA** 1:21,22 4:2 5:11  
6:7,11 12:3  
**action** 4:17,20,21 7:7  
**actively** 17:9  
**admit** 11:17  
**advisement** 18:21  
**agree** 18:4  
**agreement** 6:8  
**ah** 6:15  
**ahead** 6:20  
**alcohol** 8:19 13:23 14:1  
17:2  
**Alcoholic** 1:2,13  
**ALIYA** 1:18  
**allow** 16:11  
**allowed** 9:10 11:19  
**allowing** 17:14  
**altercation** 7:5 10:18  
**amount** 12:12  
**ANC** 1:8  
**Anderson** 1:14,17 2:3  
2:19,24 3:2,9,15,19  
3:25 4:5 6:14,19,23  
7:10,15 8:2,6,9,14,21  
9:7,17,20,24 11:4,9  
12:4,10,21 13:2,6,8  
14:7,18,22 15:5,8  
16:16 17:19 18:13,18  
**Andrews** 1:21 2:7,14,20  
7:13,15,18  
**answer** 15:1  
**anybody** 14:4,6  
**anymore** 17:2  
**apologize** 16:5  
**appear** 17:12  
**appears** 9:9 12:11  
15:24  
**appreciate** 15:18,23  
**appropriate** 4:21 14:8  
**approximately** 5:9,15  
5:21  
**arrived** 5:15 10:8,11,17  
11:25  
**asking** 13:10 14:7  
15:25 16:24  
**assailant** 10:5  
**assault** 5:12  
**assistance** 5:25  
**attempted** 7:3  
**attempting** 12:12

**audio** 14:19  
**August** 1:12  
**aware** 2:12 4:13,18,24  
14:20

**B**

**B-I-A-N-C-O** 3:7  
**based** 9:14 11:1,23  
15:24  
**basically** 4:22  
**behalf** 5:3  
**believe** 2:10,12 11:21  
**believed** 10:8  
**Beverage** 1:2,13  
**Bianco** 1:22 2:10,17,21  
2:23 3:3,6,7 4:13 11:6  
11:8,9,12 12:5,9,15  
18:16,17,20  
**bit** 17:25  
**Board** 1:2,13 4:14,16  
4:18,21 9:21 11:5  
18:16,21  
**BOBBY** 1:17  
**bunch** 13:18  
**business** 12:6 16:1,23  
16:25 17:13  
**buy** 16:20

**C**

**calendar** 2:4  
**call** 11:15 13:17,20  
14:10,13 17:1,16  
**called** 13:19  
**camera** 5:20 7:8,22  
**case** 1:8 2:4,4,8 9:8  
16:14  
**CATO** 1:17  
**Chair** 2:18  
**Chairman** 9:23 17:18  
**Chairperson** 1:14,17  
2:3,19 3:2,9,15,19,25  
4:5 6:14,19,23 7:10  
7:15 8:2,6,9,14,21 9:7  
9:17,20,24 11:4,9  
12:4,10,21 13:2,6,8  
14:7,18,22 15:5,8  
16:16 17:19 18:13,18  
**challenged** 18:6  
**chaos** 17:25  
**charge** 12:14,17,19,19  
12:22,22,25,25 13:1,3  
13:9  
**charging** 13:3  
**check** 6:6  
**Chief** 1:9 4:8  
**clarification** 10:2  
**clarity** 7:9  
**clear** 14:3

**client** 5:3 11:12,25 12:2  
**close** 8:22 13:20,24  
16:12,20  
**closed** 16:2 17:7  
**closes** 12:7  
**closing** 12:20 13:1 14:9  
14:12  
**COLUMBIA** 1:1  
**come** 11:17 13:25 14:1  
17:7 18:2  
**comments** 17:22 18:14  
**companion** 10:16  
**concludes** 8:4  
**conducted** 5:19  
**confronted** 10:19 17:24  
**connection** 14:24 15:1  
**contaminate** 9:3  
**continue** 11:17  
**Control** 1:2,13  
**conversation** 7:6  
**cooperate** 8:24  
**cooperated** 6:9 12:2  
15:23  
**corner** 7:24,25  
**correct** 10:6,8 12:9  
15:25  
**Counsel** 1:22 3:8  
**cover** 12:14,16,19,22  
12:24,25 13:9  
**crime** 9:3,4  
**CROCKETT** 1:18  
**crossed** 5:25  
**crowd** 16:3 17:6  
**crown** 17:3  
**CT** 1:8  
**customer** 10:25

**D**

**D-E-S-S-A-L-** 3:17  
**dance** 11:18  
**date** 13:4 14:9  
**day** 8:17 11:11 15:13  
18:22  
**DC** 1:21,22  
**deadly** 5:12  
**decided** 7:4  
**Department** 5:11,17  
6:10,13 9:6 10:13  
**Dessalegn** 1:23 3:13  
12:16  
**detectives** 5:16  
**determined** 6:24  
**dialogue** 10:15  
**difference** 17:5  
**different** 14:8  
**DISTRICT** 1:1  
**doing** 15:15  
**Donovan** 1:14,17

**driver** 6:16  
**driving** 14:25

**E**

**E-G-N** 3:18  
**east** 7:24  
**EDWARD** 1:18  
**either** 10:4  
**elevate** 2:7  
**elevated** 2:16,17,18  
**emergency** 16:6  
**Empire** 1:6,6 2:5 3:14  
5:13  
**employees** 16:13  
**engage** 7:4  
**engaged** 7:6  
**enter** 7:3 9:9 14:15  
**entered** 6:3 9:15 10:19  
**environment** 18:6,10  
**establishment** 2:25  
4:19,20 5:6,23 6:3,7,9  
7:1,3,23 8:16,24 9:1,2  
9:10,12,16 12:7,13,14  
13:12,19 14:11,15  
15:10 16:4,19 17:4,10  
17:15  
**evening** 18:1  
**expecting** 2:22  
**experience** 16:21  
**extended** 8:15  
**extension** 6:4  
**extent** 6:20

**F**

**F-I-O-R-E-N-T-I-N-E**  
3:24  
**fact** 1:7 4:9,14 15:18,23  
18:2  
**familiar** 5:5  
**family** 16:12  
**far** 10:25 11:24  
**female** 10:9,11,15,16  
**find** 5:7  
**finding** 1:7 4:10,14  
**findings** 18:3  
**Fiorentine** 1:22 2:11,16  
3:20,23,24 4:1,3 5:1,4  
5:8 6:15,22 7:2,13,16  
7:19,21 8:4,7,8,11,18  
9:1,14,19 10:7,23  
11:1,22 18:20,23  
**fired** 5:22  
**first** 3:16 17:23  
**fled** 5:24  
**folks** 13:3 17:14  
**Following** 6:6  
**footage** 5:20 7:8,12 9:5  
10:3

friend 11:18  
front 5:13  
fully 12:2  
further 4:17  
future 18:8

**G**

**G-U-S-S-I-E** 3:14  
gather 10:4  
gathering 4:15  
give 5:1 7:16  
**Grandis** 1:18 9:23,25  
10:1,7,21,24 11:3  
17:18,20,21 18:14  
guest 10:25  
gun 5:12

**H**

half 13:24 16:11  
**HANSEN** 1:19  
hear 12:22 14:22 15:3,5  
15:16,20 18:7  
hearing 1:7,9 2:13 4:7  
4:10,14 15:8,11,14,16  
15:18 17:23  
hello 3:23  
helpful 18:5  
holiday 6:4  
hotline 5:11  
hour 12:19 13:24 16:11  
hours 8:15,17,20 11:11

**I**

identified 6:13  
identify 3:4  
incidence 14:2  
incident 4:10,15,17  
9:13  
indicated 6:7 10:4,14  
individual 9:11 10:12  
individuals 6:25  
information 4:15 10:3  
inside 9:12 17:3  
Inspector 10:3  
instance 11:17  
interference 14:20  
Internet 14:23 15:1,20  
interviews 5:19  
investigation 6:6,11,21  
8:25 9:15 10:14 11:2  
investigator 1:23 2:11  
2:16 4:4 5:1 9:22 11:7  
15:24  
investigators 13:14  
18:15  
involve 7:5  
issue 16:17,24

**J**

**J-O-H-N** 3:24  
**JAMES** 1:19  
**JENI** 1:19  
job 12:5  
John 1:22 2:11 3:23  
JR 1:17,19  
June 1:10 4:9,11 5:9  
Juneteenth 6:5

**K****L**

left 10:10  
letter 4:8  
letting 17:8,9  
license 1:7 2:5 12:25  
**Licensee** 1:23 3:8 12:6  
18:5,17  
**Licensee's** 1:22  
**Licensees** 18:2,8  
line 13:11 14:10  
liquor 16:20  
**LLC** 1:6  
located 5:13 7:23,25  
location 5:24 15:11,14  
15:19  
long 8:15  
longer 14:25  
look 16:24  
looking 8:1  
looks 14:5  
Lounge 1:6 2:5 3:14  
5:13  
lower 7:23

**M**

making 18:12  
male 5:22,23,23,24  
10:16  
matter 1:5 18:21,24  
mean 13:21 17:5  
**MEETING** 1:3  
**Member** 1:17,18,18,19  
1:19 9:23 10:1,21,24  
11:3 17:18,21  
**members** 4:22 9:21  
11:5 18:16  
met 1:14 5:16  
**Metropolitan** 5:10,17  
6:1,10,12 9:5 10:13  
14:2  
mind 16:8  
minutes 14:13  
moments 11:19  
morning 8:12  
moving 14:23 15:16  
18:3

**MPD** 11:22 12:3

**N**

**N-I** 3:13  
name 3:5,6,7,11,12,13  
3:16,21,21  
nearby 6:1  
necessarily 16:21  
**Negative** 7:2  
**Neither** 6:2  
never 9:10 12:5  
night 9:16  
**Nigussie** 1:23 2:15,25  
3:10,12,13,17 6:15,17  
12:18,24 13:5,7,22  
14:19 15:3,7 16:5  
17:17 18:16,20  
normal 13:23  
**Normally** 16:11  
note 6:3  
notification 5:10  
**Number** 2:4,5  
**NW** 1:7 5:14 8:1

**O**

**o'clock** 12:7 13:1 16:20  
17:16  
officers 5:16 6:1  
once 10:16,20  
open 11:19  
operate 8:20  
operating 8:17 11:11  
11:13  
order 4:19  
original 10:18  
outside 5:23  
overview 5:2,18  
owner 2:9,25 3:14  
11:10  
owner's 2:9

**P**

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**  
2:1  
p.m 2:2 18:25  
panel 14:3  
part 18:12  
participate 2:22  
participating 2:13  
particular 9:8  
particularly 18:1  
parties 2:8,12  
party 10:18  
passenger 6:16,17  
Pause 8:3  
people 11:17 12:12  
13:11,18,24 14:11,14  
16:3,11,14 17:3,6,7,9

17:14  
permissions 7:14  
pick 11:18 13:25  
place 4:11  
plan 6:9  
planned 15:17  
please 2:7 3:3,4,5,10,11  
3:20,22 4:2 7:16,17  
point 9:11 11:20 12:17  
pointed 10:11,17  
points 10:9  
police 1:9 4:9 5:11,17  
6:1,10,12 9:5 10:13  
11:25 14:2  
positive 16:21  
practice 12:6 13:21,23  
14:16 16:10,25 17:13  
practices 16:1  
present 1:16,20 3:1  
presentation 18:19  
preserved 9:4  
presiding 1:14  
preventable 17:12  
prior 9:12  
problem 15:6,12  
process 18:9  
promoters 13:25 16:13  
prove 13:15  
provide 7:9  
provided 5:18 9:4  
Pull 16:8  
purpose 4:7,12

**Q**

question 6:4,24 13:10  
14:8  
questions 9:21 11:5,6,8  
quick 6:24

**R**

**RAFI** 1:18  
received 4:8 5:10  
record 3:4,11,21 18:12  
18:25  
records 6:7  
regarding 4:10,15,17  
relationship 4:1  
remained 9:2  
report 11:24  
representation 12:8  
representative 2:10  
Request 1:10  
requested 18:2  
requesting 4:9  
respect 18:8  
respects 12:3  
respond 5:2  
Retailer 1:8

reviewed 5:20  
 revisit 16:17,23  
 Richard 1:22 3:6  
 right-hand 7:23,25  
 rights 2:8,15,16,17  
 roughly 8:13  
 round 5:22

**S**

S 1:18  
 saying 15:21,22  
 scene 5:16 9:3,3,4  
 10:17 11:25  
 schedule 15:13  
 scheduled 15:9,18  
 screen 7:17,20 8:22  
 10:10,22 15:16  
 seconds 12:1  
 secure 15:11,14,19  
 18:9  
 security 5:20 6:9 7:8,21  
 sell 8:16,18  
 selling 17:2  
 serve 8:16,19 11:14  
 14:1  
 service 13:15,16  
 serving 11:20 13:23  
 settlement 6:8  
 share 7:14,17,19  
 shooting 8:13  
 short 1:19 5:21  
 shot 10:20  
 show 7:11,11  
 side 7:24  
 sidewalks 18:1  
 significant 12:12  
 SIMONE 1:21  
 Simultaneous 14:17,21  
 single 5:22  
 sir 3:16,19 4:2 5:7,8  
 6:16,18,21,22 7:2  
 8:22 12:22 13:10 14:8  
 14:16,25 15:6,6,18  
 16:5,9,17,23 17:17  
 18:23  
 situation 17:24  
 sorry 3:17 6:18 13:6  
 14:18 16:6 18:15  
 sort 10:14  
 sought 5:25  
 speaking 11:24 14:17  
 14:21  
 specific 4:19 14:2  
 16:13  
 spell 3:4,10,16,20,21  
 spelled 3:7,13  
 stable 14:24 15:2,10,11  
 18:9

staff 1:21 5:19 9:2  
 stage 10:10  
 stand 2:14 7:18  
 start 5:4  
 starts 7:22 8:12  
 state 3:5,10,21 4:23  
 stated 10:2 13:13,14  
 stationed 12:1  
 stop 13:3,4,23  
 stopped 13:9  
 street 1:7 5:14,25 7:24  
 7:25 8:1 12:2  
 struck 5:22  
 substantiated 11:21  
 suggest 18:10  
 Sunday 5:9  
 supervisory 1:22 2:11  
 4:3  
 support 17:22  
 suspect 5:22,24 6:2,13  
 7:3,5,6 10:8

**T**

t/a 1:6  
 tell 11:10,24  
 thank 2:19 3:3,19,25  
 4:6 9:8,17 11:3 18:11  
 18:12,14,19,22,23  
 thanks 8:22,23  
 today 4:12 18:19  
 told 17:6  
 transpired 5:12,19 8:13  
 trying 9:9 13:11,18  
 14:11,14,16 16:3 17:3  
 turn 7:4  
 two 6:25  
 typically 11:16

**U**

U 7:25  
 Uber 16:7  
 underscore 17:22  
 understand 15:9 17:17  
 understanding 6:12  
 unstable 18:5  
 upper 7:25

**V**

vehicle 10:9,11  
 vehicles 18:3  
 venue 10:5,25  
 verbal 7:4 10:18  
 verify 16:15  
 victim 5:23,24 6:2 7:7  
 9:9 10:5,10,15,19  
 video 7:22 8:5,12 9:5  
 12:10 14:5 15:24  
 videoconference 1:14

volunteer 4:20

**W**

W 1:14,17  
 waitresses 13:25  
 walk 14:4  
 walked 14:3  
 walkthrough 11:22,23  
 weapon 5:12  
 WebEx 1:14  
 Wednesday 1:11  
 weekend 6:4,5  
 went 18:25  
 weren't 11:20  
 woman 10:21  
 words 7:9  
 working 15:20

**X**

**Y**

**Z**

**0**

**1**

1:30 15:9  
 1:59 2:2  
 11 1:12  
 110702 1:7 2:6  
 1909 1:7 5:13  
 1B 1:8

**2**

2 13:1  
 2:23 18:25  
 2021 1:10,12 4:9,11  
 20th 4:11 5:9  
 21 1:10  
 21-251-00016 1:8 2:5  
 21st 4:9  
 23 14:13  
 24 8:20

**3**

3:00 13:5,7,8,9  
 3:30 11:15 13:15,16  
 16:19  
 3:37 5:21 7:22 8:11,12  
 12:11,13 13:11 14:12  
 3:40 8:13 16:19

**4**

4 12:7 16:20 17:16  
 4:00 5:9 8:19 11:13,14  
 13:20  
 4:30 5:15

**5**  
**6**  
**7**  
**8**  
**9**  
 9th 1:7 5:13 8:1 12:2

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Empire Lounge

Before: DCABRA

Date: 08-11-21

Place: teleconference

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



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701