DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF:

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Decades, LLC:

t/a Decades :

1219 Connecticut Ave NW : Fact Finding

Retailer CN - ANC 2B : Hearing

License #103505 : Case # 21-251-00026 :

:

(Chief of Police Hearing :
Request) :

Wednesday October 10, 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
ANTONIS KARAGOUNIS, Licensee
ANDREW KLINE, Licensee Counsel
INVESTIGATOR JOVAN MILLER, DC ABRA
LT. PAUL JOHNSON, DC MPD

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Representative, and Antonis Karagounis, Licensee
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Hearing on Case No. 21-251-00026, Decades,
adjourned
Motion for ABC Board to hold a closed
meeting on October 21, 2021
Vote 43

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	3:12 p.m.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next on our
4	calendar is Case No. 21-251-00026, Decades,
5	License No. 103505.
6	Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate
7	the rights of the parties?
8	MS. ANDREWS: Sure. Stand by.
9	Lieutenant Johnson, your rights have
10	been elevated.
11	Investigator Miller, your rights have
12	been elevated.
13	Mr. or Ms. Karagounis, your rights
14	have been elevated.
15	And I assume it I have on record
16	Ms. Yohannes is the attorney, but I do see Mr.
17	Kline. So, I'm going to make him elevate his
18	rights.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can elevate
20	one of their rights. They're in the same firm.
21	So, you elevate one of their rights, if she's
22	here also.
23	MS. ANDREWS: Okay. Oh, she's not
24	here.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All

1	right. Okay.
2	MR. KLINE: And also, Mr. Karagounis.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. who? Oh,
4	he's on the line. He's on the line, Mr. Kline.
5	All right. Good afternoon, everyone.
6	This is a fact-finding hearing on
7	Decades. An incident had occurred and the Chief
8	of Police had requested that we have a fact-
9	finding here. So, we're having this hearing this
10	afternoon.
11	All right. So, let's start with the
12	investigator, Mr. Miller. Please state and spell
13	your name for the record, please.
14	MR. MILLER: Good afternoon,
15	Chairperson.
16	Jovan Miller, J-O-V-A-N M-I-L-E-R.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Lieutenant
18	Johnson, can you please state and spell your name
19	for the record, please?
20	You're on mute, sir.
21	LT. JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Unmute.
22	Lieutenant Paul Johnson, 2nd District.
23	It's P-A-U-L. Last name is Johnson,
24	J-O-H-N-S-O-N.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

	Mr. Kline, can you state and spell
2	your name for the record, and then, let me know
3	who's with you. And then, they can identify
4	themselves.
5	MR. KLINE: Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.
6	Chairman and Members of the Board.
7	Andrew Kline, A-N-D-R-E-W; Kline,
8	K-L-I-N-E.
9	And with me is Antonis Karagounis.
10	Antonis, I'm going to let you spell
11	that.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline,
13	remember, what did I say? I said, please tell me
14	who's with you, and then, they can introduce
15	themselves.
16	MR. KLINE: Oh. Sorry.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Mr.
18	Karagounis
19	MR. KARAGOUNIS: Yes?
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: can you
21	please state and spell your name for the record,
22	please?
23	MR. KARAGOUNIS: The name is Antonis
24	Karagounis, A-N-T-O-N-I-S K-A-R-A-G, as in
25	George, O-U-N-I-S. Antonis Karagounis, Managing

Partner of Decades.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you.

Good afternoon, everyone.

All right. Again, this is a factfinding hearing. The Board is just gathering
facts. The Board has made no decision, no
determination about what action, if any, it will
take. Because it's a fact-finding hearing, we're
just gathering information. The Board cannot
legally order the parties to take any -- the
Board cannot legally order the licensee to take
any specific action. The licensee, however, can
volunteer to make changes, but the Board cannot
order the licensee.

And again, this is informal. This is informal in the sense that the parties have not been sworn in. We're just gathering information. The Board, at the end, will take this matter on advisement and we'll determine whether or not we will take no further action, or whether or not we will refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney for the action, if any.

All right. So, everyone is aware of where we are. And so, it's just a matter of

gathering information. I will ask the Board investigator to give his report. Then, I will have Lieutenant Johnson to make any additions or statements that he so desires. And then, the Board members will have the opportunity to question the investigator or the lieutenant.

And then, you will have that opportunity, Mr. Kline, to question the investigator and/or the lieutenant. And once that's done, if there is any testimony that you want to put on on behalf of your client, you will have that opportunity to do that.

All right. So, I'll start with Mr.

Johnson. So, Mr. Johnson -- okay, I'm sorry.

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Mr. Miller. You see, Mr.

Miller, the unfortunate thing is because the

Board, we have not met in person in almost a

year, I am forgetting who the investigators are.

So, I apologize, Mr. Miller. All right? Mr.

Miller, I do apologize.

All right. So, Mr. Miller, can you please identify yourself for the record and let us know where you're employed and how did you become aware of Decades, please?

STATEMENT OF JOVAN MILLER, INVESTIGATOR

MR. MILLER: I am ABRA investigator 1 2 for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation 3 Administration. I was aware of this incident. 4 5 Actually, this investigation was initiated based on the MPD-251 report. I was ABRA investigator. 6 7 Supervisory Investigator Mark Brashers received 8 the ABRA hotline call by MPD. MPD advised SI 9 Brashers that a stabbing occurred inside of 10 Decades and he requested ABRA assistance. 11 Myself responded to the establishment 12 and made contact with MPD officers on the scene. 13 During the incident alleged, there was an alleged 14 altercation between multiple patrons that 15 occurred inside the establishment. During the 16 altercation, patrons received minor injuries and 17 a second patron was stabbed in the abdomen. 18 When I was on the scene, I had the 19 opportunity to interview the ABC manager, Mr. 20 Diego Sequiera. Sorry if I have pronounced his 21 Sequiera. name wrong. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How do you 23 spell that, sir? 24 MR. MILLER: Diego, D-I-E-G-O. Last 25 name is Sequiera, S-E-Q-U-I-E-R-A. Sequiera. Ιt

might be Sequiera. Excuse me if I pronounced it wrong.

Mr. Sequiera stated that he was notified by security personnel of the allegation, altercation -- excuse me -- altercation. He also stated security separated the parties and

It is well established that the establishment was unaware of the stabbing that occurred until MPD notified them.

escorted them outside of the establishment.

I also, while on the scene, interviewed two of Decades' security personnel, Mr. Garnett Wright. That is G-A-R-N-E-T-T. Last name, Wright, W-R-I-G-H-T. And the other security personnel is Mr. Stephon Bush, Sr. That is S-T-E-P-H-O-N. Last name, Bush, B-U-S-H.

Mr. Wright stated that he observed the altercation. He observed the altercation. He also stated that he contacted personnel Stephon Bush to assist him.

Mr. Wright stated that he grabbed the patron who seemed more of the aggressor and moved him through the situation. He escorted the patron outside of the establishment, as he picked up -- excuse me. Sorry. He escorted the patron

out of the establishment after he picked up her purse that she left behind. He also was unaware of the stabbing and was never notified.

Mr. Bush stated he was advised by his manager to assist Mr. Wright in the altercation. He removed the other patrons from the area and asked management to call for the elevator, so the patrons could exit the establishment.

He also stated that a busser who routinely sweeps the area found a knife on the floor near the VIP section. Mr. Bush stated he picked up the knife and notified his manager and relinquished the knife to MPD.

While on the scene, I had the opportunity to speak with the victim's friend, Mr. Ryan Johnson. Mr. Ryan Johnson stated -- excuse me. I will spell his name. R-Y-A-N. Last name, Johnson, J-O-H-N-S-O-N. He was present during the assault.

Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Eisner (phonetic), who is the victim, came to him stating that his side was hurting. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Eisner, who is the victim, lifted his shirt and revealed a laceration to his abdomen. They decided to leave the establishment

and proceed out.

I asked Mr. Johnson if he notified the establishment of the incident. Mr. Johnson stated that he wasn't sure what to do and wanted to get the victim some help.

I was not able to interview either of the victims, Ms. Cunningham or Mr. Eisner.

I had an opportunity to speak
telephonically to MPD Officer Caleb Gillett.
Also, Gillett stated that Ms. Cunningham, who is
the victim, too, stated that, while in the VIP
section of the establishment, the suspect lunged
at her with a knife, stating that "That's my
fiancee." Ms. Cunningham stated that she covered
her face with her hands and received cuts to her
nail on her right index finger.

I asked the Agency manager, Mr.

Sequiera, for video surveillance footage. I had a chance to review security cams, and from the footage I received, I was able to see Mr. Bush, one of the security personnel, removing two of the ladies from -- two of the persons involved to the elevators, and later on, another female joined them, as they were escorting out. I did not see Mr. Wright and the other suspect in any

of the footage.

I had a chance to review their

Settlement Agreement. There were no Settlement

Agreement violations. I also reviewed the

security plans and determined that there was no

violations that occurred that night.

But I would like to add some notes that were notes that were not in the report, if I could, Chairperson?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Go ahead, please.

MR. MILLER: While talking to security personnel, I asked them how did they communicate. They said they communicated through Facebook Chat. After reviewing their security plan again, it noted that all security personnel and hosts will have two-way radios. The night of the incident, they did not -- I do not recall seeing them with two-way radios. I do only remember them stating that they use Facebook Chat.

Also, their security plan does not speak on pat-down procedures or bag searches.

And that is it, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Miller.

Lieutenant, again, this is a fact-1 finding hearing requested from the Chief of 2 3 Police. Is there anything you could add to what 4 occurred at Decades, please. 5 STATEMENT OF LT. PAUL JOHNSON, DC MPD LT. JOHNSON: What he said was pretty 6 7 much accurate. But correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Miller, but I don't think they had a reimbursable 8 9 detail that night. The Rosebar did. This was like the Rosebar, like two doors down. 10 I think 11 it's 1215. And I think one of the Complainants 12 flagged down Officer (audio interference) and the 13 reimbursable detail at the Rosebar. And he came 14 over the radio and let us know that the stabbing 15 had occurred at the Decades. That's all I have. 16 17 All right. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 18 Thank you. 19 Are there any questions by any Board members of the lieutenant or Mr. Miller? 20 21 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, I have a 22 question for Investigator Miller. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short. 24 MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon, Mr. 25 Miller or Investigator Miller. Good afternoon,

1	Investigator Miller.
2	MR. MILLER: Good afternoon. How are
3	you doing?
4	MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
5	On the evening of the event, what time
6	did you get there, approximately?
7	MR. MILLER: I approximately got there
8	between 12:00, I would say about 12:45 a.m.
9	MEMBER SHORT: What is the alleged
10	time of the assault that happened?
11	MR. MILLER: Happened around 11:30 or
12	11:00, between 11:15 and 11:30.
13	MEMBER SHORT: In your investigations,
14	did anyone from Decades, when you interviewed
15	them, know that someone had been stabbed inside
16	the club?
17	MR. MILLER: No, sir.
18	MEMBER SHORT: No one? No one knew
19	anything?
20	MR. MILLER: I was, when I was
21	speaking to security staff and other personnel
22	from the establishment, everyone claimed that
23	they weren't notified until MPD notified them.
24	MEMBER SHORT: Well, approximately
25	what time was the knife found on the floor by the

sweeper?

MR. MILLER: I am not sure. I do not recall the security personnel telling me that.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. They do have a security plan, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: What exactly does the security plan say when an incident happens, and if they should preserve the crime scene? Is that any part of their security plan?

MR. MILLER: From what I remember from their security plan, which I have right in front of me, I can tell you exactly what it says for that portion.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you.

MR. MILLER: All right. For incident reports, it states, "Whenever an incident occurs inside or outside of the establishment, security personnel involved must fill out an Incident Report. This report must include all the proper and correct information. Management must, then, review and approve the report for accuracy, and then, record the document in the security log."

For preserving crime scene, it states, "Whenever a criminal incident occurs inside or

outside the establishment, security personnel 1 2 involved must take appropriate measures to secure 3 the crime scene. This will include cordoning off 4 the crime scene with rope or tape and not 5 allowing other staff or guests to penetrate the crime scene, so that the evidence is not 6 7 compromised before the arrival of MPD." 8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, that's very 9 plain and simple. To your knowledge, did they follow those instructions or those directions in 10 11 that security plan? 12 MR. MILLER: For the Incident Report, 13 they did follow their security plan for 14 preserving the crime scene. As far as the 15 knowledge, of them not knowing about the stabbing that occurred, I can say that they followed their 16 17 security plan, since they did not have knowledge. 18 MEMBER SHORT: And the footage you saw 19 in the video, it didn't show anybody having any 20 altercations or anything happening? 21 MR. MILLER: No, sir. The angles of the cameras did not have the VIP section area. 22 23 So, I could not see the altercation that 24 occurred. 25 MEMBER SHORT: So, in your opinion as

1	an investigator, if the cameras were different
2	and they did have that VIP section, it would
3	cover the club a little better? Would that be a
4	fair statement?
5	MR. MILLER: I would say that, for
6	them to it would be better for them to angle
7	it for more higher or angle their cameras a
8	little bit more better, so that you can see more
9	of the floor. So, they have some cameras that
10	are missing in certain areas that would probably
11	help out for us to be able to know what happened.
12	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you.
13	This question is for Lieutenant
14	Johnson.
15	How are you today, Lieutenant?
16	LT. JOHNSON: Good. How you doing?
17	Good evening.
18	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you for
19	your service, sir.
20	Lieutenant, when was MPD notified of
21	a stabbing inside of Decades? What time?
22	LT. JOHNSON: We were notified around
23	what's the time you got that report, sir, Mr.
24	Miller?
25	MR. MILLER: At 12:30.

1	LT. JOHNSON: I'm sorry?
2	MR. MILLER: We were notified at
3	12:30.
4	LT. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's Rosebar has
5	reimbursable detail outside of the club. He was
6	notified by one of the Complainants when they
7	were escorted out by security. So, the report
8	time was probably the time we were notified.
9	MEMBER SHORT: Let me get that again,
10	and let me paraphrase what you just the way I
11	interpreted what you just said.
12	You're saying the security
13	reimbursable detail in front of Rosebar
14	LT. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.
15	MEMBER SHORT: were told by the
16	victims that they were escorted out of
17	LT. JOHNSON: Decades.
18	MEMBER SHORT: out of decades
19	LT. JOHNSON: When they were stabbed.
20	MEMBER SHORT: when they were
21	stabbed. So, that means that someone from
22	Decades did know, if that's true? If that's
23	true, if that's true that they informed the
24	reimbursable detail, that MPD detail, that they
25	had just been escorted out of Decades with a stab

wound --

LT. JOHNSON: Uh-hum.

LT. JOHNSON: As far as I know, that's true, that one of the victims -- and it was a female victim that was cut on the hand, and it was a male victim that was stabbed in the side.

And they notified the officer that they had been stabbed inside of Decades.

MEMBER SHORT: Is that true or not?

And that was within about 10 minutes when I got there. I reinformed security that there was a stabbing inside the club, but they acted like they didn't know. So, and we had them preserve the crime scene like you say. We had them get everybody out, because on the scene, they were still having a party in the club.

MEMBER SHORT: So, did the MPD take charge of the weapon, the knife that was found out?

LT. JOHNSON: I'm not sure when the weapon was found, but I know we had to clear everybody out first, and then, that's why it got a little bit after that probably. Because there was still plenty of activity happening in the club night.

1	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, when was MPD
2	notified that there was a knife found inside of
3	Decades?
4	LT. JOHNSON: I never had an idea how
5	the knife was found inside the club. I don't
6	know when the knife was found.
7	MEMBER SHORT: So, as far as MPD
8	knows, there was no knife?
9	LT. JOHNSON: I'm not sure. There was
10	a detective on the scene that was there. They
11	probably he might have been notified that
12	night, but he never notified me that the knife
13	was found on that night. So, I'm not sure when
14	they found the knife.
15	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you very
16	much for you testimony.
17	That's all I have, Mr. Chair.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
19	Short.
20	Any other questions from any of the
21	Board members?
22	(No response.)
23	Mr. Kline, any questions of the Board
24	members I'm sorry. Mr. Kline, any questions
25	of the investigator or the lieutenant?

You're on mute, Mr. Kline. 1 2 MR. KLINE: Sorry. Another two years 3 and I'll get this right. Lieutenant, good afternoon. 4 5 A couple of questions. So, in terms of -- I mean, you don't have any knowledge in 6 terms of whether a knife was turned over to MPD 7 Is that fair? 8 or not? 9 LT. JOHNSON: Right. I have no personal knowledge if the knife was turned --10 11 MR. KLINE: Okay. And so, if the 12 establishment says it was, you don't have any reason to doubt that at this point, do you? 13 14 LT. JOHNSON: Not at this point, no. 15 MR. KLINE: Okay. In terms of the 16 crime scene, they did preserve the crime scene, 17 correct? LT. JOHNSON: Yeah, they did when we 18 19 let them know, you know, that there was a 20 stabbing inside and to get everybody out, so that 21 we could preserve the scene. They did cooperate 22 and preserve the scene. 23 And, I mean, you suggested MR. KLINE: that the stabbed individual was escorted out. 24 25 From where do you get that information?

1	LT. JOHNSON: From the victims. They
2	said at the club that the club bouncers escorted
3	them out.
4	MR. KLINE: Isn't it true that the
5	victim didn't realize he had been stabbed until
6	he was outside?
7	LT. JOHNSON: I believe so. Yeah,
8	that sounds accurate.
9	MR. KLINE: Okay. So, I mean, the
10	fact that they escorted them out didn't mean they
11	you know, if he didn't know he was stabbed,
12	they didn't know he was stabbed. Correct?
13	LT. JOHNSON: Yeah, they probably
14	didn't know. I would agree they probably didn't
15	know he was stabbed. He never said that he told
16	anybody that he got stabbed, except for the
17	officer.
18	MR. KLINE: And once he was escorted
19	out, he was immediately put in contact with MPD,
20	correct?
21	LT. JOHNSON: I think they walked on
22	their own down there, but there was an officer
23	standing outside the Rosebar. It was like two
24	doors down.
25	MR. KLINE: Right.
	II

1	LT. JOHNSON: I think they found him
2	there.
3	MR. KLINE: Right.
4	LT. JOHNSON: Yeah.
5	MR. KLINE: Okay. That is all I have.
6	Thank you, Lieutenant.
7	LT. JOHNSON: Uh-hum.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
9	I have some questions. It's for
10	why don't you do your presentation, Mr. Kline?
11	Do you have any you already indicated you have
12	representations to me?
13	STATEMENT BY ANDREW KLINE, LICENSEE'S
14	REPRESENTATIVE
15	MR. KLINE: Yeah, a few. Yes.
16	It is our understanding in terms of
17	investigating this matter that security personnel
18	in fact, the individual who was stabbed did
19	not know until he came out that he had been
20	stabbed.
21	The knife was recovered sometime later
22	during cleanup. It was immediately turned over
23	to the MPD. The establishment, we think, did
24	what it could, although there are a couple of
25	things that we have looked at, and one of which

has already been implemented.

And that is, there are now pat-downs on every night that they're open. Before, they were only doing them on specific nights when they deemed it was warranted, but that policy has been changed.

The second is this establishment has actually arranged to have RDO since July.

Unfortunately, on this night, RDO didn't show up for them. I mean, they were there for Rosebar.

We know that there's been, for whatever reason, a tremendous shortage among available RDO officers.

I'm not sure what we all do about that. But this establishment has RDO, or tries to have RDO.

They, obviously, can't control when and if the officers show up, and that's been a challenge since the pandemic. I'm presuming that the officers are needed elsewhere. I don't know. I know that there's been shortages across all industries, I presuming also the Police Department, in terms of personnel. So, that's been a problem.

The other thing that we will do -- and this became apparent during what we just heard -- is Mr. Karagounis will conduct a review of the

security cameras to make sure that there is coverage. And I know in the past ABRA has sometimes had an investigator involved in that. Happy to do that. Happy to cooperate with that.

There's no intention for there not to be complete coverage. There are 40 cameras in that establishment. And if some of them need to be realigned, so that there's appropriate coverage, then Mr. Karagounis is committed to seeing that that's done.

There is a bit of an issue in terms of the security systems these days getting replacements when things break because of the supply chain issues which are being experienced across all industries. But, that being said, there will be a reexamination of coverage, and we'll do an appropriate coverage map, so that it's clear that there's coverage of the establishment.

I think this was unfortunate. It's unknown where this weapon came from, but the establishment is committed to taking steps to assure that weapons do not get into these premises.

And we would ask the Board, to just

kind of generally, to inquire as to what's 1 2 happening with respect to RDO, and maybe there 3 needs to be some examination of the RDO system moving forward, if, indeed, it's found that there 4 5 are not officers available to do it. I don't know whether that's true, but I have heard that, 6 7 and have heard that from the licensee in this 8 situation, that they had appropriately arranged 9 to have them, and they were not there. 10 So, that is what we have. We are happy to answer any questions or try to address 11 12 any concerns that you, Mr. Chairman, have or any 13 of the Board members have, with respect to this incident. 14

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Kline.

I just have a quick questions for Lieutenant Johnson. Lieutenant Johnson, are you aware of -- Mr. Kline had stated that a request was made for RDO, and there was no RDO that evening. Are you aware of this? Or was this ever made known to you?

LT. JOHNSON: Yeah, we do have an RDO list. I mean, (audio interference) would also work in this club. And that night, he's right,

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in that no one signed up to work at the Decades. 1 2 All they had was a voluntary assignment. 3 Officers sign up to work a club all the time, and they can select any club that has it available. 4 5 And no one selected to work at Decades that 6 So, they didn't have anybody. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, you 8 had officers at Rosebar, which was about two 9 doors down, but no one was at Decades, which 10 was --11 LT. JOHNSON: Yeah, no one chose to 12 work at Decades that night. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 13 All right. 14 Thank you for that clarification. 15 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, if I may, 16 because I think it's worth having the discussion. 17 We all hear about these issues. I think that I 18 don't know that that would have made a difference 19 here. It seems to me the proximity of the Rosebar RDO probably did as much as could have 20 21 been done if there had been an RDO in front of 22 this place. That may not be the case next time. 23 So, I raise that kind of generally, 24 but, I mean, I think in this case, the fact that 25 there was already an RDO just a couple of doors

down, for this case did as much as could have 1 2 been done anyway. But we are concerned in the 3 future moving forward because this establishment is committed to the safety of its patrons and its 4 5 employees, and is willing to pay the money for But if they can't get officers to sign up, 6 7 then we've got a bigger problem. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. 9 Kline. 10 I thought you were saying one of the defenses, on behalf of your client, is that they 11 12 had requested RDO, and RDO did not, was not made 13 available that night. And so, that's why I was 14 trying to find out whether or not that was a 15 factual -- at least if the lieutenant was aware 16 if that was factual or that was just the attorney 17 making arguments on behalf of this client. 18 MR. KLINE: That was not, Mr. Chair. 19 I appreciate you verifying it. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 21 Thank you. 22 All right. Mr. Kline, do you know --23 you or Mr. Karagounis can respond -- do you know 24 how many security personnel was working that 25 night?

1 MR. KLINE: Mr. Karagounis? 2 MR. KARAGOUNIS: We usually schedule 3 26 people. I'm not aware if everybody had showed 4 up that night, but we always have over 20 in the 5 establishment. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But are you 6 7 stating that you believe that there was over 20 8 that night? 9 MR. KARAGOUNIS: There was definitely 10 over 20, but I'm just not sure 26, 25, 27; I'm 11 That's our problem. not sure. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what are 13 your security admissions procedures on August I think Mr. Kline had made some 14 22nd? 15 representation about changes, too, that were 16 subsequently made. But do you recall what were 17 the security procedures that were being utilized 18 that night? Well, just checking 19 MR. KARAGOUNIS: IDs at the front door and we admit patrons. 20 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But let me ask 22 that question. I mean, why -- so you have never 23 patted down? You had never used wands or a pat-24 down of the clients attending the establishment? 25 They did. They have used MR. KLINE:

pat-downs, but they've used it selectively, based upon the character of the entertainment that night, the character the expected crowd, and they made judgments in terms of when to do pat-downs. And the procedure that they're changing is they're no longer going to make those judgments. They're just going to do it every night.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do you use -- I know, but what type of searches or what is it that was done previously? I mean, obviously, pat-downs. Do you guys use wands? Or, if they were not in use that night, moving forward, do you use wands? Do you use a metal detector? I mean, what is it that you're utilizing to facilitate the entrance into the establishment moving forward?

MR. KLINE: Mr. Karagounis does not believe that the technical or the mechanical apparatuses are reliable in terms of wands, and the like, and believes in physical pat-downs, since that's a more effective approach. Is that right, Mr. Karagounis?

MR. KARAGOUNIS: Yes. Yes. The wands, in my experience, do not work. They keep on beeping for whatever reason. So, we do the

physical pat-downs.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You know, I'm not going to tell an establishment whether or not they should do pat-downs or wands. But I know when I travel, they don't do -- they do the metal, should I say something similar to a wand? And once that goes off, then they do the pat-down. It's not the other way around. But I'm not going to tell you. You're a businessman. You operate your business. I'm not going to tell you whether or not you should use, at least at this juncture, whether or not you should do a pat-down; you should use a wand prior to a pat-down, or vice versa. I'm just asking some questions.

I know that the individuals were put out of the establishment, and they were not aware, I guess the individual was not aware that they were stabbed until they came out. Do you know -- I'm sorry. All right. In asking a question, I've answered my question because it appears that the persons, they were in the VIP section.

Now do you have any cameras in the VIP section?

1	MR. KARAGOUNIS: I guess, can I
2	respond to that?
3	MR. KLINE: Yes.
4	MR. KARAGOUNIS: Yes, there's cameras
5	all over the floor. I believe there's six
6	different cameras on the floor at least.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, do you
8	know, how was it that your security person, how
9	were they alerted to this incident? What
10	happened? How were they alerted to this
11	incident?
12	MR. KARAGOUNIS: They saw an
13	altercation between patrons. So, they just
14	one separated them and escorted them out.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, was there
16	any security what type of security do you have
17	in the VIP section?
18	MR. KARAGOUNIS: I'm sorry?
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What type of
20	security? What level of security do you have in
21	the VIP section? I mean, how large is
22	describe, okay, describe the VIP section where
23	this incident occurred.
24	MR. KARAGOUNIS: Oh.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please tell me

how many people can be in the VIP section and 1 2 what type of security you normally have. 3 MR. KARAGOUNIS: Yeah, it's five tables, five couches. So, 30-40 people maybe. 4 5 It's not a separate area necessarily separated It's just a continuation of the from the club. 6 7 floor, and just people doing bottle service. That's all the VIPs. It's not really VIP that 8 9 you have to respond to walk in or anything like 10 that. So, there is a seating area. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, is this 12 area cordoned off or is it just --13 MR. KARAGOUNIS: On the sides, but for 14 the most part it's open. But you cannot really 15 walk in there unless you have a table because 16 those tables are along with the couches. 17 people don't just wander in there, you know. It's a little bit to the corner of the place. 18 19 So, it's not a traffic area. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, 21 do they have a separate security system? 22 have separate security or is it just the security 23 for the club? 24 MR. KARAGOUNIS: It's good for the 25 club, and it's right next to the bathrooms.

there's always one security right next to it, and 1 2 there's another security at the bar that is 3 about, I want to say, 10 feet away. So, there's a couple of security guys on that side of the 4 5 The floor is this long. It's about 60floor. feet long and 22-feet wide. So, it's just a long 6 7 floor. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now how is it 9 that -- I know you have a security plan. 10 your establishment was aware of the incident --11 this is if they were aware of the incident --12 what's the process and procedure that's followed 13 by your establishment? 14 MR. KARAGOUNIS: In a case of a 15 stabbing or in a case of fight? 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, in this 17 I mean -case. 18 MR. KARAGOUNIS: Okay. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're 20 stating that no one knew that a person got 21 stabbed until they got outside. 22 MR. KARAGOUNIS: Yes. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If they were 24 aware that a person was stabbed in the VIP 25 section, what process and procedures do you

follow to address that issue?

MR. KARAGOUNIS: They would secure -they do -- they would secure the area and get the
MPD officers from the front door.

And --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now -- I'm sorry, go ahead. Go ahead, sir.

MR. KARAGOUNIS: So you understand, the person that walked to the front and said they felt they were wounded, they didn't even know they got stabbed because they were not part of the fight. My understanding is the people that fought pushed each other, and somebody bumped into the person that actually got hurt. So, the person that got hurt didn't even know they got hurt because he wasn't involved in any fights.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MR. KARAGOUNIS: He was just standing by, and somebody got pushed into him. And then, we escorted the people fighting outside, and that person just walked out by himself, came to the front door and said, "I'm feeling -- I feel like I got hurt. I see blood." And then, we got the police officers.

I don't know the specifics, if they

got the police officer first or they got the security first. They walked to the front door and they complained. And the police officers were right outside.

And the statement that the police officers were always outside of Rosebar, maybe for that night, is accurate; I'm not sure. But, because of the bus top that we have right outside, sometimes the Rosebar police officers and our police officers are all parked right outside of Decades, because there's a bus stop right outside of -- between Rosebar and Decades. So, depending on how people are parking, sometimes they park outside of our establishment for both places.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Okay.

I have an off -- I'm prefacing my statement -- I have an off-topic question that I'm asking. It's my understanding that your establishment was given a warning this past weekend, based on a COVID violation, in the sense that I think the staff was not wearing masks.

Can you tell us what are the COVID procedures that your establishment currently

1	follows?		
2	MR. KARAGOUNIS: We inform people that		
3	they need their masks to walk in. If they don't		
4	have a mask		
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Staff. Staff.		
6	Staff.		
7	MR. KARAGOUNIS: Oh, the staff is		
8	required on the indoor floors to wear a mask,		
9	both indoor security and managers alike.		
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, how is this		
11	policed? Because it's my understanding that you		
12	were provided a warning this weekend, based on		
13	staff, not the public. The staff. So, that's		
14	why I'm trying to find out, how is this policed		
15	by management?		
16	MR. KARAGOUNIS: When they see a		
17	security not wearing a mask, you tell them to put		
18	a mask on.		
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Any		
20	questions by any Board members, in follow up to		
21	any of the questions I asked?		
22	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, I just		
23	have		
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short?		
25	MEMBER SHORT: Yeah, this is for the		

1 owner. 2 Good afternoon, sir. 3 MR. KARAGOUNIS: Hello. 4 MEMBER SHORT: You say the people that 5 were escorted out didn't know that they were So, was one of the people escorted out 6 7 the young lady who was cut on the hand? 8 MR. KARAGOUNIS: The people were not 9 -- the people that were injured were not escorted They walked to the front door and 10 outside. 11 informed us that they feel they got hurt, at the 12 front, and that's when we got the police, and the 13 police got involved and they came inside. 14 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I'm hearing you, 15 but I'm just trying to understand you. young lady was cut on the hand, which means she 16 17 would have been bleeding from the hand. She had to know she was injured. 18 19 MR. KARAGOUNIS: I do not know the 20 lady -- I'm discussing what with the person that 21 got hurt on the abdomen. 22 MEMBER SHORT: Did you know about the 23 lady getting cut on the hand also? 24 MR. KARAGOUNIS: I do not. 25 MEMBER SHORT: This is the first time

you're hearing it? 1 MR. KARAGOUNIS: That is the first 2 3 time I hear it. 4 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 5 That's all I have. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 6 7 Thank you, Mr. Short. Mr. Kline, one of the things I heard 8 9 you talk about was you talked about camera coverage. And so, I think you volunteered or you 10 stated that you didn't mind ABRA coming in and an 11 12 investigator coming in to look at blind spots and 13 make some recommendations regarding changes that 14 can be made. Is that something that your client 15 is willing, would like ABRA to do? 16 MR. KLINE: Yeah. Certainly, I mean, 17 we heard concerns about coverage, and let's make 18 sure we've got it. I mean, he's not paying for 19 40 cameras for there not to be coverage. They've 20 always complied with requests to turn in their 21 video, and they will. But let's make sure that 22 we've got all the angles covered. Happy to do 23 that. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, 25 there's a commitment that I will ensure that the

Agency follows up with the licensee when 1 provisions can be made to do a walk-through to 2 3 make recommendations regarding the camera coverage. And this is an agreement. This will 4 5 occur, irrespective of whatever decision that the Board makes, whether or not further actions 6 7 should occur or whether or not this matter should be referred to the Office of the Attorney General 8 9 for further development. 10 All right. All right. Any questions, statements by any parties before I bring closure 11 12 to this hearing? 13 MR. KLINE: I just have one. And I

just, yeah, I want to stress that this operator wants to do what he can do to keep his patrons safe and his employees safe. And, you know, that's why we're certainly willing to look at cameras and anything else that can be done. That's why he's willing to pay for RDO. why, when this incident occurred, he looked at his searching policy and decided to change it, even before we came here.

So, he wants to do the right thing and wants to work with you, your Agency, and MPD, whenever possible, to see that the right thing is

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done, and that the patrons and employees are 1 2 safe. 3 I'm happy to entertain any 4 suggestions, constructive criticism, what have 5 you, to see that that's done. There's a lot of crazies out there 6 7 now, and it's all pretty scary for everybody. And it's got scarier for the operators of these 8 9 establishments. But, again, I want to stress 10 this operator wants to do what it can to keep 11 people safe. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 13 Thank you for the representation that you made, Mr. Kline. 14 15 All right. The Board will take this matter under advisement, and we will inform you 16 whether or not we will issue a No Further Action 17 Determination or whether or not this matter will 18 19 be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for further action. 20 21 All right. Mr. Miller, thank you for 22 your appearance today. 23 Lieutenant Johnson, thank you for your 24 appearance today. 25 Mr. Karagounis, thank you for your --

you know, I'm looking at this screen and I'm 1 2 seeing your name. And so, while I'm looking at 3 this screen and seeing your name, I'm trying to 4 make sure that I pronounce it correctly. 5 thank you for your appearance today. And, of course, Mr. Kline. 6 7 Thank everyone for their appearance 8 today. Have a great day. 9 And this hearing is adjourned. Thank 10 you. Have a great day, 11 MR. KLINE: Thank you. 12 (Whereupon, at 3:57 p.m., the 13 proceedings in the above-entitled matter were concluded.) 14 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We 16 have addressed our agenda, and there are no 17 further cases on the agenda today. So, let me 18 bring this day to a close. 19 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of 20 21 Columbia, in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 22 104, Office of Open Government, I'm move that the 23 ABC Board hold a closed meeting on October 21st, 24 2021, for the purpose of discussing in-hand

reports concerning ongoing our planned

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instigations of alleged criminal or civil 1 misconduct or violations of law, or regulations, 2 3 and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel 4 on the Board's Investigative Agenda, the Legal 5 Agenda, and License Agenda for October 21st, 2021, as published in The DC Register on October 6 8th, 2021. 7 8 Is there a second? 9 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I second. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has 10 11 seconded the motion. 12 I will now take a roll call vote on 13 the motion before us now that's been properly 14 seconded. 15 Mr. Short? 16 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato? 18 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato. I agree. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett? MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett. 20 21 agree. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen? 23 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen. I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis? 24 25 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis. I

1 agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. 2 3 Anderson. I agree. As it appears that the motion has 4 5 passed 6-0-0, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold its aforementioned closed 6 meeting. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 7 notice will also be posted on the ABC Board 8 9 bulletin board; placed on an electronic calendar on the ABRA's website, and published in The DC 10 11 Register in as timely a manner as practical. 12 We are adjourned for the day. I would 13 like to thank the members of the public for 14 participating today. I would like to also thank 15 the Board members for their active participation 16 today. 17 So, we are now adjourned for the day, and I now ask all Board members to return to 18 19 executive session for further development. 20 Thank you very much, and have a great 21 day. 22 (Whereupon, at 3:59 p.m., the open 23 session of the ABRA Board was adjourned.) 24 25

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Before: DCABRA

Date: 10-20-21

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