DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Neighborhood Restaurant : Group XV, LLC,

t/a Red Apron Butchery/ :

The Partisan : Fact Finding
Event: Snallygaster : Hearing

Fundraiser Festival, 10/9/2021 (Rain Date 10/10/2021), 12 pm-7 pm : Application #21-SC-00801:

(One Day Substantial Change Application) -----=

> Wednesday September 29, 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 STEPHANIE BABIN, Licensee STEPHANIE HOLLAND, Event Producer L.B. NEUHOFF, Director of Special Projects SIDON YOHANNES, Licensee's Counsel

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 11:03 a.m. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case 4 on our calendar is a fact finding hearing. 5 for a one day substantial change. This is for Neighborhood Restaurant Group, XV, LLC. 6 7 sorry, Red Apron Butchery/The Partisan. 8 Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate 9 the rights of the parties in this next fact 10 finding case, please? 11 MS. ANDREWS: Standby. Sure. Ms. 12 Yohannes, your rights have been elevated. Ms. 13 Babin, your rights have been elevated. 14 Holland, your rights have been elevated. Ms. 15 Neuhoff, your rights have been elevated. That's 16 all I have, Mr. Chair. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms. 18 All right. Ms. Yohannes, can you Andrews. 19 please introduce yourself for the record, please, 20 and spell your name? 21 MS. YOHANNES: Yes. Good morning. 22 Sidon Yohannes on behalf of the Applicant.

we have here today? Maybe you can introduce

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now who else do

D-O-N, Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S.

23

24

	them. You can call their names and once you have		
2	called their names they can spell and state their		
3	name for the record, please.		
4	MS. YOHANNES: Sure. We have		
5	Stephanie Babin, the owner.		
6	MS. BABIN: Stephanie Babin on behalf		
7	of Neighborhood Restaurant Group XV. S-T-E-P-H-		
8	A-N-I-E, B-A-B-I-N. Good morning.		
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,		
10	Ms. Babin. I'm sorry, who are you again, Ms.		
11	Babin?		
12	MS. BABIN: I one of the principals of		
13	the company.		
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank		
15	you.		
16	MS. YOHANNES: We have L.B. Neuhoff,		
17	the Director of Special Projects.		
18	MS. NEUHOFF: Hello. L.B. Neuhoff,		
19	Director of Special Projects for Neighborhood		
20	Restaurant Group XV. First name, L-B. Last name		
21	Neuhoff, N-E-U-H-O-F-F.		
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Who else		
23	do we have?		
24	MS. YOHANNES: And we have Stephanie		
25	Holland and she is the Snallygaster Event		

Producer.

MS. HOLLAND: Good morning. Stephanie
Holland. S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E. Last name is
Holland, H-O-L-L-A-N-D. Neighborhood Restaurant
XV's Special Events Producer for the event.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Good morning, everyone. This is just a fact

finding hearing. I just want to remind everyone

this is just a fact finding hearing.

This is not an adversarial proceeding, we're just trying to get some more information.

The Board has received a one day substantial application from the Neighborhood Restaurant

Group as part of the Snallygaster 2021 Festival.

So we just have some questions to ask and maybe we can -- I'm not sure if Ms. Yohannes or you can have one of the parties can just tell us about this event. Just give us some background information about this event that has been requested.

MS. YOHANNES: Sure. I will go ahead and start it off and then I will hand it over to Stephanie Babin who will give you a little more information.

So the Snallygaster event is a family

friendly annual festival. It's a fundraising festival. It is annual in that this is the tenth year that they are hosting this or having this event.

Well, it's actually the ninth, would have been the tenth. They did not do one last year due to COVID, unfortunately. It's an event that offers great food, music, various forms of entertainment, and really family fun for the community.

This being the ninth event each time they were before the Board, the application was before the Board for a one day substantial change, and there were no incidences that occurred and no violations that were issued as a result of the event, so they are well qualified and equipped to have the event.

Currently, you know, the Mayor's Office, the Mayor's Special Event Task Force has already vetted this application and the application is basically going through final approvals.

There are lots of signatures that we already have and I will let the Applicants talk a little bit more about that if necessary.

Stephanie, would you like to go ahead and say a little bit more, Babin, about the event and then you can hand it off to the other Stephanie, Stephanie Holland.

MS. BABIN: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on one minute, Ms. Babin. I just want to let you know that we are not having a fact finding hearing because we believe that there is a problem. I just want you to know that.

We are just having the event, this is I think probably one of the first large events that we are considering approving since the onset of COVID, so that's -- I just want to put your mind at ease that that's where we are coming from.

So it's not that, okay, there are red flags up and the agency -- It's just to gather information because of the times that we are in, okay. So you can go ahead, ma'am.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you.

MS. BABIN: Sure. Good morning and thank you for hosting us today. Would you prefer to just go straight to the questions or do you want me to tell you a little bit about the

festival?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can tell about the festival and maybe you might answer all of my questions.

MS. BABIN: So as Sidon said this festival originated kind of as a community festival and it grew in scope over the years to the point now where we have hosted it on Pennsylvania Avenue, this will be our third year.

It's an incredible backdrop and a really wonderful and fun event for us and for the community. It serves as the primary fundraiser for Arcadia Food Group, which you may be familiar with.

They operate several mobile food markets in the D.C. area to serve some of the under, the areas of D.C. where fresh produce isn't available.

They have a SNAP Program where they match anybody that comes in with WIC or SNAP.

They have several educational programs. So they are a large part of this festival.

It is, you know, it does feature many local food trucks, many local vendors. We have Shop Made in DC with a heavy presence. They have

35 local Shop Made in DC artisans selling their products.

All of those are, you know, operating within one, I think it is our radius, L.B. may be able to say this better, is two miles from the center of the District of Columbia that the artisans have to come from there.

So it's a real D.C. festival with D.C. participants and D.C. beneficiaries. And, of course, you guys know the Neighborhood Restaurant Group, we run several restaurants in the area.

Our festival is tightly, tightly run.
We take our security seriously. Stephanie
Holland, our events coordinator, has been doing
this, and I'm sure you guys might be used to
seeing her as well. I think this is her eighth
year doing festivals on Pennsylvania Avenue.

So we have never had any real issues, no injuries, no violations, no complaints. This year for COVID, the steps that we are taking are, you know, and I'm presuming that is going to be a large part of your questions, what we are doing to kind of mitigate the risk.

It's an outdoor festival. It is hugely spaced. We are requiring spacing and

marking off clearly line spacing, you know. All of our employees and participants, or, you know, the people that are running it for our end are required to be masked.

All of our employees are required to

All of our employees are required to be vaccinated. Obviously, this festival we are not requiring a vaccination, although we probably would welcome it if at some point D.C. mandated that for restaurants, but we're not there yet.

So that's kind of the background.

We've got a lot of experience at this stage in

our restaurants mitigating against the threat of

COVID and we have been pretty successful there as

well.

So that is pretty much all I have to say and I am happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. No, so what's the -- Now what exactly where will this event take place?

MS. BABIN: The exact parameters are Pennsylvania Avenue and -- L.B., would you mind just giving the exact two streets that bookend it?

MS. NEUHOFF: Sure. It's between 7th Street and 3rd Street N.W. on Pennsylvania

1 Avenue. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that entire 3 area will be closed off? MS. NEUHOFF: Yes, sir, that is 4 5 correct, as well as a little strip of Constitution. 6 7 MS. YOHANNES: Between --8 (Simultaneous speaking.) 9 MS. NEUHOFF: If you'd like I believe 10 I have a map. Mm-hmm. And we are happy to share 11 the map with you all if you would like to see --12 MS. YOHANNES: Got it. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Are you 14 talking about now or just generally to the 15 agency, because I am not sure if that was 16 provided. Maybe it was provided to the agency. 17 I don't have it in front of me, but if 18 the map has not been previously provided to the 19 agency please provide that information to the 20 licensing -- The same place you send your 21 application you can send the map at that same 22 location, please, to provide to the agency. 23 So maybe someone can just tell me 24 about the layout of the event, I mean the

entertainment stage, where food is, where

alcohol, how is that layout? 1 2 MS. BABIN: Mr. Anderson, could I ask 3 that we unmute Stephanie Holland so she can 4 answer some of these questions? 5 She has, you know, is on and ready to talk and has made the point to me to remind us 6 7 that we are at 50 percent capacity, if that, over 8 prior years. So, Steph -- If you could unmute 9 her. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She should be 11 able to unmute herself because since she was 12 elevated --13 MS. HOLLAND: Now I can. 14 MS. BABIN: Yes. 15 MS. HOLLAND: Awesome. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go 17 ahead. 18 MS. HOLLAND: Thank you. Nice to meet 19 So, yes, we presented to the Mayor's 20 Task Force so the agency does have the map and, 21 you know, they should be able to also provide it 22 but we can also send it over. So the event --23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I would 24 ask that you -- I'm sorry. Ms. Holland, I would 25 also ask you to send a copy of it to our agency,

please.

MS. HOLLAND: 100 percent. The event is entirely fenced in from basically it runs the length of 7th through 3rd Streets and Pennsylvania. It runs from 7th Street through 3rd Street on Constitution. It runs north and southbound on 6th and 4th Streets as well.

So the entire perimeter of the festival is fenced in with 6-foot perimeter fencing that has emergency exits with the fire marshal's approval at various locations throughout the festival.

The festival itself, due to COVID, we scaled back the festival this year so that we are operating outdoors at a 50 percent capacity.

We have increased the number of handwashing stations throughout the festival. We have a hand sanitizer sponsor who is providing some additional hand sanitizer for our staff.

We have security, obviously, present throughout with the private security company with Massive Entertainment that runs our procedures at the front entrance, which I will speak about in a second, and then we have, obviously, MPD's presence both at the perimeters of the entire

festival as well internally inside the festival.

We run a very tight kind of ship check-in process. So we start with ID checking, which is the first thing that we do. So the event is not a 21 plus only event, so it is open to families, so we run a stamp on all 21 plus attendees, and so that's issued upon ID check at the front door.

The ID checking is done by Massive security. We have, you know, over 20 plus security individuals at the front entrance to accommodate our staff well.

The event is run in kind of two waves. Basically we have a VIP entrance that runs from 12:00 to 2:00 and then the general admission that runs from, you know, 2:00 to 6:00, which is also, you know, helping with the traffic, you know, flow and/or throughout.

The festival layout starts with, you know, our big non-profit activation that allows people to engage and learn more about our mobile markets and what we have done via COVID and how much meals that we distributed via our non-profit.

But then, you know, carries along

Pennsylvania Avenue with an assortment of stations that serve as samples of, you know, various beverages for people to try, as well as we have various food vending, you know, experiences going throughout.

So we have a food truck area and then we have a food vendor area as well. There is multiple shade tents and places for people to relax and sit down as well as seating areas.

We have a stage that is present on 6th and Constitution that we call the Gallery Stage, as it is in front of the National Gallery, and then we have a stage that is present down at the other end at 3rd and Penn, which is the Capitol Stage.

And, advertently, we have a number of other sponsor activations as well as a kids zone for parents, you know, to engage with their kids for activities during the festival.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know that you spoke earlier about you have the security company that will check IDs and for 21 and over they'll have a stamp.

But how will you determine -- How do you prevent an underage drinking? How are you

going to prevent someone who is under 21 having access for alcohol?

MS. HOLLAND: So we basically give them wristbands for the underage drinking. We have beer managers at all of our tents that are both ABRA certified with their TIPS training and/or are managers within various establishments in the property.

We have security that roams throughout the venue as well and if they see that, you know, see anything they have the right to check any sort of IDs, but we work, you know, very sternly to make sure that underage drinking does not happen throughout the entire festival with various checkpoints as well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So what steps are being taken to prevent over service and public intoxication?

MS. HOLLAND: We take that process very seriously. So, you know, all managers, we have pre-training meetings with all volunteers and all representations behind that are servicing.

We go over, you know, sort of the protocols and we have different places for them

and different protocols that we work through with the training guides that we do.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know you said that you are going to have food trucks and there are going to be other vendors selling food. Is water available and if water is available is there free water available?

MS. HOLLAND: Yes. So we have a plethora of water. We go above and beyond regarding water. So we have 5-gallon jugs at every service station that is free for individuals to participate in.

Advertently, we have what are called these five water monsters that hold about 500 gallons of water at the various locations. We have five of them that are, you know, scattered throughout the festival. That is all free water for people.

As well as upon leaving the festival every attendee is given a bottle of water for free as gracias as well and then there is free areas that they can get bottles of water around the first-aid locations throughout the festival.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you know approximately how many bathrooms will be

available for -- Yes, how many people are you 1 2 expecting and approximately how many bathrooms do 3 you believe you guys will have? MS. HOLLAND: We have -- Anywhere 4 between -- A combination of staff, attendees, and 5 volunteers, we'll have about, you know, 7000 6 7 people. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What about do 9 you know how many bathrooms? MS. HOLLAND: I do. We have about 120 10 11 regular restrooms for the general public as well 12 as 20 ADA restrooms, and then we have private staff bathrooms and volunteer bathrooms as well. 13 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now 15 I know you talked about Massive. I think -- Is Massive -- What's the name of the security 16 17 company and how long have you been working with them and just tell us a little bit about that 18 19 please if you are aware? 20 MS. HOLLAND: Yes. So I have been 21 working with Lance Hogan, the CEO of Massive 22 Entertainment, for 15 years with my career here 23 in Washington D.C. 24 They, you know, oversee a plethora of 25 services, whether it's, you know, private events,

private individuals, and/or bars and restaurants within the city.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Now
I am aware that the event is on Pennsylvania
Avenue. Tell me about transportation from -Have you worked with any rideshares or have you
worked with any transportation company to provide
transportation or to facilitate transportation
for the public?

MS. HOLLAND: Yes. So we throughout our entire marketing materials and/or our communication with the attendees we actively promote that there is no parking, obviously, down on Pennsylvania Avenue and/or for our event, but as well as we encourage public transportation via the Metro and/or any ridesharing services.

So we typically have a ride pickup area around, you know, 6th and Pennsylvania, and then we also have it on, you know, 4th Street, when people leave, and 6th Street, so there is different exits that they can leave upon exiting.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MS. HOLLAND: We have advised both

Lyft and Uber. Right now coming out of COVID it

was very, you know, it's tough to prefer one over

the other because they are all still, you know, actively recruiting drivers.

So for this year we definitely -- In the past we have had one preferred vendor, but this year we are openly, actively have reached out both of their local offices to tell them about the function and then every communication that we have sent to our attendees has actively told them about the various Metro stops since there are a plethora of them around the area of the event.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I guess my last question at least for this round is what is your litter and trash plan for the site?

MS. HOLLAND: So we have had a longstanding relationship with a company called Clean Decisions, which is a program in the city that oversees a number of bars, restaurants, and special events.

They are a company that specialized in trash service pickup. So we have about 40 members of their team that are scheduled throughout the day to be part of the festival cleanup process.

The second part is we have, I guess we

have hired or, you know, we have secured the
Department of Public Services to basically
provide the dumpsters. Therefore, they are going
back to D.C. plants and facilities.

In addition, we have multiple different ways of picking up trash. We have trash cans present throughout the festival as well as we have large, you know, trash pickup bins that we can cart around to pick up the trash that we utilize to take it back to the dumpster.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I am aware that there are certain restrictions so I am confident that Pennsylvania Avenue will remain in its impeccable shape after this festival is over because there are --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. HOLLAND: For the last couple of years I feel like we might have made it cleaner. So we've done a good job and really, you know, take a lot of pride in what it means to be on that street and, advertently, also in making sure that the area, you know, is cleaned up and present.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms. Holland. I am going to allow other Board Members

1	to ask questions. Are there any questions by any		
2	other Board Members?		
3	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman, I have a		
4	couple. Ms. Holland, how are you today?		
5	MS. HOLLAND: I am great. How are		
6	you?		
7	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Ms. Holland, for		
8	our investigator's sake that will be working your		
9	event		
10	MS. HOLLAND: Yes?		
11	MEMBER SHORT: what Is there		
12	You are going to be serving several different		
13	types of beverages, correct?		
14	MS. HOLLAND: That is correct.		
15	MEMBER SHORT: So will the alcohol		
16	perhaps be a different color or clear or will		
17	they look the same as the water containers or the		
18	soda containers? What is the difference in		
19	How will our investigators know who is drinking		
20	what out of what cups?		
21	MS. HOLLAND: Yes. The water cups are		
22	different than the other beverage, the alcohol		
23	beverage cups. The alcohol beverage cup is a		
24	clear cup.		
25	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And also will		

there be any emergency vehicles that you hired privately, let's say i.e. ambulances or whatever, because if the city is tied up with other incidents do you have any, will you have a first-aid kit, first of all, and will there be EMTs onsite, if not, have you hired any private ambulances?

MS. HOLLAND: So the answer is yes.

We have a very, very detailed health and safety

plan. So we have two first-aid tents. One is at
the, you know, midway between 7th and 6th Streets
on Pennsylvania Avenue.

It's a pretty large tent that is dedicated with a red top. As well as we have one on 3rd and Constitution, as well we have plethora of EMS services, so we will have six EMS services.

We have an ALS aid station, we have a BLS mobile team and aid station, and we have ambulance services as well present at the event.

MEMBER SHORT: Great. Sounds just great. Now, also, you are going to have wristbands on everyone who comes to the event and are they going to be different colors for underage as we know everybody 21 is going to have

to have a wristband to get alcohol. 1 2 Will someone under 21 years of age 3 have to have a different color wristband for the 4 investigator's sake? 5 MS. HOLLAND: Yes. Theirs actually is designated and it says, you know, designated 6 7 driver on it, even though it's, you know, so, 8 therefore, it's what their wristband color is. 9 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I quess the 10 question I am asking is now are you going to put 11 a wristband on everyone coming in even those 12 under 21? 13 We know everybody over 21 that's going 14 to be drinking alcohol will have a certain color 15 band on their wrist. Will there be a separate 16 band or a color for a person under 21? 17 Yes, there is. MS. HOLLAND: So there 18 is two separate colors, which would designate the 19 two people, that is correct. 20 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And you will 21 make those available for our investigators? 22 you give samples of those to the investigators before the event? 23 24 MS. HOLLAND: Yes, when we meet with

When I normally have met with them when

them.

they have arrived onsite we typically go over 1 2 that process, yes. 3 MEMBER SHORT: Well, I'll just say 4 this, Ms. Holland, have a very great event. 5 sounds like you are really prepared and ready to go and I as a Board Member would like to thank 6 7 you for your preparation and for your testimony 8 today. Thank you. 9 MS. HOLLAND: Any time. 10 MEMBER SHORT: That's all I have, Mr. 11 Chair. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 13 Short. Any other questions from any of the Board 14 Members? 15 Mr. Chairman? MEMBER GRANDIS: 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. 17 Grandis? 18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. Ms. 19 Babin, I want to thank you and your team being 20 before us today. You have given us a very good 21 presentation. 22 I am not familiar with this particular 23 event, but I am familiar that that area of 24 Pennsylvania Avenue over the years, except for 25 maybe 2020, has had, you know, a number of

1 events.

Am I correct to understand that this has been a multi-year event and, if so, when was the first year that you all had such an event on Pennsylvania Avenue?

MS. BABIN: So my computer is glitching a little bit so let me know if you cannot hear me, or let me know if you can may be a better way to put it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear you, ma'am.

MS. BABIN: This is our third year, so the first year would have been four years ago because we skipped a year for COVID, on Pennsylvania Avenue.

But we have done the festival at various venues around D.C. since I believe -It's been nine years, so, you know, 2011 or '12.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Well, it sounds like you all are very --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER GRANDIS: -- sophisticated in putting this together and I want to thank you for giving us the update and the excellent presentation that the three of you all provided

us. Thank you.

MS. BABIN: You're welcome. Thanks to Steph Holland and her team. They do a great job helping us stay within between the lines.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you. Are there any other questions by any other Board Members?

(No audible response.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes, can you please facilitate us legal, can you please facilitate providing the schematics of the event to Martha Jenkins and so she'll provide it to enforcement, okay?

MS. YOHANNES: Absolutely. And if I may, one additional thing. I meant to say this earlier, but just to make sure that it is noted on this application I would like to amend the answer to one of the questions which asked the age group and we had "21."

I want to just, you know, obviously, we have just given testimony about this, but it should say "all ages."

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Thank you for that. Well, the record reflects that.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The question

was asked that it was not a 21 and over event and

and that the --

MS. YOHANNES: We want no issues.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, it was stated on the record and the application is so amended, but it was clear based on the answers that were stated, that were provided, that this is a family event, that folks who are 21 years or older will be clearly given a band that will indicate that they can purchase alcohol.

that there will be younger -- It's a family event

I was also told that there is also a band or maybe a notation on a band that will have a designated driver, so, therefore, the servers will know that they are not to over serve the person that has been identified as a designated driver.

Any other representations that anyone wants to make before I bring this hearing to a close?

MS. YOHANNES: No, not on behalf of the Applicant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I

have not polled the Board Members so I don't know where the Board Members stand, so what I will do is we will take this matter under advisement so we can discuss this.

I am not going to take a vote and I don't know how folks are going to vote. So we'll take this matter under advisement and we'll get back to you with a response.

But as I stated before though, this is just to gather information. It was not because the Board had any specific concerns with this event.

We just want to get on the record and answer some of our questions and you have been very forthright in responding to our inquiry and I hope, I believe that the Board will look favorable on this event, but we will let you know once we have -- We will consider it and we will make a determination.

But, again, the Board will take this matter under advisement and advise you of our decision. Thank you very much for being here today.

MS. BABIN: Thank you much for your time. We appreciate it.

1	MS. YOHANNES: Thank you.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
3	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4	went off the record at 11:34 a.m.)
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A-N-I-E 3:8 **a.m** 2:2 29:4 able 8:5 11:11.21 above-entitled 29:3 **ABRA** 1:23 15:6 Absolutely 26:14 access 15:2 accommodate 13:12 activation 13:20 activations 14:17 actively 18:12 19:2,5,8 activities 14:19 **ADA** 17:12 addition 20:5 additional 12:19 26:15 admission 13:15 adversarial 4:10 advertently 14:16 16:13 20:21 advise 28:21 advised 18:23 advisement 28:3,7,21 age 23:2 26:19 agency 6:18 10:15,16 10:19,22 11:20,25 ages 26:22 ago 25:13 ahead 4:21 6:1,20 11:17 aid 22:5,18,19 alcohol 11:1 15:2 21:15 21:22,23 23:1,14 27:13 Alcoholic 1:2,15 **ALIYA** 1:19 allow 20:25 allows 13:20 **ALS** 22:18 ambulance 22:20 ambulances 22:2.7 amend 26:17 amended 27:9 and/or 13:18 15:7 18:1 18:11,14,16 **Anderson** 1:16,18 2:3 2:17,24 3:9,14,22 4:6 6:6 7:2 9:17 10:2,13 11:2,10,16,23 14:20 15:16 16:3,24 17:8,14 18:3,22 19:12 20:11 20:24 24:12,16 25:10 26:5,9,23 27:2,7,25 29:2 Andrews 1:23 2:8,11,18 **annual** 5:1.2 answer 7:3 9:16 11:4 22:8 26:18 28:14

answers 27:9 anybody 7:20 **Applicant** 2:22 27:24 Applicants 5:24 application 1:10,11 4:13 5:12,20,21 10:21 26:17 27:8 appreciate 28:25 approval 12:11 approvals 5:22 approving 6:13 approximately 16:25 17:2 Apron 1:7 2:7 Arcadia 7:13 area 7:16 8:11 10:3 14:6,7 18:18 19:10 20:22 24:23 areas 7:17 14:9 16:22 arrived 24:1 artisans 8:1,7 asked 26:18 27:3 **asking** 23:10 assortment 14:1 attendee 16:20 attendees 13:7 17:5 18:12 19:8 audible 26:8 available 7:18 16:6,6,7 17:1 23:21 Avenue 7:9 8:17 9:21 10:1 14:1 18:5,14 20:13 22:12 24:24 25:5.15 aware 17:19 18:4 20:11 **Awesome** 11:15 **B-A-B-I-N** 3:8 Babin 1:23 2:13 3:5,6,6 3:10,11,12 4:23 6:2,5 6:7,22 7:5 9:20 11:2 11:14 24:19 25:6,12 26:2 28:24 back 12:14 20:4,10 28:8 backdrop 7:10

3:10,11,12 4:23 6:2,5 6:7,22 7:5 9:20 11:2 11:14 24:19 25:6,12 26:2 28:24 back 12:14 20:4,10 28:8 backdrop 7:10 background 4:19 9:10 band 23:15,16 27:12,15 27:15 bars 18:1 19:18 based 27:9 basically 5:21 12:3 13:14 15:3 20:2 bathrooms 16:25 17:2 17:9,13,13 beer 15:5 behalf 2:22 3:6 27:23 believe 6:9 10:9 17:3

25:17 28:16 beneficiaries 8:9 **better** 8:5 25:9 beverage 1:2,15 21:22 21:23,23 beverages 14:3 21:13 beyond 16:9 big 13:20 bins 20:9 bit 5:25 6:2,25 17:18 25:7 **BLS** 22:19 Board 1:2,15 4:12 5:12 5:13 20:25 21:2 24:6 24:13 26:7 28:1,2,11 28:16,20 **BOBBY** 1:19 bookend 9:22 **bottle** 16:20 **bottles** 16:22 bring 27:21 Butchery/ 1:7 Butchery/The 2:7 C

calendar 2:4 call 3:1 14:11 called 3:2 16:13 19:16 cans 20:7 capacity 11:7 12:15 Capitol 14:14 **career** 17:22 **carries** 13:25 cart 20:9 case 2:3.10 **CATO** 1:19 center 8:6 **CEO** 17:21 certain 20:12 23:14 certified 15:6 **Chair** 2:16 24:11 Chairman 21:3 24:15 Chairperson 1:15,18 2:3,17,24 3:9,14,22 4:6 6:6 7:2 9:17 10:2 10:13 11:10,16,23 14:20 15:16 16:3,24 17:8,14 18:3,22 19:12 20:11,24 24:12,16 25:10 26:5,9,23 27:2 27:7,25 29:2 **change** 1:11 2:5 5:14 check 13:7 14:22 15:11 check-in 13:3 **checking** 13:3,9 checkpoints 15:15 city 18:2 19:17 22:3 **Clean** 19:17

cleaned 20:22 cleaner 20:18 cleanup 19:24 clear 21:16,24 27:9 clearly 9:1 27:12 close 27:22 closed 10:3 color 21:16 23:3,8,14 23:16 colors 22:24 23:18 **Columbia** 1:1 8:6 combination 17:5 come 8:7 comes 7:20 22:23 coming 6:15 18:24 23:11 communication 18:12 19:7 **community** 5:10 7:6,12 company 3:13 12:21 14:21 17:17 18:7 19:16,20 complaints 8:19 computer 25:6 concerns 28:11 confident 20:12 consider 28:18 considering 6:13 **Constitution** 10:6 12:6 14:11 22:15 containers 21:17.18 **Control** 1:2.15 coordinator 8:14 copy 11:25 correct 10:5 21:13,14 23:19 25:2 Counsel 1:25 couple 20:17 21:4 **course** 8:10 **COVID** 5:7 6:14 8:20 9:13 12:13 13:22 18:24 25:14 CROCKETT 1:19 cup 21:23,24 **cups** 21:20,21,23 Currently 5:18

D-O-N 2:23 D.C 7:16,17 8:8,8,9 9:8 17:23 20:4 25:17 Date 1:9 day 1:11 2:5 4:12 5:13 19:23 DC 1:23 7:25 8:1 decision 28:22 Decisions 19:17 dedicated 22:14

definitely 19:3 Department 20:2 designate 23:18 designated 23:6,6 27:16,18 detailed 22:9 determination 28:19 determine 14:24 difference 21:18 different 15:25 16:1 18:21 20:6 21:12,16 21:22 22:24 23:3 **Director** 1:24 3:17,19 discuss 28:4 distributed 13:23 **District** 1:1 8:6 doing 8:14,17,22 **Donovan** 1:16,18 door 13:8 drinking 14:25 15:4,13 21:19 23:14 driver 23:7 27:16,19 drivers 19:2 due 5:7 12:13 dumpster 20:10 dumpsters 20:3

Ε

earlier 14:21 26:16 ease 6:15 educational 7:21 **EDWARD** 1:20 eighth 8:16 elevate 2:8 **elevated** 2:12,13,14,15 11:12 **emergency** 12:10 22:1 employees 9:2,5 **EMS** 22:16,16 **EMTs** 22:5 encourage 18:15 enforcement 26:13 engage 13:21 14:18 entertainment 5:9 10:25 12:22 17:22 entire 10:2 12:8,25 15:14 18:11 entirely 12:3 entrance 12:23 13:11 13:14 equipped 5:17 establishments 15:7 event 1:8,24 3:25 4:5 4:18,19,25 5:4,7,11 5:16,17,19 6:2,11 7:11 9:19 10:24 11:22 12:2 13:5,5,13 18:4 18:14 19:11 21:9

22:20,23 23:23 24:4 24:23 25:3,4 26:12 27:3,4,11 28:12,17 events 4:5 6:12 8:14 17:25 19:19 25:1 everybody 22:25 23:13 exact 9:20,22 exactly 9:18 excellent 25:24 exiting 18:21 exits 12:10 18:21 expecting 17:2 experience 9:11 experiences 14:5

F

facilitate 18:8 26:10,11 facilities 20:4 fact 1:7 2:4,9 4:7,9 6:8 familiar 7:13 24:22,23 families 13:6 family 4:25 5:9 27:4,11 favorable 28:17 feature 7:23 feel 20:18 fenced 12:3.9 fencing 12:10 festival 1:8 4:14 5:1,2 7:1,3,6,7,22 8:8,12,24 9:6 12:9.12.13.14.17 13:1,1,19 14:19 15:14 16:17,19,23 19:23 20:7,14 25:16 festivals 8:17 final 5:21 finding 1:7 2:4,10 4:8,9 6:8 fire 12:10 first 3:20 6:12 13:4 22:5 25:4.13 first- 22:4 first-aid 16:23 22:10 **five** 16:14,16 flags 6:18 flow 13:18 **folks** 27:11 28:6 **food** 5:8 7:13,15,24 10:25 14:4,6,7 16:4,5 Force 5:19 11:20 **forms** 5:8 forthright 28:15 four 25:13 free 16:7,11,17,21,21 fresh 7:17 friendly 5:1 front 10:17 12:23 13:8

13:11 14:12

fun 5:9 7:11

function 19:7 fundraiser 1:8 7:12 fundraising 5:1

Gallery 14:11,12

G

gallons 16:15 gather 6:18 28:10 general 13:15 17:11 generally 10:14 give 4:18,23 15:3 23:22 given 16:20 24:20 26:21 27:12 giving 9:22 25:24 glitching 25:7 gracias 16:21 Grandis 1:20 24:15,17 24:18 25:19,22 grew 7:7 group 1:6 2:6 3:7,20 4:14 7:13 8:11 26:19 quess 19:12.25 23:9

Н

quides 16:2

H-O-L-L-A-N-D 4:4 hand 4:22 6:3 12:18,19 handwashing 12:17 **HANSEN** 1:20 **happen** 15:14 **happy** 9:16 10:10 health 22:9 hear 25:8,10 hearing 1:8 2:4 4:8,9 6:8 27:21 **heavy** 7:25 **Hello** 3:18 helping 13:17 26:4 hired 20:1 22:1,6 Hogan 17:21 hold 6:6 16:14 Holland 1:24 2:14 3:25 4:2,3,4 6:4 8:14 11:3 11:13,15,18,24 12:2 15:3,19 16:8 17:4,10 17:20 18:10,23 19:15 20:17,25 21:4,5,7,10 21:14,21 22:8 23:5,17 23:24 24:4,9 26:3 hope 28:16

i.e 22:2 ID 13:3,7,9 identified 27:18

hosting 5:3 6:23

hosted 7:8

hugely 8:25

IDs 14:22 15:12 impeccable 20:14 incidences 5:14 incidents 22:4 increased 12:16 incredible 7:10 indicate 27:13 individuals 13:11 16:12 18:1 information 4:11,19,24 6:19 10:19 28:10 injuries 8:19 **inquiry** 28:15 **inside** 13:1 internally 13:1 intoxication 15:18 **introduce** 2:19,25 investigator's 21:8 23:4 investigators 21:19 23:21,22 issued 5:15 13:7 issues 8:18 27:6

JAMES 1:21 JENI 1:20 Jenkins 26:12 job 20:19 26:3 JR 1:19,21 jugs 16:10

kids 14:17,18 kit 22:5

L-B 3:20 **L.B** 1:24 3:16,18 8:4 9:21 Lance 17:21 large 6:12 7:22 8:22 20:8 22:13 lavout 10:24 11:1 13:19 learn 13:21 leave 18:20,21 **leaving** 16:19 legal 26:10 length 12:4 let's 22:2 Licensee 1:23 Licensee's 1:25 licensing 10:20 line 9:1

lines 26:4

litter 19:14

LLC 1:6 2:6

little 4:23 5:25 6:2.25

10:5 17:18 25:7

local 7:24,24 8:1 19:6 location 10:22 locations 12:11 16:15 16:23 long 17:17 longstanding 19:16 look 21:17 28:16 lot 9:11 20:20 lots 5:23 Lyft 18:24

M

ma'am 6:20 25:11 **making** 20:21 managers 15:5,7,20 mandated 9:8 map 10:10,11,18,21 11:20 marketing 18:11 markets 7:16 13:22 marking 9:1 marshal's 12:11 Martha 26:12 masked 9:4 Massive 12:22 13:9 17:15.16.21 match 7:20 materials 18:11 matter 1:5 28:3,7,21 **Mayor's** 5:18,19 11:19 meals 13:23 mean 10:24 means 20:20 meant 26:15 meet 11:18 23:24 **MEETING** 1:3 meetings 15:21 Member 1:19,19,20,20 1:21 21:3,7,11,15,25 22:21 23:9,20 24:3,6 24:10,15,18 25:19,22 members 19:22 20:25 21:2 24:14 26:7 28:1 28:2 met 1:15 23:25 **Metro** 18:16 19:9 midway 22:11 **miles** 8:5 mind 6:15 9:21 minute 6:7 mitigate 8:23

MPD's 12:24 multi-year 25:3 multiple 14:8 20:5 music 5:8

Ν **N-E-U-H-O-F-F** 3:21 N.W 9:25 name 2:20 3:3,20,20 4:3 17:16 **names** 3:1,2 National 14:12 necessary 5:25 Neighborhood 1:6 2:6 3:7,19 4:4,13 8:10 Neuhoff 1:24 2:15 3:16 3:18,18,21 9:24 10:4 10:9 never 8:18 **Nice** 11:18 nine 25:18 ninth 5:5.11 non-13:23

O obviously 9:6 12:20,24

number 12:16 14:16

non-profit 13:20

normally 23:25

notation 27:15

19:18 24:25

noted 26:16

north 12:6

18:13 26:20 occurred 5:15 offers 5:8 **Office** 5:19 offices 19:6 older 27:12 once 3:1 28:18 onset 6:13 onsite 22:6 24:1 open 13:5 openly 19:5 operate 7:15 operating 8:3 12:15 originated 7:6 outdoor 8:24 outdoors 12:15 oversee 17:24 oversees 19:18 owner 3:5

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 parameters 9:20 parents 14:18

Ρ

part 4:14 7:22 8:22 19:23,25 participants 8:9 9:2 participate 16:12 particular 24:22 parties 2:9 4:17 **Partisan** 1:7 2:7 Penn 14:14 Pennsylvania 7:9 8:17 9:21,25 12:5 14:1 18:4,14,18 20:13 22:12 24:24 25:5,15 people 9:3 13:21 14:3,8 16:18 17:1,7 18:20 23:19 percent 11:7 12:2,15 perimeter 12:8,9 perimeters 12:25 person 23:16 27:18 pick 20:9 picking 20:6 pickup 18:17 19:21 20:8 **place** 9:19 10:20 **places** 14:8 15:25 **plan** 19:14 22:10 plants 20:4 **please** 2:8,10,19,19 3:3 10:19,22 12:1 17:19 26:10.11 **plethora** 16:9 17:24 19:10 22:15 **plus** 13:5,6,10 **pm** 1:9 **pm-7** 1:9 point 7:8 9:8 11:6 **polled** 28:1 pre-training 15:21 prefer 6:23 18:25 preferred 19:4 preparation 24:7 prepared 24:5 presence 7:25 12:25 present 1:17,22 12:20 14:10,13 20:7,23

parking 18:13

prior 11:8 private 12:21 17:12,25 18:1 22:6 privately 22:2 probably 6:12 9:7 problem 6:9 procedures 12:22 proceeding 4:10 process 13:3 15:19 19:24 24:2 produce 7:17 **Producer** 1:24 4:1,5 products 8:2 profit 13:24 program 7:19 19:17 programs 7:21 **Projects** 1:24 3:17,19 promote 18:13 property 15:8 protocols 15:25 16:1 provide 10:19,22 11:21 18:7 20:3 26:12 **provided** 10:16,16,18 25:25 27:10 providing 12:18 26:11 **public** 15:18 17:11 18:9 18:15 20:2 purchase 27:13 **put** 6:14 23:10 25:9 putting 25:23

Q

qualified 5:16 question 19:13 23:10 27:2 questions 4:15 6:24 7:4 8:22 9:16 11:4 21:1,1 24:13 26:6,18 28:14

R

radius 8:4 **RAFI** 1:19 **Rain** 1:9 reached 19:5 ready 11:5 24:5 real 8:8,18 received 4:12 record 2:19 3:3 26:24 27:8 28:13 29:4 recruiting 19:2 red 1:7 2:7 6:17 22:14 reflects 26:24 regarding 16:10 regular 17:11 relationship 19:16 relax 14:9 remain 20:13 remind 4:8 11:6

22:20

25:25

presentation 24:21

presented 11:19

presiding 1:16

presuming 8:21

previously 10:18

pride 20:20

primary 7:12

principals 3:12

pretty 9:13,15 22:13

prevent 14:25 15:1,17

4:7 6:22

mitigating 9:12

22:19 **monsters** 16:14

mobile 7:15 13:21

morning 2:21 3:8,9 4:2

stations 12:17 14:2 representations 15:22 19:21 trash 19:14,21 20:6,7,8 27:20 services 17:25 18:16 stay 26:4 20:9 20:2 22:16,17,20 requested 4:20 **Steph** 11:8 26:3 truck 14:6 Stephanie 1:23,24 3:5,6 trucks 7:24 16:4 required 9:4,5 servicing 15:23 requiring 8:25 9:7 serving 21:12 3:24 4:2,23 6:1,4,4 try 14:3 responding 28:15 **shade** 14:8 8:13 11:3 trying 4:11 response 26:8 28:8 **shape** 20:14 steps 8:20 15:17 **two** 8:5 9:22 13:13 **Restaurant** 1:6 2:6 3:7 **share** 10:10 **sternly** 15:12 22:10 23:18,19 3:20 4:4.13 8:10 she'll 26:12 **stops** 19:9 types 21:13 restaurants 8:11 9:9,12 **ship** 13:2 typically 18:17 24:1 straight 6:24 18:1 19:18 **Shop** 7:25 8:1 street 9:25,25 12:5,6 U restrictions 20:12 **Short** 1:21 21:3,7,11,15 18:19,20 20:21 restrooms 17:11,12 21:25 22:21 23:9,20 **streets** 9:22 12:4,7 **Uber** 18:24 result 5:16 24:3,10,13 22:11 underage 14:25 15:4,13 **Sidon** 1:25 2:22 7:5 ride 18:17 **strip** 10:5 22:25 substantial 1:11 2:5 rideshares 18:6 signatures 5:23 understand 25:2 ridesharing 18:16 **SIMONE** 1:23 4:12 5:13 unfortunately 5:7 successful 9:13 **rights** 2:9,12,13,14,15 Simultaneous 10:8 unmute 11:3,8,11 20:16 25:21 risk 8:23 **update** 25:24 **roams** 15:9 sir 10:4 **utilize** 20:10 **round** 19:13 **sit** 14:9 t/a 1:7 run 8:11,12 13:2,6,13 site 19:14 taken 15:17 running 9:3 six 22:16 talk 5:24 11:6 vaccinated 9:6 runs 12:3,5,6,22 13:14 skipped 25:14 **talked** 17:15 vaccination 9:7 Snallygaster 1:8 3:25 13:16 **talking** 10:14 various 5:8 12:11 14:3 4:14.25 **Task** 5:19 11:20 14:4 15:7,15 16:15 S **SNAP** 7:19.20 team 19:22 22:19 24:19 19:9 25:17 soda 21:18 **S** 1:20 26:3 vehicles 22:1 sophisticated 25:22 tell 4:17 6:25 7:2 10:23 vending 14:4 **S-I-** 2:22 **S-T-E-P-H-** 3:7 **sorry** 2:7 3:10 11:24 17:18 18:5 19:6 vendor 14:7 19:4 **S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E** 4:3 sort 15:12.24 tent 22:13 vendors 7:24 16:5 safety 22:9 **sounds** 22:21 24:5 tenth 5:2,6 venue 15:10 **sake** 21:8 23:4 25:19 tents 14:8 15:5 22:10 venues 25:17 **samples** 14:2 23:22 southbound 12:7 testimony 24:7 26:21 vetted 5:20 **sanitizer** 12:18,19 spaced 8:25 thank 2:17 3:14 6:21,23 videoconference 1:15 **says** 23:6 spacing 8:25 9:1 11:18 20:24 24:6,8,12 violations 5:15 8:19 scaled 12:14 speak 12:23 24:18,19 25:23 26:1,6 **VIP** 13:14 scattered 16:16 speaking 10:8 20:16 26:24 27:1 28:22,24 volunteer 17:13 scheduled 19:22 29:1,2 volunteers 15:21 17:6 schematics 26:11 **special** 1:24 3:17,19 4:5 **Thanks** 26:2 vote 28:5,6 scope 7:7 5:19 19:19 **Theirs** 23:5 W specialized 19:20 third 7:9 25:12 seating 14:9 **second** 12:24 19:25 specific 28:11 threat 9:12 **W** 1:16.18 spell 2:20 3:2 secured 20:1 three 25:25 wants 27:21 security 8:13 12:20,21 spoke 14:21 tied 22:3 Washington 17:23 13:10,11 14:21 15:9 **sponsor** 12:18 14:17 tight 13:2 water 16:6,6,7,9,10,14 17:16 staff 1:23 12:19 13:12 tightly 8:12,12 16:15,17,20,22 21:17 seeing 8:16 times 6:19 17:5,13 21:21 selling 8:1 16:5 stage 9:11 10:25 14:10 **TIPS** 15:6 waves 13:13 send 10:20,21 11:22,25 14:11,13,15 today 2:25 6:23 21:4 **way** 25:9 **stamp** 13:6 14:23 sent 19:8 24:8,20 28:23 ways 20:6 **separate** 23:15,18 stand 28:2 told 19:9 27:14 **WebEx** 1:15 Standby 2:11 September 1:13 top 22:14 Wednesday 1:13 start 4:22 13:3 seriously 8:13 15:20 tough 18:25 **welcome** 9:8 26:2 serve 7:16 14:2 27:17 **starts** 13:19 traffic 13:17 went 29:4 servers 27:16 **state** 3:2 training 15:6 16:2 **WIC** 7:20 stated 27:8,10 28:9 transportation 18:5,7,8 serves 7:12 wonderful 7:11 **service** 15:18 16:11 station 16:11 22:18,19 18:8,15 work 15:12 16:1

ı	
worked 18:6,7 working 17:17,21 21:8 wrist 23:15 wristband 23:1,3,8,11 wristbands 15:4 22:23 X XV 1:6 2:6 3:7,20 XV's 4:5 Y Y-O-H-A-N-N-E-S 2:23 year 5:3,7 7:9 8:17,20 12:14 19:3,5 25:4,12 25:13,14 years 7:7 11:8 17:22 20:18 23:2 24:24 25:13,18 27:11 Yohannes 1:25 2:12,18 2:21,22 3:4,16,24 4:16,21 6:21 10:7,12 26:9,14 27:1,6,23 29:1 younger 27:4	4 40 19:21 4th 12:7 18:19 5 5-gallon 16:10 50 11:7 12:15 500 16:14 6 6-foot 12:9 6:00 13:16 6th 12:7 14:10 18:18,20 22:11 7 7000 17:6 7th 9:24 12:4,5 22:11
Z zone 14:17	
0	
1	
10/10/2021 1:9 10/9/2021 1:9 100 12:2 11:03 2:2 11:34 29:4 12 1:9 25:18 12:00 13:15 120 17:10 15 17:22	
2	
2:00 13:15,16 20 13:10 17:12 2011 25:18 2020 24:25 2021 1:13 4:14 21 13:5,6 14:22 15:1 22:25 23:2,12,13,16 26:19 27:3,11 21-SC-00801 1:10 29 1:13	
3 35 8:1 3rd 9:25 12:4,6 14:14 22:15	

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In the matter of: Snallygaster

Before: DCABRA

Date: 09-29-21

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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