## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD + + + + +
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF .

The Dirty Goose, LP, :
t/a The Dirty Goose :
913 U Street NW :
Retailer CT - ANC 1B : Fact Finding
License \#101299 : Hearing
Case \#22-CMP-00061 :

Increas
Without Board Approval) :
Wednesday
August 31, 2022
The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:
DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member
ALSO PRESENT:
RICHARD BIANCO, Licensee's Counsel
MIKEA NELSON, DC ABRA Investigator
DAVID PARKER, Licensee
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case in our calendar is Case No. 22-CMP-00061, The Dirty Goose, License No. 101299. Mr. Oriana - I will get it right one of these days. Can you please elevate the rights of the Licensee. Please elevate the parties in this case, sir.

MR. ORIANA: Richard Bianco, your access has been elevated. Mikea Nelson, your access has been elevated. That is all, Chair. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Ms. Nelson and Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Yes, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see you, Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Sorry about that. Here I am. And I should have my clients joining us. Is - -

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your clients names, sir?

MR. BIANCO: Justin Parker and David Parker.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Justin Parker and David Parker, please identify -- please
identify yourself for the record so we can elevate. I think you said David Parker said that he's present. So can his rights be elevated please?

MR. ORIANA: David Parker, your access has been elevated. That is all, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Is David Parker and Justin Parker together or is Justin Parker separate, Mr. Bianco, are you aware?

MR. BIANCO: I'm not sure. Justin may not have made it. Let me inquire. David's the General Manager. Justin is one of the owners. They are related. David, is Justin with you?

MR. PARKER: Justin is not going to be with us today.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. Thanks, David.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. You may proceed. Mr. Parker, if you have a camera, please turn your camera on as I enjoy seeing the parties (audio interference).

MR. PARKER: Okay. You got it.
MR. BIANCO: Thanks, Justin.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Good morning. Thank you, everyone. Mr. Bianco,
can you please spell and state your name for the record please?

MR. BIANCO: Sure. Richard Bianco. R-I-C-H-A-R-D B-I-A-N-C-O, council for the Licensee.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. Parker, can you please spell and state your name for the record and your role with the establishment?

MR. PARKER: David Parker, D-A-V-I-D P-A-R-K-E-R. I'm the General Manager of the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, good morning. And Ms. Nelson, can you please spell and state your name for the record please? I can't hear you, Ms. Nelson. Still can't hear you.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: How about now?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you, but if you can turn your volume up a little bit more, ma'am.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Is that better?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A little
better. We can also do better, but please spell and state your name for the record please.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: M-I-K-E-A, last
name $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{L}-\mathrm{S}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{N}$.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For some strange reason, Ms. Nelson, you -- either you're having some technical difficulties, so $I$ did not hear the proper spelling of your name.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I can try to disconnect and reconnect.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Please, ma'am.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Thank you. Just a moment. Mr. Chair, can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you better, ma'am. Thank you. I can't see you, but I can hear you better this time.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: There we are.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And perfect, thank you. Good morning. Good morning, ma'am. All right. This is a fact-finding hearing. And the purpose of this fact-finding hearing is that on June 25, 2022, an ABRA investigator entered the establishment and believed that it was overcrowded. And so we are having a fact-finding hearing today to make a determination whether or not this was true.

As you are aware, Mr. Bianco, this is
a fact-finding hearing. The Board has not made a final decision. Because of the fact-finding hearing, the Board cannot order the licensee to take any action. We're just investigating this matter to see whether or not -- whether or not a violation has occurred. And the Board will make a determination whether or not it will take no further action or whether or not it will send this matter over to the Office of Attorney General for further action, depending on what information the Board gathers today at the factfinding hearing.

Any questions by anyone before we start? MR. BIANCO: None from the Licensee. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. All right. Ms. Nelson, you are the investigator in this matter. Can you please tell us from your perspective what occurred on the 25th of June 2022 please, ma'am?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. On Saturday, June 25th, 2022, at approximately 1 o'clock a.m. Supervising Investigator Mark Brashears received a hotline complaint regarding noise emanating into a resident's home from the Dirty Goose. At approximately 1:30 a.m., I
arrived at the establishment to investigate the complaint.

Prior to entering the establishment, I met with a security officer located in the front. I identified myself as an ABRA investigator and requested to speak to an ABC manager or owner of the establishment. I entered the establishment and went to the establishment's rooftop summer garden and noted that $I$ could not safely enter the establishment's summer garden due to overcrowding.

I stood on my toes and tried to elongate my body as high as I could to take photos and videos of the establishment's summer garden. Additionally, I noted that there was not a security officer at the entry of the establishment's rooftop to monitor the occupant load on the rooftop.

After reviewing the photos and video footage that I took, I realized that I could not safely enter the establishment's rooftop summer garden due to crowd. I then met with Mr. David Parker and requested to see the establishment's ABC license and to certificate occupancy. Upon reviewing the ABC license, I noted that the establishment was approved for an occupant load
of 97 patrons on its rooftop in 40 feet. I advised Mr. Parker that the establishment appeared to be over occupancy on its rooftop. And he acknowledged that he understood and advised me that the establishment would be closing soon.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now Ms. Nelson, now did you actually count the -- did you actually count how many people you thought were there?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why did you not do a count?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Due to the overcrowding with COVID, as well as Monkeypox going about in the city, $I$ did not feel safe going through the crowd at that time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now what's the occupancy number approved by the Board for each level of the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: So for the rooftop, the occupant load is approved for 97 people in 40 feet.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's for the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what about the other -- how many floors -- Explain that to me. So how many floors does this establishment have?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: The establishment, I believe has approximately two floors. I'm reviewing the $C$ of 0 as we speak. Yes, it has two floors and a roof deck. They have an approved occupant load for a total of 205.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's 205 for the floors and the rooftop. Is there a separate occupancy load for the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: On the ABC license, it just permits a total occupant load and a specific number on the establishment's summer garden.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And for the summer garden, you said was 97 -- What were those numbers again please?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: That is 97 total capacity in 40 feet.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now are ABRA investigators provided clickers as part of the
investigative tools?
INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why did you not use your clicker at that time?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Because it would permit -- it would require for me to go through crowd at the establishment. And I didn't want to put myself or my co-workers in harm's way.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do you know whether or not the establishment required to have an employee present to monitor the patrons moving -- entering and exiting the rooftop area?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. The establishment has a settlement agreement that does not require that, but they do not have a security plan.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But generally, do you know -- and if you don't know, you can say you don't know -- Do you know what our regulations require for them to have that type of security?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. Not that I'm aware.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank you. Any questions by any board member of Ms.

Nelson?
MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Grandis and Mr. Short. Go ahead, Mr. Grandis. MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.

Investigator Nelson, did you have a -- did you have a mask with you that evening?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I did.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Why wouldn't the mask have protected you from what your concerns were from going through this establishment?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Sir, it is my understanding that a mask protects you from spreading COVID to others, not necessarily COVID being spread to you. But I'm no expert in COVID. MEMBER GRANDIS: That evening, were there other establishments that you did not feel comfortable going into?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I cannot recall if $I$ received other complaints for noise with overcrowding for that night.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Do you know what the clientele for the establishments that you did go and investigate is?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. I'm not aware. I'm not familiar with the establishment. I hadn't been there often.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you very much. And thank you for your information and your testimony today. Thank you.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Thank you, sir. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much. Thank you for your report, Investigator Nelson. Investigator Nelson, isn't it a normal practice for each establishment to count the number of people on each floor and to stay within that number?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I would say it is common, but $I$ can't speak to it being a normal practice.

MEMBER SHORT: So there was noone counting -- noone from the establishment that could tell you what the count was when you said it was unsafe for you to go into the crowd?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. Not that I'm aware of.

MEMBER SHORT: So overcrowding
situations means you would have had to put yourself in harms way to try to get into a crowd that you could not negotiate because of overcrowding, which would have put you in danger. And you wouldn't have been able to properly count anyway with people in front of you, behind you, and overcrowded. Would that be a fair assessment of my statement?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I do believe that is fair to say.

MEMBER SHORT: Now the question was asked by you, the total occupancy of the establishment is 200 and some. Correct? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. MEMBER SHORT: That doesn't mean you can have 200 on the rooftop. Is that correct? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. MEMBER SHORT: Were there other occupants on other floors before you got to the roof?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: There were a few, but the other floors were scarce.

MEMBER SHORT: So they were under capacity on the other floors? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I would say.

Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So you stated pretty much that it was dangerous situation. What did you base that on, stating that it was dangerous for you on that particular day on June the 25th when you went to the rooftop at 1:30 a.m.? What were the conditions? Like describe them as best you can that caused you to call it dangerous.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I could not
safely move about the rooftop of the
establishment without having to come into close contact or touching other patrons.

MEMBER SHORT: So it was at what could be considered to be a jam point? A jam point meaning that you cannot navigate your way through that crowd unless you pushed against other people or they pushed against you. Is that correct?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: In your opinion -Well, let me ask you this. How many exit doors do they have from the rooftop to get safely to the street? How many exit doors do the people have to pass through?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: That, sir, I cannot say for sure.

MEMBER SHORT: How many doors did you pass through going into the establishment the night of your investigation?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Into the rooftop, just one.

MEMBER SHORT: No. From the entrance off of $U$ Street -- as you entered off of $U$ Street, how many other exit doors did you have to pass through to get to the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: From my memory, I would say just one. Just through the front door and then through the entryway into the establishment's rooftop from the second floor.

MEMBER SHORT: So you had to go up a set of stairways to the second floor. Correct?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: As I recall, yes.

MEMBER SHORT: And then you had to go up another stairway from the second floor to the rooftop.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I cannot say for sure, but $I$ believe so. Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you for your excellent report. And thank you for being here this morning and testifying before the

Board. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any of the board members? Prior to -- Moving on. Ms. Nelson, you perceived that this establishment was overcrowded. Why did you then not at a minimum provide them with a warning?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Sir, I was
unsure that, that is something that we can do. I was not told that, that was something that $I$ could do by my supervisor.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
right. Any other questions from the Board? All right. Mr. Bianco, do you wish to ask some questions, sir?

MR. BIANCO: Yeah, $I$ have just a couple. Good morning, Investigator. I just have a couple of questions for you. You stated that you were -- you feared for your safety and therefore didn't want to take a count of how many people were on the roof deck. How long were you up there?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I would say approximately 15 minutes.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. And do you have a
sense of how much longer it would have taken you to conduct this count?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. I can't say for sure how long it would have taken me to do that.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. Is there a reason why you didn't take a count as soon as you got up there?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Taking a count would require me to move about the crowd on the establishment's rooftop. I did not because I did not feel safe doing so.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. So what were you doing up there for 15 minutes?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Trying to take photos and monitoring from the entryway of the rooftop.

MR. BIANCO: And it's your testimony that, that took 15 minutes.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. I said that is an approximate time. I cannot say for sure how long I was on the rooftop.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. And is there a reason why you didn't ask the establishment for a count?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: When speaking with Mr. Parker, I did advise him that the establishment appeared to be overcrowded on its summer garden.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. I apologize to interrupt, Mr. Bianco. What Mr. Parker did you speak to? There are two Mr. Parkers, so just clarify what Mr. Parker you spoke to.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I apologize. Mr. David Parker.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. No, I understand what you did say to him. But is there a reason why you didn't say to him what's the count?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I apologize, sir. I don't recall if $I$ did ask what was the count or not. However, Mr. David Parker did acknowledge that he understood.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. So that would be important information though if you asked him what's the count and he either provided it and didn't provide it -- or refused to provide it. Correct?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Can you repeat that question, sir?

MR. BIANCO: Sure. Well that would be important information for you to note in your report if you asked him for the count and he either provided it or refused to provide it. Right?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. It would.

MR. BIANCO: And you most certainly would have included that information in your report since you seem by all accounts to be a diligent investigator. Right?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
MR. BIANCO: So it's fair to say that you didn't ask him what the count was, isn't it? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I cannot say for sure.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. Now you mentioned your fear of COVID or Monkeypox as the reason that you did not want to stay up on the rooftop any longer. Is there a procedure by which you can call in another investigator if you have such a concern?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. What I
stated was not that $I$ did not want to stay up on the rooftop any longer. What $I$ stated was $I$ did not want to move about the crowd for fear of my safety.

MR. BIANCO: Okay. So in that instance, is there a procedure by which you can request assistance from another investigator?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I can always request assistance from another investigator, but that would also put my coworkers in an unsafe position as well.

MR. BIANCO: And I saw in your report that Supervisory Investigator Brashears took the call. Was he on-site with you?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. He was not.

MR. BIANCO: And did you speak to Mr. David Parker about whether they have a procedure in place for maintaining a count on the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I cannot recall, sir.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you very much, Investigator. I don't have any further questions.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr.

Bianco.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Bianco. Ms. Nelson, did you take any photos that evening?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I did.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you able to share that with -- Are you able to share that with the Board?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I am.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you share with us the photos?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Absolutely.
Thank you. Can everyone see?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Okay. This is one photo listed as Exhibit 1 in my report of the establishment's rooftop summer garden from the angle that $I$ was standing at. Please let me know when it's okay to proceed to this next photo.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can just move on. I don't know what you have. You can go ahead.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: This is another photo of the establishment's rooftop listed as

Exhibit 2 in my report. I apologize. I'm scrolling a bit. This is another photo from the angle $I$ was standing at of the establishment's rooftop from that night. I also have video footage.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, please.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: And that is the evidence that $I$ was able to gather from that night.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I thought you said you had video.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Did you not see?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I didn't see a video.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I apologize.
Let me -- I'm having to replay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're not seeing -- We're not seeing -- I'm not seeing a video. I'm seeing a folder. I'm seeing a blank screen, so there's no video playing.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I apologize. I'm attempting to share.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm seeing your screen, but -- Okay, but I'm not seeing a video.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Just a moment if you don't mind. I have to -- Okay, are we seeing the video now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm seeing you. I'm not seeing -- I'm seeing a split screen. So I'm seeing you on one side and I'm seeing a still photo, but I'm still not seeing a video.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Okay. I'm seeming to have issues sharing that video. Okay. It is saying that I'm sharing it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, fine. I'm now seeing a video. Okay. So this is the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. The video is also listed in my report. I'm unsure if you were able to view that or not.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long is it? I mean I think I saw maybe like ten seconds of a video, so how long is the video?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Approximately ten seconds. It is fairly short.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you just -- Are you able to replay it one more time please?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. You testified that the occupancy of the -- You can close your screen. I'm going to have other board members ask questions. You said that the approved certificate of occupancy for the rooftop is 97. Is that correct?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how large is this -- how large is the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I can't speak in terms of square footage. I can say it's a fair size rooftop.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The reason I'm asking, 97 is depending on how large the area is. Ninety-seven is a good number of people.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so at least just looking at it, I'm not sure -- it's hard to determine that the 97 is -- if we're to go by what 97 is, is depending on the size of the rooftop. Are people in close contact? Are people spread out? So that's the problem that I'm -- So that's why I'm asking how large the rooftop is because putting 97 putting in -depending on what the size of the establishment,
it could be appear to be overcrowded -- like it could or could not be, so I don't know. So that's why I was asking.

All right. Any other questions by any board members based on the video that we just watched? Yes, Mr. Short. I think you have a question.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much. Investigator Nelson, thank you again. In how many places have you investigated -- ABC establishments have you investigated where there is a clicker or a counter? Have you investigated many that do have counters and clickers?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I have inspected many that have clickers.

MEMBER SHORT: And normally do you have a problem with overcrowding when people are appropriately counted and they can tell you how many people they have in their establishment?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I'm sorry, sir.
Could you repeat that question?
MEMBER SHORT: It is normally a problem when you check with someone who has a counter system of the number of occupants in their establishment -- are there normally any
problems when people have counters?
INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Are there normally
situations where there is a problem (audio interference)?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: You said "or often"?

MEMBER SHORT: No. I'm asking you -Let me rephrase this. Thank you for being patient with me. When you go to an establishment that has a counter or a clicker, is it normally safe or do you feel safe going to those types of establishments?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I can't say that I normally feel safe, but --

MEMBER SHORT: Have you run in -- Have you run into overcrowding where you normally have persons that have counters or clickers?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
Occasionally there are over-occupancy even when there are counters or clickers.

MEMBER SHORT: And what normally happens when you find them overcrowded if they do have a clicker?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Typically the
establishment will either let out some of the patrons or they will move the patrons about the establishment.

MEMBER SHORT: Did Mr. David Parker -Did you ask him why there were not a counter -why he did not know the number of people in this establishment on the rooftop that evening -- that morning?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I do not recall, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Was there any discussion at all with you and anybody in the establishment about the number of people on the rooftop?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. I spoke with Mr. David Parker and he did acknowledge that he understood that the establishment appeared to be over-occupancy and that establishment would be closing soon at that time.

MEMBER SHORT: So he didn't say anything about getting some of the people out. He simply said we'll be closing soon. Is that what he said when you -- when he admitted it was overcrowded?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. That is what I recall.

MEMBER SHORT: What are the hours for that particular morning for the closing of that establishment?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: That
establishment, I believe closed at 2:30 a.m.
MEMBER SHORT: And so that was 1:30 a.m. according to your report. So he was going to leave the occupancy overcrowded for one more hour, rather than get some of the people out. Is that what I am to understand?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: I entered the establishment at approximately 1:30 a.m. So this may have been roughly around 1:50, close to 2:00 a.m.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now again, I'm trying to establishment if anyone at this establishment tried to or attempted to do anything to alleviate the overcrowding or was it just status quo? What was done by anyone to try to alleviate the overcrowding?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: That, sir, I cannot answer.

MEMBER SHORT: Did you again -- when
you got there, it was overcrowded. And when you left there, it was still overcrowded. Correct? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: As I recall. Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all I have at this time, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much, Investigator Nelson. Thank you.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Short.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Short. Any other questions by any other board members? Yes, Mr. Grandis. Go ahead. I can't hear you, Mr. Grandis. I cannot hear you, Mr. Grandis.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Can you hear me now? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Try again. No. MEMBER GRANDIS: Can you hear me now? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir. I can hear you.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. I did raise the volume. Thank you. Investigator Nelson? INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir. Mr. Grandis.

MEMBER GRANDIS: If I understood your recollection, you stated to Mr. Parker that you
believed it was overcrowded. Correct?
INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Yes, sir.
MEMBER GRANDIS: Did you ask Mr.
Parker, did they have a count number?
INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Not that I
recall, sir. I can't say that for sure.
MEMBER GRANDIS: So you can recall --
So you can recall informing Mr. Parker that you thought it was overcrowded, but you don't have a recollection if you asked him if they had a count?

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: No, sir. I don't recall.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you.

INVESTIGATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Grandis.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other board members? Mr. Bianco, any additional questions of the investigator?

MR. BIANCO: I have no additional questions to ask him.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bianco, I think that your client wanted to say something.

Do you plan to ask him -- Do you plan to ask him -- I do have some questions if he's going to --

MR. BIANCO: I did not plan on having him testify. I was going to make a couple of proffers, but based on the Investigator's testimony, $I$ don't think $I$ need him to give any actual testimony. If there's questions, I'll field them and $I$ may want to defer to him to on some factual issues.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I'm trying to find out, what's the layout of the rooftop? I mean I think that's something that I'm concerned about. What's the layout of the rooftop?

MR. BIANCO: Sure. Okay. So the rooftop is basically, but for the mechanical equipment, the entirety of the roof of 913 and it was expanded in 2020, I believe to also cover the rooftop -- or part of the rooftop of the 915 building. So it's fairly sizeable, but with 90 or 97 folks, it could appear crowded. But I would say, it definitely appears more crowded towards the bar where the photographs are taken because people tend to congregate there, so that they can purchase alcohol or interact with others or what have you. So the sort of vantage point
from behind the bar is a little bit deceiving in that, that's where people tend to congregate as opposed to the further off areas of the rooftop.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now I'm also trying to find out how does the establishment monitor its occupancy?

MR. BIANCO: Yeah, that's a great question. So there are two separate means of entrance and egress to the rooftop from the interior of the building. The way they operate them under normal circumstances is what we'll call the front staircase, which is the staircase closest to the U Street side of the building is used as an entrance. And the rear staircase towards the alley side of the building is used as an egress in terms of directing traffic. Of course in an emergency, both would be available to exit people from the roof.

But the way they handle occupancy is they have a security guard stationed at both the ingress and the egress. And the security guards keep a count using a clicker. And the manager on duty checks in with the security guards with respect to the count every 30 minutes. And at this point in the evening, they had a count.

They could have provided the count. But according to Mr. Parker, the interaction with the ABRA investigator was very informal and she didn't ask. As to why she didn't see the security guard or recall seeing the security guard as the case may be in front of the front staircase, I can't say. But there were certainly guards posted at both entrances. And at no point did they exceed 97, nor is there any evidence to suggest that they did.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're saying that the occupancy of the rooftop is 97. And that it's your view that at no point during that period did the establishment exceed its occupancy. Is that the position of the licensee? MR. BIANCO: Yeah. That's the position. I haven't seen anything to rebut that. I mean we all looked at the photos, but there's no -- there's no head count.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And does the -does the -- So you're saying currently -- so the current certificate of occupancy for the establishment is 90 -- at least for the establishment's rooftop is 97 . Is that correct?

MR. BIANCO: Yes. It conforms to the
license. So the amount on the -- they can't issue the license without -- without presentation of the COO. So yes, that's our -- that's our position based on my understanding, as well as the investigative report.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. I know that Mr. -- Normally -- Are there any questions by the board members of the licensee? I know that the responses are being provided by counsel, but the questions are directed to Mr. Parker if Mr. Bianco is unable to answer. But again, since he has not called him as a witness, if you have any -- if any board members have -- Yes, Mr. Short -- if any board members have any questions specifically about the establishment. Go ahead, Mr. Short. I can't hear you, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon, Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: Good afternoon, Mr.
Short.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Mr. Bianco, you stated that on the night of June 25th, there were two people counting; one on the front stairs and one on the back stairs. Is that your testimony?

MR. BIANCO: Well, it's my -- Yes, it's my testimony that there are two security guards; one at each staircase. But every 30 minutes or so, they have to reconcile the numbers since they're standing apart, which is the reason for the manager -- the manager stepping in and speaking with both security guards and getting the counts as to how many in, how many out. So they know how many people are up there.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I guess I'm a little confused to the part that the Investigator stated that she did not see any security guards at the front of the entrance to the rooftop when she came. And that she talked with Mr. David Parker and he never talked with anyone -- if I get what I'm hearing from the Investigator, the only one she talked to that night -- that morning, forgive me, was Mr. Parker -- Mr. David Parker. And so I'm just trying to figure if there was a person at the front door when Mr. Parker was talking to Investigator Nelson, how come the three of them didn't talk? And how come Mr. Parker couldn't produce a number from that person for her at that time?

MR. BIANCO: Okay. Well, I think you
asked a lot of different questions. And I think a lot of them are premised on information that's definitely not in the record. There's no information to suggest this conversation took place in front of the front staircase. As to why she didn't see a security guard there, I think that's one among many deficiencies in this investigation. And I'm not sure -- I mean I suppose I'm just as confused as you are as to why this -- why we're here. I mean why this investigation went the way it did. And without any meaningful evidence of a violation, we're in front of the Board on a -- on a fact-finding hearing. So yes, I think confusion's there.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Bianco. But there is no confusion that David Parker talked with Investigator Nelson that morning. Is that correct?

MR. BIANCO: That's correct. He was not asked for the occupancy again for reasons unknown to me. He didn't admit to overoccupancy. In fact, he didn't say anything except that he understood what the investigator was saying. That was her testimony. Nothing more than that.

MEMBER SHORT: That's a great answer -

- That's a great answer, Mr. Bianco. But the bottom line is, now it's bee established that there may have been and very much so, overcrowding that particular evening because the Investigator went there because of complaints.

MR. BIANCO: Well, the Investigator went there --
(simultaneous speaking)
MEMBER SHORT: Otherwise, Mr. Bianco -

- I'm not going to argue with you, Mr. Bianco. You are an attorney. I'm just a board member, but I'm just going by the testimony we got. The Investigator went there to talk with the owner or manager because of a complaint.

MR. BIANCO: Correct, about noise.
MEMBER SHORT: If you would stop cutting me off, please, Mr. Bianco. I don't do that to you and I wouldn't dare do that to you. Thank you. What I'm trying to get to, Mr. Bianco, we're here because there was a complaint. The Investigator went there to check out the complaint as required by her job. She talked with the owner/operator or manager, Mr. David Parker who could not produce a number for her at
that particular time. That's the testimony of the Investigator and that's what's on the record. And I don't want to do anything other than ask questions about what's on the record because this may become a more serious issue if this ever happens at this club again. But it's now on the record and there are photos that maybe -- just maybe someone didn't go by the rules and regulations that night and there were over 97 people on that rooftop. I would just like to say thank you very much for being patient with me, Mr. Bianco. And thank you, Mr. Chair for allowing me to ask those questions. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome, Mr. Short.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you, Mr. Short. I always appreciate our spirited debate. Thank you for your input.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other board members? I'm trying to bring this case to a hearing. Any final comments you need to make, Mr. Bianco on behalf of your client?

MR. BIANCO: Nothing from us.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
right, thank you. The Board will take this matter under advisement to make a determination whether or not -- Of course, as you stated, Mr. Bianco, this is a fact-finding hearing. We were gathered as mentioned based on a report that was written. The Board was unable to ascertain whether or not a violation has occurred. And so the Board will take this under advisement and make a determination. Basically what the Board recommends. Options available to the Board: The Board can determine that no further action. The Board can probably -- can say a warning. Or the Board could refer this to the Attorney General for a violation. I don't know. But we'll take this matter under advisement. And we'll alert you to the decision that the Board has made. Thank you very much for your presence this morning. Thank you this morning and also now this afternoon, Mr. Parker. Thank you very much. Have a great day.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. Appreciate your time. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 12:07 p.m.)

A
a.m 2:2 6:22,25 14:6
28:7,9,14,16
ABC 7:6,23,24 9:15 25:10
able 13:5 21:7,8 22:9 23:16,23
above-entitled 39:24
ABRA 1:20 5:20 7:5 9:24 33:3
Absolutely 21:13
access 2:10,11 3:5
accounts 19:12
acknowledge 18:20 27:17
acknowledged 8:4
action 6:4,8,10 39:11 actual 31:7
additional 30:20,22
Additionally 7:14
admit 36:21
admitted 27:24
advise 18:2
advised 8:2,5
advisement 39:2,8,15
afternoon 34:18,20 39:19
agreement 10:14
ahead 11:4 12:8 21:23
22:6 29:12 34:16
alcohol 31:24
Alcoholic 1:2,12
alert 39:15
ALIYA 1:16
alleviate 28:20,22
alley 32:15
allowing 38:13
amount 34:1
ANC 1:7
Anderson 1:13,15 2:3
2:12,15,20,24 3:7,18
3:24 4:6,12,18,22 5:2
5:8,12,16 6:15 8:7,12
8:18,24 9:2,12,19,24
10:3,9,17,24 11:3
12:8 16:2,12 18:5,12
21:2,7,11,15,21 22:6
22:11,14,18,24 23:4
23:11,17,22 24:1,8,13
24:17 29:10,16,18
30:18,24 31:10 32:4
33:11,20 34:6 38:14
38:19,25 39:23
angle 21:19 22:3
answer 28:24 34:12 37:1,2
anybody 27:12
anyway 13:6
apart 35:5
apologize 18:6,10,17
22:1,16,22
appear 25:1 31:20
appeared 8:3 18:3 27:18
appears $31: 21$
appreciate 38:17 39:22
appropriately 25:18
Approval 1:9
approved 7:25 8:19,22
9:10 24:5
approximate $17: 21$
approximately 6:21,25
9:7 16:24 23:20 28:14
area 10:12 24:14
areas 32:3
argue 37:11
arrived 7:1
ascertain 39:6
asked 13:12 18:22 19:5
30:10 36:1,20
asking 24:14,23 25:3 26:8
assessment 13:7
assistance 20:7,9
attempted 28:19
attempting 22:23
attorney 6:9 37:12 39:13
audio 3:21 26:4
August 1:11
available 32:17 39:10
aware 3:10 5:25 10:23 12:2,24
$\frac{B}{\text { B-I-A-N-C-O 4:4 }}$

4:4
back 34:25
bar 31:22 32:1
base 14:4
based 25:5 31:5 34:4 39:5
basically 31:15 39:9
bee $37: 3$
behalf 38:22
believe 9:7 13:10 15:22 28:7 31:17
believed 5:21 30:1
best 14:7
better 4:21,23,23 5:13 5:14
Beverage 1:2,12
Bianco 1:20 2:9,13,14 2:16,17,22 3:9,11,17 3:23,25 4:3,3 5:25 6:14 16:14,16,25 17:6 17:13,18,23 18:6,13

18:14,21 19:3,10,15
19:19 20:5,12,17,22
21:1,3 30:20,22,24
31:3,14 32:7 33:16,25
34:11,19,20,22 35:1
35:25 36:16,19 37:2,7
37:10,11,16,18,21
38:12,16,22,24 39:4 39:21
bit 4:19 22:2 32:1
blank 22:20
board 1:2,9,12 6:1,3,6 6:11 8:19 10:25 16:1 16:3,13 21:9 24:3 25:5 29:11 30:19 34:8 34:13,14 36:13 37:12
38:20 39:1,6,8,9,10
39:11,12,13,16,22
BOBBY 1:16
body 7:12
bottom 37:3
Brashears 6:23 20:13
bring 38:21
building 31:19 32:10,13 32:15

## C

C 9:8
calendar 2:4
call 14:8 19:23 20:14 32:12
called 34:12
camera 3:20,20
capacity 9:23 13:24
case 1:8 2:3,4,8 33:6 38:21
CATO 1:16
caused 14:8
certainly 19:10 33:7
certificate 7:23 24:5 33:22
Chair 2:11,14 3:6 5:11
16:1 29:6 38:12 39:21
Chairman 11:2
Chairperson 1:13,15
2:3,12,15,20,24 3:7
3:18,24 4:6,12,18,22
5:2,8,12,16 6:15 8:7
8:12,18,24 9:2,12,19
9:24 10:3,9,17,24
11:3 12:8 16:2,12
18:5,12 21:2,7,11,15
21:21 22:6,11,14,18
22:24 23:4,11,17,22
24:1,8,13,17 29:10,16
29:18 30:18,24 31:10
32:4 33:11,20 34:6
38:14,19,25 39:23
check 25:23 37:22
checks 32:23
circumstances 32:11
city $8: 16$
clarify 18:8
clicker 10:4 25:12
26:11,24 32:22
clickers 9:25 25:13,15 26:18,21
client 30:25 38:23
clientele 11:24
clients $2: 18,21$
close 14:11 24:3,21 28:15
closed 28:7
closest 32:13
closing 8:6 27:19,23 28:4
club 38:6
co- 20:10
co-workers 10:8
COLUMBIA 1:1
come 14:11 35:22,22
comfortable 11:19
comments 38:22
common 12:17
complaint 6:23 7:2
37:15,21,23
complaints 11:21 37:6
concern 19:24
concerned 31:12
concerns 11:11
conditions 14:7
conduct 17:2
conforms 33:25
confused 35:11 36:9
confusion 36:16
confusion's 36:14
congregate 31:23 32:2
considered 14:14
contact 14:12 24:21
Control 1:2,12
conversation 36:4
COO 34:3
correct 13:13,16 14:17
15:15 18:25 24:6 29:2
30:1 33:24 36:18,19 37:16
council 4:4
counsel 1:20 34:10
count 8:8,9,13 12:13,21
13:5 16:20 17:2,7,9 17:25 18:16,19,23 19:5,16 20:19 30:4,11 32:22,24,25 33:1,19
counted 25:18
counter 25:12,24 26:11 27:5
counters 25:13 26:1,18 26:21
counting 12:20 34:24
counts 35:8
couple 16:17,18 31:4
course 32:17 39:3
cover 31:17
COVID 8:15 11:15,15 11:16 19:20
CROCKETT 1:16
crowd 7:21 8:17 10:7
12:22 13:2 14:16 17:10 20:3
crowded 31:20,21
CT 1:7
current 33:22
currently 33:21
cutting 37:18

| D |
| :--- |
| D-A-V-I-D 4:9 |
| danger 13:4 |
| dangerous 14:3,4,8 |

dangerous 14:3,4,8
dare 37:19
David 1:21 2:22,25 3:2

$$
3: 5,8,14,174: 97: 21
$$

18:11,19 20:18 27:4
27:16 35:14,18 36:16 37:24
David's 3:12
day 14:5 39:20
days 2:6
DC 1:20
debate 38:17
deceiving 32:1
decision 6:2 39:16
deck 9:9 16:21
defer 31:8
deficiencies 36:7
definitely 31:21 36:3
depending 6:10 24:14 24:20,25
describe 14:7
determination 5:23 6:7 39:2,9
determine 24:19 39:11
different 36:1
difficulties 5:4
diligent 19:13
directed 34:11
directing 32:16
Dirty 1:5,6 2:5 6:25
disconnect 5:7
discussion 27:12
DISTRICT 1:1
doing 17:12,14
Donovan 1:13,15
door 15:12 35:20
doors 14:20,22 15:1,8
due 7:10,21 8:14 duty 32:23

E
EDWARD 1:17
egress 32:9,16,21
either 5:3 18:23 19:6 27:1
elevate $2: 7,8$ 3:2
elevated 2:10,11 3:3,6
elongate 7:12
emanating 6:24
emergency 32:17
employee 10:11
enjoy 3:21
enter 7:9,20
entered 5:20 7:7 15:7 28:13
entering 7:3 10:12
entirety $31: 16$
entrance 15:6 32:9,14 35:13
entrances 33:8
entry 7:16
entryway 15:12 17:16
equipment 31:16
established $37: 3$
establishment 4:8,11
5:21 7:1,3,7,7,25 8:2
8:5,20 9:4,7 10:7,10
10:14 11:12 12:3,13
12:20 13:13 14:11
15:2 16:5 17:24 18:3
24:25 25:19,25 26:10
27:1,3,7,13,18,19
28:5,7,14,18,19 32:5
33:14,23 34:16
establishment's 7:8,10
7:14,16,20,22 9:17
15:13 17:11 21:18,25
22:3 33:24
establishments 11:18
11:24 25:11 26:13
evening 11:7,17 21:4 27:7 32:25 37:5 evidence 22:9 33:9 36:12
exceed 33:9,14
excellent 15:24
Exhibit 21:17 22:1
exit 14:20,22 15:8 32:18
exiting 10:12
expanded $31: 17$
expert 11:16
Explain 9:3
fact 1:7 36:22
fact- 6:11
fact-finding 5:18,19,22 6:1,2 36:13 39:4
factual 31:9
fair 13:7,10 19:15 24:11
fairly 23:21 31:19
familiar 12:2
fear 19:20 20:3
feared 16:19
feel 8:16 11:18 17:12 26:12,15
feet 8:1,23 9:23
field 31:8
figure $35: 19$
final 6:2 38:21
find 26:23 31:11 32:5
finding 1:7 6:12
fine 23:11
floor 12:14 15:13,15,19
floors 9:3,4,8,9,13 13:19,22,24
folder 22:20
folks 31:20
footage 7:19 22:5 24:11
forgive 35:18
front 7:4 13:6 15:11 32:12 33:6,6 34:24
35:13,20 36:5,5,13
further 6:8,10 20:23 32:3 39:11

| G |
| :--- |
| garden 7:9,10,14,21 |
| 9:18,20 18:4 21:18 |
| gather 22:9 |
| gathered 39:5 |
| gathers 6:11 |
| General 3:13 4:10 6:10 |
| 39:13 | 39:13

generally 10:17
getting 27:22 35:7
give 31:6
Goose 1:5,6 2:5 6:25
Grandis 1:17 11:2,4,4,5
11:10,17,23 12:4
29:12,13,14,15,17,20
29:23,24 30:3,7,14,17
guard 32:20 33:5,6 36:6
guards 32:21,23 33:8
35:3,7,12
guess 35:10
$\frac{\mathrm{H}}{\text { handle } 32 \cdot 19}$
handle 32:19
HANSEN 1:17
happens 26:23 38:6
hard 24:18
harm's 10:8
harms 13:2
head 33:19
hear 4:15,15,18 5:5,11 5:12,14 29:13,13,15 29:17,19 34:17
hearing 1:75:18,19,23
6:1,3,12 35:16 36:14
38:21 39:4
high 7:13
Hold 18:5
home 6:24
hotline 6:23
hour 28:11
hours 28:3
I
identified 7:5
identify 2:25 3:1
important 18:22 19:4
included 19:11
Increase 1:9
informal 33:3
information 6:11 12:5
18:22 19:4,11 36:2,4
informing 30:8
ingress 32:21
input 38:18
inquire 3:12
inspected 25:15
instance 20:6
interact 31:24
interaction 33:2
interference 3:21 26:5
interior 32:10
interrupt 18:6
investigate 7:1 11:25
investigated 25:10,11 25:12
investigating 6:4
investigation 15:3 36:8 36:11
investigative 10:1 34:5
Investigator's 31:5
investigators 9:25
issue 34:2 38:5
issues 23:9 31:9

| J |
| :--- |
| jam 14:14,14 |
| JAMES 1:18 |
| JENI 1:17 |
| job 37:23 |
| joining 2:18 |
| JR 1:16,18 |
| June 5:20 6:19,21 14:5 |
| 34:23 |
| Justin 2:22,24 3:8,9,11 |

Justin 2:22,24 3:8,9,11



| R |
| :--- |
| R-I-C-H-A-R-D 4:4 |
| RAFI 1:16 |
| raise 29:20 |
| realized 7:19 |
| rear 32:14 |
| resen |

roof 9:9 13:20 16:21 31:16 32:18
rooftop 7:8,16,17,20 8:1,3,22,25 9:13,14 10:12 13:16 14:6,10 14:21 15:5,9,13,20 17:11,17,22 19:21 20:2,19 21:18,25 22:4 23:13 24:5,9,12,21,24 27:7,14 31:11,13,15 31:18,18 32:3,9 33:12 33:24 35:13 38:10
roughly 28:15
rules $38: 8$
run 26:16,17
S

S 1:17
safe 8:16 17:12 26:12 26:12,15
safely 7:9,20 14:10,21
safety 16:19 20:4
Saturday 6:21
saw 20:12 23:18
saying 23:10 33:12,21 36:24
scarce 13:22
screen 22:20,25 23:5 24:3
scrolling 22:2
second 15:13,15,19
seconds 23:18,21
security $7: 4,15$ 10:16 10:21 32:20,21,23 33:5,5 35:2,7,12 36:6
seeing 3:21 22:18,19 22:19,20,20,24,25 23:2,4,5,5,6,6,7,12 33:5
seen 33:17
send 6:8
sense 17:1
separate 3:9 9:14 32:8
serious 38:5
set 15:15
settlement 10:14
share 21:8,8,11 22:23
sharing 23:9,10
short 1:18 11:4 12:9,10 12:19,25 13:11,15,18 13:23 14:2,13,19 15:1 15:6,14,18,23 23:21 25:6,8,16,22 26:3,8 26:16,22 27:4,11,21 28:3,8,17,25 29:5,9 29:11 34:14,16,18,21 34:22 35:10 36:15 37:1,10,17 38:15,16
side 23:6 32:13,15
simply 27:23
simultaneous $37: 9$
sir 2:8,21 6:20 8:11 9:1 10:2,13,22 11:8,13 12:1,7,23 13:9,14,17 14:1,18,24 15:22 16:8 16:15 17:3,20 18:18 19:2,8,14,25 20:8,15 20:21 21:5,10 23:14 23:25 24:7,16 25:14 25:20 26:2,19 27:10 27:15 28:1,23 29:4,18 29:22 30:2,6,12 34:17
situation 14:3
situations 13:1 26:4
size $24: 12,20,25$
sizeable 31:19
soon 8:6 17:7 27:19,23
sorry 2:17 18:12 25:20
sort 31:25
speak 7:6 9:8 12:17
18:7 20:17 24:10
speaking 18:1 35:7 37:9
specific 9:17
specifically $34: 15$
spell 4:1,7,13,23
spelling $5: 5$
spirited 38:17
split 23:5
spoke 18:9 27:16
spread 11:16 24:22
spreading 11:15
square 24:11
staircase 32:12,12,14
33:7 35:3 36:5
stairs $34: 24,25$
stairway 15:19
stairways 15:15
standing 21:19 22:3 35:5
start 6:13
state 4:1,7,14,24
stated 14:2 16:18 20:1 20:2 29:25 34:23 35:12 39:3
statement 13:8
stating 14:4
stationed 32:20
status 28:21
stay 12:14 19:21 20:1
stepping $35: 6$
stood 7:12
stop 37:17
strange 5:3
street 1:6 14:22 15:7,8 32:13
suggest 33:10 36:4
summer $7: 8,10,14,20$
9:18,20 18:4 21:18
Supervising 6:22
supervisor 16:11
Supervisory 20:13
suppose $36: 9$
system 25:24

## T

t/a 1:6
taken 17:1,4 31:22
talk 35:22 37:14
talked 35:14,15,17
36:17 37:23
talking 35:21
technical 5:4
tell 6:17 12:21 25:18
ten 23:18,21
tend 31:23 32:2
terms 24:11 32:16
testified 24:2
testify 31:4
testifying 15:25
testimony 12:6 17:18
31:6,7 34:25 35:2
36:24 37:13 38:1
thank 2:12 3:7,19,25
5:10,13,17 6:16 10:24
11:5 12:4,5,6,7,10,11
15:23,24 16:1 20:22
20:25 21:2,14 25:8,9
26:9 29:5,6,7,8,10,21
30:14,15,16 34:7
36:15 37:20 38:11,12
38:16,17 39:1,17,18
39:19,21,23
Thanks 3:17,23
thought 8:9 22:11 30:9
three 35:22
today 3:16 5:23 6:11 12:6
toes $7: 12$
told 16:10
tools 10:1
total 9:10,16,22 13:12
touching 14:12
traffic 32:16
tried 7:12 28:19
true 5:24
try 5:6 13:2 28:21 29:16
trying 17:15 28:18
31:10 32:5 35:19
37:20 38:20
turn 3:20 4:19
two 9:7,9 18:7 32:8
34:24 35:2
type $10: 20$

| types 26:12 <br> Typically 26:25 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1:50 28:15 } \\ & 101299 \text { 1:7 2:5 } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| U | 12:07 39.25 |
| U 1:6 15:7,7 32:13 unable 34:11 39:6 understand 18:14 | 15 16:24 17:14,19 |
|  | 1B 1:7 |
|  | $2$ |
| understanding 11:14 | 222:1 |
| 34:4 | 2:00 28:15 |
| understood 8:4 18:20 | 2:30 28:7 |
| 27:17 29:24 36:23 | 200 13:13,16 |
| unknown 36:21 | 2020 31:17 |
| unsafe 12:22 20:11 unsure 16:9 23:15 | 2022 1:11 5:20 6:19,21 |
|  | 205 9:11,12 |
| use 10:4 | 22-CMP-00061 1:8 2:4 |
| V | 25th 6:19,21 14:5 34:23 |
| vantage 31:25 <br> video 7:18 22:4,12,15 |  |
|  | 3 |
| 22:19,21,25 23:3,7,9 | 30 32:24 35:3 |
| videoconference 1:13 | 31 1:11 |
|  |  |
| videos 7:13 | 4 |
| view 23:16 33:13 violation 6:6 36:12 39:7 | 40 8:1,23 9:23 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 39:14 } \\ & \text { volume 4:19 29:21 } \end{aligned}$ | 5 |
|  |  |
|  | 6 |
| W |  |
|  | 7 |
| W 1:13,15 wanted 30:25 |  |
| warning 16:7 39:12 watched 25:6 | 8 |
|  |  |
| way 10:8 13:2 14:15$32: 10,1936: 11$ | 9 |
|  | 90 31:19 33:23 |
| WebEx 1:13 | 913 1:6 31:16 |
| Wednesday 1:11welcome 38:14 | 915 31:18 |
|  | 97 8:1,22 9:20,22 24:6 |
| went 7:8 14:6 36:11 | 24:14,19,20,24 31:20 |
| $37: 6,8,14,2239: 25$ <br> wish 16:14 | 33:9,12,24 38:9 |
|  | witness 34:13 |  |
|  |  |  |
| workers 20:11 |  |
| wouldn't 11:10 13:5 |  |
| 37:19 written 39:6 |  |
|  |  |
| X |  |
| Y |  |
| Z |  |
| 0 |  |
| 1 |  |
| 1:30 6:25 14:6 28:8,14 |  |

Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: The Dirty Goose

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 08-31-22

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

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& \text {------------------- } \\
& \text { Court Reporter }
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