

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
OJ-ODD JOBS, INC, :
t/a H3 :
1613 17th Street NW : Fact Finding
Retailer MC : Hearing
License No. 129096 :
 :
(New Application - Social: Equity Applicant) :

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

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
SILAS GRANT, JR., Member
RYAN JONES, Member
DAVID MEADOWS, Member
TERI JANINE QUINN, Member

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL, Applicant's Counsel

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

2 1:15 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case
4 that we have on our calendar is a fact finding
5 hearing. And, this is OJ-ODD JOBS, INC., trade
6 name H3, License Number 129096.

7 Good afternoon. Mr. Orellana, can
8 you please elevate the rights of the parties in
9 this case?

10 MR. ORELLANA: Sure thing, good
11 afternoon. Chris Michael, access elevated. That
12 is all, Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
14 thank you. Give me a minute, Mr. Michael.

15 (Pause.)

16 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
18 good afternoon Mr. Michael. Can you please spell
19 and state your name for the record?

20 MR. MICHAEL: Christopher Michael, C-
21 H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R M-I-C-H-A-E-L.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, what is
23 your relationship to H3, sir?

24 MR. MICHAEL: I'm the agent for H3.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're the

1 agent for H3?

2 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you the
4 only person who is testifying here today, sir?

5 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess my
7 concern, the concern I'm having. Do you have any
8 ownership stake in this establishment, sir?

9 MR. MICHAEL: No, sir. But I have a
10 management agreement that we put in place, that's
11 been signed by both owners.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But we're
13 having, I guess the part of the issue that I'm
14 having is that we're having a hearing on this
15 license.

16 And, I'm having someone, you're
17 providing me a management agreement. I don't
18 know who, so who is the, do we have a copy of
19 this management agreement?

20 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, you do. It
21 was sent --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
24 hold on.

25 MR. MICHAEL: Pardon?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a
2 minute. All right, for some strange reason your
3 WiFi is, there is an issue with your WiFi
4 Because I'm getting interference.

5 So --

6 MR. MICHAEL: Let me try to take off
7 my Bluetooth, and just go straight to phone
8 instead.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
10 maybe that will be better.

11 (Pause.)

12 MR. MICHAEL: Does that work better?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's, yes.

14 MR. MICHAEL: Perfect.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
16 you, all right, so have you provided this
17 management agreement to the agency?

18 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, I provided it
19 to the specialist, Ms. Boone, and also to Legal.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, when did
21 you provide that to Legal?

22 MR. MICHAEL: On the 4th of, no, I'm
23 sorry, the 7th of November. Actually hold on, I
24 have it in front of me. I provided it, I
25 apologize, the 13th of November.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, okay. So,
2 who is the owner of --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MR. MICHAEL: Mr. Darius Holston.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- H3? Mr.
6 Darius Holston?

7 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
9 hold on.

10 (Pause.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who are the
12 officers of ODD JOBS, LLC?

13 MR. MICHAEL: It is Mr. Darius
14 Holston, and his brother Marcus Holston.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, why is
16 it that Mr. Holston, Mr. Darius Holston and
17 Marcus Holston, why is the party not here today?

18 (No audible response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you
20 frozen, Mr. Michael?

21 MR. MICHAEL: No, I'm not. Can you
22 hear me?

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I couldn't
24 hear you before. I can't see you but now I, you
25 were frozen.

1 MR. MICHAEL: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr.
2 Darius Holston's in a rehabilitation facility for
3 a medical issue that he is healing from.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, what
5 about Mr. Marcus Holston?

6 MR. MICHAEL: He wasn't able to
7 attend. I asked the counsel if it was an issue,
8 and they said it wasn't an issue because of all
9 work --

10 (Telephonic interference.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
12 you stated that I guess, but let, before we start
13 here. So just tell me about H3. Tell me about
14 H3.

15 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, it's a
16 medical cannabis retail. It's located in 1613
17 17th Street NW, in Dupont Circle.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. This is
19 you, all right, I have a lot of questions.

20 MR. MICHAEL: That's fine.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Basically, the
22 Board gathering facts. At a fact finding
23 hearing, the parties are not sworn in.

24 The Board is not, the Board cannot
25 order a party to take any specific action.

1 MR. MICHAEL: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can
3 volunteer to do actions, and you can decide that
4 if the Board asks you to do something, you could
5 decide that you're not going to do it, and the
6 Board doesn't have the power in a fact finding
7 hearing, to order the parties to take any
8 specific action.

9 You will not be sworn in today. So I
10 just wanted to let you know that. This is just
11 the Board is gathering facts, trying to find some
12 information, and in this license, in the issuance
13 of this license process.

14 And so --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that's one
18 of the reasons why we are here today.

19 So, this is an opportunity for you
20 to share with the Board. I'm going to, we do
21 have some questions that we want to ask.

22 But first off, this is an opportunity
23 for you to introduce yourself to the Board, and
24 then when I ask a question, what is H3, I don't
25 know what H3 is.

1 So tell us about the business,
2 because I don't, I'm not familiar with it and
3 I'll ask who is the owner? I'll also ask you
4 about your relationship, your management,
5 agreement.

6 I have the agreement here, it's too
7 many pages for me to review at the moment.

8 MR. MICHAEL: I apologize.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, well I'm
10 just saying no, that you did provide it to the
11 agency. I was not aware, but it's something that
12 I have. So it's in front of me.

13 Of course, it is just, there is no
14 way I can review this and ask you any questions
15 about it, so all I can do is ask general
16 questions.

17 So, this is just your, prior to Board
18 members asking you questions, just this is your
19 opportunity to introduce this company to the
20 Board.

21 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir. So I can
22 start off on behalf of H3 is a, going for a
23 medical cannabis license in the District.

24 I was signed on with them to be able
25 to help the build out process, go through

1 everything.

2 I specialize in the cannabis
3 industry. I'm currently licensed in another
4 market in Michigan, as a commercial cultivation.

5 So, I have expertise in being able to
6 consult for groups. And that Mr. Holston in
7 August of '23 of the previous year through a
8 friend, because I've helped multiple places in
9 the District to be able to open or go through
10 knowing metric, and also knowing your guys'
11 current ABCA laws through the medical industry.

12 And, they had, I helped general
13 contract their retail to be able to open. And
14 during that point in time after Darius had his
15 medical issue that he had, health related, he,
16 there was a downtime at that point where soon as
17 he was able to basically come with right mind and
18 also with his brother, to be able to think that
19 until he's fully healthy to be able to, put in a
20 management agreement where I can help oversee the
21 business, and the operations, and the staff, and
22 everything from there.

23 So basically, I know you have it in
24 front of you and I know it's a very long
25 document, but on the first page in Article 1,

1 Section 101, it basically describes my role
2 currently with the business as it sits.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, when is it
4 that this management agreement was established?

5 MR. MICHAEL: The management
6 agreement was established, are you talking about
7 when it was actually submitted, or when it was
8 discussed?

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When is it
10 that you signed, I mean the document speaks for
11 itself but that when you tell me, when is it that
12 you put in place this management agreement?

13 MR. MICHAEL: 11/13 of this year.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, what
15 is it that, what is specifically your role with
16 this management agreement?

17 MR. MICHAEL: To oversee product
18 placement; to be able to help with ordering; and,
19 the relations that I already currently have in
20 the District with current cultivators,
21 manufacturers in the District currently.

22 To be able to help staff the store;
23 to be able to run manager operations; and, to be
24 able to help onboard train on POS systems,
25 metric, and not have any issues.

1 And also just to point out let's see,
2 on page, let's see just so it can be very clear.

3 On page 6, there is, I have zero
4 ownership. This is just particularly a
5 management agreement.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I'm sorry,
7 I think you said that Mr., I'm sorry, who has a
8 health, who has some health concern, is it Darius
9 or Marcus?

10 MR. MICHAEL: Mr. Holston, it's Mr.
11 (telephonic interference) Holston.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, Mr. Darius
13 Holston, he's the one who has some health
14 challenges. All right, so do you know, so
15 outside of -- Mr. Michael, are you still there?

16 Oh, okay, so Mr. Michael, outside of
17 what type of expertise to run a cannabis, a
18 medical cannabis business, does Mr. Marcus
19 Holston have?

20 (No audible response.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
22 Michael, I don't think that -- this is not going
23 to work. Your WiFi is unstable.

24 MR. MICHAEL: Oh, okay. I'm trying
25 here, I apologize. I try to use my tablet and it

1 wasn't working.

2 Can you hear me, or no?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you able
4 to change your location, sir? I don't know where
5 you are. Are you able to get into a different
6 location?

7 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, I can, I can
8 definitely try.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't we
10 try to do that?

11 MR. MICHAEL: Does this help at all?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It might be.
13 Whatever location you are, it's interfering with
14 the signal.

15 And so, we are, you're frozen. We'll
16 speak and you'll disappear and I'm not hearing
17 your correct, I'm not hearing you clearly.

18 MR. MICHAEL: Okay, let me see if I
19 can locate it outside unfortunately. Sorry, I'm
20 at my residence.

21 Is this any better?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
23 let's, well maybe you need to have a chair just
24 so you can sit down.

25 MR. MICHAEL: It's okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not sure.

2 MR. MICHAEL: It's all right, I'm
3 perfectly fine.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
5 So, and again, so the management agreement again.
6 Just this management agreement again
7 because I have not read it, specifically what is
8 your role?

9 MR. MICHAEL: I'm overseeing the
10 business day-to-day operations.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, tell me
12 just what does that mean?

13 MR. MICHAEL: That means creating the
14 scheduling for the employees; making sure that
15 the employees go through their appropriate metric
16 training; green culture.

17 Getting the issuance of their cards
18 through ABCA; assigning the managers; setting up
19 their scheduling.

20 Purchasing product for the actual
21 retail; anything that involves day-to-day
22 operations at any high level, period.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's your
24 responsibilities?

25 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what,
2 based on the management agreement, what, and so
3 as you have stated, Mr. Darius Holston has some
4 health issues.

5 So I guess he's not able to do day-
6 to-day, is that correct?

7 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, that is
8 correct.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what, so
10 are you then the person based on this agreement,
11 who makes all decisions regarding the business?

12 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir. It is during
13 that agreement I do have to also speak, I have to
14 speak with the owners to make financial decisions
15 for the actual business itself.

16 Like payroll for staff that comes in.
17 Can't be anything exorbitant. It has to be
18 everything that's set at that point in time.

19 But the management agreement is to
20 run the operations until Darius is better, to be
21 able to oversee the business.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
23 Now, what involvement if any, do you have with
24 any other medical cannabis establishments within
25 the District of Columbia?

1 MR. MICHAEL: Currently under ABCA
2 records, I am a minority owner of DNM, Dispensary
3 Near Me, located in 610 H Street, Chinatown.

4 But that is currently going through a
5 process through the majority ownership, that
6 (telephonic interference) --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, I
8 lost you.

9 MR. MICHAEL: I know, yes, I
10 apologize. That you guys are aware of that on
11 July 9 of this year, that they actually have to
12 have a sell of their license.

13 So, I was in operations when I was
14 put on that as a minority owner in December of
15 2024.

16 And, I operated the actual start up
17 of that store from day-to-day operations, from
18 May of 2024 to February of 2025, with zero
19 violations against the actual retail.

20 I did everything that I'm doing
21 currently right now.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --
23 (Simultaneous speaking.)

24 MR. MICHAEL: And I apologize,
25 there's one more. With ABT, I'm a consultant,

1 sorry.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
3 on. Do you still, do you currently have any
4 ownership stake in, what's the name of the first
5 facility you mentioned?

6 MR. MICHAEL: Dispensary Near Me.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dispensary
8 Near Me. Do you still hold a minority share in
9 Dispensary Near Me?

10 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, via ABCA, I
11 do.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you still
13 maintain a minority stake in this establishment,
14 all right.

15 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, I do.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, what
17 other medical cannabis business in the District
18 do you have ownership stake in?

19 MR. MICHAEL: Zero, other than that
20 one.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, what
22 other medical dispensary in the District of
23 Columbia, do you have any other type of business
24 relationship with?

25 MR. MICHAEL: No dispensaries. I'm

1 currently, well no other dispensaries that I'm
2 working with.

3 But I do have a consulting contract
4 with ABT, LLC, where I'm helping the owners build
5 out their cultivation and manufacturing.

6 But that's just as a consulting, no
7 management agreement, no anything, just separate
8 of my knowledge of the industry.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you don't
10 have any, you don't have a management agreement
11 with --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 MR. MICHAEL: No, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- with ADT?

15 MR. MICHAEL: ABT.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, A
17 what?

18 MR. MICHAEL: A-B as in boy, T as in
19 Tom.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, all
21 right so you don't have any ownership stake in
22 ABT cultivation and manufacturing, is that
23 correct?

24 MR. MICHAEL: That is correct, no
25 management agreement. I'm just there to help

1 design their plans.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
3 And, this is, so you have an active consultant
4 agreement, is that correct?

5 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, what's
7 the duration of this agreement?

8 MR. MICHAEL: Soon as they are
9 granted their license. At that point in time,
10 I'm helping them with anything that they need.

11 With any paperwork, with working with
12 ABCA, with any questions that they have during
13 that point in time.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
15 and so this is the extent of your involvement in
16 the cannabis, in the medical cannabis industry
17 within the District of Columbia, is that correct?

18 MR. MICHAEL: That is correct, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
20 any relationship or ownership stake in any
21 cannabis business outside of Washington, D.C.?

22 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, I own a
23 commercial cultivation in Michigan.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
25 that is your only involvement in cannabis, the

1 cannabis industry outside of the District of
2 Columbia, is that correct?

3 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you aware
5 that because you own a cultivation center outside
6 of D.C., that a medical license dispensary in
7 D.C. can only sell products from a licensed
8 cultivation or manufacturing business in the
9 District of Columbia?

10 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, that's very
11 well known throughout everything. Located for us
12 in the CRA, you cannot, you can only cultivate
13 and be licensed in that actual, in the state of
14 Michigan with that license.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you aware
16 that you cannot although it's a federal crime,
17 but we're not --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. MICHAEL: You cannot transfer,
20 yes, sir, I'm very aware of that. That is, yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So although
22 you said that you're aware of it, the District is
23 aware of folks who have been selling products.

24 Not you, but --

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. MICHAEL: Of course, I
2 understand, yes. So, I understand this I-71
3 market that was before there. Yes, I am aware of
4 that.

5 But yes, I made them aware that we
6 don't. I understand what you're saying.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That folks are
8 allegedly still selling products in the District
9 of Columbia, that's not grown or manufactured
10 from a licensed cultivation or manufacturing in
11 the District of Columbia?

12 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, I'm --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, share with
14 us the business model of H3?

15 MR. MICHAEL: The business model is
16 to be able to acquire licensed medical product to
17 be able to put on the, our shelves to be able to
18 sell to licensed medical patients.

19 And, to be able to, that's basically
20 where we sit at with that, with the business
21 model.

22 To be able to be successful in the
23 industry, and also be able to get medical
24 cannabis to patients that are in need of medical
25 cannabis.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MR. MICHAEL: Licensed medical
4 patients.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, do you
6 know what type of products you're planning to
7 sell?

8 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, actually I
9 do. I, with the previously overseeing the
10 procurement for a dispensary near me, I have
11 relationships with pretty much every cultivation
12 and manufacturing in the District currently right
13 now.

14 Unfortunately, with the fact finding
15 was 2S because we were up in front of the Board
16 two weeks ago, and I already had reached out to
17 the, the owners of these facilities.

18 Or their salespeople to be able to
19 request menus, to be able to see, to look before
20 we were able to get our metric information.

21 Of course, they can't transfer
22 anything or do anything, until your approval.
23 But yes, I have a procurement of current material
24 that we would like to bring in to sell to the
25 medical patients.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
2 business currently have any Schedule I substance
3 in its possession, either onsite or at another
4 location?

5 MR. MICHAEL: No, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
7 business currently have any non-medical cannabis
8 products in its possession, either onsite or at
9 another location?

10 MR. MICHAEL: No, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
12 business understand that the presence or
13 distribution of Schedule I or non-medical
14 cannabis products, may lead to the closure of the
15 business, or the revocation of the license?

16 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there
18 anything else that you want to bring to the
19 attention of this Board?

20 MR. MICHAEL: I would just ask with
21 this fact finding, currently we had staff that
22 were expecting to start two weeks ago, when we
23 were up in front of the Board.

24 And, we actually had them trained,
25 did their green culture, had them come or leave

1 previous jobs that they were at, that now are
2 unemployed.

3 I would ask that if the Board accepts
4 the fact finding, to be able to have these
5 employees to be able to have work so they can
6 afford to, cost of living is pretty, pretty
7 intense in D.C.

8 But currently there's seven people
9 that have been waiting to see how the outcome of
10 two weeks ago was going to be.

11 And now, they're waiting to see if
12 they're going to have a job. We've had three
13 people that couldn't wait, and they had to get
14 another job because they couldn't afford not to
15 get a paycheck.

16 So, I would ask that with your
17 findings, that if today that I don't know how
18 this goes; I've never had to do this before.

19 But just so we can get people back,
20 be able to work, to get a paycheck, to be able to
21 afford to feed their families.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Michael?

23 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir?

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What happened
25 two weeks ago?

1 MR. MICHAEL: Two weeks ago we were
2 up for approval on the Board, and then when you
3 guys had the, when it came up to our approval I
4 was watching the Board meeting.

5 And then, it turned into a fact
6 finding.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, okay.

8 MR. MICHAEL: So it was actually set
9 up two weeks ago on, so that was the confusion.
10 I didn't know.

11 I reached out to Ms. Walker in Legal
12 to ask, and (telephonic interference) and then it
13 came up to a fact finding when it was originally
14 up for approval.

15 So, there wasn't any issues. All the
16 paperwork that had been filed showing me as agent
17 with everything. I talked with Ms. Boone, who is
18 their analyst.

19 And then, Ms. Ray, Anna Ray, was able
20 to process everything. Everything seemed fine,
21 and then the day of the hearing when we were
22 expecting to hear that we were approved, it said
23 that now there was a fact finding.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I think --

25 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. MICHAEL: So we didn't know --
2 yes, sir?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, go
4 ahead. You can finish.

5 MR. MICHAEL: No, we, it's a long
6 process. This has been a long process,
7 especially with what happened with Darius and his
8 family, and everything.

9 And it is what it is, right? We have
10 to go through if you guys have any questions.

11 Any questions at all, any Board
12 member, anybody, I'd be happy to answer anything
13 that anybody has.

14 So, that's the only reason we're
15 asking, that I'm asking, or Darius or Marcus, is
16 because some of the people there really need a
17 paycheck.

18 And, we vested into them and they
19 vested into us, so that's why I was just asking
20 if every answer or every question that anybody
21 has on this Board, that I'll answer whatever you
22 guys have.

23 Just if we could get it where we
24 would be able to open.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think part

1 of the issue as you are stating, is that it was
2 on the calendar for approval and then became fact
3 finding because --

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- there is an
7 issue with ownership. There is in a sense that
8 Darius Holston is the individual who applied for
9 a license.

10 And from what you are stating to us,
11 he's not in a position to manage his business.

12 And so --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MR. MICHAEL: He is -- yes, sir, I'm
15 sorry, I apologize. He is in the position to
16 manage a business.

17 But right now if something else comes
18 up with a health scare that he currently had
19 before, there will be an issue with him running a
20 business.

21 Because we don't know if something
22 actually can come up. Because currently like I
23 said, he is in a rehabilitation for his health.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, and
25 that's the issue is that you have --

1 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- an owner
3 who applied for a license, got a license, and
4 when it's time to issue the license from what
5 we're being told, that owner is not able to run
6 the business.

7 You presented yourself as an agent so
8 prior to, prior to I guess November 13, there was
9 no management agreement in place.

10 So, you had represented yourself as
11 an agent. And so who is the owner if the owner
12 was not the individual presenting themselves to the
13 agency to say that here, this is my expertise in
14 managing and running my business?

15 So, that is, that's where the hiccup
16 occurred, is that we're given licenses for
17 medication. Medical license, it's not a
18 recreational market. It's a medical market.

19 And we're giving licenses, and we
20 need to know who it is that we're giving
21 licenses.

22 We also need to know the, what type
23 of background do these individuals have in
24 managing this business, and running this
25 business.

1 And I think that's the purpose of
2 having a fact finding. So that's one of the
3 reasons why I'm saying.

4 And also, you presented yourself as
5 the agent, the registered agent, and this is not
6 the first business in the District of Columbia,
7 that you are, that you were the, that you had a
8 relationship with.

9 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, we are
11 trying to find out what's your ownership stake in
12 business in the District of Columbia.

13 With are there other facilities that
14 you have ownership, you have ownership stake in?

15 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, I understand.
16 Like I (telephonic interference) be able to
17 actually find out from Ms. Walker on Legal, that
18 those were the (telephonic interference).

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're
20 breaking up.

21 MR. MICHAEL: This is out for the
22 fact finding.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MR. MICHAEL: Of course, can you hear

1 me?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:

3 Intermittently. So that's why, and so that's one
4 of the reasons why these questions are being
5 asked.

6 And we're asking you to tell us who
7 you are. Tell us about I think you have provided
8 some information about your relationship.

9 You have a management agreement that
10 I, that Legal will review and provide us more
11 information.

12 Because as I said before, I can't
13 read this to ask any substantive questions
14 regarding this agreement.

15 So, any questions by any Board
16 members? Go ahead, Ms. Quinn.

17 MEMBER QUINN: Hi, can you tell us
18 about the term of this management agreement?

19 MR. MICHAEL: The term's a 4 year
20 management agreement.

21 MEMBER QUINN: And, can you tell us
22 about any experience in the industry, that either
23 of the owners has?

24 MR. MICHAEL: They don't have any
25 experience in the industry. And I can attest to

1 90 percent of the industry currently, does not
2 have any sort of experience in the actual metric
3 market, into the medical market.

4 Maybe in a previous market on I-71,
5 but that's why I am brought in on the management
6 agreement side.

7 Because I currently have roughly
8 about 5 years experience in the medical market,
9 and the adult use market, and in another state.

10 MEMBER QUINN: So I think I'm a
11 little confused about some things that you said
12 earlier.

13 At some point, I thought I heard you
14 say something along the lines of your agreement
15 would run until one of the owners was able to
16 take over?

17 And it sounded to me like it was, you
18 were referring to the owner who --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. MICHAEL: Mr. Holston.

21 MEMBER QUINN: -- who is in
22 rehabilitation.

23 And, well they're both same last name
24 for both of them, right?

25 (No audible response.)

1 MEMBER QUINN: Okay, you're breaking
2 up again.

3 So at any rate, if he's better two
4 months from now, does that mean you exit the
5 scene because he's better and able to take over?

6 MR. MICHAEL: No, the management
7 agreement's going to stay in place until he's
8 able to be up to speed with actually how a retail
9 runs.

10 The whole entire point is, if he
11 decides that he wants to then step in, that he
12 does have to understand actually how the day-to-
13 day operations are going to currently be ran.

14 But he's still able to make any sort
15 of management decision, and supercede anything
16 that I'm currently doing if he's the owner of the
17 license.

18 MEMBER QUINN: Yes, I think that's
19 what I'm getting at. Because it seems to me like
20 the business' entire knowledge of the industry,
21 is based on you.

22 So if something goes wrong with you,
23 you move away, whatever, they don't like you, you
24 don't like them.

25 MR. MICHAEL: Right.

1 MEMBER QUINN: There's nobody there
2 to steer the ship. And what I haven't heard, is
3 about how we're getting other folks up to speed
4 so that the business isn't incumbent on.

5 Because let's just imagine this. We
6 grant the license.

7 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, ma'am.

8 MEMBER QUINN: Something goes awry,
9 or whatever. Maybe there's a peaceful parting in
10 under 4 years.

11 And now there's no one there at the
12 business who really understands how things should
13 work, legally.

14 They won't come back to us and have
15 that conversation. We would just have aa
16 licensed business out here with nobody kind of,
17 with the institutional knowledge in the house.

18 And so, I'm trying to understand how
19 that gap gets bridged. How we create a scenario
20 where you are not the only person who has the
21 institutional knowledge, that would really
22 facilitate the operation of this business in a
23 legal manner.

24 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, ma'am, I can
25 answer that question.

1 MEMBER QUINN: Okay.

2 MR. MICHAEL: So Darius' daughter,
3 Marquita, is going to be a manager at the actual
4 retail.

5 MEMBER QUINN: Uh huh.

6 MR. MICHAEL: And, also his wife is
7 going to be also helping at the retail, as well.

8 So if there's any sort of issues,
9 they will get trained to everything from all the
10 SOPs that are standard, through the company
11 itself.

12 So if there is an issue or something
13 arise, or something let's say happened to me,
14 godforsaken, right?

15 That they would still be able to
16 figure out and understand how to run that actual
17 business.

18 MEMBER QUINN: Okay. And lastly, I
19 just wanted to give you a bit of unsolicited
20 advice because I know, I thought I heard you say
21 this was your first hearing of this sort.

22 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, ma'am.

23 MEMBER QUINN: If you should have
24 another hearing like this, I would strongly
25 encourage you, I can't make you, but I would

1 strongly encourage you to try to encourage the
2 business owners to attend.

3 I think it's really important for us
4 to hear from them directly. It's concerning that
5 they're not able to be here.

6 I really would have liked to have
7 heard directly from them, and it really kind of
8 conveys a seriousness of purpose.

9 And, I don't want to make any further
10 comment on how that applies to this case, but --

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, ma'am.

13 MEMBER QUINN: -- this is your first
14 time and I know you said you sought counsel from
15 the attorney.

16 I'm telling you as a Board member, I
17 would prefer to have the owners here. It says
18 something to me that they take the time to be
19 here.

20 So, just going forward, I'd like for
21 you to take that with you.

22 MR. MICHAEL: I understand. I
23 apologize.

24 MEMBER QUINN: No need to do all
25 that.

1 MR. MICHAEL: Oh no --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MEMBER QUINN: It's your first
4 hearing, and I'm just telling you going forward -
5 -

6 MR. MICHAEL: -- I understand and
7 I'll take that --

8 MEMBER QUINN: Let's just look
9 forward.

10 MR. MICHAEL: Okay, okay, thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
12 questions by any other Board members?

13 (No audible response.)

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any final
15 comment that you want to bring, any final comment
16 you want to say to us, Mr. Michael?

17 MR. MICHAEL: The last thing that I
18 have to say is beyond which I've already said, I
19 hope that any questions that have been answered,
20 I hope there's not anything left out there that
21 anybody has any comments or concern.

22 And, this is what I do for a living.
23 I have a family. This is what, I take this very
24 seriously so they have somebody that's in there
25 that is going to make sure that their business is

1 successful.

2 Because on this management agreement
3 that it has is that it, I have to make it
4 successful or I don't get anything from the
5 management agreement, period.

6 So, no financial gains from that.
7 So, if I do not do this, then it can't be
8 successful.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
10 we'll see what and that in reviewing the
11 management agreement, your conversations, and the
12 information you put on the record today, whether
13 or not that satisfies the agency regarding the
14 ownership of, and the ability of the owner to
15 effectively manage this business.

16 Okay, so that's because as I stated
17 before, this is your first opportunity and --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- is their
21 first opportunity to appear in front of the
22 Board.

23 Normally when people appear in front
24 of the Board, it's not to, an introduction to say
25 this is who I am, this is my management

1 experience. This is how I can manage the
2 business.

3 It's normally like okay, something
4 happened, something went awry, and I didn't have
5 any proper training

6 MR. MICHAEL: Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I did know. I
8 just went into this business because someone told
9 me that okay, I can go in the cannabis business,
10 but no one ever explained to me what it actually
11 means to be in the cannabis business.

12 No one told me that I couldn't sell
13 products from Michigan.

14 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're in D.C.
16 No one told me that I have to buy because I was
17 in the I-71 market, so I bought products where I
18 could.

19 No one told me that I have to go to
20 Clear Lab. That the products have to be tested.

21 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, these are,
23 so this is the opportunity that when we want to
24 meet owners in a sense that we can advise them,
25 find out from them what type of, what's the

1 experience in this type of business?

2 What's the experience in the metric
3 system? Because if we're going to trust you with
4 a license, and we're not going to, of course
5 we're going to do inspections, but we're not
6 there every day.

7 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so
9 therefore, we need to make sure that the products
10 that you are, the medical products that you are
11 providing to the residents of the District of
12 Columbia, that they have been properly tested,
13 they are legal products.

14 And that you're complying with the
15 law. And so, that's basically where we are.

16 So, if you don't have any other, if
17 there is no further statements that you wish to
18 make?

19 MR. MICHAEL: I do have one last
20 question.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, go
22 ahead.

23 MR. MICHAEL: And if it of course I'm
24 assuming, if how does this, I know you can't
25 really technically answer, but I know you're on

1 recess next week.

2 And then, if I'm not confused, you
3 have recess next week. If everything goes
4 appropriate how you guys concerned, would, I'm
5 just trying to figure out where everything would
6 stand with.

7 And so my main concern --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board --

10 MR. MICHAEL: Okay.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, the
12 Board is going to make a decision today on next
13 step.

14 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, the Board
16 is on, even if the Board is on recess, the agency
17 is not on recess.

18 The agency still operates. And --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. MICHAEL: Got you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- the agency
22 has, the Board will instruct the agency what next
23 steps are. The agency can move forward in the
24 sense that if the agency's going to issue the
25 license, the agency can issue the license.

1 And although the Board will not meet
2 for another two weeks, we could retroactively
3 approve whatever decision that's made by the
4 agency, next week if the agency makes that
5 decision.

6 So --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 MR. MICHAEL: That answered my
9 question.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MR. MICHAEL: Thank you, thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So please, I
13 want to assure you and the rest of the
14 population, not because the Board is not in
15 public session, that does not mean that the
16 agency does not function.

17 Although the Board signs off, must
18 sign off on all these decisions, it can, the
19 Board retroactively has the ability to sign off
20 on decisions that are made by the agency when the
21 Board is not in session, okay?

22 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir, thank you for
23 explaining that.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
25 the Board will make a decision what next steps

1 are.

2 As I stated before, this is a fact
3 finding hearing so if we are going to, if, yes,
4 it's a fact finding where we just gathering
5 facts.

6 So if further information or if
7 further, than we would have to have a more
8 complicated hearing in the sense of we'd have to
9 have a more complicated hearing where folks are
10 sworn in, and testimony.

11 But this is just, we're just
12 gathering facts to see if we're satisfied with
13 the structure.

14 I think it's helpful that at least
15 when this matter started, there was no management
16 agreement. You represented yourself as a agent.

17 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now there's a
19 management agreement so for whatever that's
20 worth, I don't know, but at least there is some
21 document in the record that the Board can look
22 at.

23 MR. MICHAEL: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, you have
25 presented yourself as someone who has experience

1 outside of the District of Columbia, that you
2 have had consulting relationships with
3 individuals here.

4 You have said that you're a
5 cultivator in the state of Michigan, and that you
6 have a minority interest in another cultivation,
7 I'm sorry, in another dispensary here in the
8 District of Columbia.

9 And, you have also shared with the
10 Board that you have no ownership stake in this
11 establishment.

12 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We can only go
14 with what's presented until we find something
15 otherwise that contradicts what was stated, okay?

16 MR. MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
18 thank you for your appearance today and the Board
19 will take this matter under advisement, okay?

20 Thank you, have a great day.

21 MR. MICHAEL: Thank you, you, too.

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
23 went off the record at 2:03 p.m.)
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this matter was taken; and further that I am not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Sam Wojack

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