DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + + ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD + + + + + MEETING

----= IN THE MATTER OF: : : Smoke & Tingz 2 Inc. : t/a Smoke & Tingz 2 Inc. : 25 Florida Ave NW : Protest Retailer MC - ANC 5E : Hearing License No. 128451 : Case #24-PR0-00085 : : (Application for a : New License) : ----=

> Wednesday November 20, 2024

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

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson SILAS GRANT, JR., Member DAVID MEADOWS, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABCA Staff JAMES THOMAS, Applicant SHAVON J. SMITH, Applicant Counsel KARLA M. LEWIS, ANC 5E INVESTIGATOR JASON PERU DESTANY STOREY, Witness CARL HOFFMAN, Witness

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S	
2	1:38 p.m.
3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A	nd the only
4 case that we have for this afternoon	is now
5 case number 24-PRO-00085, Smoke	& Tingz 2,
6 License Number 128451.	
7 Good afternoon. To orie	nt us, Mr.
8 Orellana. Can you please elevate th	e rights of
9 the parties in this case?	
10 MR. HILLMAN: Good after	noon, Carl
11 Hoffman. Your access has been eleva	ted.
12 Destany Storey, access e	levated.
13 James Thomas, your acces	s has been
14 elevated.	
15 Supervisory Investigator	Jason Peru,
16 access has been elevated.	
17 Karla M. Lewis, access e	levated.
18 And Shavon J. Smit	h, access
19 elevated.	
20 That is all Chair.	
21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:	All right,
22 thank you.	
23 Can everyone I ne	ed all the
24 parties to be on camera. All right.	Good
25 afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the	afternoon

session of the ABC Board.

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2	Prior to starting, I just want to
3	alert the parties that Board Member Teri Quinn,
4	she is she has recused herself from
5	participating in this case. And the reason why
6	she has recused herself is because she was
7	involved in an ANC action regarding she was
8	involved in an ANC action regarding this
9	licensee. So that's one of the reasons why
10	she's not here. So she has affirmatively
11	recused herself from participating in this
12	hearing.
13	And also prior to starting, I just
14	also want to alert the parties that I have a
15	commitment at 4 p.m. that we have to take I
16	have a hard stop at 4 p.m. that I have to take
17	a break. So I so we have to take a break
18	between 4:00 and 4:30. So I have a hard stop
19	at 4 o'clock and that we will reconvene back at
20	4:30. But as I said before, we have to stop at
21	4 o'clock irrespective of what's going on, and
22	then we will reconvene again at 4:30.
23	So I'll let me have the parties
24	identify themselves for the record. Let's
25	start I think that the it appears that

1 the representative for Smoke & Tingz is Shavon 2 Smith. Where is Shavon Smith? 3 MS. SMITH: Good afternoon. Shavon Smith, counsel for Smoke & Tingz 2, Inc. 4 5 CHATRPERSON ANDERSON: Good 6 afternoon, Ms. Smith. And who is your client, 7 ma'am? 8 MS. SMITH: My client is Mr. James 9 Thomas and he's here with me as well today. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Thomas, 11 identify yourself for the record, can you 12 please? 13 MR. THOMAS: How you doing? I'm 14 James Thomas. I'm the owner of Smoke & Tingz. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 16 Ms. Lewis, can you identify yourself for the 17 record, please? 18 MS. LEWIS: Karla Lewis. I am the 19 ANC 5E Chair, as well as the ANC 5EC -- 5E02 20 Commissioner, where the establishment is 21 located. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 23 This is a protest hearing where the ANC is 24 protesting the issuance of this license. It's 25 my understanding that there might be а

1 preliminary issue. Do you have any preliminary 2 -- and I quess I'll start with you, Mr. Thomas. 3 Do you have any preliminary matters that you wish to address? 4 5 MR. THOMAS: No, I don't have preliminary issue to --6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no. Hold 8 I said -- I'm sorry. I apologize. on. Mr. 9 Thomas, you hired Ms. Smith to represent you, 10 and so if I accidentally address you, please do 11 not respond to me. You can only respond to me 12 through Ms. Smith. 13 MR. THOMAS: Okay. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The only time 15 you can respond to me is if you are a witness 16 and I ask you a question. But because you have 17 an attorney, all the communication that I will 18 have is through Ms. Smith. 19 The preliminary issue that Ι was asking -- I apologize. It was my understanding 20 21 there preliminary issue was а by you, Ms. Is that correct or is there --2.2 Lewis. 23 MS. LEWIS: Yes, that is correct. 24 Two of my witnesses are not available today. 25 The key witness is having eye surgery, and

1 another nearby neighbor has a conflict. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --3 Scheduling conflict. MS. LEWIS: CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so what 4 5 is it that you're asking? The Board --MS. LEWIS: I am asking -- I would 6 7 like to move for continuance. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when was 9 it -- have you consulted, have you consulted Ms. Smith? 10 11 MS. LEWIS: I have not consulted 12 Ms. Smith. I just found out about it today. 13 At least one of them. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 15 So you just found out. 16 And Ms. Smith? 17 MS. SMITH: Yes. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lewis is 19 requesting a continuance. Do you have a 20 position on that, ma'am? 21 MS. SMITH: Yes. We would object. 2.2 This has -- the hearing -- this is а 23 rescheduled date already, which we understand 24 the Board had a conflict and this had to be 25 moved. My clients are spending guite a bit of

1 money in a place that, you know, they can't 2 utilize until they have final say from this 3 We are here with our two witnesses. Board. Т see that one of Ms. Lewis' witnesses is here. 4 5 So I'll -- we would request that the matter 6 proceed today. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Any 8 comments anything you or want to say, Ms. Lewis? 9 10 MS. LEWIS: Yes. I -- as I stated, 11 the primary witness and the primary reason why 12 the ANC is protesting this matter is not able 13 to attend today because of medical reasons. 14 And so I'm requesting that the Board consider 15 continuance of this matter until that witness 16 is able to attend. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 17 Give me --18 this is an application for a new license, and -19 20 MS. LEWIS: Correct. 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And SO 2.2 because this is an application for new license, 23 by statute, the Board has to issue a decision -24 - I believe the Board has 60 days, and -- to 25 issue a decision because it is an application

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1 for new license. And the Board has no, the 2 discretion in Board has no unilaterally 3 agreeing to a continuance. And so unless -and I know this case was continued previously, 4 I believe on the Board's -- because the --5 6 yeah. And unless the Licensee agrees to the 7 continuance, the Board does not have any 8 discretion in granting a motion because of the 9 legal requirements that we must issue а 10 decision within 60 days for a new license. 11 So with that said, I have to make a 12 motion that we deny the -- your continuance, 13 because the Board does not have ma'am, any 14 discretion in granting a continuance for any 15 reason for a new license unless the Licensee 16 agrees. 17 MS. LEWIS: Okay. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there a 19 second? 20 Second the motion. MEMBER GRANT: 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has seconded the motion. I'll take a roll call 2.2 23 vote. Mr. Grant? 24 MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant, I agree. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Meadows?

1 Mr. MEMBER MEADOWS: Meadows, Т 2 agree. 3 ANDERSON: CHATRPERSON And Mr. 4 Anderson, I agree. The matter passes three, 5 zero. So therefore, we -- the motion is denied, 6 and so therefore we will move forward with the 7 protest hearing. And the process -- are there 8 any other preliminary matters? Do you have any 9 preliminary matters, Ms. Smith? Why is it that 10 I can hear you speaking, Ms. Smith, and you're 11 I guess unless someone else is -on mute? 12 someone else's line is picking you up. 13 MS. SMITH: My client is right next 14 to me, and so that --15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, great. 16 MS. SMITH: Yeah. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And thank you 18 for doing that, because if all the lines were 19 open, then we wouldn't hear anything. That's 20 all right. Okay. 21 MS. SMITH: I understand. Yes. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 23 Okay, thanks. 24 MS. SMITH: I would like to sav 25 something.

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1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Ms.
2	Lewis. Go ahead, Ms. Lewis.
3	MS. LEWIS: So since my primary
4	witness is not available to testify, as well as
5	another witness is not available, would I be
6	able to, for the record, read in their written
7	testimonies?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:
9	Unfortunately, ma'am, you cannot read in their
10	testimonies because Ms. Smith is not able to
11	cross-examine the document. And so therefore,
12	she would have she has a right to cross-
13	examine any witness, and she cannot cross-
14	examine a document that's been read in the
15	record. So any, any statements that's going to
16	be in the record, has to be subject to cross-
17	examination.
18	MS. LEWIS: Okay.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's it?
20	MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
22	So this is how a protest hearing operates. The
23	Board will call its witness, and the witness
24	that the Board will call is Mr. Peru. Mr. Peru
25	is the investigator. He will review his

report. Once -- the Board Chair will ask questions of Mr. Peru regarding the contents of his report.

Once the Board Chair and other Board 4 5 members have had an opportunity to question Mr. 6 then applicant will Peru, the have an 7 opportunity to question Mr. Peru on the report. 8 Once the applicant questions Mr. Peru and the 9 then Ms. Lewis, you will report, have an 10 opportunity to question Mr. Peru on his report.

11 After Ms. Lewis has had an 12 opportunity to question Mr. Peru and the 13 if other Board members, if report, they SO desire to ask questions, they can, and then the 14 15 Board will rest its case.

16 Once the Board has rested its case, 17 then Ms. Smith, you will call your witnesses. 18 And once Ms. Smith calls her first witness, 19 then you, Ms. Lewis, will have an opportunity 20 to cross-examine the witnesses by the 21 Applicant. The Board then will have an opportunity to ask questions of the witness, 2.2 23 then I'll give both parties another and 24 opportunity to ask questions of the witness. 25 Once -- we're going to complete this

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1 hearing. Once the applicant has presented its 2 case, then the ANC will have an opportunity to 3 present its case, then we'll do closing. So we'll finish the case. And as I stated before, 4 5 I apologize, but we're going to have a hard 6 stop at 4 o'clock, if we have to stop at 4 7 o'clock, and then we will continue this hearing 8 back at 4:30. 9 All right. So the Board then -- any 10 preliminary matters that needs other to be 11 addressed before we start by either side? Not from Applicant, no. 12 MS. SMITH: 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And for you, 14 Ms. Lewis? Lewis, further Any Ms. any ___ 15 preliminary matters before we start? Ms. 16 Lewis? 17 No, sorry. I was muted. MS. LEWIS: 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank 19 you. 20 So the Board will call All right. 21 its first witness, its Supervisory and 2.2 Investigator Peru. 23 Mr. Peru, can you raise your right 24 hand, please? Do you swear or affirm to tell 25 the truth and nothing but the truth?

1 (No audible response.) MR. PERU: 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you state 3 and spell your name for the record? 4 MR. PERU: Supervisory Investigator 5 Jason Peru, J-A-S-O-N P-E-R-U. 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. Peru, 7 where are you currently employed? 8 MR. PERU: With the District of 9 Columbia's Alcohol Beverage Cannabis and Administration. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how --12 and what is your role -- and I'm sorry, how 13 long have you been working for this agency, the 14 Administration, sir? 15 MR. PERU: A little over 11 years. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what has 16 17 been your role during the 11 years you've been 18 working for the Agency? 19 MR. PERU: An investigator to 20 investigations conduct and inspections of 21 alcohol licensees and, now, cannabis licensees 2.2 and unlicensed cannabis establishments. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's 24 your current role with the Agency? 25 MR. PERU: supervisory As а

1 investigator in charge of cannabis enforcement. 2 I conduct inspections of and investigations of 3 licensed and unlicensed cannabis facilities in the District. And as a supervisor, I also 4 5 manage other staff. 6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 7 And how long have you been working in ___ 8 specifically in cannabis? MR. PERU: Cannabis since October of 9 2020. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --12 MR. PERU: So four years. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what is 14 it that you've been doing as far as cannabis 15 has been concerned since October 2020? 16 I conduct inspections of MR. PERU: 17 the licensed establishments and licensed 18 retailers and licensed growers and cultivators, 19 and I also conduct inspections and enforcement 20 unlicensed cannabis retailers on in the 21 District. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you 23 familiar with Smoke & Tingz 2, Inc.? 24 MR. PERU: T am. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how did

1 you become familiar with this establishment? 2 MR. PERU: I became familiar with 3 this new location of the -- I'm familiar with 4 the establishment. They have a location on a 5 North Capitol Street as an unlicensed operator. 6 I'm familiar with this location, 25 Florida 7 Avenue, based on the request from licensing to 8 do a protest hearing. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 10 So did you write a report? 11 MR. PERU: I did. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you able 13 to share your report with the -- with us? 14 MR. PERU: I am. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 16 I'm --17 MR. ORELLANA: Access has been 18 granted. Thank 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: you, 20 sir. 21 So Mr. Peru, can you -- what is the 2.2 document that's on our screen? 23 MR. PERU: This is going to be the 24 protest report that I drafted. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so who's

1 protesting this license? 2 So this is MR. PERU: being 3 protested by ANC 5E, represented by Chairperson Karla Lewis. 4 5 CHATRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's the -- why is this application is -- why has 6 7 this application been protested? 8 MR. PERU: So the letter that was 9 submitted states that there was an adverse 10 impact on order and guiet, parking, litter, 11 vehicular traffic, and the quality of life of 12 the residents will be severely impacted is what 13 was written in the letter. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, did you 15 have an opportunity to speak to the Protestor? 16 MR. PERU: I did. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what 18 information were you able to gather in your --19 based on your conversation with the Protestor? 20 So I spoke to Ms. Lewis MR. PERU: 21 on Wednesday October 30th, and basically Ms. 2.2 Lewis stated that the ANC had two concerns --23 two main concerns regarding the proposed 24 location of Smoke Tingz 2. One of the & 25 concerns was that there was a daycare at the

opposite corner of the block of Smoke & Tingz, and the other concern was the establishment had requested an outdoor summer garden and smoking. So Ms. Lewis, during that conversation, did state that she was willing to negotiate a settlement agreement with the owners, but she had not heard from them at that point in time on Wednesday, October 30th.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you had 10 an opportunity to speak to the owner?

11 MR. PERU: I did. On Wednesday, 12 October 30th, I spoke with Mr. Thomas and his 13 representative, Chris Isaacs (ph.). I informed 14 them of the conversation I had with Ms. Lewis, 15 and they stated to me that they were willing to 16 the from remove summer garden their 17 application, and that they would be willing to 18 speak to the ANC regarding the possible 19 settlement agreement.

I also scheduled a time and date to meet with them to do a walkthrough and take photos of their location.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So just tell
us about -- you said you did a walkthrough. So
tell us a little bit about the walkthrough,

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sir.

2	MR. PERU: So I met with Mr. Thomas
3	and his rep, Mr. Isaacs, at 25 Florida Avenue
4	on Monday, November 4th, and I walked through
5	the three spaces. The business has a basement
6	location. It has a first floor, then it has a
7	upper level second floor, the way it's set up.
8	And the owner had walked me through everything
9	and the spaces and had showed it to me. I can
10	scroll down to the photos to kind
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure, if you
12	go ahead.
13	MR. PERU: Yeah. To talk through
14	that, so I can just I'll zoom out here. So
15	this is well, to back up some. This is the
16	daycare. I did walk the block to see where the
17	daycare was located that Ms. Lewis had
18	discussed. It's over 250 feet from the front
19	door. So this is the daycare at the opposite
20	corner, and as you this is the sidewalk
21	behind the daycare that you can see, just to
22	walk us through things, and this is Smoke $\&$
23	Tingz at 25 Florida. There's an empty, vacant
24	parking lot that's not theirs, it's a different
25	owner, that's sitting right next to them. So

this is where they had -- according to the owners, they had discussed and thought it would be a cool concept to possibly have a summer garden out here at some point if they could obtain a lease with the parking lot and the That hadn't happened, but it was just owner. an idea that was put out there, and that's why that of their thev included part as application.

10 As I keep scrolling, Exhibit 7 here, 11 you can see the main entrance. This is kind of 12 -- this is the main entrance, but they're still 13 deciding if this is going to be the entrance 14 and lobby or if the lobby was going to be the 15 basement, which is this lower section down 16 You can see better on this door. here. So 17 this is the basement which they may be -- may 18 be their check in and lobby, or if could be 19 this first floor up these stairs. That hasn't 20 been decided yet.

of 21 And then this is inside the 2.2 location. These stairs lead to the next level. 23 You can see here, this is -- none of this space 24 -- just so -- just to be clear, this has been 25 vacant for some time, and none of -- according

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1 to the owners, none of this stuff has been 2 They haven't started construction renovated. 3 because they wanted to get through this hearing first and to make sure they weren't going to 4 5 spend money on doing this. They're already 6 spending money on rent they explained to me. 7 And then this is the upper level. 8 It used to be a barber shop, as you can see. 9 This is the top level is where they are 10 considering putting the safe-use treatment area 11 for on-site consumption for guests and patrons 12 of the retail space. 13 So that's really the three spaces 14 that we have. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. 16 PERU: go back MR. Just to Mr. 17 Chair, if I can, just to retalk about my --18 doing my investigation. 19 After speaking to all the parties 20 and hearing their concerns, I did go back on 21 November 12th -- I'm sorry, on November 13th. 2.2 Well, after learning on November 12th they --23 in my report, you can see, I checked that there was submitted and that 24 SA that. the was no 25 hearing was still moving forward.

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So with that being said, I went back out to the location and I decided to measure the location of where the daycare was. Even though the statute and the laws don't require that, and that's not a factor currently, with their application, I did measure it because it was a concern for Ms. Lewis. It's 263 feet from the proposed location of 25 Florida Avenue.

10 Ι did actually speak And to an 11 employee inside. The female employee stated 12 that the daycare provided services to children 13 from the ages of 6 months to 3 years of -- 3 14 years old, and they currently had approximately 15 32 children. She also stated to me that the children did not walk down the street towards 16 17 Smoke & Tingz. They walked in the opposite 18 direction to get to the playground. And she 19 stated that most children are picked up by the 20 parents off of Quincy Place, which is right 21 directly behind that daycare center.

I also decided to talk to a neighbor. I knocked on a couple doors. I finally got an answer at 27 Florida, which is actually the neighbor right next door. She

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1 said -- she opened the door, identified myself 2 to her, and explained to her what I was -- my 3 investigation, what Ι was conducting. She stated that she lived there for approximately 4 5 three years, and she said that the building has 6 been empty for most of the time that she's lived there, if not all the time. 7 She said she 8 wasn't a consumer of cannabis and didn't smoke 9 cannabis is what she said to me, and she said 10 that she didn't have a problem with the 11 retailer opening up next door. She only had 12 one concern about people hanging out outside 13 cannabis on the sidewalk in smoking public 14 space. And that was the only concern that that 15 neighbor had.

16 continue down То my report, Mr. 17 Chair, if I may just talk about the zoning. 18 zoning of that location, according The to 19 zoning maps, is MU-4 zone, which permits 20 density mixed-use moderate development; 21 provides facilities for shopping and business 2.2 needs, housing and mixed uses for large segments of the District of Columbia outside 23 24 the central core; and be located in low- and 25 moderate-density residential areas with access

to main roadways or rapid transit stops, and include office employment centers, shopping centers, and moderate bulk use centers.

4 According to the GIS system, there 5 is no schools or recreation centers located within 300 feet. The daycare would not show up 6 7 that map because it's not a determining on 8 factor for a licensee. There is no nearby 9 establishments within 400 feet of Smoke δ which 10 The nearest Tingz. establishment, Ι 11 didn't list, is going to be up the street on 12 North Capitol, because it's so far out of the 13 area, which is going to be Cloud 9, which is 14 actually the current neighbor to Smoke & Tingz 15 unlicensed operations there.

16 The surrounding areas, I showed you 17 surrounded by mix-use the pictures, of 18 You had residents living next door. the 19 daycare at that other end. Three-story homes 20 there that are located -- its building are exterior, you saw the pictures I submitted. 21

22 Moving down to the proposed hours of 23 operation, this is the hours submitted on the 24 application. Hours of operations they're 25 requesting was from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and open

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1 to the public would be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. as 2 This is the days I went by the business. well. 3 Obviously, they're not open, it's vacant, there's no activity to observe. 4 Therefore --5 there was no activity to observe in reference to the effects the establishment could have. 6 7 That area location, 25 Florida, is really close 8 to North Capitol Street. During traffic time, 9 of course, it is a busy street with vehicular traffic on that main road. 10 11 And that's all I had, Mr. Chair. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 13 You can close your screen, please. thank you. 14 MR. PERU: Okay. 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions 16 by any Board members? 17 Ms. -- all right. Ms. Smith, any 18 questions of Mr. Peru? MS. SMITH: I do. I have a few 19 20 questions. 21 Thank you again, Investigator Peru. 2.2 You mentioned that you spoke to the neighbor at 23 27 Florida Avenue. That's the property that 24 abuts the proposed location? 25 MR. PERU: It is.

1 MS. SMITH: Got it. And then you 2 mentioned in your report that when you toured 3 the space you discussed options for use. Would you say that the space is sufficient to house a 4 5 safe-use facility? PERU: 6 MR. Yes, definitely. 7 Definitely. 8 MS. SMITH: also, And in vour 9 report, you mentioned that there are no other medical cannabis licensees within 400 feet. If 10 11 there were another licensee, what would happen? Well, the statute says 12 MR. PERU: 13 that you cannot be within 400 feet of another 14 retailer. So Smoke & Tingz wouldn't have been 15 allowed to get placarded there if there was 16 another location, and vice versa. Any other 17 locations applying moving forward will not be 18 able to be within 400 feet of Smoke & Tingz. 19 MS. SMITH: And then the three times 20 you visited the location, you mentioned that 21 they're not open for business. Did you see 2.2 loitering or anyone kind of standing or hanging 23 around the building? 24 MR. PERU: No. Surprisingly, that 25 corner seemed pretty quiet during my days of

1 passing by and being there. 2 MS. SMITH: No further questions 3 from me. Thank you very much for your 4 testimony. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lewis, do 6 you have any questions of Mr. Peru? 7 MS. LEWIS: Yes, I do. 8 Okay. So you mentioned that there 9 parking lot that's next the was а to 10 establishment. Are you aware that that's not 11 actually a parking lot? Well, I called it that 12 MR. PERU: 13 because it's his empty lot. Yes, I -- there's 14 no parking signs and I -- it looks like an 15 abandoned property of some sort. I'm not sure 16 what it previously was, but I identified it as 17 that because it's an empty lot. 18 MS. LEWIS: All right. You did not 19 see any cars parked in the lot? 20 No, there's a MR. PERU: fence 21 surrounding the business. No one's allowed to 2.2 enter there. 23 MS. LEWIS: Okay. You mentioned in 24 report that the establishment is not. you 25 located within 300 feet or a school or center,

1 correct? 2 MR. PERU: Correct, according to the 3 GIS map that's done based on requirements. 4 MS. LEWIS: Okay. But based on your calculation, it is within 300 feet of a daycare 5 6 center, correct? 7 The daycare center, which MR. PERU: 8 is not part of a GIS map, correct. It's 262 9 feet, I believe, is what my report stated. 10 MS. LEWIS: While you visited the 11 location, did you monitor or note whether 12 parents walked to or dropped their children off 13 at the daycare? 14 MR. PERU: I was informed of that by 15 the daycare personnel. I did not see that 16 myself. But I was told that to by the daycare. 17 MS. LEWIS: That they did walk to 18 the daycare center, right? 19 MR. PERU: That some parents live 20 close by and they do walk their kids there, 21 yes. 2.2 MS. LEWIS: Okay. Did you let the 23 residents 27 Florida at know that the 24 establishment applied for on-site smoking, as 25 well as the summer garden?

1 MR. PERU: I discussed with her --2 with her Ι discussed what the yes. 3 establishment was trying to do and explained to 4 regulations and what her the laws and thev 5 could have based on their application. How many establishments 6 MS. LEWIS: 7 in D.C. have licenses for smoking on the 8 premises, and also --There's --9 MR. PERU: 10 MS. LEWIS: -- summer gardens? 11 MR. PERU: There's none that are 12 currently open. There's been several 13 applications. There's been one approved of --14 approved that I'm aware of, Holistic -- DC Holistic on Connecticut Avenue. But as of yet, 15 16 they have not opened up or are using that 17 space. 18 MS. LEWIS: Okay. So no 19 establishments currently that have on-site 20 smoking or summer gardens? Several endorsements and 21 MR. PERU: 2.2 applications, but no one has opened yet, 23 correct. 24 MS. LEWIS: Hold on one second. Are 25 there any current stipulations or laws that

1 state that the smelling of smoke -- that smoke, 2 cannabis smoke should not be smelled within a 3 certain number of feet by children of any type? MR. PERU: Not that I'm aware of. 4 Ι 5 know there -- the Department of Energy and 6 Environment, DOEE, in D.C. was putting together 7 new policies and procedures for some the 8 cannabis industry since it's growing in D.C. Ι 9 have not yet seen any kind of final draft and what that references. 10 11 MS. LEWIS: Okay. You mentioned 12 that North Capitol was a busy area and you 13 could perceive seeing a lot of traffic in that 14 area during, you know, rush hour, and it's also 15 located on Florida Avenue, which is also a very 16 busy corridor. Did you take time to take a 17 look to see, you know, what the parking is in 18 that particular area? Well, most of it is --19 MR. PERU: 20 there's very little parking, obviously, on Florida Avenue itself. The side streets off of 21 2.2 Quincy would be residential mostly, but, yes, 23 parking is limited, I would say, around that 24 area. 25 MS. LEWIS: Is there any particular

reason why you didn't speak to more residents other than the one abutting resident?

3 knocked on MR. PERU: Т several doors while -- to be fair, the -- per the 4 5 statute, the ANCs are the only entities that 6 are allowed to protest for a cannabis facility, 7 So I knocked on -- even visiting the right. 8 davcare, I visited the daycare based on 9 information you provided to me as a concern. 10 So obviously, that's something that I wanted to 11 address. And I knocked on other doors with no 12 answer. So I was fortune to get the abutting 13 property owner to speak with me.

MS. LEWIS: Okay. You noted -- you stated that according to your investigative history that there were no ABCA violations. Did you look to see if there were any other violations for D.C. agencies at that particular property?

20 MR. PERU: No. Smoke & Tingz has not been operating there, so the violations are 21 2.2 based on the current operators, not anything 23 that's happened in the past at that location. 24 So it wasn't -- it wouldn't be -in my 25 experience doing these type of investigations,

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there's nothing that would -- information would give me because Smoke & Tingz 2 is not at that location and hasn't been at that location. So no, I'm not aware of any other D.C. agencies' issues with 25 Florida Avenue.

MS. LEWIS: So the hours that you visited the premises, they seem to have been somewhere between, like, 1:30 and 3:30. Is there any reason why you did not visit early in the mornings or late in the afternoons, which is usually when, you know, people go back and forth to work?

MR. 13 PERU: particular No reason. 14 No. I drive by there on a regular basis for 15 work around the city, so I pass by there every 16 day several times. So -- but I didn't sit 17 there like I did on those days that I -- you 18 know, that I mentioned.

MS. LEWIS: Okay. So you took a picture of the lot because the -- you stated that that was the area that was being proposed for a summer garden, but it -- I -- did you take a look at the back yard area in the back of the property, which is where I believe the summer garden was supposed to be?

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1	MR. PERU: Yeah. I looked back
2	there. It was a smaller space. But that was -
3	- once again, it was described to me that the
4	thoughts of the parking lot and leasing that
5	space for two reasons, for they stated that
6	they thought about doing it for parking,
7	obviously parking being a concern and an issue
8	in that area for the retailer to have their own
9	parking lot, and potentially if they could do
10	the summer garden. That's all the information
11	that I received.
12	MS. LEWIS: Okay. But I'm just
13	curious as to why you did not include a picture
14	of the backyard space.
15	MR. PERU: Because it wasn't
16	MS. LEWIS: Because that is an
17	outdoor space, and if they have a license for a
18	summer garden, they could use that as a summer
19	garden. Is that correct?
20	MR. PERU: I would have to see the
21	space. I would have to remember I can't
22	remember what the space looks like, but it
23	wasn't pointed out to my attention that that
24	was a space that they wanted to use. They
25	talked about the indoor smoking on the second

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1 floor -- I mean, on the top floor. Second, 2 third if kind of tricky. But on the top floor 3 where you saw the barbershop chairs. And they talked about potentially having the outdoor 4 5 space, doing something with that lot next door. 6 That's the only areas that I was aware of, so -7 8 MS. LEWIS: Okay. I think at this 9 time I have no further questions. Hold on. 10 Let me check one last time. Sorry. Okay. No 11 further questions. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 13 Thank you, Ms. Lewis. 14 Before releasing the witness, any 15 questions by any Board members before releasing 16 the witness? No? 17 All right. Mr. Peru, thank you very 18 much for your testimony. You can have a great 19 day. 20 MR. PERU: Thank you. You guys too. 21 Take care. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 23 Ms. Smith, who's your first witness? 24 MS. SMITH: My first witness is 25 Destany Storey just so she can go on about her

1 So I'd like to call her first, work day. 2 please. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Storey, 4 can you raise your right hand, please? Do you 5 swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth? 6 7 MS. STOREY: Yes, I swear. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness, ma'am. 9 10 MS. SMITH: Thank you so much for 11 joining us here today and agreeing to testify. 12 Can you let us know where you live, please? MS. STOREY: Yes. So I live on 29 S 13 14 Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. in the 15 Bloomingdale neighborhood. 16 MS. SMITH: How long have you lived 17 in that neighborhood? 18 MS. STOREY: Going on two years. Ι 19 moved here last July -- or two Julys ago. 20 MS. SMITH: Okay. And generally, 21 can you tell us what you do for work? You 2.2 don't have to say where you work or anything 23 like that, but just kind of a general idea. 24 MS. STOREY: Yeah. So I'm a program 25 director for international nonprofit for an

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women.

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-	women.
2	MS. SMITH: Thank you. So Mr.
3	Thomas, as was stated by the investigator, Mr.
4	Peru, had another location on North Capitol.
5	Had you visited that location?
6	MS. STOREY: Yes.
7	MS. SMITH: Can you tell us about
8	your experience going to that unlicensed
9	facility?
10	MS. STOREY: Yeah. So it's actually
11	a couple of blocks from my house, maybe two
12	blocks at most, so I typically walk. Being
13	I'm from originally from Memphis, Tennessee.
14	I didn't bring a car here moving here, so I've
15	always felt safe walking up that block to go
16	visit. Every time I've gone in staff has been
17	friendly. I even refer to them as, like, my
18	family away from home. Even making the
19	neighborhood feel safer. I've never had an
20	experience where I feel unsafe walking by
21	myself, even as a woman, inside or outside of
22	the establishment.
23	MS. SMITH: Did you have a sense of
24	the operations in that location? Like, did you
25	feel like it was well run?

1	MS. STOREY: Yes, absolutely. I
2	knew J (ph.) was the owner. Employees have
3	always been helpful and knowledgeable about
4	everything.
5	MS. SMITH: And so currently, are
6	you walking distance to 25 Florida Avenue, the
7	proposed Applicant's location?
8	MS. STOREY: Yes.
9	MS. SMITH: How long would it take
10	you to walk there?
11	MS. STOREY: Less than 10 minutes.
12	Like, maybe a six, seven-minute walk.
13	MS. SMITH: So being that you live
14	in the neighborhood, you've visited unlicensed
15	facilities, now this new law has passed, what's
16	your perception around safety in medical
17	marijuana establishments?
18	MS. STOREY: Yeah. I've never had
19	an issue with safety and being a user. So I
20	don't have a medical card yet, but I do plan on
21	getting one with just, like, the new laws that
22	have changed. And like, one thing that I have
23	been prescribed (sic) with is ADHD, so I've
24	always been open to, like, alternate methods to
25	help with my symptoms. Everything has seemed

safe to me, inside and out. I've never felt any lack of safety in this neighborhood. I know we've talked a lot about, like, loitering, but that's never been, like, an experience, especially with this establishment. I've actually seen, like, more loitering at churches in the neighborhood than the unlicensed establishments.

9 MS. SMITH: Given that you live in 10 neighborhood, you have any thoughts the do 11 around property values and the opening of 12 medical marijuana establishments and how you 13 think that will affect kind of your -- the 14 value of where you live?

15 MS. STOREY: Yeah. I actually think 16 neighborhood is, like, really up the and 17 growing with younger people, Millennials, Gen 18 Ι think it would actually Z, Gen Х. So 19 increase the property value. I always have 20 people coming in town or -- either who are new 21 to the neighborhood and they're looking for 2.2 things to do that are just friendly for our 23 actual age group.

MS. SMITH: And given that you live in close proximity, what are your thoughts in

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terms of parking in this particular location, or parking around that location and parking at the location you visited before?

MS. STOREY: Yeah. So I know the 4 5 neighborhood is typically very quiet. Parking 6 has never been an issue for anyone who's ever 7 come to visit me. Personally, I do not drive, 8 so it's not really something I can speak on, 9 but I've never seen an issue with parking or I've never had visitors come 10 and they say, 11 like, they felt unsafe or they've had, like, any experience with carjacking or anything like 12 13 that.

14 MS. SMITH: One final question, and 15 you may or may not have thoughts on this. One 16 of the things that's come up as well is this 17 of ventilation and smoke kind concept of 18 seeping out into the streets. Again, as a 19 person who has used, do you have any concerns about ventilation in the proposed location, or 20 21 what would be your thoughts on that? 2.2 MS. STOREY: No. I don't have any 23 concerns on ventilation. I know many of my 24 neighbors or just people in my neighborhood who

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also are users and I've never, like, had a

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1 issue with smelling something in my unit, or 2 walking down the street even and, like, 3 smelling something from afar. So no, no concerns with that. 4 5 MS. SMITH: I have no further 6 questions for Ms. Storey. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lewis? 8 MS. LEWIS: Good afternoon, Destany. 9 How are you? 10 MS. STOREY: I'm good. How are you? 11 MS. LEWIS: Good, thank you. Okay. 12 So my questions are -- I don't know if this is 13 too personal, but do you have any children? 14 MS. STOREY: I do not have children, 15 but I am a former teacher. 16 MS. LEWIS: Okay. So do you know or believe whether or not cannabis smoke is safe 17 18 for children? 19 MS. STOREY: I do not, but I have 20 like, statistical data not heard any, that 21 proves that. To me, it's always been just kind 2.2 of a general bias or opinion. But if I'm 23 wrong, please correct me. 24 MS. LEWIS: You have ___ you 25 witnessed -- you say that you haven't witnessed

1 any smoke from your neighbors and all, but have 2 you gone out on a street and just witnessed 3 just from cars passing by the smell of smoke in 4 the neighborhood? 5 MS. STOREY: I think that's kind of hard to tell with just, like -- like, it's a 6 7 busy street, like you said, Florida Avenue, so 8 there are a lot of different smells. So I 9 wouldn't just say smoke specifically stands out 10 to me. 11 MS. LEWIS: Okay. There was another I think Jam Doung. 12 location. Are you familiar 13 with Jam Doung? STOREY: 14 MS. Yes. Ι was not 15 familiar that it was a cannabis lounge, but I 16 do get food from there. I know it's a Jamaican 17 restaurant. 18 MS. LEWIS: On the upstairs second 19 floor, I was wondering. That location is a 20 little closer to you. Why did you select the Smoke & Tingz, which is a little further away? 21 2.2 MS. STOREY: Yeah, because Т 23 familiar actually was not that there was а 24 smoking area in Jam Doung. 25 MS. LEWIS: So you are -- are you

aware of the number of carjackings and robberies in the Bloomingdale area? You said you feel safe.

MS. STOREY: Yeah, I feel safe, but 4 5 I am originally from Memphis, Tennessee, so I've always felt like that narrative of crime 6 7 and safety has always been a bit not really a 8 concern for me. As I said, I'm a single woman. 9 I'm a smaller woman under 150 pounds. No car. 10 I always walk everywhere. I have a roommate. 11 I walk with her sometimes. But I've never felt 12 а sense of feeling unsafe, even walking at 13 night.

MS. LEWIS: Would you actually use or smoke on the premises at the proposed location, or are you the type of person that would smoke at home?

MS. STOREY: Absolutely not. Iwould smoke in my own home.

20 MS. LEWIS: Okay. I guess I have no 21 further questions. Thank you for your time. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 23 thank you. Any questions by the Board members?

Go ahead, Mr. Grant.

MEMBER GRANT: Thank you for being

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1	with us. I got a couple of questions, just for
2	clarification for my sake. One, are you
3	related to anyone involved in the
4	establishment?
5	MS. STOREY: No.
6	MEMBER GRANT: Okay. Do you have
7	any financial interest in the establishment?
8	MS. STOREY: No.
9	MEMBER GRANT: And I ask those
10	questions because, typically, when residents
11	come in support of an applicant, I'm always
12	curious what drives folks. And I think it's a
13	good thing, but what drives folks to sit in a
14	hearing like this with no interest and not
15	relation to the Applicant. Like, what drives
16	you to sit here and spend your time and
17	sacrifice your time, honestly, to dedicate your
18	testimony to this hearing. So
19	MS. STOREY: Yeah. So like I said,
20	with my experience, I just moved here about two
21	years ago. I'm really big on rooting myself in
22	the community, not just with this
23	establishment, but even my corner store that's
24	around the corner. I know the cashier's by
25	name. My coffee shops. I'm just, like, really

1 intentional relationships. bia on So even 2 though I just come in there as a customer, James and his staff has always -- like, they've 3 4 always just made me feel, on a professional 5 level, that, you know, I'm valued, I'm known in the neighborhood. And like, I just like to 6 7 know, you know, who I'm communicating with. So 8 yeah. 9 MEMBER GRANT: Well, Ms. Storey, I 10 appreciate that. The rest of us, you know, 11 have to be here and you don't have to be here, 12 but you came out today. So thank you for that. 13 Mr. Chair, no further questions. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 15 Any other questions by the Board members? 16 Mr. Meadows. 17 MEMBER MEADOWS: Ms. Storey, welcome 18 to D.C. It's great to have you a resident here 19 for two years. You were mentioning that you 20 used the previous establishment. I was trying 21 to get some clarification. That was on North 2.2 Capitol Street. Is that where there was, like, 23 a Metro Card story, like a MCS store? Is that 24 on the left-hand side going north at North 25 Capitol?

1 MS. STOREY: I'm not sure. I know 2 there's --MEMBER MEADOWS: 3 South of Florida? MS. STOREY: Yeah. I'm not sure, 4 5 just because, like, I'm not really --MEMBER MEADOWS: Sure. 6 7 MS. STOREY: -- familiar with the 8 streets. But I know right at the corner, 9 there's a Chinese restaurant and -- yeah. So 10 if that's, like, the same -- I always know 11 that's right there, and then I know there's a 12 restaurant called Pub and People diagonal from 13 it. 14 MEMBER MEADOWS: Gotcha, gotcha. 15 Okay. And I'm not going to discount your 16 feelings of safety. I've lived in this city a 17 long time. I know that neighborhood, and it --18 I guess I could only say that if it was -- if a 19 daycare could open up in that location, it must 20 be safe enough for that business. 21 MS. STOREY: Right. MEMBER MEADOWS: Yeah. 2.2 But -- and 23 so why did you no longer go to that -- the 24 previous store? 25 MS. STOREY: Which previous store?

1 MS. SMITH: I can chime in if you 2 want to know the facts of the prior location. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold 4 on, ma'am. Do you have an objection? 5 MS. SMITH: Т don't have an 6 objection. She can answer. 7 ANDERSON: Okay, all CHAIRPERSON 8 right. 9 MS. STOREY: Yeah. Can you clarify 10 the question? 11 MEMBER MEADOWS: Just withdraw it, 12 and I thank you and all the best with all 13 you're doing for women. 14 MS. STOREY: Thank you. 15 MEMBER MEADOWS: Thank you. 16 MS. STOREY: Thank you. 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. 18 Ms. Lewis, do you have any questions 19 of the witness based on the questions asked by 20 the Board? Not -- new questions based on what 21 the -- the questions that the Board members 2.2 asked. 23 Well, it would be just MS. LEWIS: clarification. So the -- is the location that 24 25 vou visited next to Cloud 9 location, the

1 current Cloud 9 location? 2 MS. STOREY: Yes. 3 MS. LEWIS: Okay. No further 4 questions. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Smith, any recross -- I'm sorry, any redirect? 6 7 MS. SMITH: No. 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Storey, 9 thank you very much for your testimony today. 10 You are free to go or you can sit around and 11 watch. 12 MS. STOREY: Thank you. 13 MS. SMITH: Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 14 All right, 15 thank you. All right, thank you. 16 Lewis, do you have another Ms. 17 witness? 18 MS. SMITH: You mean Ms. Smith? 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, 20 Ms. Smith. I'm just bad with names. And I'm 21 looking at you, and I put my cursor on the 2.2 screen just to make sure that the right name 23 pops up. I'm sorry. Ms. Smith, do you have 24 another witness? 25 MS. SMITH: I do. I'd like to call

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1 Mr. James Thomas, the owner for Applicant. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Thomas, 3 can you raise your right hand, please? Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing 4 5 but the truth? 6 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness 8 then. 9 MS. SMITH: Thank you. 10 So Mr. Thomas, can you just give us 11 a little bit -- first of all, can you tell us 12 where you live? 13 MR. THOMAS: 4940 Η Street, 14 Southeast, D.C. 20019. 15 MS. SMITH: So you're a District 16 resident? 17 MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am. 18 MS. SMITH: Okay. Can you tell us a 19 bit about your professional background in the 20 cannabis industry and operating a business? 21 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Well, my 2.2 background came more or less when I came home 23 after I was incarcerated. So when I came home, 24 I figured out that D.C. had changed their laws. 25 They had a law that was I-71, Initiative 71,

which allowed people to give -- D.C. residents to gift marijuana to other people. So I would sell you -- or have to gift you marijuana. That started in pop-up shops.

5 So I was working in pop-up shops for 6 a while, but what I started realizing, pop-up 7 that it more than just shops ___ was 8 A lot of people that attended recreational. 9 the pop-ups, they became -- they were more like 10 patients. They was coming there for medicinal 11 purposes.

12 So when they would come there for 13 medicinal purposes, they would ask questions 14 about, like, what this strain was for, would 15 this help me with this, would this help me with 16 So I started to do research on the that. 17 matter. And the reason why I really started to 18 do research on the matter because my mother and 19 her sister both suffer from Multiple Sclerosis. 20 So it gave me interest to say, well, which 21 strands I could use if I was -- like, for my 2.2 mother. She suffers from more or less, like, 23 early stages of dementia. My aunt suffers more 24 or less -- like, she's not as mobile. So one 25 of them would need a sativa, which would be my

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1 mother, and then my aunt would more or less be 2 indica, which was more like an anti-depressant 3 to help with her pain. 4 MS. SMITH: So how many years would 5 you say you have experience operating in the establishment under kind of the quise of D.C. 6 7 regulations? 8 MR. THOMAS: For over eight years. 9 MS. SMITH: So you mentioned, and 10 the testimony has been, by Investigator Peru, 11 that you operated another facility. Where was 12 that located? 13 MR. THOMAS: 1705 North Capitol 14 Street. 15 MS. SMITH: Okay. Can you tell us a 16 little bit about that location and the 17 operations of that location? 18 MR. THOMAS: Okay. So the 19 operations of that location that me and my 20 team, me and my advisors, what we did was we 21 went and did research on how we could open up 2.2 establishment that still would be T-71 an 23 compliant. So first, I had to get a business license, a license for occupancy and then I had 24 25 to buy goods as far as, like, clothes to be

1 give away all so I could gift able to 2 marijuana. 3 MS. SMITH: And so when you were operating that facility, obviously under 4 а 5 different set of laws, what were your thoughts on security and what did you do for security in 6 7 your facility? 8 MR. THOMAS: So what did for we 9 security, I have eight cameras. I have two in 10 the front, six in the facility. And then I 11 have a magnetized door where you will be buzzed 12 in or out. So then I always had to -- as far 13 as, like, talk to my employees as far as, like, 14 trainings for our safety requirements. How 15 many people should be in the store. And then 16 when the whole COVID thing came, we would ask 17 people to remove their mask so we could at 18 least see their face and check for ID. We 19 would check ID to make sure they were 21 upon 20 entering the establishment. 21 MS. SMITH: So then you decided to 2.2 obtain an application for 25 Florida Avenue? 23 MR. THOMAS: Yes. 24 MS. SMITH: Tell me a bit about why 25 you chose that location.

1 The reason why we chose MR. THOMAS: 2 that location is because, upon research, we 3 realized that North Capitol is part of the Great Streets. So the Great Streets is an area 4 5 that was dictated by the mayor at some point to 6 say that they wanted commerce to try to build 7 an abutting place for people to be able to open 8 up business and do commerce. 9 Okay. So you decided to MS. SMITH: 10 Did you do any research, planning? open up. 11 Kind of what went into your business planning 12 for this particular location? 13 MR. THOMAS: The business planning, 14 first and foremost, was -- it was the social 15 equity aspect. That was our first kind of 16 The reason why it was social equity research. 17 because of people like me that were coming home 18 that were incarcerated for a period of time 19 because we suffered from the effects of 20 marijuana laws. So after that, we looked and 21 seen that that was sort of, like, a place that 2.2 was close to Metro Center and it was a place 23 that people could walk. It was high traffic 24 and highly visible for us to be able to open up 25 and try to do our business model.

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MS. SMITH: Were you concerned about crime and opening up kind of a medical marijuana facility?

4 MR. THOMAS: I mean, crime is always 5 just in the city, so that's always going to be 6 an aspect of it. But the intention was to take 7 a block and, you know -- we was going to add 8 there, security systems. lights We would 9 revitalize that block because that property has 10 been abandoned, and the property next to me has 11 been abandoned for over ten years.

MS. SMITH: Did you do any research on whether there was any correlation between crime and medical marijuana establishments?

15 MR. THOMAS: Yes, I did. So it is 16 part of the summary that I -- it's something 17 turned in. So basically, it's that Ι me 18 paraphrasing that the opening up of а 19 dispensary close to any neighborhood or close 20 to other establishments doesn't pose more of an 21 incident danger as far as to the community then 2.2 and/or a liquor store or any other thing. 23 MS. SMITH: Okay. So let's kind of

go into the operations a little bit of yourbusiness. I know Peru talked about the hours.

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Can you just walk us through, a person shows up at the front door of your establishment. What's the customer journey, so to speak?

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MR. 4 THOMAS: Okav. Customer 5 journey. When you seen -- Mr. Peru, he showed 6 you the entry point. Not the basement. It was 7 another level up there. So our idea was as far 8 as, like, once we talked to Mr. Peru, we was 9 going to leave that as strictly as retail. So 10 you might be able to come in there and just buy 11 a t-shirt. You might want to buy, like, a 12 souvenir if you're an out-of-towner, a tourist 13 or anything, a rolling tray, whatever the case 14 may be.

15 Now you have the opportunity to go 16 downstairs into the basement area. That's 17 going to be dedicated to nothing more than the 18 dispensary. So in the dispensary, you'll be 19 able to make a purchase and then you'll be able 20 to exit out of the basement door that you seen 21 on the street.

Now, if you want to partake in the safe-use facility, there will be door where you will be buzzed in and you'll be able to go upstairs and partake into the safe-use

1 facility. 2 MS. SMITH: So the floors are kind 3 of separated via a secure door? 4 MR. THOMAS: Yes. It's going to be 5 totally controlled movement. 6 Tell a bit MS. SMITH: me about 7 security. Is -- does the legislation have any 8 requirements it relates to security or as 9 having a kind of security --10 MR. THOMAS: Yes. ABCA -- in all 11 actuality, we have sent in a security plan to 12 ABCA to let them know where our cameras is 13 going to be, how we want to run our day-to-day functions. 14 15 MS. SMTTH: Tell me about your 16 employees. Like, what sort of training will 17 they get as it relates to being on site at the 18 facility? 19 MR. THOMAS: First and foremost, it 20 will be safety first. Them being aware that 21 the most important person there is the 2.2 customers and/or the people that live in that neighborhood. that, 23 After it will be 24 hospitality. 25 MS. SMITH: And then -- so you have

1 this plan for people coming in. Like, what do 2 you anticipate the volume, just based on having 3 run an establishment and that you've done a lot of research? 4 5 MR. THOMAS: Doing a lot of research 6 as far as, like, what the closures of other --7 let's just say unlicensed operators. We're 8 looking for anywhere between 60 to 75 people 9 per day. 10 MS. SMITH: And do you have a sense 11 the volume spike of when may in terms of 12 timing? MR. 13 THOMAS: What do you mean? 14 During the course of a day? 15 MS. SMITH: Exactly. 16 Okay. During MR. THOMAS: the 17 course of a day, from the business that we 18 currently run now, the spike time will be 19 anywhere between 12 and 5 o'clock. After 5 20 o'clock, we'll see a peak from maybe, like, 5 21 to 7. 2.2 MS. SMTTH: And so what does someone 23 in order to access this facility that need 24 you're planning? How can a person gain access? 25 You have to go through MR. THOMAS:

ABCA and get a medical marijuana card.

MS. SMITH: And as part of your training, like, how will your staff verify that people have what they need in order to --

5 MR. THOMAS: Because the staff would 6 require to check IDs and the marijuana medical 7 card upon entering the facility.

8 MS. SMITH: So a lot of questions 9 about safety in the area, and I know you talked 10 about the security plan and everything like 11 But kind of what are your thoughts on that. 12 you opening this location at 25 Florida Avenue 13 and what it will do specifically to that corner 14 in terms of loitering, noise, safety, activity? 15 Because it is, we can admit, a very busy 16 corner.

17 MR. THOMAS: I mean, as of right 18 now, when I walk down to the corner -- because 19 it's right down the street from my current 20 location. You have a large homeless population 21 there. You have two shelters there on the 2.2 corner. So what we would try to do, we would 23 try to circumvent some of that loitering by 24 opening up a business. So by opening up a 25 business, we don't want people loitering in

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1 front of our business. It's not good for our 2 business. We don't want people just hanging 3 around an establishment. So it would be my idea that opening 4 up a store in that area, it would circumvent 5 6 of the loitering bv homeless some the 7 population. 8 MS. SMITH: And do you anticipate 9 your customers loitering on the street, smoking on the street, or any of that? 10 11 MR. THOMAS: Absolutely not. No. 12 MS. SMITH: Why not? 13 MR. THOMAS: Because first and 14 foremost, it goes against the rules and 15 regulations, and everything's going to be 16 predicated on me not losing my license. Also -17 - I also understand that there is a daycare 18 center down the street from me. So I always 19 have to keep in consideration the young people 20 in that establishment, especially that are during the hours in which that daycare center 21 2.2 is open. So it wouldn't be favorable for me to 23 have people just smoking marijuana in front of 24 my store. 25 MS. SMITH: You mav not have an answer to this, I don't know if any of us do, but, again, one of the issues that's been raised is the impact on property values surrounding the neighborhood. Is that something you at all looked at or research you did when you were kind of planning to open this business down there?

8 Actually, we did. MR. THOMAS: Yes. 9 That's a part of the summary that we turned in. So what we turned in that when a medical 10 11 dispensary opened marijuana up in а 12 neighborhood, it did not affect the property 13 value of that neighborhood at all. So --

14 MS. SMITH: So what about parking? 15 A lot's been said about an empty area, it's not 16 parking lot, that abuts your building. а 17 Obviously, you know, it's a busy street. How 18 you plan to accommodate what could be do 19 increased demand for parking and your 20 strategies for preventing your customers from 21 being disruptive to the neighborhood it as 2.2 relates to parking?

23 MR. THOMAS: First and foremost, 24 we're talking about parking in the District of 25 Columbia. That's just -- so -- but after that,

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1 we would talk about, like, how close to Metro, 2 neighborhood. and it's a walkable Now, 3 throughout the neighborhood, you have Quincy You have parking available on Quincy 4 Street. 5 Street. Besides, rush hour, you have parking 6 that's on North Capitol. That's right in front 7 of The Pub & The People. So there is parking 8 because, like I said, the average person in the 9 dispensary -- the dispensary is just for you to 10 make a purchase and go. 11 Now, we are in negotiations with the 12 -- his name is Joe Mamo, with the abandoned lot 13 next to me to try to secure that location so we 14 can use parking there. MS. SMITH: But you don't have a 15 16 contract signed yet for that? No. 17 MR. THOMAS: We're just going 18 over a letter of intent. 19 MS. SMITH: Let's talk about ventilation. 20 So Ι understand that your 21 application does have for а request an 2.2 endorsement for a safe-use facility. What's 23 the plan or process or ventilation if there is 24 going to be indoor smoking? 25 Okay. So the plan for MR. THOMAS:

indoor ventilation, we identified a system that's called Blue Ox. Blue Ox is a system that cleans the air between 16 -- no, I'm sorry, 12 to 16 times per hour. So our idea is for the location, which is 3100 square feet, we would only need one system and to put that at the top of the steps.

8 But we're saying that because I know 9 it's such a concern about people smelling 10 smoke, we're willing to put three systems, one 11 by the front door, two by the upstairs. So now 12 the air would be cleaned between 48 times per 13 hour, so it would be virtually impossible for you to smell smoke. 14

MS. SMITH: What's the -- do you know what the statute requires of you in terms of ventilation and HVAC?

18 MR. THOMAS: I mean, yes, I have a 19 background in HVAC, but that's all under the 20 department of DOEE.

21 MS. SMITH: Do you know what their 22 requirements are? Like, how much do they 23 require you to ventilate this space?

24 MR. THOMAS: I mean, it's -- they 25 would have to come out and, you know, walk it

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1 over with me. We don't have that information. 2 MS. SMITH: So do you anticipate 3 that you may have kind of pop-up inspections from people kind of validating the air is clean 4 5 and smoke and things like that? MR. THOMAS: Yes, yes, through the 6 7 Agency, yes. 8 MS. SMITH: I do not believe I have 9 any further questions from Mr. Thomas on direct. I do not. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lewis, do 12 you have any questions of Mr. Thomas? MS. LEWIS: Yes. 13 14 Hello. 15 MR. THOMAS: Hello. How are you? MS. LEWIS: I'm fine, thank you. 16 17 How are you? 18 So how many people do you Okay. 19 anticipate qoinq in and out of your 20 establishment every day? 21 MR. THOMAS: Between 60 and 75. 2.2 MS. LEWIS: How many clients do you 23 actually have? 24 MR. THOMAS: What do you mean? Ι 25 don't understand the question.

1 How many clients? MS. LEWIS: How 2 many clients do you have? 3 Well, I object, because MS. SMITH: 4 they're not open. 5 MS. LEWIS: Currently. You're doing 6 business currently. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold 8 What's the nature of the objection? on, ma'am. MS. LEWIS: 9 It's --10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Ms. 11 Lewis. 12 Ms. Smith, you raised an objection. 13 Go ahead. 14 MS. SMITH: Right. My client's not 15 open, SO they don't have clients at this 16 particular location, so it's just an estimate 17 right now. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if, Ms. 19 Lewis, the business is not open for example, 20 why are you asking that question about how many 21 clients they have? Are you asking --2.2 MS. LEWIS: Well --23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Since the 24 business is not open. 25 MS. LEWIS: No, no, no. They're not

1 open at 25 Florida Avenue. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then you need 3 to rephrase your question, ma'am, if you're asking a question about a different location. 4 5 MS. LEWIS: Okay. At your current location on North 6 7 Capitol Street, how many clients do you have? 8 MR. THOMAS: My client base -- I 9 mean, I do 60 transactions a day. I don't -like, the clients, we have new customers and 10 11 old customers, so I would -- the client -- my clientele base, I couldn't really answer that 12 13 question with a concrete answer. 14 MS. LEWIS: So you don't know how 15 many clients you have? 16 MR. THOMAS: No. I can tell you how 17 many transactions I do per day. 18 MS. LEWIS: How many transactions do 19 you do per day? 20 MR. THOMAS: Currently, 60. 21 MS. LEWIS: Just 60. Did you not 2.2 state at my Single Member District that you had 23 over 3,000 transactions? 24 Since the MR. THOMAS: since ___ 25 we've been open for three years, yes. I've had

1 over 3,000 transactions since I've been open. 2 Yes, ma'am. 3 Why is it that you have MS. LEWIS: 4 so much security at your -- at the current location? 5 MR. THOMAS: I don't --6 7 MS. LEWIS: You said you have 8 cameras and --9 MR. THOMAS: Why do I have cameras 10 at my --11 MS. LEWIS: Yeah. Why so much --12 why is so much security necessary? 13 MR. THOMAS: For the safety of my 14 employees and the safety of my customers. Ι 15 don't have a security guard. I told you, I 16 have a reinforced and magnetized door where 17 you're buzzed in and out. Generally, I have 18 one or two employees that work there at one 19 time, and it's -- you know, it's females that 20 work there as well where they be on the shift 21 by themselves. So we take security measures. 2.2 I don't have a lot of, like, on-site security 23 people. 24 MS. LEWIS: How -- for the summer 25 garden that you're proposing, you stated that

1 you wanted to rent the lot next door for the --2 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I was --3 MS. LEWIS: -- for the purposes of a 4 summer garden? 5 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Yes, ma'am. 6 MS. LEWIS: So there are no plans, 7 absolutely no plans, to use the rear of the 8 property for the summer garden? 9 MR. THOMAS: Absolutely not. The space isn't big enough for us to use that. 10 11 MS. LEWIS: Did you not state at the 12 -- both the ANC and Single Member District --13 MS. SMITH: I'm going to object, 14 because --15 MS. LEWIS: I didn't ask a question. 16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold 17 on. 18 You're right. My MS. SMITH: 19 apologies. 20 ANDERSON: What's CHAIRPERSON the 21 question, Ms. Lewis? 2.2 MS. LEWIS: Did you not tell the 23 communities at the Single Member District and 24 the ANC meetings that you would be willing to 25 forego the summer garden?

1	MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am, I did.
2	Yes, ma'am.
3	MS. LEWIS: And are you still
4	willing to forego the summer garden?
5	MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am.
6	MS. LEWIS: Okay. Are you aware
7	that there have been robberies in the 1700
8	block of North Capitol Street, which is near
9	your current location, of individuals that have
10	purchased from smoke shops?
11	MR. THOMAS: I mean, yes, crime
12	happens. Yes, crime happens. Yes, ma'am.
13	MS. LEWIS: Okay. Let's see.
14	Sorry. And do you would you not consider
15	just having a treatment facility with just
16	edibles and vaping and not the cannabis
17	smoking?
18	MR. THOMAS: No, ma'am. That's not
19	good for my business model.
20	MS. LEWIS: Do you currently have
21	that?
22	MR. THOMAS: Do I currently have
23	what?
24	MS. LEWIS: Have smoking at your
25	current establishment?

1	MS. SMITH: I'm
2	MS. LEWIS: On site.
3	MR. THOMAS: No, ma'am.
4	MS. LEWIS: Okay. So why is it so
5	important to have it at this site?
6	MS. SMITH: I'm going to object to
7	the question. She's I'm objecting to the
8	question because the legislation is new, so my
9	client submitted an application when the
10	application period opened.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think that
12	is a fair question. I mean, he's asking for
13	some additional endorsements, and so I think
14	she's just asking why is he specifically asking
15	for a safe-use treatment facility. He doesn't
16	have to. And I think the question that was
17	asked before, I think Ms. Lewis had asked the -
18	-
19	MR. THOMAS: The
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
21	on, sir. Mr I think Mr the Licensee
22	I'm sorry, Ms. Lewis had asked Mr. Paru about
23	how many licenses were for safe-use treatment
24	were in operation, so that's a fair question.
25	So if he can answer the question, he should.
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1 Yes, I can answer that MR. THOMAS: 2 So Ms. Lewis, the reason why we question. 3 chose that is because District residents know that it is not -- as far as, like -- it is not 4 5 allowed for you to use marijuana in your homes. 6 A lot of times, that will break your lease. So 7 all these new apartment buildings that's been 8 built, or people leasing properties, homes, et 9 cetera, et cetera. We would want to give them 10 marijuana in somewhere to come consume а 11 central location so they would -- so it can be 12 in a controlled environment. 13 MS. LEWIS: Okay. Again, one more 14 question with regards to crime. Are you aware 15 at the shooting that happened at the property 16 next door to you at Cloud 9? 17 MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am. 18 Absolutely. Yes, I am. 19 MS. LEWIS: So do you believe that 20 smoke shops are probably more at risk for 21 safety reasons or crime? 2.2 MR. THOMAS: Okay. To answers your 23 question -- you're answering the question a 24 little wrong. It wasn't at Cloud 9 that the 25 shooting took place. It was at another

1 establishment that was totally going -- like, 2 it was totally illegal. So therefore, you have 3 your locations wrong. It was a pop-up that was existing next door to me and Cloud 9. 4 Thev 5 didn't have no licenses or anything. The shooting took place in that establishment 6 7 because they were totally illegal anyway. So I 8 cannot correlate that violence that took place 9 pop-up opposed to two established in а storefronts that have been in existence 10 or 11 operating -- because Cloud 9 was there before They have been operating for over three 12 me. 13 I have been operating for under three years. 14 Cloud 9 has never experienced vears. а 15 shooting, and nor has Smoke & Tingz. 16 MS. LEWIS: Okay. But you do 17 acknowledge that even -- the pop-up shop did 18 have a shooting at the establishment? 19 MR. THOMAS: Yes. 20 MS. LEWIS: Okay. I have -- so I 21 don't think I have any further questions. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, 23 Ms. Lewis. Any questions by any Board members? 24 Mr. Meadows. 25 MEMBER MEADOWS: You were mentioning

1 that you've met with the ANC. Were you and the 2 ANC able to come to --3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Meadows, 4 we can't go there. 5 MEMBER MEADOWS: Okay. We can't --6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we can't 7 go there. 8 MEMBER MEADOWS: Okay, all right. 9 Do you have a plan on noise and music if you 10 have this indoor safe space? And do you have 11 any plans on how to rectify -- you spoke about 12 the filtration system for the smoke. Do you 13 have any plans for music? You're not planning 14 live entertainment, things of that nature? 15 MR. THOMAS: No, no, no. We're not 16 playing any live entertainment. It's the same 17 thing I have with my current store. It would 18 be more like a jazz type of environment 19 because, you know, it's -- with marijuana 20 smokers, that's not, like, something like a live band or a lot of people like loud music, 21 2.2 et cetera, et cetera. 23 MEMBER MEADOWS: Okay. And are you 24 offering delivery services? 25 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

1	MEMBER MEADOWS: Okay. Thank you.
2	MR. THOMAS: No problem.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
4	Any other questions by the Board members?
5	Mr. Thomas and I think maybe I
6	heard wrong, so I'm going to give you the
7	benefit of the doubt, because I think I heard
8	wrong. Do you currently have a license to sell
9	cannabis in the District of Columbia, sir?
10	MR. THOMAS: No, sir. Not
11	currently.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you
13	aware that if you do not currently have a
14	license to sell cannabis in the District of
15	Columbia
16	No, Ms. Lewis, put your hand down.
17	I'm are you aware that if you do
18	not currently have a license to sell cannabis
19	in the District of Columbia that you cannot
20	sell or you cannot sell cannabis in D.C. Is
21	that are you aware of that, sir?
22	MR. THOMAS: As far as my
23	conversation, per Mr. Jason Peru, is that the
24	unlicensed operators will have to shut down
25	March 31st. That was from my understanding.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you 2 mean by, what do you mean as far as you're --3 what do you mean March 31st? 4 MR. THOMAS: Because I started -- my 5 store is not ___ we did -we applied an 6 application as an unlicensed operator. So it 7 was already established that you -- we already 8 had I-71 stores that were in the District of 9 Columbia. Now, per the approval -- according 10 to ABCA, per the approval of a license, I would 11 have to completely shut down any sales that I 12 have. I haven't been approved for a license. 13 Why? Because the 1705, I was in the appeal 14 process from Cloud 9, because I was second in 15 line to Cloud 9. Cloud 9 has to get all the 16 way through as far as being totally approved, 17 then I would have to shut down that location 18 and try to move that license because they're 19 approved for that location. I was operating 20 under the understanding, per ABCA, of an 21 unlicensed operator. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you're --23 as an unlicensed operator -- well, all right. I 24 you're aware that within the just --Ι ___ 25 District of Columbia, without a license, an

1 individual cannot sell cannabis without а 2 license? Are you aware of that? Until ABCA 3 has issued a license, you're aware that you 4 cannot sell cannabis? Are you aware of that? 5 MR. THOMAS: Yes. We're transitioning into the licensed standpoint, to 6 the medical standpoint. Yes, I'm aware of it. 7 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're not 9 talking about transitioning. I'm talking about 10 that -- are you aware that if you are applying 11 for a license, that you are in the process, should not be selling 12 that vou are -- you 13 cannabis within the District of Columbia? 14 MS. SMITH: So, is it also your 15 understanding, Mr. Anderson, that -for 16 instance, Cloud 9 is applying, they were an 17 unlicensed operating operator under the 18 They're currently in the application statute. 19 process for the license and it's -- the 20 statute, you're saying, reads that they can't 21 in between that period of time operate of 2.2 becoming licensed? 23 ANDERSON: Well, I**'**11 CHAIRPERSON 24 just give you the analysis of an alcohol. Ιf 25 you're applying for -- if you apply for -- if

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1 are applying to be licensed to sell you 2 alcohol, unless you have a license, you cannot 3 sell alcohol in a commercial space. MS. SMITH: Correct, because there 4 5 wasn't -- the analogy I understand, but we have 6 to acknowledge that there was a period of time 7 where there were unlicensed operators that had 8 particular regulations they had to follow in 9 order to sell. 10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I, I will --11 I'm not. I'm asking some questions. I mean, I 12 think that -- I mean, maybe there needs to be 13 clarification to operators what the current 14 status -- state of the law is. 15 MS. SMITH: I think so. And I know 16 there was recently a lawsuit that by some 17 unlicensed operators against D.C. maybe because 18 of that lack of clarification. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 20 So -- but I will leave it at there. I just 21 want to -- I'm just asking whether or not he 2.2 aware of that, you need a license was to 23 you need to have a medical legally and --24 cannabis license to legally sell cannabis 25 within the District of Columbia.

1 MS. SMITH: And that's why we're 2 here today. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 4 Ms. Lewis, do vou have any 5 questions? Any redirect (sic)? MS. LEWIS: Yes, I do. 6 Sorry. It 7 follow-up question to something was а that 8 David Meadows brought up. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is that, 10 What was the question then, ma'am? ma'am? 11 MS. LEWIS: With regards to noise -because you did say -- I didn't see anything 12 13 with regards to an entertainment license, so I was not aware that you would be having music. 14 15 So do you plan on having any type of 16 soundproofing, because you do have an abutting 17 neighborhood -- an abutting neighbor. So what 18 are you plans for soundproofing? 19 MR. THOMAS: I'm not going to --20 like I told Mr. Meadows, I'm not playing music 21 that loud. I don't plan to have live bands or 2.2 anything of that nature. It'll be the same 23 thing as if you're playing music in your house 24 and you're enjoying music through your house or 25 watching your TV. It would be the same volume

1 system, the same decibel. 2 MS. LEWIS: Okay. And -- sorry, 3 there was one other question that I neglected 4 to ask. 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, ma'am. If it was not brought up on -- if it was -- if 6 7 you can't tie it to one of the questions of 8 what I asked or Mr. Meadows asked, you cannot 9 ask it, ma'am. 10 MS. LEWIS: Okay. It's okay. 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 12 thank you. 13 Smith, any recross Ms. any ___ redirect? 14 15 MS. SMTTH: I do. 16 So you mentioned you won't have live statute 17 bands. know if the Do you says 18 anything about music in your establishment? 19 MR. THOMAS: No, there is nothing 20 that I've read in the rules and regulations 21 from ABCA that said anything about music. 2.2 MS. SMITH: Would you say that your 23 music would be similar to if you go into a 24 store and they're playing music in the 25 background?

1 MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am. 2 MS. SMITH: No further questions. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Thomas, 4 thank you very much for your testimony today. 5 Ms. Smith, do you have another 6 witness? 7 MS. SMITH: I do not have another 8 witness. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 10 thank you. Ms. Lewis, do you have a witness 11 you wish to call? 12 MS. LEWIS: My one and only witness, 13 yes. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is 15 that witness, ma'am? That would be 16 MS. LEWIS: Carl 17 Hoffman. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hoffman, 19 can you raise your right hand, please? Do you 20 swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing 21 but the truth? MR. HOFFMAN: 2.2 T do. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Your 24 witness. 25 MR. HOFFMAN: Can you hear me all

1 right? My name is Carl Hoffman. I live at 35 2 Florida Avenue, which is about four or five 3 houses down the street on the very same slide and the very same block as 25 Florida. I'm a 4 5 native Washingtonian. I'm a graduate of D.C. public schools, K through 12. I've lived in my 6 7 current house since 2010, almost 15 years. I′m 8 a freelance journalist. I'm home most days of 9 Ι long history of every day. So have a observing 10 close observance of the and 11 neighborhood, the block, and I'm speaking in 12 strong opposition of Smoke & Tingz.

13 Before I start, I want to make 14 something really clear, and that is nowhere, on 15 any of the applications that I have seen, or in 16 any of the discussions with the ANC, prior 17 discussions, in the information or even 18 submitted by Smoke & Tingz most recently, with 19 the exception of the investigator's report, is 20 there any mention of using a summer garden in 21 the Joe Mamo lot. That is complete out of 2.2 nowhere, number one, and number two, that's 23 complete conjecture.

I mean, it's a huge lot that's locked, that's fenced, that has been the

1 subject of years of controversy in the 2 neighborhood, that is private, that the 3 neighborhood has had in the ANC and all the 4 neighborhood associations have had many 5 discussions about. Most recently, a discussion 6 about having some kind of open-air venue there 7 that was brought forth by our city councilman, 8 and that was widely rejected by all the people 9 in the neighborhood and all the neighbors. 10 So you know, this whole thing about 11 the Mamo lot, both for parking, but -- and for 12 a garden is just complete conjecture and it's a 13 huge lot. You know, there's nothing in the 14 application. Do they want to take 20 square 15 feet of it, or 1,000 square feet, or 2,000 16 square feet of it. I mean, I don't think that 17 this -- that it can even be a subject for 18 discussion. It's not in any of their 19 proposals. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll -- hold 21 on a minute, sir. 2.2 MR. HOFFMAN: No, I'm in the middle 23 of my testimony. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir. 25 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm the Board
2	Chair. I'm the Chairman of this Board, okay,
3	so I can you know, so I don't need your I
4	don't need you to tell me that you're in the
5	middle of your testimony, sir, okay?
6	All right, go ahead. It's fine. Go
7	ahead, Ms. Lewis.
8	MR. HOFFMAN: So I've read Smoke &
9	Tingz statements, I've read the report from the
10	investigator. I want to say, I'm not opposed
11	on any ethical or moral grounds to cannabis use
12	or dispensaries. I'm not opposed to drinking
13	alcohol or alcohol stores. I'm not opposed to
14	Smoke & Tingz on North Capitol Street. And I
15	have no objections to any dispensaries on North
16	Capitol. But location is everything, and 25
17	Florida is the wrong location for a dispensary,
18	just as it would be a wrong location for a
19	liquor store.
20	And Ms. Storey, the previous
21	testifier, lives blocks away in a on S or T
22	Street, and there's a vast difference between
23	Bloomingdale north of Florida and between this
24	street and this block, in particular, which has
25	been problematic for years. A medical cannabis
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1 retailer at 25 Florida Avenue would negatively 2 and quiet out impact the peace, order this 3 and would further impede and crowd area, residential parking needs and vehicular 4 and 5 pedestrian safety at and around 25 Florida. Tt. contradicts D.C. council's own recommendations 6 7 for daycare proximity, 400 feet, regarding 8 preschoolers subjecting to the smell of 9 marijuana, a huge factor when we're talking 10 about summer garden. And would in be а 11 building whose landlord has been and is 12 currently in violation of numerous health, 13 safety and building issues.

14 25 Florida Avenue stands at one of 15 the most problematic and crime-ridden corners 16 of the city. I'm not talking about crime in 17 vague way out in the city. I'm not some 18 talking about crime on S Street or T Street. Α 19 corner that ANC 5E Bloomingdale Civic 20 Association, Bates (ph.) Area Citizens 21 Associations, and individual residents have 2.2 been struggling with for years. It abuts the 23 so-called Mamo lot, as we've discussed, a large 24 vacant lot at the northwest corner of North 25 Capitol and Florida, that is a long-time open-

1 air drug market in and of itself, and directly 2 across the street from a city-owned parcel 3 that, too, has been a vacant -- has been vacant 4 for many years and is the site of frequent drug 5 use and people living in tents. This isn't 6 anxietv some or 7 supposition. Since 2010, there have been 59 8 murders, 579 assaults --9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, hold 10 on. 11 MR. HOFFMAN: With deadly __ а 12 weapon. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is it -- what 14 is the question. I mean, at what point -- Ms. 15 Lewis, I need you to ask pointed questions. We 16 can't have the witness just --17 MS. LEWIS: Okay. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- speak for 20 minutes. 19 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, I'm not speaking 20 21 for 20 minutes. I'm --2.2 MS. LEWIS: Okay. So he can't say -23 24 MR. HOFFMAN: making ___ my 25 statement.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hoffman,				
2	Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman. I				
3	need some decorum from you, sir.				
4	MR. HOFFMAN: I'm being completely				
5	decorous, decorous. You're I'm trying to				
6	give my statement. It's not 20 minutes.				
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is not a				
8	statement. We don't give statements. This is				
9	a hearing, sir. Ms. Lewis is supposed to ask				
10	you a pointed question and you're supposed to				
11	answer the question, and we're not and Ms.				
12	Smith, as an attorney, I expect you to make				
13	sure that this happens. We have				
14	MR. HOFFMAN: Well, I other				
15	people Ms. Storey gave a testimony.				
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hoffman.				
17	MS. LEWIS: Okay. My question to				
18	Carl would be or Mr. Hoffman is what is your				
19	experience living in this neighborhood?				
20	MR. HOFFMAN: Well, my experience				
21	has been one of constant crime and disruption				
22	at that corner. 59 murders, 579 assaults with				
23	a deadly weapon, 1,687 violent crimes within				
24	.37 miles or 2,000 feet of 25 Florida. Forty				
25	of those homicides since 2016 alone, and those				

are according to D.C. MPD crime statistics. People have opened fire directly across from my 35 Florida. They've shot people house at sitting 10 feet away from 25 Florida. Those statistics don't include gunshots fired in arguments and fights that don't result in arrests, many of which take place on a daily basis.

9 As a resident, I've had to fight 10 constant people passed out on the street and 11 sidewalk, literally in front of the Joe Mamo 12 lot, in front of 25 Florida, in front of my own 13 house. There's not -- almost not day а 14 sometimes that EMTs don't have to come and pick 15 people off the streets. People use -- it's 16 been a long-time struggle we all have in the 17 unit block of Florida with people using our 18 stairs and basement wells as bathrooms and 19 convenient places for sex and drugs.

Again, this isn't supposition. This is my experience.

2.2 MS. LEWIS: Okay. So another 23 question I have with regards to the daycare witnessed or noticed 24 center. Have you the 25 teachers and children passing by the area of

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the Joe Mamo lot going -- and parents on their way to bring children to school?

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes. I mean, it's 4 the investigator said, constant. As the 5 children, when they go out for walks from Petit 6 Scholars, don't walk to the left, they don't 7 walk east, they usually walk west. But of 8 course, teachers and parents walk by all the 9 And according to, you know, this memo time. from Phil Mendelson, dated September 7th, 2024, 10 11 says that Board should prohibit summer it 12 garden endorsements to retailers who are within 13 400 feet of a daycare center because it allows -- because children will smell the smoke. 14 And 15 that is -- you know, the -- 25 Florida is 16 within 263 feet by its own recommendation -- by 17 the investigators own research.

18 is Another thing that the 19 investigator said that the Petit Scholars woman 20 said that pickups are done on Quincy Street. 21 That's not true. There's no entrance or exit 2.2 from Petit Scholars on Quincy Street period. 23 The only entrance is on Florida Avenue, 263 24 feet from Smoke & Tingz, and from their 25 potential summer garden where -- and as the

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operator said, you know, 5 o'clock-ish is a time of most intense use, potential, and that is a time, between 5 -- between 4 and 6, when people are -- when parents are picking up their children.

MS. LEWIS: What are your -- well, you've already stated -- how did you find out about the license or the Applicant -- or the application for the license?

10 MR. HOFFMAN: I found out from you, 11 from -- you can't read it. The notice was 12 posted on the window, and if you actually -- on 13 the -- not the window, the door of 25 Florida, 14 and if you even look at the photos provided by 15 the investigator, you'll see that those -- the 16 door is behind -- is up at the top of stairs 17 behind locked metal fences that -- and you 18 know, I can't even read that without -- even 19 with my glasses on.

Parking is an issue.

MS. LEWIS: Okay. And are you opposed to the establishment opening at the 25 Florida Avenue location? MR. HOFFMAN: Well, that's a -- I'm

not inherently opposed to an establishment

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1 opening there. I'm opposed to Smoke & Tingz, a 2 cannabis retailer, opening there, in particular with a summer garden, either in its backyard or 3 even at, potentially, Joe Mamo, though I think 4 5 the Joe Mamo issue is one that is a -- hasn't 6 even -- it's not even on the application, so I 7 don't know why it's even being considered or 8 discussed. It's just an idea. 9 MS. LEWIS: Okay. 10 MR. HOFFMAN: And I'm opposed -- I 11 say, and I'm opposed to have to all the 12 potential traffic problems. Florida -- the 13 investigator -- neither the investigator nor 14 the operator have really captured it. Florida, 15 of course, is a no parking any time, 24/7. The 16 north block of North Capitol immediately to the 17 east of 25 Florida is no parking any time. The 18 only -- leaving the only possible parking to be 19 on Quincy Place behind, or Q Street in front 20 which are already crowded and often of, 21 impossible to park on at any given day. So I 2.2 don't know where somebody's going to park 23 unless they double park or park illegally on 24 Florida, which is just going to disrupt traffic 25 and be a potential cause for accidents.

1	MS. LEWIS: Okay. We've heard				
2	testimony about the safety of the area,				
3	Bloomingdale, are you aware of any incidents				
4	with the Petit Scholars teachers?				
5	MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah. I mean, the				
6	violence is everywhere on this block. It's not				
7	through all of Bloomingdale. It's, in				
8	particular, on the unit block of Florida				
9	Northwest, and that the adjoining blocks of				
10	North Capitol. And, you know, I mean, there's				
11	the issue of somebody you know, Petit				
12	Scholars teachers and students were assaulted				
13	by an individual, and that individual is about				
14	to be released into the general population				
15	again, and he's a habitant of this corner and				
16	all of the activities of it, the drug market,				
17	the loitering, the tents, the fires.				
18	MS. LEWIS: Okay. Is there anything				
19	else that you'd like to make mention of to the				
20	Board with regards to your opposition to this				
21	application?				
22	MR. HOFFMAN: Well, on top of all				
23	these issues, the owner of 25 Florida, the				
24	operator here, is just leasing the building,				
25	and the owner is and landlord of Smoke $\&$				

Tingz has been cited repeatedly by the Department of Buildings, the ABCD, the DDOT, and D.C. Health Department for violations at both 25 Florida and Sohal Wine and Spirit and Glassey, his liquor store and restaurant that are one block away.

7 They -- Sohal Wine and Spirit and 8 Glassey both separately have been cited five 9 times each in the last few years from the Department of Health violations. 25 Florida 10 11 itself, the building, under Sohal, has been 12 given stop work orders twice since September 13 2023 by the Department of Buildings. It was 14 recently given a third stop work order for 15 illegal construction in front of the liquor 16 store, and those violations remain outstanding.

17 Т the last thing this mean, 18 struggling block needs is a cannabis retailer 19 with on-site outdoor facility on the corner in 20 a building owned by a recurrent violator of 21 health, safety and Department of Building 2.2 permit regulations. You wouldn't allow а 23 store in a building and under liquor the 24 landlord ownership of with constant. а 25 violations. Why would we allow that for a

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1 cannabis retailer? 2 And on top of that, I just want to 3 it's kind of ask t.hat. it's -- I mean, incredible that this is all taking place when 4 5 it appears -- it turns out that the person 6 asking for the, for the endorsement is actually 7 in violation -- direct violation of the law at 8 this very moment. I mean, what does that speak 9 -- how is possible to get --10 MS. SMITH: Objection. 11 MR. HOFFMAN: -- a recommendation. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's -- all 13 I'm not sure if you can object to the right. 14 answer. There was no question. 15 MR. HOFFMAN: It's a fact. 16 Sir, CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: all 17 right. 18 Is there another question, Ms. 19 Lewis? Ι thought you were done with your 20 questions and you just ask him, and so is that 21 it, ma'am? 2.2 MS. LEWIS: Yes. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Smith, do 24 you have any questions of the witness?

MS. SMITH: I do.

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1 Hoffman, thank you for Mr. being 2 here with us today. 3 MR. HOFFMAN: My pleasure. Thank 4 you. 5 MS. SMITH: So you mentioned you're 6 opposed to a facility, just not in your 7 neighborhood you're opposed? 8 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, it's not that 9 T′m not -- I'm not my neighborhood I'm ___ 10 opposed to. I'd be happy for it in its current 11 location or anywhere on North Capitol Street. 12 I'm just saying on this block, in this building 13 is the wrong place because of the long history 14 of problems, and problems --15 MS. SMITH: So --MR. HOFFMAN: -- of multitudes. 16 17 MS. SMITH: Understood. Do you --18 how long has the building been empty? Do you 19 happen to know? I know you've lived there for 20 while. Do you know how long it's been а 21 vacant? 2.2 MR. HOFFMAN: It was vacated early 23 in the pandemic. 24 MS. SMITH: So since 2020 it's been 25 vacant?

1 MR. HOFFMAN: 2020, 2022, somewhere 2 in there. 3 MS. SMITH: Okay. Our understanding is that it was longer, but let's go with your 4 5 number. Is it your belief that there needs to 6 be some sort of activity there on the corner to 7 maybe curb some of these things you're speaking 8 about? MR. HOFFMAN: Well, there's lots of 9 different said, there's lots 10 Ι -- as of 11 different kinds of businesses. So I mean, it's 12 zoned commercial or MU-4, so I certainly can't 13 prevent a commercial business from operating 14 there. I just think, as I said, there are very 15 -- you know, there are very strict -- the fact 16 that there's a Board regulating liquor stores 17 and cannabis stores tells you something about 18 those places. It's -- they're there for a 19 reason. And I'm saying that I don't think 20 there should be a liquor store or a cannabis 21 store in that location. 2.2 MS. SMITH: And I think part of your 23 testimony was this -- you spent a lot of time 24 talking about murders and crime and things on 25 the block. Ι don't think you gave us а

correlation between crime and medical marijuana facilities. Do you have any information on that correlation?

MR. HOFFMAN: Well, I don't have any 4 5 specific correlation, no, but I mean, you know, 6 it -- as I said, again, you know, there's a 7 reason that there -- that liquor stores and cannabis stores are limited in number on any 8 9 one particular block, and, you know, the 10 operator himself talks about security and 11 cameras and locked doors and, you know, that 12 speaks for itself as the kinds of issues that 13 arise with these kinds of business. 14 MS. SMITH: Have you read the 15 legislation?

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Do I have a scientific 17 correlation in my hand, no, I don't.

MS. SMITH: Okay. Have you taken any time -- have you read the legislation that D.C. Council has set forth on the operation of these establishments?

22 MR. HOFFMAN: I read the letter from 23 -- the memo to the committee as a whole from 24 Phil Mendelson on -- dated in September of this 25 year and his recommendation, and it was from

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1 that pulled that Ι the very specific 2 recommendation that no cannabis retailers 3 should be within 400 feet in which smoke is 4 being outside should be -- no summer garden, to 5 be specific, should be within 400 feet of a 6 center. preschool, davcare Not but 7 specifically a daycare center. 8 MS. SMITH: Have you read any of the 9 legislation it relates to safety as and 10 operations? Do you know --11 MR. HOFFMAN: I've read some. MS. SMITH: And so if a business 12 13 were operating within those laws that D.C. set 14 forth, is that still problematic for you? 15 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, I can't prevent 16 it, so --MS. SMITH: You talked a little bit 17 18 about parking, and then you mentioned that 19 there were liquor stores and other things close 20 Where do people park now when they go to bv. the various establishments on North Capitol and 21 2.2 Florida? MR. HOFFMAN: Well, people -- when 23 24 people go to things on North Capitol, I assume 25 they park on North Capitol, and there are no

1 businesses on the immediate east side block of 2 North Capitol. There's no parking and there 3 are no businesses at all, nor are there -- is 4 there parking or businesses except for a ribs 5 place which has its own dedicated, private 6 other side. There's parking lot on the а 7 medical -- or there was, it may be closed right 8 now, in the block of North Capitol just south of 25 Florida. I have no -- as there are 9 10 liquor stores and I have no problem with those. 11 MS. SMITH: And --12 MR. HOFFMAN: There's a liquor store 13 on the corner of 1st and Florida, which is 14 owned by the landlord of 25 Florida, and that's 15 the business that has had massive violations that are constant. It's in violation now. 16 And 17 you know, most people who go there are just 18 walk-ins. 19 MS. SMITH: There are -- people in 20 the neighborhood walk to local establishments? 21 MR. HOFFMAN: I assume -- I think 2.2 so. 23 MS. SMITH: Okay. 24 MR. HOFFMAN: I mean, I don't have a 25 -- you know, a granular analysis of his liquor

1 store business. 2 MS. SMITH: So people find places to 3 park on North Capitol when they are going --MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, it's a problem. 4 5 I don't know about North Capitol. 6 MS. SMITH: Okav. 7 MR. HOFFMAN: I mean, I don't live 8 there, but on -- I say there's no parking on 9 North Capitol right there. Ι don't mean 10 there's no spaces. I mean it's literally --11 you're not allowed to park there. As for the 12 liquor store, I mean, there's two -- I wouldn't 13 want a liquor store opening up there. It was there when I moved. I can't do anything about 14 15 it. There's parking -- massive parking 16 in the neighborhood and problems no one's 17 really addressed that, and this won't help. 18 MS. SMITH: Do you drive in the city, Mr. Hoffman? 19 20 I do. MR. HOFFMAN: 21 MS. SMITH: So when you to qo 2.2 neighborhoods that are crowded, where do you 23 park? 24 MR. HOFFMAN: I park in the street. 25 I'm part of the problem. But I'm not going to

1 -- I'm trying to keep people from making the 2 parking worse in this neighborhood. MS. SMITH: Understood. And I just 3 be clear, you 4 that this want to are aware 5 particular shop is а medical marijuana 6 facility? 7 MR. HOFFMAN: That's correct. 8 MS. SMITH: Okay. 9 I don't have any more questions for Mr. Hoffman. 10 11 Thank you for your testimony SO 12 much. 13 MR. HOFFMAN: You're welcome. 14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions 15 by the Board members? 16 All right. Mr. Hoffman, thank you 17 very much for your testimony today. 18 MR. HOFFMAN: You're welcome. Т 19 hope you make the right decision. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lewis, do 21 you have another witness? 2.2 MS. LEWIS: No, Ι do not, 23 unfortunately. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you rest? 25 MS. LEWIS: Well, we were unable to

1	make opening statements. Are we going to be			
2	able to make closing statements?			
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Of course,			
4	but yeah. Yes, you're going to the			
5	Licensee goes first and then you go second.			
6	But this is the time of witnesses. That's why			
7	I was asking you do you have any other witness.			
8	MS. LEWIS: I do rest. I have no			
9	witnesses. I wasn't able to continue, so			
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And ma'am, as			
11	I said before, this			
12	MS. LEWIS: I understand. I'm just			
13	saying. I			
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. Yeah,			
15	but I just want the record. This case was			
16	previously continued. You did not request a			
17	continuance from the Licensee, from the			
18	Applicant. You requested it today. The			
19	Applicant did not contest did not consent to			
20	it, and they stated that the delay and the cost			
21	to and the delay and the cost, they would			
22	not agree to continue this hearing again. And			
23	so that's why.			
24	All right. So let me all right.			
25	So you have no more witnesses; is that correct?			
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All right.

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2	MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.				
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.				
4	Let me take I need to go off the record for				
5	three minutes and I'll come back. Because I				
6	told you I had a hard stop at 4, but let me get				
7	it's 3:24 now. We'll be off the record				
8	until 3:30, and then I will let you know				
9	whether or not I will take the break now or 4				
10	o'clock. But so we're off the record until				
11	3:30. Okay?				
12	MS. LEWIS: Thank you.				
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.				
	(Whereupon, the above-entitled				
14	(whereapon, the above entreted				
14 15	matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and				
15	matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and				
15 16	matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.)				
15 16 17	matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.				
15 16 17 18	matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the -				
15 16 17 18 19	<pre>matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the - - so the Agency has rested. Any rebuttal</pre>				
15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the - - so the Agency has rested. Any rebuttal witness by you, Ms. Smith?</pre>				
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the - - so the Agency has rested. Any rebuttal witness by you, Ms. Smith? MS. SMITH: No, no rebuttal witness.</pre>				
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<pre>matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the - - so the Agency has rested. Any rebuttal witness by you, Ms. Smith? MS. SMITH: No, no rebuttal witness. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.</pre>				
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<pre>matter went off the record at 3:24 pm and resumed at 3:31 p.m.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're back on the record. All right. So the - - so the Agency has rested. Any rebuttal witness by you, Ms. Smith? MS. SMITH: No, no rebuttal witness. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. About how long do you think your so we're</pre>				

1 closing will take? 2 MS. SMITH: Two minutes. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Ms. 4 Lewis, about how long do vou believe your 5 closing will take? About the same. 6 MS. LEWIS: 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ι 8 was going to say -- because I was going to take a break now, but if you're closing is going to 9 be short then we can do this and conclude the 10 11 case before I take a break. Okay, fine. 12 So now it's time for closing, so Ms. 13 Smith -- let me see. All right. So Ms. Smith, qo ahead, please. 14 15 MS. SMITH: Thank you again for the 16 opportunity to be before the Board today on 17 application. Ι think that what this the 18 evidence showed is while people have a lot of 19 concerns about things, there's no kind of correlation or evidence that this -- that's the 20 21 Ι think D.C., like а lot of case. 2.2 jurisdiction, after years of criminalizing 23 marijuana, disproportionally affecting certain segments of the population, spent significant 24 25 time crafting legislation, thoughtful

1 legislation, legalizing the use for medicinal 2 purposes, making sure that it was not only fair 3 and equitable, but that the product was safe, 4 the operators were safe, neighborhoods were 5 safe, and that all of these concerns were met. 6 It's a pretty detailed legislation and clients 7 have read it, they understand it, and they 8 operating fullv intend on within those 9 They, in fact, have no incentive parameters. 10 outside of the to operate thoughtful 11 legislation put forth by D.C. on how they 12 operate their business.

13 They're a reputable business owner. They are obviously in commerce, so they want to 14 15 make money, and some of the things that were 16 discussed in terms of violence and loitering 17 smoke, none of those contribute to and mν 18 client's bottom line. They have no interest in 19 being a disruption to the neighborhood. Thev 20 have no interest in being a disruption to the 21 You know, the children are between 3 daycare. 2.2 months and -- or 6 months and 3 years old. No 23 benefit to break the legislation with regard to 24 ventilation and those sorts of things.

And so I would just hope that the

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1 Board would, you know, compare my clients 2 is lawful and their operations to what 3 operations and grant them their application and the license. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 6 thank you. Hold on one minute, Ms. Lewis. 7 Just hold on one minute, please, okay? I′m 8 sorry. Go ahead, Ms. Lewis. 9 MS. LEWIS: Well, members of the 10 Board, thank you for giving us the opportunity 11 to present to you. This is my third hearing 12 todav. This has been a busy, a busy, busy day. 13 But I come -- I came before you on behalf of 14 ANC 5E and the surrounding community. Members 15 of the community have reached out to me with 16 regards to the concerns about the proximity of 17 the proposed Smoke & Tingz establishment to the 18 Petit Scholars Bloomingdale location. Over 300 19 concerned parents have signed a petition 20 stating that they oppose a medical cannabis 21 retailer near daycare centers. And I'm sure 2.2 you' ve been able to see the written that 23 testimonies and letters that have been 24 submitted in the exhibits. 25 It's unfortunate that current laws

1 do not protect our young children. There are 2 laws on the books for children in D.C. public 3 schools, but none that protect children in The community and the residents, 4 davcares. 5 which is the residents and business, the D.C. 6 Council, the mayor recognized that children in 7 daycares should also have protection, which is 8 B250581, the medical Clarification whv 9 Amendment Act of 2024, was supported by the 10 Council and the mayor and is now under 11 congressional review. This Act will give -will recognize and give standing to daycare 12 13 centers to opposed cannabis licenses.

14 previously stated, there As is а 15 time and there is a place for everything, and I 16 hope that the ABCA Board will concur that this 17 is not the time to start having establishments 18 indoors, with cannabis smoking as well as that 19 outdoors, will impact children and 20 residents, especially the summer gardens. You 21 know, vaping and gummies indoors are okay, but 2.2 smoking is a concern to the residents. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 24 Thank you, Ms. Lewis. All right. The record

25 is now closed.

1	All right. As Chairperson of the
2	Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for the
3	District of Columbia, in accordance with D.C.
4	Official Code Section 2575 of the Open Meetings
5	Act, I move that ABC Board hold a closed
6	meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice
7	from our counsel on case number 24-PRO-00085,
8	Smoke & Tingz 2, for the reasons cited pursuant
9	to D.C. Official Code 2575(b)(4)(A) of the Open
10	Meetings Act, and deliberating upon case number
11	24-PRO-0085, Smoke & Tingz 2, Inc. for the
12	reasons cited in D.C. Official Code Section
13	2575(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act. Is there
14	a second?
15	MEMBER GRANT: Second the motion.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grant has
17	seconded the motion. I will now take a roll
18	call vote. Mr. Grant?
19	MEMBER GRANT: Mr. Grant, I agree.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Meadows?
21	MEMBER MEADOWS: Mr. Meadows, I
22	agree.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
24	Anderson, I agree.
25	As it appears that the motion has

1	passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board
2	will recess these proceedings to hold a closed
3	meeting pursuant to Section 2575 of the Open
4	Meetings Act.
5	Thank you for much for your
6	presentation and your participation today. The
7	Board will issue a decision in 75 days. Thank
8	you. Have a great day.
9	MS. SMITH: You as well. Thank you.
10	MS. LEWIS: Thank you. Bye.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
12	thank you. Okay, thank you. And I have one
13	last thing to do and then we're closed. All
14	right, thank you.
15	(Whereupon, the above-entitled
16	matter went off the record at 3:40 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Smoke & Tingz 2

Before: DC ABCA

Date: 11-20-24

Place: teleconference

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

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Court Reporter

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