## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + + ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD + + + + + MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :

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Rito Loco, LLC : t/a Rito Loco-El Techo :

606 Florida Ave NW : Protest
Retailer CR - ANC 6E : Hearing

License No. 104119 : Case #22-PRO-00072 :

:

(Application to : Renew the License) :

Wednesday December 7, 2022

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

## PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson BOBBY CATO, JR., Member EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member JENI HANSEN, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

JOSE ORELLANA, DC ABRA Staff LOUIE HANKINS, Applicant ANDREW KLINE, Applicant Counsel SIDON YOHANNES, Applicant Counsel ALEX LOPEZ, ANC 6E LARRY HANDERHAN, ANC 1B RAMI BADAWY, Protestant CRAIG KUJAWA, Protestant INVESTIGATOR KEVIN PUENTE STEVEN LAWRENCE, Witness DANIEL HATEM, Witness MARTIN BEAM, Witness JONATHAN HORSFORD, Witness PAUL BARANOWSKI, Witness MARGO BADAWY, Witness LYNNE VENART, Witness

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

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2:14 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon, and welcome to the afternoon session of the ABC Board. My name is Donovan Anderson, chairman of the Board. Joining me this afternoon are four other staff and board members: Mr. James Short, Mr. Bobby Cato, Ms. Jeni Hansen, and Mr. Edward Grandis. The Board has five members in attendance for the conduct of business this afternoon and we have a quorum.

In looking at our calendar this afternoon, we only have one case, I believe, yes. We have just one case on our calendar. So once that case is called, we'll take a moment for IT specialists to elevate your rights and then we can start the hearing.

So our next case is a protest hearing Case No. 22-PRO-00072, Rito Loco-El Techo, License No. 104119.

Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate the rights of the parties in this case, please?

MR. ORELLANA: Sidon Yohannes, your access has been elevated. Craig Kujawa, your access has been elevated. Larry Handerhan, your

access has been elevated. Rami Badawy, your 1 access has been elevated. Kevin Puente, your 2 access has been elevated. 3 There are many more in attendance. 4 Should they also be elevated? 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, you can 6 7 elevate everyone who, better yet, not as yet. Let me -- let me -- just give me one minute and 8 9 once I have the representatives identify themselves, then I will ask them whose rights 10 should be elevated. 11 So let's -- we should definitely 12 13 elevate the rights of the ANC, ANC 1B, ANC 6E. So if you are from ANC 1B, I think maybe that's 14 15 Mr. Handerhan. MR. HANDERHAN: Yes, Commissioner 16 17 Larry Handerhan from 1B. Hi, everyone. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 1B. 18 And we should have a Commissioner from 6E. Do we have a 19 Commissioner from 6E? If we have a 20 21 representative from ANC 6E, please identify 22 yourself and we will elevate your rights. 23 I believe that -- I know -- who 24 represents the --MR. HANDERHAN: Commissioner Alex 25

Lopez is the Single Member District rep, I 1 believe to answer --2 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so if you see Mr. Lopez, please elevate his rights. 4 5 And think another person that we're looking for, the Badawy Group? 6 MR. BADAWY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this 7 is Rami Badawy. I'm here representing --8 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, no, not -- K-U-J-A-W-A. Kujawa. Please -- who is 10 11 that protestor? Who is representing that group? 12 MR. KUJAWA: Mr. Chairman, this is 13 Craig Kujawa. I am present in my protest as well as those of the ANC and the Group of 31 are being 14 15 represented by Mr. Badawy today. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm aware 16 17 of that, but I just want to make and I'm sorry, Mr. Kujawa, I want to make sure that those folks 18 are on the line and then we can figure out --19 this is a lot of folks, and then those 20 protestants can let me know who else needs to be 21

elevated. So that's why I looked at -- it was my

understanding that one, two, three, four -- there

are four protestant groups. I just want to make

sure that the representatives for all protestant

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groups are -- their rights are elevated and then I can be directed who the witnesses are and then we'll figure out who else needs to be -- as Mr. -- as I was informed that there are significant amount of people on the line, so I just want to make -- once, we have identified who the protestant representatives are, then we'll figure out who else -- whose rights needs to be elevated.

Good afternoon, everyone, this is the protest case on Rito Loco-El Techo and so let me have the parties identify themselves. Let's start with the licensee's representative?

MR. KLINE: Good afternoon, Chairman
Anderson and members of the Board. Andrew Kline,
here on behalf of the applicant. And Sidon
Yohannes of the Veritas Law Firm is with me today
as well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon.

MR. KLINE: Along with Louie Hankins

is principal of the applicant.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Hankins on line? Okay. All right, Mr. Hankins is on line. Okay. All right. I just want to make sure.

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All right, let's have Mr. Handerhan, 1 please introduce yourself for the record and your 2 relationship to this case, please. 3 MR. HANDERHAN: Sure. Thank you, 4 Chairman. My name is Larry Handerhan. I'm the 5 ANC for 1B01 which is directly across the street 6 7 from this property and representing the 1B Commission which has a protest, an active 8 9 protest. I should also note that my district 10 has not significantly changed in the 11 redistricting process, so I am the current ANC 12 and will be the future ANC for the directly 13 across the street neighbors moving forward. 14 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do we have Mr. Lopez from ANC 6E? 16 17 MR. HANDERHAN: My understanding is he is unavailable today, but sent a note about his 18 19 designated representative. I'm not sure --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who was it that 20 was identified. I'm not aware. Can someone tell 21 2.2 me who was -- who is the designated representative for ANC 6E? 23 MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairman, this Rami 24 25 Badawy and Mr. Lopez designated me to represent

the ANC 1D at the hearing today. 1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, 2 that's fine then. 3 So Mr. Badawy, you are representing 4 ANC 6E. You're also representing the Group of 5 Five or more and you are also representing ANC 6E 6 and you're also representing -- no, I'm sorry, 7 and the Group of Five or more, is that correct? 8 9 MR. BADAWY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, yes, that is correct. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kujawa. 12 Can you please spell and state your name for the record and who you represent, sir? You're on 13 mute, sir. Unmute yourself. 14 15 MR. KUJAWA: Rookie mistake. Ι apologize. My name is Craig Kujawa spelled 16 17 C-R-A-I-G K-U-J-A-W-A. And I am the abutting 18 property owner protestant. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so you are abutting. 20 Mr. Kline, is there a witness that we 21 need to elevate that was not on line but we need 22 to elevate that person who is in the waiting 23 24 room? MR. KLINE: I have a number of 25

witnesses. I don't know that we need to elevate them yet --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, fine.

All right. I just wanted to make sure. So
everyone is there and if they're called as a
witness, then we need to elevate their rights, so
that's what I'll do for all the parties.

So right now we have all of the representatives for the parties and at a later date, at a later time in the hearing, you can identify the witness and then you will elevate their rights, all right.

All right, are there any -- so this is a protest hearing on a renewal application. Are there any preliminary matters that at least -- let me start from the licensee, any preliminary matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Board.

MR. KLINE: Not other than the pending motion for a continuance that was filed.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the motion was -- there's a motion that was filed and it was opposed by the Protestants and so therefore, on our legal agenda this morning, the Board voted on our legal public agenda this morning to deny the

request for a continuance because it was opposed 1 by the Protestant. So it was on our legal agenda 2 this morning. All right. 3 Are there any stipulations? I mean 4 5 this is a renewal application, so is there agreement or disagreement? I know the licensee 6 wants their license to be renewed and so I guess 7 I'll start from the part of the Protestants. 8 9 me start with ANC 1B, are they in agreement that the license should be renewed? I'm trying to see 10 if we can streamline this hearing if there's 11 12 agreement on renewing the license? 13 MR. BADAWY: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. I do believe there was one preliminary matter 14 15 that the Protestants would request to address. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on one 16 17 moment, please. Mr. Orellana, can you please elevate 18 the rights of Mr. Lopez, please. I see that he 19 placed a note in the chat that he is there. 20 So 21 please elevate the rights of Mr. Lopez, please. 22 Yes, Mr. Badawy, go ahead, sir. MR. BADAWY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, and 23 again, I don't know whether it's appropriate to 24 25

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a 1 2 minute. Mr. Lopez, can you please identify 3 yourself for the record, please? My name is Alex Lopez, MR. LOPEZ: 4 A-L-E-X L-O-P-E-Z. And I an Advisory 5 6 Neighborhood Commissioner representing Single Member District 6E02 virtually on behalf of 7 Protestant ANC 63. 8 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Thank 10 you. Go ahead, Mr. Badawy. 11 12 MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, 13 and again I don't know if it's appropriate to do this now or to go through the stipulations, but 14 15 the Protestants do have a preliminary matter to address and that is the Protestants' argument 16 that the PIF and disclosures that were filed by 17 the licensee were filed late. As the Board is 18 19 aware, the Board directed both parties to file their PIF and disclosures within seven days, 20 21 excuse me, seven days prior to this hearing. We 2.2 were informed of that by the chairman on November 23 9th at our status hearing. Additionally, the Title 23 of the D.C. 24

Municipal Regulations, Section 1722 require the

PIF and disclosures, the exhibit list, the exhibits, and the witness list to be filed with both counsel or ABRA and the Protestants, the parties seven days prior to hearing. We did not receive those. Those, in fact, were served on us by email at 11:51 p.m. on Monday night, December 5th. This, in fact, prejudices the Protestants as we have not had ample time to review and prepare for cross examination effectively.

Additionally, I would add that the filing that was received is deficient to one witness and that is the proposed expert witness Martin Beam, who will testify, I believe, regarding acoustics.

As the Board is aware, the D.C.

Municipal Regulations require expert witnesses to have filed a CV or resume and what was filed for this witness does not amount to a resume. It is part of a LinkedIn page that describes some work history and a degree in mechanical engineering.

The Protestants will argue that it doesn't contain what typically is associated with expert witness information including professional associations, certifications, any continuing education, any published articles, and whether or

not the witness has ever been qualified to 1 testify as an expert before this Board, another 2 board, or a court of law. Therefore, the filing 3 is deficient and again, the Protestants are 4 5 prejudiced because of that. At this time we would make a motion to 6 7 preclude the licensee from presenting witnesses and exhibits at the hearing today. 8 Thank you. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was the PIF due? 10 11 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, we got an 12 email --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a 13 minute, Mr. Kline, hold on. 14 15 MR. KLINE: Sorry. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You will be 16 allowed to respond. I'm trying to find out from 17 Mr. Badawy when was the PIF due? 18 MR. BADAWY: The PIF and exhibits were 19 due seven days prior to the hearing, so that 20 would have been November 30th and that is when 21 the Protestants filed their PIF, exhibit list, 2.2 23 witness list, and exhibits and served those on counsel for the licensee and the Board by email. 24 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you got it

what date?

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MR. BADAWY: I received licensee's filings on Monday, December 5th at 11:51 p.m. by email.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, we were fully prepared to file earlier than that. We received an email from the Agency requesting that the information be filed by Monday and that's what we did. I believe that the Protestants received the same email. It's a little misleading for that to be admitted in the presentation that was just made.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not aware

-- I mean if you're saying that can somebody -can someone provide me with a copy of the email
that the Agency sent? I'm not aware of that. I
need to see it. So this is something that is
pertinent to this case and I need to --

MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kline is correct. At the base of the email, I think it was one email, it said that these were due I think by Monday, December 5th. And the Protestants did not rely on that because of the direction of the Board and because of the regulations which is why we filed ours on

November 30th and frankly, is what we expected. 1 MR. KLINE: The email is dated 2 December 1st, 2022 at 10:49 a.m. from the Board's 3 legal counsel's office. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you able to 6 share -- can someone share their screen with me -- who has the email that can share this with me? 7 I want to see the email because I was unaware of 8 9 it, so. You don't have to share this with me. I'm going to get the email. Let me look at the 10 email. 11 I'm waiting to get -- I'm waiting to 12 hear (audio interference). 13 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I can share 14 15 my screen. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. 16 17 There is a --MR. KLINE: It seems to me if the 18 Protestants have an issue with that they should 19 have responded immediately rather than lying in 20 wait, sandbagging, and now saying oh, gee, 21 22 despite the email from the Board's legal counsel, 23 you're late. MR. BADAWY: So I would counter with 24 25 that that counsel's comment that they were

prepared to file in a timely fashion which would have been November 30th is disingenuous as this email is dated December 1st and again the filings were due on November 30th.

Additionally, I am not aware of anything that says that an email from office counsel, absent an agreement by both parties, can they waive municipal regulations and/or the Board's direction.

MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, in our practice before the Agency if we are unable to rely on what's communicated to us by Board's counsel, then we have much larger issues than whether this is timely filed because in our regular practice before the Agency what counsel says on behalf of the Board is gospel and we take it as such until the Board says otherwise.

I would hope that that would not discontinue because it's an efficient way for matters to be before the Board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, please close your screen. I hate when -- I hate to speak when -- yes, go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: With respect to the second issue, what we filed has been accepted by the

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Board before reflects who Beam is. It reflects his professional education. And it reflects the other things that would be contained in something called CV. What it's called I don't think is all that important. The fact that he's identified, his credentials are there, and a determination can be made as to whether he's an expert witness. The Board has heard from him many times before and is very familiar with his expertise in these matters.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On the issue of the expert witness, Mr. Badawy, you are -- you will have an opportunity -- prior to this, if you had some concerns with it. I'm just speaking generally because I'm not prepared to make a decision on your earlier motion, but the second motion regarding the expert designation, if you don't have enough information currently before he testifies, before he testifies, you can -- we can do voir dire where you'll have an opportunity to ask questions of him and so we can independently make a determination whether or not the parties can agree that he is an expert if his resume is not sufficient.

Regarding the PIF issue and are there

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any other questions that anyone else has they want to make, any other arguments to be made by either side?

MR. BADAWY: None from the Protestant, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

MR. KLINE: The only thing that I would add is that there's an email from Mr. Lopez dated December 5th, 2022 in which he specifically reaffirms the previously-filed PIF of November 30, 2022 designating Mr. Badawy as the representative and it doesn't raise any issue in terms of timeliness. So, you know, I'm a little confused when we got an email from the Agency -- to hear opposing counsel setting a date for filing and hearing opposing counsel or it be that it's not timely without any indication beforehand that that's an issue.

And the other point that I would make is if Mr. Badawy truly claims prejudice, then we file a motion to continue and ask the Board to reconsider that motion, if indeed, he is so prejudiced. And that will give him plenty of time to do whatever preparation he thinks he needs to do.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So Mr. Badawy,

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so what you're asking here to do is you want us to move forward with the protest, but you're saying that the counsel didn't comply with the disclosure of time line that we should prevent them from presenting witnesses. I guess at this juncture I would not -- anyway, so you're asking us that we should prevent them from putting their case on. That's your position?

MR. BADAWY: I think they should be, again, Mr. Chairman, they are to comply with the rules. At this late date, if it does prejudice to Protestant should result in preclusion. I think it's reasonable to let Protestant to expect that well, the owner would testify and perhaps a co-owner, but beyond that, we are prejudiced.

MR. KLINE: And that prejudice can be easily eliminated by continuing the hearing -- excuse me, by the Protestant.

So we can eliminate all prejudice by continuing the hearing. We would be prejudiced by relying on an email that was transmitted by the Office of the Board's counsel, so we would likewise claim prejudice. If Mr. Badawy truly believes that he's prejudiced, then I would suggest that the Board reconsider a motion to

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continue the hearing and that way we will have ample time to prepare.

We are prepared to go forward today, but if his position is he's prejudiced, then the Board should continue the hearing. If the Board's position is that we were wrong to rely on the communications from the Board's counsel, we would claim prejudice and we would ask that the hearing be continued.

MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I would say in response to that is again, the regulations and the rules are very, very clear. Our documents were filed in a timely manner before that email has come out. The licensee's documents were not filed in a timely manner and then now they're relying on that email from counsel and they didn't file their documents in the first place.

They are experienced counsel. They understand the rules and the regulations. They were present for the -- at the status hearing where the direction was very clear. To claim otherwise now I think is disingenuous. We are -- excuse me, if I may finish.

We are prepared to go forward today.

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We have our witnesses here. It would be a major 1 imposition on our witnesses, who have already 2 taken time off to come here and provide testimony 3 today which is why we're arguing for preclusion. 4 5 And that's my final argument, Your Honor. Chairman, thank you. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. As Chairperson of the Alcohol and Beverage Control 8 Board for the District of Columbia and according 9 to D.C. Official Code Section 2575 of the Open 10 Meetings Act, I move that the ABC Board hold a 11 12 closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on Case No. 22-PRO-00072, 13 Rito Loco-El Techo, pursuant to D.C. Official 14 15 Code Section 2-575(b)(4)(a) of the Open Meetings 16 Is there a second? 17 MEMBER CATO: Cato seconds. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato 18 seconds the motion. 19 We'll have a roll call vote. 20 Mr. Short. 21 22 MEMBER SHORT: Short. I agree. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato. 24 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato. I agree. 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hansen.

Grandis.

Mr. Grandis and I agree. It appears that the motion has passed. I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2-575 of the Open Meetings Act.

The Board is going to go off the record to into executive session. I will ask everyone to hold tight. The Board will come back and we will make recommendation once we have -- once we spoken -- once we consult with our attorney, we will come back and we will make a determination. All right? Hold tight. Please do not log off, but you can turn your cameras off and microphones. All members should return to executive session for further action. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 2:45 p.m. and resumed at 3:06 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm trying to see who's not here. So all the parties are here. Mr. Short, you're logged on twice. So I'm not sure -- and I'm not seeing you. So I'm not quite sure which one of the lines you're on, sir. I cannot see you, Mr. Short, and you're logged on

As soon as Mr. -- I'm able to see Mr. 1 twice. Short, then we'll start back. 2 Mr. Short? 3 MEMBER SHORT: Can you hear me? 4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short, 5 you're logged in twice, sir. You need to log off 6 7 on one of the machines you're logged in. cannot see you, but you're logged in twice. 8 9 you need to log on one of the machines that you're logged into. 10 Mr. Short? Mr. Short? 11 12 MEMBER SHORT: I'm trying, Mr. Chair. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short, you 13 are logged in on two different equipment. Please 14 15 log off on one of the equipment, sir. whatever equipment you're on, I cannot see you, 16 17 but --(Pause.) 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 19 I'm working with our IT to see what is going on with Mr. 20 Short. As soon as I'm able to get him online, 21 2.2 then we can move forward. 23 He should be back on shortly. I was told he had to reboot his system. So hopefully, 24 he should be back on. 25

I'm going to move on. He should join us -- we do have a quorum. As long as there are three Board members present, there is a quorum.

And we currently have four Board members.

All right. The Board went into executive session to discuss with our attorney the motion that was filed by -- the motion that was raised by the protestant. There are two things going on here. There was -- an email was sent from our legal office.

And email was sent by one of the protestants to our legal office on November 21st requesting further instructions regarding the PIF because pursuant to my instruction, I had informed the party that our legal office had provided further instruction. So on the 21st an email was sent by one of the protestants to our legal office asking for guidance regarding the submission of the PIF. Our legal office responded prior to the deadline on the 28th to advise the parties the process to file a PIF.

And the parties were also informed that they had up through December 5th to file the PIF. There were no objectives received filed by any of the parties. But it was a joint email

that was submitted to all the parties to inform 1 them that the PIF was due because they had 2 through December 5th to file the PIF. 3 And even without that email, Section 4 5 17.29.9 states that the Board may allow parties to submit their PIF and exhibit forms or amend 6 their PIF and exhibit form after submission 7 deadline set forth in Section 17.22.8 for good 8 9 cause. I believe that good cause was shown. And so I believe I'm going to make a motion that the 10 Board allow the introduction of the PIF on the 11 12 part of the applicant. Is there a second? 13 MEMBER CATO: Cato seconds. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato second 14 15 the motion. We'll now have a roll call vote. Mr. Cato? 16 17 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen? 18 19 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis? 20 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I 22 agree. 23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Passed 4-0-0. All right. Let's move on. So now that we've 24 25 addressed, are there any other preliminary

matters that needs to be addressed? As I stated before, Mr. Badawy, if Mr. Kline decides to call Mr. Beam as a witness, you can object to his qualifications at the beginning and we'll do voir dire. So you'll have an opportunity to further question him prior to this testimony.

And if based on the questioning, then we'll determine whether or not -- I mean, if you're satisfied with his qualification, the Board can make a determination and declare him an expert if we disagree with -- if there's disagreement. Okay? All right. You're welcome. Any other preliminary matters that needs to be raised before we move forward?

No?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And the question I asked before, is the protestant -- and I'm just trying to find whether or not this renewal application, are the protestants in agreement that the license should be renewed?

And I'll start with you, Mr. Badawy.

MR. BADAWY: No, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't need to ask the rest of the protestants because if one

protestant says no, then we have to move forward. So all right, fine. So I'm not saying that the other protestants agree or disagree. But since it would have to be unanimous, and we don't have a unanimous decision by the protestants.

So all right. So the Board needs to decide whether or not the license will be renewed and as a starting point. All right. What will occur is that we'll have opening statement by the applicant. We'll have an opening statement by the protestant. And it's my understanding -- well, it's not my understanding that you, Mr. Badawy, that you will be representing all the protestants. Is that correct?

MR. BADAWY: That is correct, Mr. Chairperson. Thank you. And that's by rules basically says that where there are multiple protestants, then the Board ask the parties to designate who it is that's going to represent the protestants.

I don't know and I probably need to look at the PIF to see how many witnesses. But -- and let me ask a question. Mr. Kline, how many witnesses do you plan to call?

MR. KLINE: Six, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Six witnesses? 1 MR. KLINE: Yeah, some of them will be 2 brief, but yes, six. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr. Badawy, 4 how many witnesses do you wish to call? 5 MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairperson, I 6 7 believe the roll -- excuse me, status hearing we were told that we could only call five witnesses. 8 9 So we are prepared to call five witnesses. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline, I'm 10 going to comply with that requirement. 11 I think 12 this is -- I've told everyone that this is a 13 matter we're doing these hearings. We've cut down on the time, and I'm not -- I thought --14 15 well, anyway. So all right. So five witnesses, sir, 16 17 as per -- I will look at -- I mean, I will look at my instructions. And we're going to comply 18 with the witnesses as provided in the 19 instructions. Okay? All right. 20 21 So anyway, so as I stated before, the 2.2 licensee will make an opening statement, then the 23 protestant will make an opening statement. The Board will call its first witness. Once the 24 25 Board calls its witness, the Board members will

question the witness.

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Then the licensee will have an opportunity to ask questions of the question.

And the protestant will have an opportunity to ask questions of the witness. Then the licensee — the applicant will present its case. And after applicant presented its case, the protestant will have an opportunity to present its case.

After closing arguments, we'll close the record and then we'll move on from there.

All right. So Mr. Kline, do you wish to make an opening statement?

MR. KLINE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the

Board. I'm Andrew Kline on behalf of the

applicant.

We are here on behalf of Rito Loco,
LLC trading as Rito Loco-El Techo to request that
the Board grant the application for renewal of
the license without additional condition. It
appears to us from our understanding of the
parties interactions the primary issue seems to
be noise. And the evidence will show that the
applicant has made continuing attempts to address

the issues and will continue to do so.

This establishment started -- you'll hear from Mr. Hankins it started, it was a food truck. And Mr. Hankins decided to try the brick-and-mortar route which he's done and he's managed to survive through the pandemic and through all of the difficulties he's faced in the last three years. The evidence will show that he's made substantial changes in the nature of the operation in an effort to address the concerns that have been raised by the protestants with respect to noise.

You'll also here from an expert witness, Mr. Marty Beam. He's a noise consultant, sound consultant, sound engineer who will talk about other efforts that will be made and other changes that are contemplated to the establishment in an effort to further address the issues that have been raised with respect to noise. You will hear from Mr. Hankins how the curtailment of his activities in an effort to meet the objections of the neighbors has cost him financially at a time when he's just coming out of a pandemic.

But he's committed to addressing

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issues and will continue to do so. At the conclusion of the evidence, at the conclusion of the case, we will request that you approve the application without further condition. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Badawy?

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MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Thank you, members of the Board, Mr. Kline, and Ms. Yohannes. The protestants have a tremendous amount of information to provide today. At its core, out case is quite simple.

As a matter of law, the licensee shall have the burden of proof to show that the establishment meets the appropriateness standard in accordance with D.C. Official Code Section 1711.5. The protestants intend to show through documentary evidence and through witness testimony that the licensee does not meet the appropriateness standard and that no reasonable person could construe the available facts to conclude otherwise. Our case today will focus on two specific elements of the appropriateness standard, the many ways the establishment

adversely affects the peace, order, and quiet of the area on the one hand and on the other its record of compliance.

Our evidence and testimony will proceed along three main lines argument. First and most important, the establishment has over an extended period of time regularly generated noise in the form of amplified music, particularly techno, trance, and electronic music played by live disc jockeys that can be heard in the neighborhood residence not just in the adjacent building but other hundreds of feet away across a busy avenue. This is in direct violation of Section 725A.

And although this is substantiated and documented in the investigative history, we will supplement it with firsthand witness testimony from multiple neighborhood residents. Second, the solid waste generated by the establishment has again over an extended period of time been permanently stored in a manner that, A, provides food, coverage, and breeding places for rodents, cases a nuisance both as an eyesore and constriction of a narrow vehicular alley, constitutes an illegal unpermitted used of a

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public space, and violates directly a summary order of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Each of these issues violates the litter provision of Section 726 of the D.C. Official Code or other statutes.

And third, we will argue that the Board must give great weight to the establishment's record of compliance when considering what licensing actions take. We have cited a number of violations already. But we wish to draw specifically to the licensee's documented record of violations and the settlement agreement reached with residents of the neighborhood. At its fire renewal hearing — at its fire renewal several years ago, a licensee may try to characterize the protestants as a small group of disgruntled, unreasonable, and impossible to please neighbors who simply don't want to borrow a restaurant in their midst.

This is not true. The volume of complaints and the reach of the licensee's adverse impacts on the neighborhood are such that two different advisory neighborhood commissions voted to protest the establishment's license renewal. And a group of five or more individuals

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protest was joined by no more -- excuse me, no 1 fewer than 30 neighborhood residents who are 2 directly affected by the persistent actions and 3 behavior of the licensee. Thank you for your 4 5 attention and your time this evening, and we look 6 forward to proceeding. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you. All right. The Board will call its 8 first witness. And so our first witness is Mr. 9 Kevin Puente. Ms. Puente, can you raise your 10 11 right hand, please? Do you swear or affirm to 12 tell the truth and nothing but the truth? 13 Turn your volume up a little bit, please, right. Mr. Puente. Mr. Puente, can you spell and state 14 15 your name for the record, please? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Kevin Puente, 16 17 K-E --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear 18 19 you, Mr. Puente. INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Can you hear me 20 21 now? 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to raise your volume, please, sir. 23 24 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Can you hear me 25 now?

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, that's
2	perfect. All right. Just one more time, Mr.
3	Puente. I'm sorry. I'm trying to access some
4	documents. I apologize. All right. So Mr.
5	Puente, can you again spell and state your name
6	for the record, please?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Kevin Puente,
8	K-E-V-I-N P-U-N-T-E.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where are
10	you currently employed, sir?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The Alcohol
12	Beverage Administration.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long have
14	you been employed by the Agency?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Approximately
16	seven and a half years.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your
18	role in working for the Agency, sir?
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Investigator.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
21	your duties and responsibility as an
22	investigator?
23	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I conduct
24	inspections and investigations of licensed ABC
25	establishments throughout the District of

1	Columbia.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you
3	familiar with this establishment are you
4	familiar with the Rito Loco-El Techo, the
5	applicant in this case?
6	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I am.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how did you
8	become aware of this case?
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I was assigned
10	a protest investigation.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did there come
12	a time that you draft a report for this
13	investigation?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I did.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
16	copy of the report available that you can share
17	with us?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I do.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you
20	identify the document on your screen, sir?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is my
22	protest investigation.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when did
24	you draft this?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: December 2022.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did you get an 1 opportunity to speak to the parties in this case? 2 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 3 Yes, I did. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And 4 specifically who did you speak to? 5 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I spoke with the 6 7 abutting property owner, Mr. Craig Kujawa. spoke with the group of 31 representative, Mr. 8 9 Rami Badawy, and I spoke with ANC 6E, Mr. Alex Lopez and the owner of Rito Loco-El Techo, Mr. 10 Louie Hankins. 11 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you tell us 13 what, if anything, you were able to -- and you say you spoke with Mr. Kujawa. Can you tell us 14 what was -- share with us the nature of your 15 conversation. 16 17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, so on Monday, November 21st, 2022, I telephonically 18 spoke with Mr. Kujawa. Mr. Kujawa advised me 19 that he lived in his residence well before Rito 20 21 Loco came along. He said the biggest issue for him is the noise. 2.2 23 He abuts the property, and he constantly hears the base and the music from the 24

summer garden. He said Rito Loco-El Techo was

trying to create a nightclub. And even though he's the abutting property owner right next to his establishment, he said his whole building can hear the noise and other neighbors are complaining about it as well.

Mr. Kujawa stated that he'd like to see the establishment comply with the settlement agreement and noise regulations. He also advised me that they've been having problems with the trash. The establishment is putting their trash bins out on a public space in an alley. And he said just recently most nights he's been awake most nights because of the noise that's emanating from the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who else did you speak to?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Mr. Rami Badawy who was the representative for the group of 31.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was the nature of your conversations with Mr. Badawy?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Mr. Badawy stated that the noise starts on most weeks is an afternoon and goes well into the early morning hours. He stated that even with the windows and doors closed, the group of 31 can still hear the

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music and the noise that travels. Mr. Badawy stated that he'd like to see compliance with the noise ordinance, the regulations, and a settlement agreement that Rito Loco currently has.

Mr. Badawy stated that residents have made the owner, Rito Loco, aware numerous times of the noise but must times the concerns go unresolved from the establishment. Mr. Badawy stated that the establishment cannot come to compliance with the regulations and the noise ordinance. They would like to see the entertainment endorsement be removed from ABC license.

opportunity to speak to anyone from ANC 6C?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I spoke
with Mr. Alex Lopez. Mr. Lopez advised me there
was three main issues: noise, trash, and parking.
Mr. Lopez advised that noise has been the main

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:

Mr. Lopez advised that it goes on all night starting in the afternoon into the early morning hours. Mr. Lopez advised me that the ANC would like to see a reduction of the

issue for the neighborhood for a while now.

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Did you have an

entertainment hours. If that cannot happen, ultimately the establishment would not like to see their entertainment endorsement taken away.

The second issue was the trash. They had advised establishments in that area to stop placing their trash bins in the alley on public space. It was attracting rodents and other litter throughout the alley in the neighborhood.

The third issue that they had is parking. There's not much parking in the area due to being right on Florida Avenue. And patrons are parking on the side street as well as I've seen staff and the owners park on the sidewalk right in front of the little island right next to the establishment. And they've seen cars parked there before and people go into the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did you get a chance to speak to the owner of the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I went and met with Mr. Louie Hankins on Tuesday, November 21st. Mr. Hankins showed me around the establishment. He showed me steps he has taken to reduce the noise by putting mitigating

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material up on the walls. He also has installed a decibel reader right in front of the disc jockey so they can see where they are to make sure they're not going over 90 decibels. Mr. Hankins had one of his employees play the music at 90 decibels and walk me around the neighborhood so we can hear the noise and bass.

Mr. Hankins also advised me that the year following COVID and the closures by D.C. government and the city, he lost a lot of money admittedly that first year. He takes blame for the violations that occurred after the reopening of D.C. But Mr. Hankins advised me that since 2021, the establishment has not had any violations.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know that you're a sound engineer, Mr. Puente. Tell me a little bit about the state of the noise. As you had said, it was turned up to 90 decibels and that you walked around the neighborhood. Can you just elaborate on that a little bit more for me, please.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. Mr. Hankins owns an office right behind the establishment in one of the buildings. So he

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took me in there to hear it, and it's directly right behind the DJ booth where he had us. And we could hear a little bass, but it wasn't that loud where we were.

When we were outside, there was a delivery truck that was occurring. So that kind of made more noise than us hearing the music. We were walking around on Florida Avenue and 6th Street, Northwest.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you recall approximately about what time this was when at least when you visited the establishment with the owner?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, it was around 1:00 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So tell us about just the characteristic of this neighborhood, please?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, so Rito
Loco is located in a mixed-use area. According
to the GIS map, a mixed-use zone provides for
mixed-use development that permits a broad range
of commercial, institutional, multiple dwelling
unit residential developments at varying
densities. In the area of Rito Loco-El Techo,

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there are 42 establishments.

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Ten establishments listed have a Class CR restaurant license. And those are Quattro Osteria, FishScale, BKK Cook Shop, 801 Restaurant and Bar, VIP Lounge, Appioo, Emmy Squared, Cortez, Gogi Yogi, and HalfSmoke. Five of the establishments have a summer garden endorsement, and those are BKK Cook Shop, 801 Restaurant and Bar, Cortez, Gogi Yogi, and HalfSmoke.

Five of the establishments have an entertainment endorsement and those are VIP Lounge, Appioo, Cortez, HalfSmoke, and Quattro Osteria. There are no public schools or libraries within 400 feet of the establishment. Rito Loco is located at 606 Florida Avenue, Northwest.

establishment that abuts the neighboring establishments on both sides and a residential building abuts the back of the establishment.

Rito Loco is a two story establishment with a total occupancy load of 79, a summer garden with a total occupancy load of 79. The license includes entertainment and carry out and delivery endorsements and a summer garden endorsement.

The first floor has a kitchen and carry out area for guests to pick up their food for to-go orders as well as limited seating for guests to eat there. The second floor is mainly comprised of a summer garden with a bar and seating for guests. The summer garden has a retractable roof deck that can open up in the summertime as well as size that can open up during the summertime.

I monitored Rito Loco-El Techo on seven separate occasions from Tuesday, November 17th through Wednesday, November 23rd. I reviewed ABRA records from November 1st, 2022 to November -- I reviewed ABRA records from November 1st, 2021 to November 16th, 2022. And there have been 45 noise complaints made against Rito Loco-El Techo, the sound violation on two separate occasions, November 13th, 2021 and December 2nd, 2021. And both those cases were adjudicated by the Board and OAG. And that's all, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You stated that you observed -- you did observations (audio interference) you visited the premises. And so was that a variation of times -- different time

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periods that you visited the establishment? 1 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 2 Yes, sir. 3 (Simultaneous speaking.) INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, from late 4 early morning hours from after midnight to 2:00 5 a.m., I visited the establishment several times. 6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And did you observe any violations during the period of time 8 9 that you did your observation? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No violations. 10 I noticed pedestrian traffic was light to medium 11 12 due to the area. There was no parking. I had to park in the alley on must occasions right there 13 and walk up due to Florida Avenue being a main 14 15 artery right there. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And let's go 16 17 through the exhibits. Can you please identify the exhibits in your report, please? 18 19 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. So the first exhibit is from ANC 1B protesting the 20 Exhibit 2 is a letter from ANC 6E 21 license. 2.2 protesting the license. Exhibit 3 is a letter 23 from the group of 31 protesting the license. Exhibit 4 is a letter from the 24 25 abutting property owner, Mr. Kujawa, protesting

the license. Exhibit 5 is the GIS -- or is a copy of the zoning map. Exhibit 6 is the GIS map of establishments within 1,200 feet of Rito Loco-El Techo.

Exhibit 7 is a GIS map of any libraries and public schools within 400 feet of Rito Loco-El Techo. Exhibit 8 is a photograph of the first floor take out area for customers to get their food. Exhibit 9 is another photograph of the first floor.

Exhibit 10 is a photograph of the summer garden. Exhibit 11 is another photograph of the summer garden. Exhibit 12 is another photograph of the summer garden.

Exhibit 13 is another photograph of the summer garden. Exhibit 14 is another photograph of the summer garden and bar area on the summer garden. Exhibit 15 is a photograph of the front of the establishment.

Exhibit 16 is a photograph of the retractable roof inside the summer garden. And Exhibit 17 is a current copy of their settlement agreement that they have on file with ABRA. And Exhibit 18 is a copy of the regulatory inspection I conducted at the establishment.

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1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Puente,
2	what type of license does this establishment
3	have?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It has a Class
5	CT.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A CT? They
7	have a tavern license?
8	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I just want
10	to ask you. What kind of endorsement do they
11	currently have on their license?
12	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: They currently
13	have carry out and delivery, summer garden, and
14	entertainment endorsement.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are
16	their current approved hours of operation?
17	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. So
18	the hours of operation are Sunday through
19	Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. The hours
20	of sale are from on Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00
21	a.m., Monday through Thursday, 11:30 to 2:00 a.m.
22	On Friday and Saturday, the hours of operation
23	are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
24	And the hours of sale are from 11:30
25	to 3:00 a.m. The entertainment is Sunday through

Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Friday and 1 Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. 2 The hours of the summer garden are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. 3 Sunday through Thursday and Friday and Saturday 4 5 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now do they 6 7 have -- are they approved to have entertainment in their summer garden? 8 9 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What are those 10 hours of entertainment in a summer garden? 11 12 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The same time as 13 the hours of the operation of the summer garden, from 10:00 a.m. -- take that back. So Sunday to 14 15 Thursday goes from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and then Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 16 17 a.m. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 18 19 can close your screen. I don't have any other questions. Any questions by any Board members? 20 Go ahead, Mr. Short. 21 22 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you, Mr. 23 Chairman. Good afternoon, Investigator Puente. INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good afternoon, 24 25 sir.

1	MEMBER SHORT: Now how many years have
2	you been with ABRA?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Seven and a half
4	years.
5	MEMBER SHORT: And for the record,
6	what zone is this establishment in?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It's in a
8	mixed-use zone.
9	MEMBER SHORT: Which allows what for
10	the record?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: According to the
12	D.C. zoning, mixed-use zone provides for
13	mixed-use development that permit a broad range
14	of commercial, institutional, and multiple
15	dwelling unit residential developments at varying
16	densities. The MU zone is a mixed-use zone that
17	is intended to be applied throughout the city
18	consistent with the density designation of the
19	comprehensive plan.
20	MEMBER SHORT: The comprehensive plan
21	that's mentioned by the city means that
22	residences will be right next to businesses and
23	pretty much throughout that whole zone?
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I believe so,
25	sir.

1	MEMBER SHORT: And so basically the
2	noise complaints, you mentioned that you visited
3	or you mentioned something about 45 noise
4	complaints?
5	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
6	According to ABRA records from November 1st, 2021
7	to November 21st, 2022, there's been 45 noise
8	complaints.
9	MEMBER SHORT: Were any actions taken
10	about these noise complaints? Or were they just
11	were they investigated? Or what actions were
12	taken about these 45 noise complaints?
13	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
14	There's several written throughout the past year.
15	One was a warning, another one on the statute
16	they had to pay a fine.
17	MEMBER SHORT: How much was the fine?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: For Case No.
19	21-CMP-0068, it was a 2,000-dollar fine.
20	MEMBER SHORT: Is that normal for this
21	zone or this area?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, we get a
23	lot of noise complaints in that area with it
24	being the 9th Street corridor.
25	MEMBER SHORT: How many establishments

have you investigated or that you know of through 1 ABRA to have received a noise complaint of 2 2,000-dollar fine? 3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Not many, sir, 4 if any. 5 Would that mean that MEMBER SHORT: 6 7 they are a little off the beaten path, so to speak, for other businesses who have similar 8 9 endorsements and similar type businesses? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 10 11 MEMBER SHORT: Have you as an 12 investigator had a talk with the establishment 13 regarding these noise complaints, 45 and the fine? Or is that something that you can discuss 14 15 right now under this testimony? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 16 Oh, yes. I've 17 been out several times throughout the past several years for noise complaints. 18 recently in October of this year, I went out to a 19 noise complaint. And one of the abutting 20 property owners invited us inside so we could 21 2.2 But the problem we had at that visit was 23 we also heard the neighboring establishment. And we determined that was a neighboring 24

establishment at that time.

MEMBER SHORT: It was not this 1 2 operator. It was another operator that was 3 making the noise that the complaint was made about? 4 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, the owner 5 said that it seemed like the bass was turned down 6 7 just as we got there. So we heard more of the neighboring establishment's summer garden music. 8 MEMBER SHORT: What month was this? 9 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: October 2022. 10 11 MEMBER SHORT: And the parking again, 12 is it -- how is parking in that area or close to where this location is? What is it, 600 Florida 13 How is the parking there in that area? 14 Avenue? 15 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: There's not much There's only available parking on 6th 16 parking. 17 Street, Northwest right there. With Florida Avenue going under the construction right now, 18 there's a lot of lane closures. So mainly 6th 19 Street, Northwest, 7th Street, Northwest is where 20 21 I can find most of the people parking at. 22 MEMBER SHORT: My last question, have

you as an investigator had a talk with the owners

of this establishment? And if so, how did the

conversation go? What recommendations, if any,

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did you make to them? Or how did your visits to 1 this establishment regarding the noise and 2 parking and trash? How did it go? 3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Mainly for the 4 noise complaints which I visited, I spoke with, I 5 6 believe, one of the ABC managers. And they turned it down for us on every visit I've been to 7 over the past few years. 8 9 MEMBER SHORT: So it was loud and they turned it down when you came to visit? 10 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, because we 11 12 couldn't get inside any of the neighbors houses at the time. It was during COVID and stuff. 13 we didn't go inside. So asked them to turn it 14 15 down because we could hear it walking up the stairs to the summer garden. 16 17 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony, and thank you for your 18 excellent report and investigation. 19 Thank you. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 21 Thank you, Mr. 2.2 Any other questions by any of the Board 23 members? Mr. Kline? MR. KLINE: Afternoon, Investigator 24 25 Puente.

1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Good afternoon,
2	sir.
3	MR. KLINE: You indicated that there
4	were 45 noise complaints, many in the last year.
5	Is that what I understood your testimony to be?
6	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. I
7	asked the supervisor to pull the noise complaints
8	from November 1st, 2021 to November 21st, 2022.
9	MR. KLINE: And are those represented
10	on page 10 of your report?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
12	MR. KLINE: Do you have that in front
13	of you?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
15	MR. KLINE: And in fact, the last one
16	was just over a year ago, wasn't it?
17	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Only for the
18	noise complaints.
19	MR. KLINE: Well, that was for any
20	violation, correct?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. The
22	last violation was December 2nd, 2021.
23	MR. KLINE: Okay. And was there any
24	finding of a noise violation since then that's
25	not reflected in your report?

1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir.
2	MR. KLINE: Okay. And there were some
3	discussion much was made about the resolution
4	of Case No. 21-CMP-00068 and the 2,000-dollar
5	fine. And your testimony was that you agreed
6	I don't know if it was your testimony. But you
7	agree that was excessive for a noise complaint?
8	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Oh, yeah. When
9	I read the because there was a global OAG for
10	that case and several other cases. And all it
11	said was Charge 1, played music at such an
12	intensity that it was heard in a premises outside
13	of the establishment. Statutory authority D.C.
14	Code 25-725A. The charge was dismissed. Charge
15	2, failed to file a settlement agreement.
16	Statutory authority D.C. Code 25-823, a fine,
17	2,000-dollar payable within 120 days.
18	MR. KLINE: Now the 2,000-dollar fine
19	was not for a noise complaint, was it?
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I'd have to view
21	the case to see what it was.
22	MR. KLINE: Wasn't Charge 1 the noise
23	complaint? Isn't that's under number 4 on
24	page 10 of your report?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, Charge 1

says played music at such an intensity. But I 1 also know their settlement agreement states that 2 no music should be heard inside the residence in 3 their settlement agreement. 4 MR. KLINE: Okay. But in terms of a 5 legal statement, this was a settlement agreement 6 violation, not a noise violation, correct? 7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 8 9 MR. KLINE: All right. So it may not be so unusual that for a settlement agreement 10 violation the funds might be higher, right? 11 12 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. MR. KLINE: Now in terms of -- we 13 talked a little bit about the character of the 14 15 neighborhood. There are a number of establishments -- and you testified before and I 16 17 think, of course, all of this is in your report. There are a number of establishments near Rito 18 19 Loco, correct? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 20 21 MR. KLINE: And in fact, on your 22 visits there, you hear noise from at least one of 23 those establishments, didn't you? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 24 Yes, sir. MR. KLINE: And a number of those 25

1	establishments have summer gardens, sidewalk
2	cafes, or other outside seating facilities, don't
3	they?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
5	MR. KLINE: And noise is audible from
6	those other establishments, isn't it?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
8	MR. KLINE: In fact, this
9	establishment is not in but it's right on the
10	edge of the ARTS Overlay District, isn't it?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
12	MR. KLINE: And we know that the ARTS
13	Overlay District is one in which 18 hour activity
14	is encourage under the zoning code, don't we?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
16	MR. KLINE: Now what was the latest
17	time that you were in the neighborhood or near El
18	Techo or at El Tech/Rito Loco?
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The latest visit
20	was double check real quick. It's 12:30
21	12:00 a.m. to 12:30.
22	MR. KLINE: Okay. So you don't really
23	know how late they went with respect to
24	entertainment on any of your visits there. Is
25	that a fair statement?

1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
2	MR. KLINE: Now if I could, could you
3	pull up Exhibit 5, please, of your report?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Okay, sir.
5	MR. KLINE: Who is sharing that
6	report?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I'll share it.
8	I can share it.
9	MR. KLINE: Okay, great. That will be
10	helpful. Thank you. All right. Now the little
11	drop in the middle, that's where the
12	establishment is located in the green?
13	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
14	MR. KLINE: All right. Now you
15	testified about a visit to the establishment
16	where you went to the office?
17	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
18	MR. KLINE: Can you show with your
19	cursor approximately where within that rectangle
20	the office is located?
21	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It was right
22	so this is Rito Loco
23	MR. KLINE: Yeah.
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I believe.
25	This is Quattro Osteria right here. It's right

behind Quattro Osteria, so right about here. 1 MR. KLINE: Okay. And you didn't hear 2 noise. You did a bit of a noise test when you 3 went there, right? 4 5 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I was with Mr. Hankins where he was. We were right behind 6 the DJ booth. Me and him were having a 7 conversation at a normal level. You could hear 8 9 it a little bit. But we weren't speaking loud to each other, but we were able to have a perfect 10 11 conversation. 12 MR. KLINE: What time was that? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 1:00 p.m. when 13 I went out there. 14 15 MR. KLINE: So it was just turned on. The music was turned on as a test so that you 16 could hear it? 17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 18 19 MR. KLINE: When you were there, your visit -- I think we covered the is, but let me 20 just make sure. You did hear noise from other 21 22 establishments in the neighborhood, correct? 23 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. MR. KLINE: This is actually even 24 25 though it seemed to be quiet on your visits,

you've had occasion to visit this neighborhood at 1 other times other than in connection with this 2 investigation, haven't you? 3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. 4 MR. KLINE: And it's actually a pretty 5 bustling part of town, isn't it? 6 7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, it is. MR. KLINE: And there's typically a 8 9 great deal of ambient noise in the neighborhood as well? 10 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 11 Yes, sir. 12 MR. KLINE: And what is that? What do 13 you typically hear when you're there? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: You hear the 14 15 cars passing by, horns. At times, MPD will shut down Georgia Ave. right there. So the buses will 16 have to reroute when they did the nightlife task 17 force. On occasion, I saw trash trucks picking 18 19 up trash, the city trash trucks from the city trash bins. 20 21 MR. KLINE: And with respect to trash, 2.2 did you see any issue with respect to trash when 23 you were there? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I only saw the 24 25 trash bins in the alley right next to the

1	neighboring establishment, 600t.
2	MR. KLINE: Okay. And they were
3	closed and orderly?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, they were
5	all closed. There was nothing out. All the lids
6	were closed. I was just advised that that's
7	where Rito Loco puts their trash.
8	MR. KLINE: So I noticed that there's
9	nothing in your report concerning the trash
10	issue. Do we take from that that you didn't find
11	any particular issues with trash when you were
12	there?
13	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, I didn't see
14	any over trash bins or anything. There was
15	probably, I think, 10 to 12 trash bins in the
16	alley lined up against 600t.
17	MR. KLINE: All right. And turning
18	back to noise, isn't Howard Hospital right there
19	as well?
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
21	MR. KLINE: And we hear noise from
22	ambulances and other vehicles?
23	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
24	MR. KLINE: Police cars?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

MR. KLINE: Motorcycles?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah.
MR. KLINE: The whole range. All
right. Thank you. I have no further questions
of the witness at this time. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
Badawy?
MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
And good afternoon, Investigator Puente.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. BADAWY: I want to thank you for
your testimony today. And I want to thank you
for the work on your report. If I could just
have rights to pull up a report here and share
the screen.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Orellana,
can you please allow Mr. Badawy to share his
screen, please?
MR. BADAWY: Okay. And Investigator
Puente, can you see your report here?
INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I can.
MR. BADAWY: Okay. A couple of
questions right off the bat. I think you
testified that this establishment has a CT
license. In fact, doesn't it have a restaurant

1	license?
2	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, it's a
3	restaurant. That's my apology.
4	MR. BADAWY: A CR, correct? That's
5	what
6	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
7	MR. BADAWY: it goes by? And you
8	said that you were there on seven separate
9	occasions trying to listen for music from the
10	establishment. Is that correct?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
12	MR. BADAWY: And at any of those
13	times, was there a DJ playing in the
14	establishment?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The two times I
16	went, yes.
17	MR. BADAWY: Okay. And you also
18	indicated that on one occasion you went into Mr.
19	Hankins office in an abutting property and you
20	can hear music coming from the establish in his
21	office, correct?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
23	MR. BADAWY: And that was 1:00 in the
24	afternoon I think you said?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, when I did

the walkthrough with him. 1 MR. BADAWY: If I can draw your 2 attention to page 9 of your report. You indicate 3 that there were 45 -- excuse me, on page 9, you 4 5 indicate that there were 45 noise complaints made against Rito Loco-El Techo between November 1st, 6 2021 and November 16th, 2022, correct? 7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 8 Yes, sir. 9 MR. BADAWY: And when you say noise complaints, what does that number actually mean? 10 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 11 So any call 12 that's made to the ABRA hotline, the supervisor 13 logged it if someone is reporting noise as well as the eComplaint we have on our website. 14 15 eComplaints that are sent in regarding noise, it's logged by the supervisor. 16 MR. BADAWY: Does that also include 17 voicemails that may have been left? 18 19 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. MR. BADAWY: And you only went back 20 21 for this period, correct, November 1st, 2021 to November 16th, 2022? 2.2 23 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. MR. BADAWY: Okay. 24 Is there a reason 25 you didn't go back further than that, say, for

the period that the license was last renewed? 1 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Oh, no. 2 3 have a habit of doing the past year. MR. BADAWY: So you don't know or your 4 5 report doesn't contain complaints that may have been made before November 1st, 2021, correct? 6 7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir. MR. BADAWY: And when you talk about 8 9 a noise complaint, a noise complaint is different from a complaint that's substantiated, correct? 10 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 11 Yes, sir. 12 MR. BADAWY: And what does it take to 13 substantiate a complaint at ABRA? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: So for noise, 14 15 it'd take for the investigator to come inside the residence if the establishment has a settlement 16 agreement or a Board order saying noise can't be 17 heard inside the residence because under the 18 current noise regulation, if the resident lives 19 in a mixed-use zone or some other zones, then it 20 wouldn't be a violation. So we would have to 21 come in and determine if we hear the music. 2.2 23 it can be a violation. In this same section here MR. BADAWY: 24 25 beginning on, I quess, sort of the -- I quess,

beginning on page 10 really after page 9, you 1 indicate that the establishment was found in 2 3 violation on two separate occasions, November 13th, 2021 and December 2nd, 2021. What do you 4 5 mean -- what does violation mean in this context? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: So when they 6 7 were adjudicated by the Board and OAG. MR. BADAWY: And does your report 8 indicate instances where substantiation was not 9 possible? So for example, does your report 10 indicate when, for example, ABRA investigators 11 12 were not permitted to go inside residences due to COVID policies? 13 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir. 14 15 MR. BADAWY: And does your report 16 indicate instances in which ABRA investigators 17 were unable to respond to a residence due to staffing issues? 18 19 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir. MR. BADAWY: On -- excuse me, going on 20 to page 9 of your report, I believe it's --21 excuse me, Section 9, you indicate that you made 2.2 23 a request for calls for service from the Office of Unified Communications that the results had 24

not come in yet. Is that correct?

1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
2	MR. BADAWY: The time you completed
3	this report?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
5	MR. BADAWY: And have you received a
6	report of the calls for service since you
7	completed this report?
8	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I have not.
9	MR. BADAWY: And just for everyone,
10	can you tell us what a call for service means?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Call for service
12	is a call that's taken by 911 or 311. That goes
13	through the Office of Unified Communications.
14	And they usually keep track of all calls to a
15	certain address.
16	MR. BADAWY: And presumably calls, a
17	loud noise complaint sometimes go to
18	constitute a call for service, right, in addition
19	to
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
21	MR. BADAWY: Right?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
23	MR. BADAWY: And that would be
24	separate from a call to ABRA's hotline, correct?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

MR. BADAWY: Let's talk a little bit about the legislative history -- or excuse me, the investigative history here that, again, is beginning on page 10 of your report. I know it's a lot to sift through. But in your report with this section, were you able to ascertain how many times the establishment has been cited for charged with a primary care violation of the alcohol beverage regulations?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: You're talking about all regulations?

MR. BADAWY: Primary care, right?
Primary care violation.

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: So just looking at it on the first page, Item No. 2 is a primary tier violation that was adjudicated, if you're able to scroll down, sir. Item No. 4 was another, I believe, primary tier as well. Oh, no. That's secondary. Never mind. That's a settlement agreement secondary charge.

There's only -- so Item No. 6 is a primary tier charge factor in COVID during the Mayor's Order. So that's two primary tiers right there as well as Item No. 8 was another primary charge. But that was a warning, so three.

2.2

Maybe, Investigator, for 1 MR. BADAWY: sake of time, is it fair to say this report 2 indicates that there are seven primary tier 3 violations during this investigation period? 4 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir, yeah. 5 MR. BADAWY: And looking at that 6 7 investigative report, can you tell quickly how many times the establishment has been charged 8 with a second tier violation of the ABC 9 regulations? 10 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Actually 15 from 11 12 what I can tell. MR. BADAWY: And finally, does your --13 would you say that section of your investigation 14 15 shows that the establishment has been charged with violations of the settlement agreement that 16 17 was in place six times? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 18 19 MR. BADAWY: Based on your experience conducting these types of protest investigations, 20 is it common for a Class D restaurant licensee to 21 have this number of primary and secondary tier 2.2 23 violations in their investigative history? MR. KLINE: Objection. Objection. 24 We're confusing violations and charges. 25 They're

not violations unless and until they're 1 adjudicated or there's an offer in compromise. 2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Rephrase the 3 question, Mr. Badawy. 4 MR. BADAWY: I will rephrase it. 5 Based on your years of experience conducting 6 these types of protest investigations, is it 7 common for Class C restaurant licensees to have 8 9 this number of primary and secondary tier citations in their investigative history? 10 Objection. I don't know 11 MR. KLINE: 12 what the term citations means. Citation is if there's a ticket. Is that what we're talking 13 about? And that was not the previous 14 15 examination. So it's a little misleading. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think he's 16 17 reading as it's written. So I'm going to overrule the objection. If the investigator can 18 19 respond, he can. INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: What's the 20 21 question, sir? MR. BADAWY: 2.2 I'm sorry. The question 23 is based on your experience as an ABRA investigator investigating these types of 24 25 establishments, is it typical for Class -- or

1	restaurants seeking renewal to have this many
2	primary and secondary tier citations?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Not for a
4	restaurant, sir.
5	MR. BADAWY: Investigator Puente,
6	early in your report on page 4, you've indicated
7	that the establishment is in the MU-4 zone,
8	correct?
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
10	MR. BADAWY: Does your report indicate
11	the distance between the establishment from
12	neighboring zones?
13	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir.
14	MR. BADAWY: I'm showing you here
15	what's marked as your Exhibit 5 in your report.
16	Can you tell me what the large green rectangle
17	right here is indicated in your report?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's yes,
19	sir. So that's an ART-2 zone. So that's mostly
20	likely Howard Theatre.
21	MR. BADAWY: Do you know whether or
22	not there are any large apartment complexes to
23	the west of the establishment?
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, in between
25	Rito Loco and Howard Theatre. I believe there's

1	one apartment building.
2	MR. BADAWY: Do you know the name of
3	that apartment building?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I think it's the
5	Shaw if I'm right.
6	MR. BADAWY: And what are the sort of
7	yellow rectangles immediately to the south of
8	El-Techo?
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Those are
10	usually residential markings for residential
11	housing.
12	MR. BADAWY: And the screen area here,
13	RF-1, that's a residential zoned area?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
15	MR. BADAWY: And is there a reason
16	that this map right here doesn't show any areas
17	either to the northeast or the east or the
18	southeast of the establishment?
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir. We go
20	on the Department of Zoning's website and we put
21	the address in. And this is what usually comes
22	up, a certain radius around the establishment.
23	MR. BADAWY: We're looking now at
24	Exhibit I believe this is number 6.
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

1	MR. BADAWY: And again, here we don't
2	have anything to the east or the south, correct?
3	Any of the other establishments in the area?
4	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
5	MR. BADAWY: And there's a reason for
6	that?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, when the
8	person gave me the map for the GIS map, she blew
9	it up so I can see all the establishments that
10	are right in the vicinity of Rito Loco-El Techo.
11	MR. BADAWY: And going to the east
12	El-Techo, are you aware of any other
13	establishments in the area that are not shown on
14	this map?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I believe so.
16	Right across the street from Quattro Osteria,
17	there's another restaurant there.
18	MR. BADAWY: Do you know the name of
19	that restaurant?
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It escapes me
21	right now.
22	MR. BADAWY: Okay. And are there any
23	other restaurants going further east that are not
24	depicted here?
25	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Further east?

If you cross New Jersey Avenue right there on 1 Florida, there's some establishments on the left 2 3 side going east. MR. BADAWY: And then my question here 4 5 is earlier in your report it states there -- your 6 report stated that there are certain number of other ABC licensed establishments within so many 7 feet of this establishment. Does your report 8 9 indicate anywhere how many individual private residences are within any given radius of this 10 establishment? 11 12 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir. 13 MR. BADAWY: I think you already testified to Exhibit 10 and what this is. 14 15 you tell me in this exhibit this is inside El-Techo. Is that correct? 16 17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. MR. BADAWY: Can you tell me whether 18 this is facing -- what direction this view is 19 facing? 20 21 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is facing 2.2 the abutting property owners. The abutting 23 property owner will be on the back side of that wall. 24 MR. BADAWY: Let's see if I can rotate 25

1	this now. This is Exhibit 11 to your report,
2	correct, Investigator?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
4	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell me what
5	this dark area right here is and sort of where my
6	cursor is?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I believe it's
8	a storage area.
9	MR. BADAWY: And what is the light
10	colored area here on the upper portion of the
11	image?
12	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: So they have a
13	retractable roof, and they can open up the
14	sidings on the back side.
15	MR. BADAWY: And do you know what that
16	material is made of?
17	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I do not, sir,
18	no.
19	MR. BADAWY: I'm going to Exhibit 12
20	here, a picture. Do you know what this exhibit
21	depicts?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, so this is
23	the table seating facing Florida Avenue,
24	Northwest.
25	MR. BADAWY: And again, what is the

1	very light colored area in the right half of the
2	image do you know?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's the
4	siding of the summer garden.
5	MR. BADAWY: Do you know what that
6	siding is made of?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I do not, sir.
8	MR. BADAWY: Going to Exhibit 13, do
9	you know what this photograph depicts?
10	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, more tables
11	and seating. The restrooms are in the back right
12	there, and then more of the siding on Florida
13	Avenue, Northwest.
14	MR. BADAWY: And you said again this
15	is facing Florida Avenue, Northwest?
16	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
17	MR. BADAWY: And what is the very
18	light colored area in the background of the
19	image?
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's more of
21	the siding on the summer garden.
22	MR. BADAWY: And again, you don't know
23	what's that made of, do you?
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: No, sir.
25	MR. BADAWY: Okay. This is Exhibit 15

1	of your report. Is that correct?
2	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
3	MR. BADAWY: And earlier in Section 4
4	of your report, it stated that, quote, the summer
5	garden has sliding windows along with a
6	retractable roof that can open, correct?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
8	MR. BADAWY: And are those sliding
9	doors shown in this photograph?
10	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
11	MR. BADAWY: And what sliding doors?
12	Are we talking about these things right here
13	where my mouse is aiming to?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
15	MR. BADAWY: And have you ever seen
16	the actual operation of the sliding doors, how
17	they go from open to close?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I have not, sir,
19	no.
20	MR. BADAWY: And again, can you
21	describe the material that these doors appear to
22	be made of?
23	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I cannot, sir.
24	MR. BADAWY: And can you give me an
25	estimate of the overall height and length of this

1	street facing area of the summer garden?
2	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The size of the
3	sliding glass windows or the whole summer garden?
4	MR. BADAWY: Yes, the whole this
5	the whole side here of the summer garden facing
6	Florida Avenue?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: If I had to
8	guess, maybe 60 feet.
9	MR. BADAWY: And does this image also
10	depict the roof of the summer garden?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.
12	MR. BADAWY: And can you describe the
13	roof of the summer garden?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, so this
15	picture, it's open. As you can see, the siding
16	is kind of open in the air.
17	MR. BADAWY: And this is Exhibit 16,
18	correct?
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
20	MR. BADAWY: Can you tell me what this
21	exhibit depicts?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: This is showing
23	the roof of the summer garden where they have
24	these decorations hanging from it right now.
25	MR. BADAWY: Okay. And other than up,

1	do you know what general direction this image is
2	facing?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I do not, sir,
4	no.
5	MR. BADAWY: What is the white-looking
6	area on the right here?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's more of
8	the siding of the summer garden enclosed.
9	MR. BADAWY: And the ceiling again is
10	the center of the image, correct?
11	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
12	MR. BADAWY: And again, do you know
13	why that's white?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The material
15	that's used that they use.
16	MR. BADAWY: Again, do you know what
17	that material is?
18	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I do not.
19	MR. BADAWY: Does the material making
20	up the roof appear to be the same material that
21	makes the sliding doors?
22	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, I believe
23	so.
24	MR. BADAWY: Okay. Investigator, just
25	a few more questions here. I'm showing you

what's marked as Exhibit 17 of your report. 1 that correct? 2 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, the 3 settlement agreement. 4 5 MR. BADAWY: Settlement agreement, And in paragraph 4 of the settlement 6 agreement or paragraph -- would you agree with me 7 that the settlement agreement states that the 8 applicant shall install sound absorbative 9 materials and barriers to maintain sound levels 10 as required by law? Is that in the settlement 11 12 agreement? 13 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: So paragraph 4? So here, just right here, MR. BADAWY: 14 15 number 4, outdoor mitigation? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, it does. 16 17 MR. BADAWY: In the course of your visits, I think you said there were seven visits 18 to El-Tech. Did you observe any sound 19 absorbative materials on any part of the summer 20 garden, the ceiling of the summer garden? 21 2.2 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Not the ceiling so much. But he showed me -- Mr. Hankins showed 23 me material that's on the abutting side that they 24 installed. 25

1	MR. BADAWY: When you say abutting
2	side, what do you mean?
3	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The side that
4	abuts the property owner, that wall.
5	MR. BADAWY: Okay. And can you
6	describe that absorbative material, what it was?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: It was I've
8	seen it in other establishments. It's, like, a
9	very thick piece, like, sponge Styrofoam kind of
10	thing that they put up to help trap the noise
11	inside.
12	MR. BADAWY: Okay. Thank you,
13	Investigator Puente. I have no further
14	questions.
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Thank you, sir.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy,
17	please close your screen. Yes, Mr. Grandis?
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.
19	Investigator Puente, thank you for your report
20	and your testimony today. They took it off the
21	screen, but you were just asked about the outdoor
22	noise mitigation. It said by June 1, 2020. Your
23	report is basically in '21 and '22, correct?
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
25	MEMBER GRANDIS: It says here the

order for the noise mitigation, it can include shrubbery, cinder block, or wooden walls perhaps with vines, trees and planters, fountains with running water, other muffling objects. Now I think you just testified that you believe you saw some Styrofoam type material on a wall that abuts the wall of one of the protestants?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

MEMBER GRANDIS: I don't believe that material is listed in their settlement agreement. So did you see cinder block or wooden walls perhaps with vines? Did you see that in areas that would muffle the sound so it would not get into people's apartments?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: They have, like, plants and, like, stuff inside the summer garden.

But I didn't see any -- I can't recall if I saw planters or cinder blocks.

MEMBER GRANDIS: What about wooden walls and fountains with running water?

INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I'm not sure about the fountains, but I believe there was a panel of wood behind the, like, Styrofoam noise mitigation stuff.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Do you think that was

2.2

1	nailed on one on the other perhaps?
2	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir, yes.
3	MEMBER GRANDIS: And if I understood
4	your testimony, the roof opened up. Do you know
5	when they would open up the roof? In any of your
6	visits, was the roof open?
7	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Not during this
8	time of the year. But usually in my past visits
9	in the summer or spring when it's warm out, the
10	roof would be open.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: And is the DJ on that
12	floor where the roof would be open?
13	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
14	MEMBER GRANDIS: And does that roof
15	abut the building where some protestants live?
16	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah, so some of
17	the protestants in that building will be above
18	the summer garden. So they will be able to hear
19	it.
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: So in other words if
21	it's open, it's more likely the sound would go up
22	and hit the exterior walls of that apartment
23	building or condo building?
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes
25	(Simultaneous speaking.)

1	MEMBER GRANDIS: There was I'm just
2	going back through the document. There was a
3	zoning looked like a zoning plat. I think you
4	testified that you did not have a list of how
5	many residents were within the proximity of the
6	distance that you follow. But are aware of the
7	use of the buildings directly across the street?
8	I think that would be Florida Avenue?
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
10	Florida Avenue, sir.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: Directly across the
12	street, are you familiar with the use and the
13	zoning of those that row of buildings?
14	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, so usually
15	across the street, there's residents that go all
16	the way down Florida on the
17	(Simultaneous speaking.)
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: Going towards 5th?
19	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yeah, but okay.
21	So those are residential buildings. And as far
22	as you know, there's no commercial activity in
23	those buildings.
24	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Not directly
25	across. But you go up. If you're going west

1	towards
2	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, sir.
3	(Simultaneous speaking.)
4	MEMBER GRANDIS: I haven't gotten
5	there yet. I'm talking about the block that goes
6	towards 5th, going towards the east I guess you
7	would say.
8	(Simultaneous speaking.)
9	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
10	MEMBER GRANDIS: Now going to the
11	block you mentioned, it's also across Florida
12	Avenue. But it's a little I guess a little
13	bit more distance. I think you're aware that
14	there is commercial activity there?
15	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
16	MEMBER GRANDIS: And there are
17	licensed establishments that would be on your
18	list, I guess, nightclubs or CTs that had DJs
19	such as Uproar would be there?
20	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
21	Uproar, Flash, and I believe
22	MEMBER GRANDIS: Flash.
23	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: FishScale.
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: FishScale. Well,
25	FishScale, okay. It's more a restaurant I

thought. So any of the times you were there 1 during your reporting of the 2021 and 2022, were 2 either Uproar or Flash operating? 3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. They 4 both were. 5 MEMBER GRANDIS: And do they each have 6 7 a summer garden on the roof? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: 8 Yes, sir. 9 MEMBER GRANDIS: Were you aware that noise that may have been perceived coming from 10 the licensed establishment we're talking today 11 12 could possibly be coming from another roof deck? INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: Chairman, that's all 14 15 I have. Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 16 Thank you. All 17 Thank you very much, Mr. Puente, for -right. I'm sorry. I wasn't planning to go back around 18 19 this line of questioning. But I will -- and then you'll get a chance, Mr. Badawy. Go ahead, Mr. 20 21 Kline. 22 MR. KLINE: Investigator Puente, you were asked whether it was typical for a licensee 23 to have this many violations seeking renewal. 24 25 And you responded not for a restaurant, correct?

1	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
2	MR. KLINE: All right. In looking at
3	the investigative report on page 10 of your
4	report, 10 and 11, aren't six of the violations
5	failure to file a quarterly statement?
6	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
7	MR. KLINE: And those are violations
8	that can only be committed by a restaurant
9	licensee, correct?
10	INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.
11	MR. KLINE: Thank you. Nothing
12	further.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll give you
14	one question, Mr. Badawy, if you have one, one
15	pressing questions that you need to ask.
16	MR. BADAWY: No further questions.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18	Thank you. All right. Thank you, Mr. Puente.
19	Thank you for your testimony. All right. Okay.
20	We're going to have the licensee call his first
21	witness, but we're going to take a break. And
22	what I'm going to do, I will take a scheduled
23	break every two hours.
24	So it's 4:33, and I'll take a ten
25	minute break. So we'll come back on the record

at 4:43. So ten-minute break.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
went off the record at 4:33 p.m. and resumed at
4:44 p.m.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on
the record.
Who's the first your first witness,
Mr. Kline?
MR. KLINE: Mr. Louie Hankins.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Actually, Mr.
Hankins is online already.
Mr. Hankins?
Mr. Hankins, can you turn your camera
on, please?
MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: raise your
right hand please?
Do you swear or affirm to tell the
truth and nothing but the truth?
MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir, I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
sir.
MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1	State your name, please?
2	MR. HANKINS: Louie Hankins, L-O-U-I-E
3	H-A-N-K-I-N-S.
4	DIRECT EXAMINATION
5	Q And, what is your connection to Rito
6	Loco-El Techo?
7	A Founder.
8	Q When did you open the establishment?
9	A Started as a food truck in 2012.
10	Q You started as a food truck?
11	A Yes, sir, Rito Loco.
12	Q And, how long did you operate the food
13	truck?
14	A The food truck is actually still
15	viable to operate, but we operated heavily from
16	2012 through 2017, trying to you know, build a
17	brick and mortar, and continue to grow our
18	success.
19	We've been named D.C. Food Truck of
20	the Year on four separate occasions, Forbes
21	Number 3 Food Truck in America.
22	At one point in time, also held
23	licenses in southern Florida, where we won
24	numerous awards, as well.
25	Q And when did you turn your attention

1	to a brick and mortar establishment?
2	A After the first year. Directly after
3	the first year. We were at a event at a law firm
4	on K Street, where I met one of the employees of
5	the D.C. DMPED Great Streets Grant Program.
6	And they told me that I should
7	definitely, they realized that I was on the 7th
8	Street Corridor, and that I should apply for this
9	grant to help build out my restaurant, so.
10	Q So, when did you ultimately open the
11	restaurant?
12	A It took 27 months to get my 700 square
13	foot burrito-taco restaurant opened.
14	Q So it was 700 square feet. Where was
15	that located?
16	A 606 Florida Avenue, Northwest.
17	Q Right, but what, what floor is this
18	building?
19	A What's that, sir? Sorry.
20	Q What floors, what stories of the
21	building?
22	A The ground level.
23	Q Ground?
24	A Ground, Takeaway Taco Shell.
25	Q Okay.

1	So it was just takeaway tacos at that
2	point?
3	A Burritos and tacos, yes, sir.
4	Q And did you immediately apply for an
5	alcohol license?
6	A I believe we did, sir. I, that's a
7	long time ago. There's was a lot, there was a
8	lot going on.
9	I was trying to manage getting the
10	grant from the city.
11	Q Okay. And so you ultimately opened on
12	the ground floor, and you ultimately were
13	(Simultaneous speaking.)
14	A In 2015.
15	Q 2015?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Okay.
18	And there came a time that you
19	expanded the premises?
20	A Yes, sir. After the grant was finally
21	issued, we had to use the money to improve the
22	property at 606 Florida. If not, not on paying
23	back our debts or anything like that.
24	So we built a rooftop. That process
25	took us 36 months. Permits, delays, et cetera,

et cetera, on both jobs ultimately put us over \$1 1 million in debt on our project. 2 And when did you ultimately open the 3 rooftop area? 4 Α August 17, 2017. So we just passed 5 our 5 year anniversary. 6 7 Three of those were marred by COVID, we all know? 8 9 Α Yes, yes. Where most people sat at home, we stayed and worked. And we're a place 10 where people can come and escape the craziness of 11 12 COVID, and feel like they were in a favorite 13 destination place. Obviously nobody was traveling by air, 14 15 so it was, I think it was really something that people really enjoyed. 16 17 And what's, so do you have a concept for this establishment? A vision as to what it 18 is? 19 Α Yes, for sure. El Techo, it's 20 pronounced El Techo, not El Techno, or anything 21 22 like that. People like to play semantics and say 23 you know, we play techno music at El Techo, but that's not the case. It's El Techo, which means 24 25 the rooftop.

When I lived in Europe back in 2008, 1 I found some of my favorite experiences were 2 going to just that: places that were experiences. 3 It could be classified as a restaurant 4 by day, and you could get there at 6:00, 7:00 5 p.m. for you know, happy hour European time and 6 have some drinks with friends and then you know, 7 now you're having some bites. 8 9 And then a DJ comes on you know, later in the evening and you can meet a girl, a 10 11 partner, or whatever and the next thing you know, 12 you're on the dance floor and you just have a really great time. 13 You're touching, as the proprietor 14 15 you're touching all fives senses of your customers' aura. Your sight, smell, sound, 16 17 everything. And that's what I wanted to bring to D.C. 18 D.C. had a very clearly, a clear line 19 drawn between there's night clubs, which I had 20 definitely frequented as I've been a resident for 21 22 DC all my life. I've been going out in D.C. 23 since 1991. Or restaurants. And there was really nothing in 24

between that served great food, and provided

music. 1 Okay, how do you, so you differentiate 2 yourself from night clubs. How do you, what's 3 the difference? Why are you different than, than 4 5 a night club? Well, like I just, the story I just 6 painted for you was you know, like you're out to 7 dinner with friends and so forth like that. 8 I mean I would never walk into Flash 9 and expect to go and have dinner on their dance 10 That's just not feasible. It's way too 11 floor. 12 It's just not the environment. I think of all of the Investigator 13 Fuentes' pictures, you saw tables in every single 14 15 picture. Additionally, it's something that you 16 17 saw or maybe didn't see in Investigator Fuentes' pictures, was big huge speakers. 18 You know, I know going into many music 19 venues, there's speakers taller than I am, you 20 know? 21 You can go back and look at those and 22 23 you might see a couple small speakers stapled, attached to the roof of the bar. 24

But we don't have 18 inch, 20 inch

subwoofers. We don't have 12 inch self-powered 1 speakers and things of that nature. 2 We're not throwing sound all over the 3 neighborhood. You know, might be we were guilty 4 5 of that in the past, and when we first opened and 6 didn't have any money to afford a proper sound 7 system. But we've continually made 8 improvements in our establishment since day one, 9 and continue to not pay off our debt, and 10 continue to try to exist in the neighborhood. 11 12 So during the course of your operation, you have heard complaints from 13 neighbors, correct? 14 15 Yes, sir. Α And have you tried to address these 16 17 concerns in any way? Yes, sir. 18 Α What have you done? 19 As I said, the, it did take us three 20 Α years to get open. Unfortunately, the permitting 21 22 process with DCRA was not the smoothest. 23 That really like I said, put us behind the eight ball financially. A lot of our budget 24 25 was eaten up, in terms of things that we wanted

to do.

2.2

So when we first opened, it was strictly a open-air venue. There was no, there was no roof, there was no walls, there was no nothing.

In fact, the day that we opened it was a huge rainstorm. We were all standing behind the bar under the roof of the bar, 30 of us.

And you know, people would come. It was the craziest thing. People would come and eat tacos and bring their own umbrellas, and sit there on our open air deck with an umbrella and eating a taco. And I just, I could never understand it but it was great.

But over the last five years, we've tried to survive winters, and we've continually made it as enclosed as possible when we need it to be.

And more like a convertible where things can move and operate accordingly with the weather, and things of that nature.

Additionally, like I said, back when we first opened, we were using self-powered speakers that were throwing music you know, all around the neighborhood.

We are now elevated our speakers to a 1 high-fidelity sound system. Our speakers are 2 eight inches in diameter, which is about that 3 biq. 4 5 You know, not these big speakers like 6 this that most night clubs have. You know, that that's what we're being likened to. 7 That sound system cost us \$35,000.00. 8 9 We removed all of those bigger speakers. removed any subwoofers, things of that nature. 10 We've added decibel readers. 11 We've 12 trained our staff. I mean we've engaged, we've 13 engaged sound engineers. So yes, I mean I think we continually 14 15 try to do stuff. You mentioned a sound meter. 16 17 you use that for? So we have determined throughout the 18 Α 45 visits from the ABRA and DCRA investigators, 19 through the use of their sound meters, where our 20 sound level can be to be within the framework of 21 the law, right? 22 23 And the framework of the law is that 60 decibels on the sidewalk outside of the 24 establishment. 25

So what we have done is we've put a sound meter in place right in the middle of the restaurant, which is in clear view of our DJs that play on Friday and Saturday evenings.

We've trained our management staff and all of our employees, and also the gentleman that books all of our DJs to make sure that everybody knows what that level is.

And you know, I have to say that most times when the investigators show up, and they do have their meters, we're at 60 decibels on the sidewalk, 60 decibels off the alley off the back, which is adjacent to the Shaw apartment building.

And then as they start coming up the stairs, because the door to El Techo once you get to the top of the stairs is usually open during the summer and nice days, once they start walking up the stairs, then their decibel reader will start reading, you know, 65, 71, 73, till they get to the top of the stairs.

You know, so, but on the ground level we're at 60.

Q Now you have an entertainment endorsement that allows you to operate until 2:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 3:00 a.m.

2.2

1 Friday and Saturday, correct? Our hours of operation for 2 entertainment are till midnight on weekdays, and 3 then 1:30 on weekends. 4 0 That's --5 (Simultaneous speaking.) 6 7 Α We are not -- sorry. Go ahead, I'm sorry. I cut you off. 8 We don't have a typical night life 9 Α endorsement, as most places would. 10 Okay, but I mean your license allows 11 12 you to go to 2:00 and 3:00, correct? you've voluntarily? 13 For alcohol, I think it's midnight and 14 15 1:30. I think that's part of our settlement 16 agreement. And during the last couple of years, 17 have you made other changes in an effort to 18 satisfy the neighborhood, or address what are the 19 perceived concerns with the operation of your 20 establishment? 21 2.2 We're continually trying to work within the neighborhood. We don't want to be the 23 pariah like they make us out to be later in the 24 25 conversation.

1	I used to have a DJ seven nights a
2	week. Now we only do Fridays and Saturdays in
3	the evening times.
4	Q And that
5	(Simultaneous speaking.)
6	A We just, we just, we engaged Martin
7	Beam back in July, who has had tremendous success
8	with friends of mine in Washington, D.C., at
9	mitigating their type of noise and so forth.
10	So we are in full swing of you know,
11	trying to make additional measures.
12	Q All right, and are you committed to
13	following through what Mr. Beam might recommend
14	<del></del>
15	(Simultaneous speaking.)
16	A Absolutely.
17	Q with respect to further noise
18	mitigation?
19	A Hundred percent.
20	Q Okay.
21	Now you testified that when you first
22	opened the rooftop it was unenclosed, correct?
23	A Yes, sir.
24	Q All right. And there came a time that
25	you enclosed it, right?

1	A Yes, sir.
2	MR. KLINE: All right. I would like
3	to have Ms. Yohannes be able to share a copy of
4	the complete settlement agreement.
5	(Pause.)
6	MR. KLINE: He's been given sharing
7	privileges?
8	MR. ORELLANA: Access has been granted.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,
10	that's one of the reasons why I do not like to
11	put myself on mute.
12	She has those privileges. Go ahead,
13	I'm sorry.
14	MR. KLINE: Thank you. Thanks, Mr.
15	Chair.
16	Can you open it up? Can you, we see
17	your directory but we don't see any. There it
18	is.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What are we
20	looking at? Is there a file we're looking at,
21	sir? I believe we
22	(Simultaneous speaking.)
23	MR. KLINE: Yes, these two, where are
24	they? These two photos.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hankins, is

1	that noise coming from your, your location, sir?
2	MR. HANKINS: I don't know what noise
3	you're referencing, sir.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's, all
5	right.
6	MR. HANKINS: I'm in an office.
7	If you're hearing anything, it would
8	be background noise of Florida Avenue.
9	MS. YOHANNES: Do you see the exhibit?
10	MR. KLINE: No now we do.
11	All right, Mr. Hankins, you're
12	familiar with your settlement agreement?
13	MR. HANKINS: Yes.
14	BY MR. KLINE:
15	Q Do you know what this is that's being
16	shown right now?
17	A That is the northeast side of the
18	building facing towards Florida Avenue and 6th
19	Street, north side, in the direction of Mr.
20	Badawy's residence.
21	Q Right, but it says Exhibit A. What's
22	that an Exhibit A to? Is that an exhibit to your
23	settlement agreement?
24	A It's got to be, yes, sir. You're
25	saying it is and that's it, yes. Polycarbonate

1	tri wall wall panels. They have a CT rating of
2	18, I believe.
3	Q Okay, so when paragraph 4b says, to
4	further mitigate noise, the applicant has
5	installed polycarbonate wall panels in the summer
6	garden, see Exhibit A, this is the Exhibit A that
7	we're talking about?
8	A Yes, not as, not as beautiful as
9	looking out on the, Florida Avenue.
10	Q Okay, all right. But you did install
11	those?
12	A Yes, sir.
13	Q And is there an agreement in the
14	settlement agreement, as to when they're to
15	remain in place?
16	A Yes, sir. 10:30 weekdays, midnight
17	weekends, 9:00 p.m. on Sundays.
18	Q All right.
19	And what's the purpose of these
20	panels?
21	A Sound transfer. To eliminate sound
22	transfer.
23	Q And, do you comply with the
24	requirements as to when they're to be closed, and
25	when you can have them open?

Α Yes, sir. 1 All right, we can have her 2 MR. KLINE: 3 stop sharing at this point. Now have you taken other steps, or do 4 you plan to take other steps, to address noise at 5 your establishment? 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, like I said, fully 7 committed to whatever Martin Beam instructs us to 8 9 do. BY MR. KLINE: 10 Hear from him in a minute. 11 0 12 Now, have you been available to confer with residents concerning their perceived issues 13 with your establishment? 14 15 Α I'm here all the time. Yes, I, I think Mr. Kujawa could attest to the fact that 16 I'm here most of the time. 17 We typically pass each other with a 18 head down, or a slight grin and that's about it. 19 There's not much conversation going back and 20 forth. 21 Now in the last couple of years you've 2.2 23 as a result of these complaints, voluntarily curtailed some of the activities at, at the 24 25 establishment on the rooftop.

Is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

2.2

I mean you know, self admittedly coming out of the pandemic last year, we obviously needed to earn as much revenue as possible. Narrowly escaping and surviving through the pandemic.

And, we contracted with a local D.C. promoter and they threw several parties where they brought in excessive amounts of speakers and sound.

And the bottoms were 18-inch subwoofers; the tops were 15-inch. And it was, it was excessive you know, no questions about that.

And you know, I think that we all kind of got a little bit lost at you know, during that timeframe of being, being free again and so forth, and things of that nature.

But you know, November, December, we definitely took the advice of the ABRA investigators of cleaning up our act, and things of that nature.

And we ceased that relationship with that promoter, and have been doing things on our

1 own. And I was actually just looking back 2 at our three month report. We've actually lost, 3 we've lost over \$150,000.00 in alcohol revenue in 4 5 the last three months, compared to 2021. That's a pretty significant, pretty 6 7 significant over a three month period. But you're committed to maintaining 8 9 the current program, in terms of dispensing with the use of these promoters? 10 Yes, never, never again. Absolutely 11 12 Those promoters found a nice little home over in the Mid-town corridor. So, they're fine. 13 I'm fine doing what I do, so. 14 15 0 Have there been particular individuals 16 in the neighborhood with whom you've successfully worked to address issues related to your 17 establishment, ANC commissioners or otherwise? 18 Yes, I mean Mr. Tony Brown, who is our 19 Α commissioner before Alex Lopez, I think 20 understood our concept and our vision. 21 Appreciated it for what it added to the Florida 2.2 23 Avenue 600 block.

Flash, Half Smoked, the Go Go Spot, you know, the

That it includes the Howard Theater,

24

	lot across from Howard Theater. You know, all
2	these establishments that create a lively scene
3	in Washington, D.C.
4	Plenty of the residents in the
5	neighborhood thanked me for being here for the
6	last 10 years, and truly come and enjoy the
7	space, so.
8	Q Did you at some point enlist the
9	mayor's office on night life and culture, with
10	respect to complaints about your establishment?
11	A Yes. We had the most recent night
12	life mayor out, Talana. We invited her to come
13	have dinner with us one Friday evening.
14	And yes, she I mean was fully
15	supportive of what we were doing.
16	MR. KLINE: I have no further questions
17	of this witness at this time.
18	Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
20	MR. BADAWY: Good evening, Mr. Hankins,
21	how are you tonight?
22	MR. HANKINS: Fantastic, and you, sir?
23	MR. BADAWY: Good, not bad. Thanks for
24	asking.
25	CROSS-EXAMINATION

1	BY MR. BADAWY:
2	Q Mr. Hankins, if, well first of all,
3	may I share my, share content, please?
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If Mr. Orellana
5	can you please allow Mr. Badawy to share his
6	screen, please?
7	MR. ORELLANA: The access has been
8	granted.
9	MR. BADAWY: Okay, Mr. Hankins, do, do
10	you see Exhibit, I believe this is 15,
11	Investigator Fuentes' report.
12	Can you see that, sir?
13	MR. HANKINS: Absolutely.
14	BY MR. BADAWY:
15	Q Okay.
16	Mr. Hankins, you oversaw the
17	construction of the El Techo roof deck, correct?
18	A Yes, sir.
19	Q Okay, and that's primarily a
20	polycarbonate construction, correct?
21	A Tri wall polycarbonate, per the
22	settlement agreement to
23	(Simultaneous speaking.)
24	Q Polycarbonate's plastic, correct?
25	A Yes, sir.

1	Q Okay.
2	And, the investigator talked about
3	panels on the area of the roof deck facing
4	Florida Avenue.
5	Is that correct?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q All right.
8	And this, this picture here, this
9	exhibit shows those panels, correct?
10	A It shows them open, sir.
11	Q Right, open. But shows some that are
12	closed, correct?
13	A Those are stable, sir. Those are un,
14	those don't move.
15	Q Panels, but the panels that are
16	polycarbonate plastic, they come on and off,
17	correct?
18	A Yes. The settlement agreement
19	required for certain points to be fixed panels,
20	and certain places could be operable.
21	Q And those panels are relatively light,
22	correct?
23	A We use two people to move them.
24	Q Okay, so it takes two people, and two
25	people can take them off, correct, and two people

1	can put the	m back on, correct?
2	А	Correct.
3	Q	And on a nice day, they're off quite
4	a bit, corr	ect?
5	А	Yes, sir.
6		I mean you have the windows and open
7	to your hou	se right? So, yes, sir, yes, we have
8	our windows	and doors open for sure.
9	Q	Okay.
10		And the ceiling, that opens and
11	closes, cor	rect?
12	А	Yes, sir.
13	Q	And that's also translucent, correct?
14	А	That's correct.
15	Q	That's also plastic material, correct?
16	A	Tri wall polycarbonate, yes, sir.
17	Q	Again, polycarbonate is plastic,
18	correct?	
19	A	Tri wall polycarbonate, yes, sir.
20	Q	Okay.
21		Now you talked a little bit about the
22	decimal rea	der that has been, that you're now
23	using at yo	ur establishment El Techo, correct?
24	A	Yes, sir.
25	Q	All right, and you testified that you

1	now have, have a decibel reader, correct?
2	A Yes, sir.
3	Q Do you remember when you got that
4	decibel reader?
5	A After our violation in December of
6	2021.
7	Q Okay, so before that you didn't have
8	one, correct?
9	A Correct. Like I said, self-admittedly
10	we were doing things outside of the lines, and we
11	weren't thinking clearly.
12	And now we've over the last year, have
13	adjusted our thinking and are, plan to do
14	everything the correct way, sir.
15	Q And I believe you testified that with
16	the decibel reading, when you, when music is
17	playing, you or one of your employees takes it
18	downstairs and stands on the sidewalk, correct?
19	A No, I did not testify to that, sir.
20	I testified that when ABRA and DCRA
21	show up with their meters, their meters which are
22	the official meters, let me know that we're at 60
23	decibels, is what I testified to, sir.
24	Q And those readings are taken down on
25	the sidewalk, correct?

1	A	That's correct, sir.
2	Q .	And I believe you also said that when
3	they begin t	o walk upstairs to the entrance to
4	the roof dec	k, the readings get higher, correct?
5	A	Yes, sir.
6	Q	Okay. I think 60, 70, 80, you said,
7	correct, as	they're walking
8		(Simultaneous speaking.)
9	А	I did not
10	Q	in the door?
11	А	I didn't say 80, sir.
12	Q	70?
13	A	Yes.
14	Q .	And
15		(Simultaneous speaking.)
16	А	I think the most recent one was
17	measured at	73.
18	Q	Okay. And that is again, that's as it
19	gets closer	to where the music is emanating from,
20	correct?	
21	А	Correct.
22	Q	Mr. Hankins, you testified that in
23	2021 you had	a relationship with a I believe you
24	described it	as a, as a you know, a sound, a
25	sound produc	er, correct?

1	A I don't know what a sound producer is.
2	You might be referencing a promoter.
3	Q Okay, a promoter, right. And do you
4	remember the name of that promoter?
5	A I know that the name of the events is
6	Elysium.
7	Q And how long was your contract with
8	Elysium for?
9	A I mean it was verbal, but it was to do
10	events last year after the pandemic. I think we
11	reopened June 11th. I think that was Pride
12	weekend.
13	I remember the atmosphere of the city
14	was super joyous, and we definitely had a party.
15	And you know, I think everybody was happy to be
16	free from their apartments and yes, we weren't,
17	we weren't really thinking about the rules at
18	that time, sir.
19	Q And last year, you, so you had Elysium
20	and you know, they you know, had DJs correct,
21	that performed all summer long.
22	Is that correct?
23	A It wasn't all summer long, sir. They
24	had, I think they had four or five parties. I
25	don't recall exactly.

1	Q	June, July?
2	А	Through November-December, yes, sir.
3	Q	So
4		(Simultaneous speaking.)
5	A	Because you do one, one or two a
6	month.	
7	Q	So from the summer into the fall,
8	correct?	
9	А	Yes, sir.
10	Q	All right.
11		And I believe you initially testified
12	that when yo	ou opened El Techo, you had this
13	vision, corr	rect?
14	А	Got to have a vision, sir.
15	Q	So that's a yes, sir?
16	А	Yes.
17	Q	And you said I think you talked about
18	the investig	ative reports. There were tables,
19	right, there	were chairs. You never saw anyone
20	dancing, cor	rect?
21	A	I didn't ever say nobody was dancing.
22	I would neve	r promote no dancing. That's what
23	music's all	about.
24	Q	But in the pictures I think you
25	emphasized t	hat there was no, no dancing in the

pictures, correct? 1 I didn't say anything about no dancing 2 in the pictures, sir. I said there was tables. 3 Okay. 0 4 You're trying to, you're trying to 5 propose that I'm a night club like Flash. 6 I'm saying is there's no tables in the middle of 7 Flash. 8 I would never think to sit down in the 9 middle of the dance floor at a table and try to 10 eat dinner at Flash, which is a night club. 11 12 I am not a night club because I have tables and it's for dinner service, sir. 13 MR. BADAWY: Chairman, if possible 14 15 could you please direct the witness that the presenter is asking the questions and I, please 16 17 not to put words in my mouth. MR. KLINE: So Mr. Chairman, it seems 18 like the attorney put words in the witness's 19 mouth, not the other way around. 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hi gentlemen. 21 22 The question was asked. I'll just ask 23 the parties that ask the question, answer the question. I believe that his, I'm sorry, the 24 25 answer was responsive to the question.

1	But I, I just want to remind the
2	parties no matter what decision is made by the
3	Board today, at least until the Board makes a
4	decision on these two establishments, Mr. Badawy,
5	you're going to live there. This establishment
6	is going to remain there.
7	When I said, at least until the Board
8	makes a determination. So I would just ask the
9	parties to, to be civil.
10	But anyway, I'm not saying that either
11	side has not been civil, I was just reminding
12	both parties to it.
13	Go ahead, Mr. Badawy.
14	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15	Mr. Hankins, there is music played at
16	El Techo, correct?
17	MR. HANKINS: Certainly.
18	BY MR. BADAWY:
19	Q Okay.
20	And, there was music played at El
21	Techo after the settlement agreement that you
22	entered into, correct?
23	A Yes, I have a entertainment
24	endorsement, sir. That's.
25	Q All right, and that includes disc

1	jockeys, correct?
2	A Only disc jockeys, sir.
3	Q Okay.
4	And those disc jockeys play electronic
5	dance music, correct?
6	A We play what's called house music,
7	sir, so I mean, yes.
8	Q Okay.
9	They play house music, correct?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q Okay.
12	And I think you said currently the DJs
13	play on Friday and Saturday night, correct?
14	A Yes, sir.
15	Q Okay.
16	And the music starts in the evening
17	and goes throughout the night, correct?
18	A Yes. It spins, starts at 8 p.m. and
19	ends at 1:30.
20	Q And there is dancing at that time,
21	correct?
22	A We have a small area in front of our
23	DJ booth that can have tables removed if people
24	show up for that nature, or if people from dinner
25	want to.

1	Our restaurant acts like a Tetris
2	board. We can move stuff all around. So
3	typically, tables would be removed 10:30, 11:00
4	o'clock.
5	Q So the tables come out, correct?
6	A In about 20 percent of the space.
7	Q Okay, and that's where they can dance,
8	correct? Your establishment patrons?
9	A Correct.
10	Q And the music is playing at that time,
11	correct?
12	A Correct.
13	And to make a very big distinction,
14	when we were working with Elysium, all the tables
15	were removed and the entire space was, was you
16	know.
17	So it's a very, very different
18	atmosphere now.
19	Q And that was in 2021, correct, after
20	you had entered into a settle agreement with the
21	members of the community, correct?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q I believe you admitted that mistakes
24	were made during that time period, correct?
25	A Yes, sir, I'm not here to not admit my

1	mistakes.
2	Q Music was played loudly, correct?
3	A You might say loudly, I might say at
4	the perfect tune, so I don't, you know, I.
5	Q Well, you're aware that there have
6	been complaints since your establishment opened,
7	correct, by community members that music from El
8	Techo can be heard inside their residences,
9	correct?
10	A I know that people call and talk about
11	that, yes. But I have a office that shares the
12	same walls and I mean I'm in my office all the
13	time if I'm not in El Techo, and I, I don't hear
14	it.
15	So I mean I don't know. I've never
16	been in Mr. Kujawa's place. I've never been in
17	your backyard. I've never been in you know,
18	other people's residences.
19	So I wouldn't be able to attest to
20	that, what they are actually hearing or not
21	hearing.
22	Q My question I guess, Mr. Hankins, is
23	you are aware that noise complaints have been
24	made by surrounding community members, correct?
25	A Sure, but I don't know if that's from.

I mean coming from El Techo or Flash, or the lot 1 across from Howard Theater. 2 I mean how do I know it's me? 3 Okay, and you're aware that those 0 4 5 complaints from some of the community members, are that the music comes from El Techo, correct? 6 Yes, I think people like to call on El 7 I think people like to call on Flash. 8 9 think people like to call on you know, many of the establishments on this street, including the 10 Go Go Store. 11 12 I mean what was that whole campaign, 13 don't mute D.C.? And you have also heard from various 14 15 ANC commissioners, correct, that the community members complain about music, loud music coming 16 17 from El Techo, correct? Α I've heard from this current 18 19 administration's, yes. And you're aware that two separate 20 21 ANCs voted to protest the renewal of your liquor 2.2 license? I'm aware, sir. 23 Α Is that correct? 24 0 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, who's

1	screen, who's screen is open? Is there not
2	realizing that, can we close that, please?
3	MR. BADAWY: I'm sorry. I'll remove
4	that. I apologize, Mr. Chairman.
5	Mr. Hankins, I want to talk to you a
6	little bit about the issue of litter from El
7	Techo, is that okay?
8	MR. HANKINS: Sure, yes, absolutely.
9	BY MR. BADAWY:
10	Q Okay.
11	Currently you store El, El Techo's
12	trash bins in the, in an alleyway between 600T
13	and the Shaw, is that correct?
14	A Yes, but let's clarify that. That's
15	not just Rito Loco El Techo's trash cans. That's
16	trash cans for Quattro Osteria, 600T, and three
17	residences.
18	So it's the entire block's trash can,
19	sir.
20	Q So Quattro Osteria is one of your
21	establishments, correct?
22	A It is.
23	Q Okay, and just to clarify
24	(Simultaneous speaking.)
25	A I don't know how

1	Q you currently El Techo's trash bins
2	are stored in that alleyway, correct?
3	A Correct.
4	Q Okay, and that's where the litter and
5	trash from El Techo goes, correct?
6	A That's where everybody's trash goes,
7	sir, yes, including El Techo's.
8	Q And you're not aware of any government
9	permit that allows you to store your trash bins
10	there, correct?
11	MR. KLINE: Objection, relevance.
12	Objection, relevance.
13	MR. BADAWY: The relevance is that
14	again, whether or not he's complying with local
15	ordinances.
16	Whether or not he's complying with
17	government orders. Whether or not he's adhering
18	to them demonstrates whether or not he intends in
19	the future to comply with orders from this Board,
20	and from other agencies.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
22	overrule the objection. I mean I'm not quite
23	sure where you're going, but if you're asking
24	about trash, so let's, go ahead, let's all right.
25	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Hankins, so you're

not aware of any municipal order that allows you 1 to store your trash there, correct? 2 MR. HANKINS: I was given a BZA 3 approval to store my trash in between 600T and 4 5 606 Florida Avenue. However, when COVID happened, 600T was 6 7 granted per the mayor's COVID orders, was granted the ability to use their rear patio for patrons. 8 That eliminated the ability for our 9 trash to come in and out of that backyard. 10 the trash cans had to go outside, sir. 11 12 There is a motion or filing for us to 13 gain that approval, that is in process. BY MR. BADAWY: 14 15 You were in fact, you're authorized by 16 the, by the owner of 600T, your landlord, to 17 store your trash bins back there, correct? Originally, yes. 18 Α 19 0 Okay. But I think the mayor's COVID orders 20 kind of superseded that. And for him to keep his 21 business alive and open, necessitated a different 2.2 23 change. And you on of your own made that 24 25 change, correct?

A	We, as the entire block made that
change, sir	•
Q	Okay.
А	I mean
	(Simultaneous speaking.)
Q	Mr. Hankins
A	where would you like, where would
you like me	to put the trash, sir?
Q	Okay.
A	Have you got a better place for me to
put it? I'r	m happy to put it there, you know.
Q	So Mr. Hankins, this is not your
responsibil:	ity, is that correct?
A	I'm not saying it's not my
responsibil:	ity, sir.
Q	Mr. Hankins, I'd like to talk to you
a little bit	t about the noise mitigation efforts
that you've	claimed you've made.
	Can we talk about that?
A	Absolutely.
Q	Okay.
	So I'm, admittedly you said mistakes
were made d	uring the summer and fall of 2021,
correct?	
A	Yes, sir.
	change, sir  Q  A  Q  A  you like me  Q  A  put it? I'r  Q  responsibil:  A  responsibil:  A  responsibil:  A  correct?

1	Q All right.
2	And you've indicated that you have
3	retained Martin Beam, that's an acoustical,
4	acoustics consulting service, correct?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q Okay, and you've retained him to help
7	you mitigate noise coming from El Techo, is that
8	correct?
9	A Yes, sir.
10	Q And this isn't the first time that
11	you've hired sound engineers, correct?
12	A Yes, sir.
13	Q Okay.
14	In fact, in October of '21 you hired
15	sound engineers, is that correct?
16	A Correct, sir.
17	Q And before October of '21 you also
18	hired a different set of sound engineers,
19	correct?
20	A We've hired different sound engineers.
21	I think that this one is the, the most certified.
22	I wasn't involved in the hiring
23	process. My CFO and business partner Daniel
24	Hatem was. So he could better speak to all of
25	that.

1	Q Do you know since you opened the
2	establishment in 2017 how many sound engineers
3	you've been, you have employed to mitigate the
4	noise coming from El Techo?
5	A The most recent one was a guy named
6	Ivan, and that's who recommended the new sound
7	system.
8	But without the cooperation from all
9	the residents, then people can't do their proper
10	testing. We can't figure out where the sound is
11	going, where the sound is coming from.
12	So you know, we do need cooperation of
13	the neighborhood in order to be you know, to make
14	the best improvements possible.
15	Q And in fact, the sound engineers that
16	you hired did go into the abutting property
17	condominium, the Matinee, in October '21,
18	correct?
19	A Ivan did go in there, yes, sir.
20	Q That's
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	A I wasn't
23	Q the lack of cooperation that you
24	were talking about?
25	A I'm talking about the

1	MR. KLINE: Objection, argumentative.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just rephrase
3	the question. Ask, rephrase the question, sir.
4	MR. BADAWY: Okay.
5	Would you agree with me that allowing
6	a sound engineer to go into your home, is
7	cooperation?
8	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
9	BY MR. BADAWY:
10	Q And that resident cooperated, correct?
11	A On one occasion, yes, sir.
12	Q And after that, there was, were still
13	two substantiated noise complaints in November of
14	2021, and December of 2021, correct?
15	A For the Elysium parties, yes, sir.
16	Q I think you also said that during the
17	summer of 2021, you modified the sound system
18	inside the establishment.
19	Is that correct?
20	A I don't know the exact date, sir.
21	Daniel Hatem could tell you, he writes the
22	checks.
23	Q But would you agree with me that
24	modifications were made?
25	A Modifications have been made, sir.

1	Q Okay.
2	And you still received noise
3	complaints after that, correct?
4	A After I ended my relationship with
5	Elysium, sir, I have not been served any
6	violations.
7	Q But you're aware that the neighborhood
8	still makes noise complaints about music coming
9	from El Techo, correct?
10	A Sure. I believe there was recorded
11	45, right? Is that what Mr. Fuentes report said?
12	Forty-five calls and no violations, I think.
13	Q So Mr. Hankins, I have to ask you.
14	You have your, your business in the community,
15	correct?
16	A I'm sorry, can you repeat the
17	question, sir?
18	Q Let me ask the question. You've
19	testified repeatedly that you're aware of noise
20	complaints from the neighborhood coming from El
21	Techo, about music coming from El Techo, correct?
22	A I'm aware that people call on El
23	Techo, but I'm also aware that when the
24	investigators get here, sometimes I get this like
25	I didn't even know why I'm here.

1	So you know, I don't know if the noise
2	complaint is coming from, the noise is actually
3	coming from Techo, or Flash, or I don't know
4	Uproar. The lot that's across from Howard
5	Theater.
6	I don't know where the noise is coming
7	from, sir. I'm not a sound engineer.
8	Q Do you believe those neighbors'
9	complaints?
10	MR. KLINE: Objection. What does that
11	mean believe their complaints? Complaints aren't
12	to be believed or not. They're to be
13	investigated.
14	MR. BADAWY: Let me rephrase the
15	question. Let me rephrase the question.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.
17	MR. BADAWY: Do you believe, do you
18	believe that neighbors from the surrounding
19	community can hear music coming from El Techo,
20	inside their homes?
21	MR. HANKINS: I've never been in their
22	homes, sir, so I don't know. You've never
23	invited me to your house so I wouldn't be able to
24	tell you.
25	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, I have no

1	further questions.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank
3	you.
4	Any questions by any Board members?
5	Go ahead, Mr. Short.
6	MEMBER SHORT: I guess we would say
7	good afternoon still, Mr. Hankins, how are you
8	this evening?
9	MR. HANKINS: Good, good, do I say
10	Board Member Short? Mr. Short? I'm not sure.
11	MEMBER SHORT: No problem.
12	Mr. Hankins, again you say when you
13	were in Europe and you had your first idea about
14	opening a business here in Washington, how was
15	the noise over there in Europe?
16	Do they make a lot of noise where a
17	lot of noise complaints, or are the people a
18	little more hospitable with businesses?
19	Be honest.
20	MR. HANKINS: I think people in Europe
21	have a little bit of a different mind set than
22	people in America.
23	But I don't know what they call
24	annoying noise complaints or not, sir. I don't
25	know.

free and life loving, embracing culture in  Europe.  MEMBER SHORT: Like yourself, I've  traveled around some and I've been to Europe  several different times.  I'll just say this. Do they have,  would you hear the same kind of noise there, that  you hear coming from your establishment?  MR. HANKINS: I've been in places way  louder in Europe than in my establishment, sir.  MEMBER SHORT: Next door to residences?  MR. HANKINS: Yes. Way, way louder. I  mean Barcelona's my favorite city and yes, I mean  I don't know if you've traveled there but  there's, there's noise.  MEMBER SHORT: We're familiar. But  let's go back to the United States of America.  MR. HANKINS: Okay.	free and life loving, embracing culture in  Europe.  MEMBER SHORT: Like yourself, I've  traveled around some and I've been to Europe  several different times.  I'll just say this. Do they have,  would you hear the same kind of noise there, that  you hear coming from your establishment?  MR. HANKINS: I've been in places way  louder in Europe than in my establishment, sir.  MEMBER SHORT: Next door to residences?  MR. HANKINS: Yes. Way, way louder. I  mean Barcelona's my favorite city and yes, I mean  I don't know if you've traveled there but  there's, there's noise.  MEMBER SHORT: We're familiar. But  let's go back to the United States of America.  MR. HANKINS: Okay.  MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood  you're in now.	1	MEMBER SHORT: I understand.
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let's go back to the United States of America.	let's go back to the United States of America.  MR. HANKINS: Okay.  MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood  you're in now.	17	there's, there's noise.
	MR. HANKINS: Okay.  MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood  you're in now.	18	MEMBER SHORT: We're familiar. But
MR. HANKINS: Okay.	MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood you're in now.	19	let's go back to the United States of America.
	you're in now.	20	MR. HANKINS: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood		21	MEMBER SHORT: In your neighborhood
you're in now.	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.	22	you're in now.
MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.		23	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
	MEMBER SHORT: When you testified that	24	MEMBER SHORT: When you testified that
MEMBER SHORT: When you testified that	you got a loan from the city to open a business,	25	you got a loan from the city to open a business,

and the city gave you that money with the mind 1 set that you were going to be an asset to the 2 3 community, is that correct? MR. HANKINS: It was a grant, sir, but 4 yes, sir. 5 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, a grant. 6 7 grant group was intended for you to open up a business to reinvigorate the community? 8 Is that correct? 9 MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. I chose this 10 actual block strictly to do that, sir. I looked 11 12 all around D.C. I looked at downtown D.C., 13 Georgetown, Dupont Circle, H Street. But I really chose this block here 14 15 because of the history, the birthplace of jazz, basically being the Howard Theater. 16 The Metro PCS store with the Go Go 17 music playing that I loved listening to growing 18 up. Flash night club, et cetera, et cetera. 19 And it being the arts and 20 entertainment district area, I thought that my 21 22 vision would fit in perfectly here providing the 23 D.C. residents with something special and unique. MEMBER SHORT: Okay, great. 24 That's a 25 great answer.

But let me ask the question of you 1 regarding 45 noise complaints. Do you know of 2 any other businesses, you mentioned Flash and you 3 mentioned some of the others. 4 Do you know of any other businesses 5 that have had, received 45 noise complaints? 6 MR. HANKINS: Yes, for sure. I mean 7 the, I think all of the establishments in 8 9 Mid-town D.C. have probably received that amount, but I'm speculating. I have friends that are 10 owners of some of those venues. 11 12 I think there's --13 (Simultaneous speaking.) MEMBER SHORT: But would it surprise, 14 15 would it surprise you if I told you I've been on 16 this board, this is my third term. In all of my time, I've never heard of 17 any business having 45 noise complaints but 18 19 yours. MR. HANKINS: Okay. 20 MEMBER SHORT: Do you think it's --21 22 (Simultaneous speaking.) 23 MR. HANKINS: That would surprise me. MEMBER SHORT: -- do you think, well, 24 25 is that a good model for a business like yours?

MR. KLINE: I'm sorry, I hate to object 1 to a Board member's questions, but complaints. 2 Mr. Short, you're suggesting, you're encouraging 3 a community to file complaints to build a record 4 5 as if complaints are the be all and end all. There were two violations 6 7 (Simultaneous speaking.) MEMBER SHORT: I would say, Counselor, 8 9 you are wrong. That is not the intent of my question. 10 MR. KLINE: All right. 11 12 MEMBER SHORT: If you would allow me to 13 finish, if you would allow me to finish my question without cutting me off, I think you 14 15 would get to where I'm going. I'm trying to be helpful if I possibly 16 17 can. MR. KLINE: I'll withdraw. Thank you, 18 Mr. Short. 19 MEMBER SHORT: All right, okay, thank 20 21 you. Mr. Hankins, again, what would be your 2.2 23 ideal if someone moved next door to you right now in your business, what would be your ideal of a 24 25 good neighbor?

1	MR. HANKINS: I have plenty of good
2	neighbors that come in, and really enjoy what we
3	do here, sir.
4	MEMBER SHORT: So are most of your
5	customers live on your block, is that what you're
6	saying?
7	MR. HANKINS: Yes. We have a lot of
8	customers that live on our block, sir, yes.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hankins,
10	hold on a minute, please. Why don't you just
11	mute your line for a minute until the city
12	disturbance stops?
13	Is it quiet now, sir?
14	MR. HANKINS: Yes, it's passed. I mean
15	we're a block away from Howard Hospital, so.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I, Mr. Hankins,
17	what did I say?
18	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I said the city
20	disturbance, sir.
21	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir, that's fine.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead,
23	sir.
24	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Hankins, I always
25	like to know in your opinion, what is a good

business man in the line of business that you are 1 in? 2 What would be the perfect business man 3 in the line that you are in? Line of business 4 5 that you are in? MR. HANKINS: To provide a great value 6 to the D.C. residents. And, an establishment 7 that D.C. residents can be proud of, and 8 9 something that is talked about and brings people into the community to spend money and, and raise 10 tax dollars. 11 12 MEMBER SHORT: Great answer. Can't. 13 argue with that. That's a great thing. And again, would you want someone to be there that 14 15 fit into the community, and worked with the community to make it a better community? 16 17 MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. And we do, we do try to do that continually. Like I said, 18 reinvesting money into the business to try to 19 make the business more viable in the 20 neighborhood. 21 We do community outreach stuff. 2.2 23 take our food truck to feed the homeless. I mean we try to be, we try to be pretty involved. 24 25 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you, that's great,

1	too, and I'm glad to hear that you're that kind
2	of a person that's making our city a better
3	place.
4	Now when you have your restaurant
5	tables on your upper deck, on your roof deck.
6	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
7	MEMBER SHORT: How many customers can
8	you have up there at one time?
9	MR. HANKINS: 79, sir.
10	MEMBER SHORT: At tables and, with
11	tables and chairs?
12	MR. HANKINS: Sir, we only have a
13	capacity for seated only. We do not have a
14	standing number for our CFO.
15	Obviously if it was no tables and
16	chairs, that number would be increased.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can no longer
18	hear you, Mr. Short.
19	MR. HANKINS: Yes.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can no longer
21	hear you, Mr. Short.
22	(Pause.)
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Our IT person's
24	speaking, is speaking to Mr. Short to find out
25	what's going on, so we'll continue as soon as I

1	hear from our IT person.
2	MR. HANKINS: No problem.
3	(Pause.)
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He will log on
5	shortly using a different equipment.
6	(Pause.)
7	MEMBER SHORT: now?
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see you,
9	but I can hear Mr. Short. Continue with your
10	questions, please.
11	MEMBER SHORT: Okay, thank you. I
12	appreciate that, and I am sorry about the
13	technical difficulties I am having.
14	I have had some sessions with our
15	technician at the office, and I'm going to be
16	trying to get that done during the holiday so we
17	can get it back up and running again.
18	But at any rate, thank you very much
19	for allowing me to continue my questioning.
20	Mr. Hankins?
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
22	Short, we can hear you. Go ahead.
23	MEMBER SHORT: Okay, well I was just
24	trying to get Mr. Hankins acknowledgment.
25	Mr. Hankins?

Can he hear me?

MR. HANKINS: Sorry, sorry, I was on mute. Sorry about that. We're both having technical difficulties, sorry.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, I can certainly understand that, sir. I'll just tell you, you know, I'm quite familiar with your neighborhood, and I'm quite familiar with your business location. And I would simply say this. Is there anything -- this question I'm asking you as a business person.

MR. HANKINS: Sure.

MEMBER SHORT: Is there anything you can do to get along with your neighbors a little better, especially the ANC Commissioners? Is there anything you think that you can do?

MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. I'm happy to take all part in Beam's recommendations to heart and put those into effect as soon as we get those. I'm happy to sit down and share some tacos and margaritas with these ANC Commissioners. Welcome to come to my establishment anytime.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

MR. HANKINS: I'd rather not be

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meeting people on Zoom calls. I'd rather meet 1 face-to-face and --2 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, if you 3 would allow me -- if you allow me, I would like 4 5 to just go back to where I was before we got -before my technical difficulties caused me not --6 7 MR. HANKINS: Sure. MEMBER SHORT: -- to be able to 8 9 communicate. You are a restaurant and you can have 79 people seated on your deck --10 11 MR. HANKINS: That's --12 MEMBER SHORT: -- your roof deck? 13 when you take all the tables and chairs out, how many people do you get in there at that time? 14 15 MR. HANKINS: Like I said, sir, we don't have that number on our occupancy, so 16 17 that's not something that we angle towards. MEMBER SHORT: I understand that. T'm 18 still saying to you do you have the same number 19 of people with the tables in chairs in as when 20 21 you do when you take all the tables and chairs 2.2 out? 23 MR. HANKINS: For those Elysium parties, it was definitely more than 79. For the 24 25 last year, though, we stay with our counters and

stay at 79, sir. 1 Okay. I'm glad to hear 2 MEMBER SHORT: 3 you're using counters. That's encouraging. also, since I've been on the Board -- as again, I 4 5 mentioned this is my third term -- we've had restaurants in town, in certain parts of town 6 7 that morph into nightclubs. I hope that that's not what your business model is, is it? 8 MR. HANKINS: I don't think we're a 9 10 nightclub, sir, no. 11 MEMBER SHORT: So when you take all the tables and chairs off for dancing, as you've 12 13 said you've done on occasion, what is your business model then? 14 15 MR. HANKINS: Those Elysium parties 16 definitely would be classified as more of a club 17 atmosphere because the tables and chairs were removed, but that's not what we've been doing the 18 19 last year, sir. MEMBER SHORT: So when is the last 20 time you did that? 21 22 MR. HANKINS: December 2021, sir. 23 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So you're not doing that any longer? 24 25 MR. HANKINS: No, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: I'm glad, good to hear 1 But again, I would just simply like to say 2 3 to you -- and you have the problems now because you can't put your trash where you have been 4 5 putting it, you brought in sound engineers, and you've done -- can you list for the record, can 6 you -- all the -- out of all of the things you've 7 done to be a good neighbor consisting of 8 9 acoustics person to your trash, all the complaints that you have -- are you okay, you're 10 11 aood? 12 MR. HANKINS: Yes, I'm good. 13 MEMBER SHORT: All right. Well, I just -- I was asking. There have been several 14 15 complaints lodged in this hearing from the ANC Commissioners. Can you go down that list 16 17 starting with the trash and tell me how you're going to work this year coming in 2023 to be a 18 19 better neighbor with the trash? How are you going to do that, or do you have a plan? 20 21 MR. HANKINS: Sure. 22 MEMBER SHORT: Do you have a plan for 23 that? Yes, absolutely. 24 MR. HANKINS: Thank 25 you for the question. That gives me a great

opportunity to explain that --1 MEMBER SHORT: 2 Thank you. 3 MR. HANKINS: -- conundrum. The trash was an extreme problem last summer. We were 4 5 using a company called Tenleytown Trash. It's a small local company. They were purchased by a 6 large scale operation called Republic Services. 7 Republic Services coming into the District of 8 9 Columbia didn't have employees of their own. They instituted a drug test policy for all of 10 11 Tenleytown Trash employees, and they lost 85 12 percent of the workforce. When that happened, 13 nobody knew the routes or pickup locations of any of the Tenleytown Trash customers. We were using 14 15 Tenleytown Trash because they picked up seven days a week, and we wanted to ensure that we were 16 17 good neighbors. I don't mean to 18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. 19 cut you off, but I'm not trying to hold all of the time, cause the other Board members might 20 21 have questions. 22 MR. HANKINS: Sure. 23 MEMBER SHORT: I wanted to ask you 24 have you ever heard of trash compactors? I have heard of a trash 25 MR. HANKINS:

compactor. I would love one.

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MEMBER SHORT: Well, have you worked with the ANCs and the Commissioners, because just like you got a grant for your business, I do know that there are other ABC establishments who've had the same situation that you are having. Once they got their trash compactors, the trash problems went away. Would you consider that?

MR. HANKINS: I would love that, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

MR. HANKINS: I would love my ANC

Commissioner to want to work with me to solve the problems. I know that, you know, my friends that own things down in midtown, that is what has happened. They had problems with trash and ANC

Commissioner hooked up a trash compactor for them. So yes, we would love a trash compactor.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Great. Sir, how many other businesses besides you right there at 6th and Florida Avenue have problems with trash? Are there other restaurants or other business or other ABC establishments or other businesses that store trash similar to you where you are?

MR. HANKINS: Yes. You said you're very familiar with that location, so you've got

6th Street, you've got Florida, and then you have our alley that's between the Shay. Everything that's on our block between that alley and 6th Street uses these trash cans in that alley, both three businesses, four businesses and two residences and --

MEMBER SHORT: Which leads me to my first -- leads me to this. Normally what I've seen when trash compactors come in, businesses get together and that lowers the cost for them. And yes, I do know your area well. I was a fireman in Washington, D.C. for 33 years, and the station I worked at was like right around the corner from you okay. So I know it quite well. That's the --

MR. HANKINS: Okay.

MEMBER SHORT: -- the reason why I'm trying to mention to you -- yes, if you're smiling, I am, too -- I'm trying to mention to you, yes, I know the situation and I know how other ABC establishments have become greater and better neighbors by getting the trash compactors. Will you consider that?

MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. And I hope that your pointing that out would spark a

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1	conversation of working together with ANC
2	Commissioner Lopez.
3	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's all I
4	have. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. That's
5	all I have for this witness. Thank you.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any
7	other questions for the witness? Any other Board
8	members have questions for the witness?
9	MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman?
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
11	Grandis.
12	MEMBER GRANDIS: Sir, I would just
13	like to get a timeline. When did you start your
14	food truck business?
15	MR. HANKINS: August 2012, sir.
16	MEMBER GRANDIS: And then you were
17	able to move into a brick and mortar location
18	what year?
19	MR. HANKINS: We signed our lease
20	within our first 12 months of operating, sir.
21	MEMBER GRANDIS: In 2012?
22	MR. HANKINS: We signed our lease in
23	2013 as
24	MEMBER GRANDIS: That's what I
25	thought.

(Simultaneous speaking.) 1 MEMBER GRANDIS: 2 Yes. MR. HANKINS: Yes. 3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. 4 MR. HANKINS: Then it took is 1-1/25 years to get it open. 6 7 MEMBER GRANDIS: I think you're a fine example that Marion Barry would salute. 8 9 really firmly believed in food trucks as a gateway for business, for people to get into 10 business. And I think it's very admirable that 11 12 you were successful to be able to be part of that 13 model. When you took that lease, was there --14 15 had there been another ABC licensed establishment at that location? 16 17 MR. HANKINS: This was a barbershop called Resis. A gentleman owned it for about 35 18 years, and he was a staple in the community. We 19 were kind of proud and happy to take over kind of 20 a iconic spot and revitalize it. 21 22 MEMBER GRANDIS: And when it was a 23 barbershop, were they using the roof as a summer garden or in any capacity? 24 25 MR. HANKINS: No, sir. It was just

1	one level.
2	MEMBER GRANDIS: So the building
3	that's adjoining your building, was that there
4	when you signed your lease?
5	MR. HANKINS: Every brick and block
6	building was here, yes, sir.
7	MEMBER GRANDIS: So you changed the
8	use from a barbershop that probably closed at
9	least before 11 o'clock at night to a CR
10	restaurant that then got a permit to be able to
11	use the roof deck, and ABRA was able to have you
12	meet the requirements for a summer garden. So
13	that's a significant change of use to people who
14	live in that building that is contiguous to
15	yours.
16	MR. HANKINS: I would agree with that
17	statement.
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: In your settlement
19	agreement dated June no I think it's
20	January of 2020, you participated in that,
21	correct?
22	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
23	MEMBER GRANDIS: I think you signed
24	it.
25	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.

MEMBER GRANDIS: And you are familiar 1 with paragraph 4 that talks about by June 1, 2 2020, you would deal with sound mitigation? 3 MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. 4 MEMBER GRANDIS: The investigator gave 5 us photographs in his testimony regarding the 6 7 roof deck and other parts of your building. Could you -- he was not able to answer what kind 8 9 of materials that would be that, what, ceiling that opens and closes on the roof deck? 10 11 MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. It's all 12 drywall polycarbonate. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: And what is that? Ι mean I'm sorry. It's a hunk of plastic? 14 15 sounds like a plastic but what is it? MR. HANKINS: It is a plastic but it's 16 17 not just like a sheet of plastic that would be, you know, razor thin. This is when I say 18 "drywall," drywall means that it's built out and 19 it's thicker. So this is -- I believe this is 20 5/8 of an inch thick and it has air gaps in 21 between three different pieces of plastic. 2.2 23 you have a piece of plastic, an air gap; a piece of plastic, an air gap; and another piece of 24 25 plastic. I know that you used to work with Sound

of Mike, and we've had conversations so 1 obviously, I'm sure you're aware that air gaps 2 help with sound mitigation. So that's why we 3 chose that and not a sheet of plastic. 4 MEMBER GRANDIS: When was that 5 installed, roughly? 6 7 I'm sorry, sir. I don't MR. HANKINS: I mean the last three years have been 8 9 pretty chaotic --MEMBER GRANDIS: Well --10 11 MR. HANKINS: -- and to pinpoint a 12 date would -- to pinpoint a date, I would be 13 totally misspeaking. MEMBER GRANDIS: Would it be after 14 15 June 2020? MR. HANKINS: I think that we had them 16 installed beforehand, but I don't think that we 17 were -- I don't think that there was a time 18 restriction or limit on what time that we should 19 put them up. I think that they were obviously 20 installed beforehand because I think what we 21 2.2 discovered is that when they were closed, there 23 wasn't complaints from across the street. So the settlement agreement was signed in good faith by 24

both parties to mitigate that sound, 10:30

weekdays, midnight on weekends, and 9:00 p.m. on 1 2 Sundays. 3 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. I understand that you, from time-to-time and maybe now, you 4 5 have used a sound expert? MR. HANKINS: We have in the past. 6 7 don't think either one of them got to the end of their project per se or their process but yes, we 8 9 have hired two in the past and have now hired a third. And I'm very hopeful that he can bring us 10 all the resolutions to be a good neighbor. 11 12 MEMBER GRANDIS: Would you be -- this is just a question. I'm not saying you need to 13 do this. Would you be having this sound engineer 14 15 meet some of the people who have had concerns about noise, meet with them in your building? 16 17 Absolutely, sir. I MR. HANKINS: think that's the only way to actually 18 19 successfully do it. MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. Would you 20 21 be -- no, let me -- I'll rephrase it. When you 2.2 have the -- that roof open, is that when it's 23 just good weather; is that to a certain time of night? How do you use opening and closing it? 24 25 MR. HANKINS: Yes. I mean obviously,

it's for good weather for sure, but we usually close those in accordance with whatever the -- when the walls get closed so 10:30, midnight, 9:00 p.m.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Well, would you consider having a more regular schedule when the weather is good that they would be closed, let's say, before midnight? And I'm assuming it has sound mitigation? I'm sure that helps with sound mitigation.

MR. HANKINS: I'm open to any discussions that are productive.

MEMBER GRANDIS: Now I also saw pictures and the investigator talked about something that he thought was like Styrofoam and wood. Do you remember that part of the testimony that's on that wall is contiguous to, I think, one of the protestant's apartment?

MR. HANKINS: Yes. There is a cinder block wall that Mr. Kadwalla's building is made out of. Our wall is built freestanding away from their wall. There is an air gap. There is a, I don't know, it's probably 3-inches -- 3, 4-inches deep those air gaps, and there's insulation and soundproofing kind of stuffed into that. I'm

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1	sure somebody that Martin Beam recommends for the
2	construction and materials will do a much better
3	job than what we did on our kind of mom and pop
4	DIY, you know.
5	MEMBER GRANDIS: Are there any
6	speakers on that wall?
7	MR. HANKINS: No, sir.
8	MEMBER GRANDIS: Where are
9	(Simultaneous speaking.)
10	MR. HATEM: sorry.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: the speaker If
12	I understand the testimony, the DJ is on that
13	floor, correct?
14	MR. HANKINS: The DJ is on the
15	rooftop, yes, sir.
16	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay.
17	MR. HANKINS: And it is
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: So where
19	MR. HANKINS: in the
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: are the speakers?
21	MR. HANKINS: Okay. So kind of just
22	draw it for you here. This is Florida Avenue.
23	This is rectangular. And this is Mr. Kadwalla's
24	building.
25	MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.

1	MR. HANKINS: Our speakers are in this
2	and facing more towards the inner part of the
3	restaurant.
4	MEMBER GRANDIS: The restaurant being
5	on the roof deck, is that what
6	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
7	MEMBER GRANDIS: But the speakers face
8	each other?
9	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir. They face in
10	towards the middle of the space.
11	MEMBER GRANDIS: Is that something
12	you'd be willing to move if your sound expert
13	suggests that that could be another way of
14	limiting
15	MR. HANKINS: Yes. However
16	(Simultaneous speaking.)
17	MR. HANKINS: Yes. However Martin
18	Beam says is the best way to move forward, we're
19	committed to taking all of his suggestions.
20	MEMBER GRANDIS: I notice on the
21	license, it says "entertainment," and I think you
22	testified to that. What are you is there a
23	limit to the types of entertainment you may have
24	with your license?
25	MR. HANKINS: Yes. Unfortunately,

1	we're obviously not allowed to have bands, you
2	know. We're just strictly DJs.
3	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. And does your
4	license have an endorsement for dancing?
5	MR. HANKINS: Yes. I would think so.
6	I don't I didn't know that there was a
7	separate endorsement for dancing. I have never
8	heard of that so.
9	MEMBER GRANDIS: Well, I think you're
10	a CR, correct?
11	MR. HANKINS: I am
12	MEMBER GRANDIS: CR.
13	MR. HANKINS: Yes, not CC.
14	MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. Well, you may
15	want to look at the restrictions and compliance
16	for dancing if it's a CR.
17	MR. HANKINS: Okay.
18	MEMBER GRANDIS: Mr. Chairman, that's
19	all I have. Thank you.
20	MR. HANKINS: Thank you, sir.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
22	questions by any other Board members? Mr.
23	Hankins, just one I think I have just two
24	questions for you.
25	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you
2	normally using promoters?
3	MR. HANKINS: I stopped in December of
4	last year, sir.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're not
6	going to use promoters anymore, is that correct?
7	MR. HANKINS: It's gotten me here,
8	sir. No, not a chance.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now tell me
10	about why did you install this noise meter?
11	MR. HANKINS: Because I wanted to try
12	to figure out how to be a good neighbor and to
13	mitigate our noise that was emanating out into
14	the general ether out this crazy intersection
15	that we're at.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long
17	when did you install these noise this noise
18	meter?
19	MR. HANKINS: December 2021, sir.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, so you just
21	did this?
22	MR. HANKINS: December 2021, a year
23	ago.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, '21.
25	MR. HANKINS: Yes.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So since
2	December of 2021 to this date, are you aware of
3	could everyone, please I need everyone to
4	mute their line with the exception of Mr. Hankins
5	are you aware of how many noise complaints you
6	have received on your establishment since you
7	have installed the noise meter; are you aware?
8	I'm just asking if you're aware.
9	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: About how many?
11	I'm just asking, I'm curious.
12	MR. HANKINS: Forty-five stated in
13	this here testimony.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're
15	saying that since you have installed the noise
16	meter, you have received 45 complaints, since
17	I'm sorry since you have installed that the
18	meter?
19	MR. HANKINS: Yes, sir.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
21	don't have any other questions. So Mr. Badawy,
22	short redirect, please, on the questions that
23	were asked by the Board?
24	MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline,

short redirect based on the questions that were 1 asked by the Board? 2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 3 INSPECTOR KLINE: Yes. Very, very 4 simple. Mr. Hankins, just to confirm, you're 5 committed, and you said it previously, to 6 7 following the recommendations that Mr. Beam may develop in terms of mitigating noise, correct? 8 9 MR. HANKINS: Absolutely. INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. 10 terms of there's, you know, 45 complaints, to 11 12 your knowledge, in the last year, were any complaints sustained? 13 MR. HANKINS: No. No violations have 14 15 been given and typically, the ABRA investigator and DCRA will say to us, you know, kind of "we're 16 17 here again, we got called, you guys are fine, it looks like a restaurant," and they leave so. 18 INSPECTOR KLINE: So aside from 19 complaints, since you installed this noise meter, 20 since December of '21 when you discontinued the 21 22 use of promoters, are you aware of any noise 23 violations committed by your establishment? MR. HANKINS: No violations, sir. 24 25 INSPECTOR KLINE: Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 1 All right. It's my understanding 2 Thank you. that we have probably another 10 more witnesses. 3 This witness == and yes, he's the owner, and this 4 5 witness started testifying about 4:43 since we came back from break. I just want to remind the 6 7 parties that we are going to listen to this entire case tonight no matter how long it takes. 8 9 So we're going to complete this case tonight. I just want to, however, remind all parties when 10 asking questions, make sure that you're asking 11 12 questions that are short, concise, and it will assist the Board in making a decision. I'm not 13 saying that that has not been done so far, but I 14 15 just want to remind the -- both sides that it's my understanding that we have at least 10 more 16 It's 6:09 and but -- and we are going 17 witnesses. to -- no matter how long this hearing takes, we 18 are going to conclude this hearing within this 19 session. Okay. All right. Do you have another 20 witness, Mr. Kline? 21 22 INSPECTOR KLINE: Yes. I call Steve 23 Mr. Lawrence, are you on? Lawrence. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not sure if 24 25 he is but Mr. Orellana, can you, if Mr. Lawrence

1	is there, can you elevate his rights, please?
2	MR. ORELLANO: Mr. Lawrence.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Mr.
4	Kline, can you is can you locate Mr.
5	Lawrence and if he's online someone tell me if
6	we can elevate his rights.
7	INSPECTOR KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I just
8	spoke to Mr. Lawrence. He I guess he's muted
9	or maybe not elevated. He said he is on and that
10	he
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's all
12	right. Mr. Orellana, can you please look for Mr.
13	Lawrence it's his name, Mr. Lawrence and
14	elevate his rights, please.
15	MR. KLINE: I was talking and
16	(Simultaneous speaking.)
17	MR. KLINE: I'm sorry.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
19	What's going on?
20	INSPECTOR KLINE: I was going to say
21	if h e's listed by telephone number, it's 757-646
22	
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Don't give the
24	whole number, Mr. Kline.
25	MR. ORELLANO: He has been elevated.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is
2	he I'm sorry. Mr. Lawrence Mr. Lawrence,
3	can you mute your line? I see there's a caller.
4	Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Orellana, did you unmute him?
5	I see that there's a caller there but it appears
6	that the person is muted. I'm not sure if he
7	needs to unmute himself or we need to mute him
8	unmute him.
9	MR. ORELLANO: Yes. I sent a request
10	for unmute but it's on his behalf to unmute.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Mr
12	MR. ORELLANO: I don't know if he hit
13	it.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
15	Lawrence yes, Mr. Lawrence. All right. Can
16	you
17	MR. LAWRENCE: All right. Tell me if
18	that works.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: can you
20	raise your right hand, sir?
21	MR. LAWRENCE: Sure.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
23	affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
24	truth?
25	MR. LAWRENCE: I do.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
2	Mr. Kline. Go ahead.
3	INSPECTOR KLINE: Thank you, Mr.
4	Chair. Mr., state your name for the record,
5	please?
6	MR. LAWRENCE: Steven Lawrence.
7	INSPECTOR KLINE: And where do you
8	reside, Mr. Lawrence?
9	MR. LAWRENCE: 600 T Street NW. I'm
10	directly adjacent to the premises in question
11	today.
12	DIRECT EXAMINATION
13	INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. And are
14	you also the landlord of the establishment?
15	MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir, I am.
16	MR. KLINE: But you would reside
17	there, correct?
18	MR. LAWRENCE: I do, yes. I am part
19	of the neighborhood.
20	INSPECTOR KLINE: And who do you
21	reside there with?
22	MR. LAWRENCE: My wife and my two
23	children age 5 and 3.
24	MR. KLINE: And you're directly next
25	door to the establishment?

MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir.

INSPECTOR KLINE: And have you -- what's been your experience with noise of the establishment?

MR. LAWRENCE: There was a time where the noise was a little elevated, and I would address that with Louie and obviously, this community meeting is doing the same. But he has very much turned that around, and I have not had an issue with the noise at all, cause I mean first and foremost, not only as a parent that needs to have their kids sleep, I'm also the owner of the property and don't want anything to reflect negatively on me as somebody who wants to live in the community. But I believe they always address my concerns very professionally and over the last almost, I would say, over eight months almost now, I've noticed a complete reduction in noise, much different than it used to be. But if I'm being frank with you, there was a time where it was a touch too loud, and I feel like that's been addressed and obviously, we're doing this now tonight. But my issues have been nothing. There's been no problem at all --

INSPECTOR KLINE: How long have you

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lived --1 MR. LAWRENCE: that I've seen. 2 INSPECTOR KLINE: -- how long have you 3 lived at that location? 4 5 MR. LAWRENCE: Since 2007. So a long time? INSPECTOR KLINE: 6 7 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir. INSPECTOR KLINE: And has there ever 8 9 been a time that it's been intolerable for you and your children living next door to this 10 establishment? 11 12 MR. LAWRENCE: No. It's never -- not 13 intolerable. That's too strong of a word, but it was noticeable. 14 15 INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. And to what do you attribute the improvement, if you know, if 16 17 you have any idea? MR. LAWRENCE: I mean I do have an 18 19 idea. I've been right up there with Louie trying to make sure he's doing this right or he tells me 20 his doing, and I follow it up personally myself 21 2.2 to see the sound engineers that have been by. 23 I've actually had private conversations with the sound engineer crew he's had. I've seen him 24 25 purchase insulation and do different things with

1	moving around a DJ and trying to get his speakers
2	right. I think he installed a meter to measure
3	the amount of noise that was coming out. So I've
4	kind of I've been watching the progress for
5	quite some time now with everything he's tried to
6	do to implement the concerns of the neighborhood
7	and to make less, you know, hindrance on the
8	neighbors.
9	MR. KLINE: You also you own the
10	apartment building next store as well?
11	MR. LAWRENCE: I do, yes.
12	MR. KLINE: So it's obviously in your
13	interest to see that residents are not disturbed
14	by these this establishment because they are
15	your tenants, correct?
16	MR. LAWRENCE: Actually
17	MR. BADAWY: Objection.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
19	MR. BADAWY: Object to the leading
20	question there. This is direct examination.
21	MR. KLINE: I'll rephrase it. You
22	testified you own the building next door,
23	correct?
24	MR. LAWRENCE: I do, yes.
25	INSPECTOR KLINE: And do you have a

1	particular interest?
2	MR. LAWRENCE: And
3	MR. KLINE: Does that create a
4	MR. LAWRENCE: Yes. I have
5	MR. KLINE: particular interest
6	MR. LAWRENCE: sorry. I didn't mean
7	to interrupt.
8	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Lawrence,
9	can you please wait for Mr. Kline to ask the
10	question before we have a court reporter, so I
11	need to make sure that you two are not speaking
12	over each other; okay?
13	MR. LAWRENCE: No problem.
14	INSPECTOR KLINE: Does that create an
15	interest or an incentive for you to see that
16	noise is mitigated?
17	MR. LAWRENCE: Repeat the question?
18	I'm sorry.
19	INSPECTOR KLINE: Does the fact that
20	you own the building have any bearing on what
21	attitude you take to your other tenants at this
22	commercial establishment?
23	MR. LAWRENCE: Absolutely it does.
24	INSPECTOR KLINE: Why is that?
25	MR. LAWRENCE: Because I have tenants

1	there and tenants are a part of my responsibility
2	to give them a quiet living environment, and that
3	would reflect very negative on me, not only
4	financially but also me as a person of the
5	community that has an obligation to provide good
6	service for my tenants, so I take that into
7	heart.
8	INSPECTOR KLINE: Thank you. I have
9	no further questions of this witness at this
10	time.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	MR. BADAWY: Just a couple of brief
14	questions, please. Good evening, Mr. Lawrence.
15	Thank you for your time here tonight. Mr.
16	Lawrence, you are the landlord for them, correct?
17	MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir.
18	MR. BADAWY: And you are also the
19	landlord for Batro, is that correct, Mr. Hankins'
20	other establishment?
21	MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir.
22	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Hankins pays you
23	money for the leases for both of those
24	establishments, correct?
25	MR. LAWRENCE: Correct.

MR. BADAWY: Mr. Lawrence, did you 1 give your tenant, Rito Loco-El Techo, the right 2 of access to the rear of your property at 600 T 3 Street NW for the storage and disposal of the 4 trash the entire duration of the lease? 5 INSPECTOR KLINE: Objection. Goes --6 7 MR. LAWRENCE: T --INSPECTOR KLINE: -- well beyond the 8 9 scope of direct. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 10 11 (Simultaneous speaking.) 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, go ahead. 13 MR. BADAWY: Sorry. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. 14 I'm 15 going to allow the question because it's -- I 16 think that this is the only person, I believe, who can talk about that issue, and trash is an 17 issue that has been brought up here as one of the 18 19 protest issues, and there was direct testimony from the landlord regarding this. And so I just 20 21 believe that, yes, it goes beyond the scope and 2.2 again, this -- we have these hearings. We do not 23 necessarily follow the formal rule of evidence with cross-examination and direct. So in this 24

particular case, I would allow it because I need

1	that answer. So you can answer the question,
2	sir. Answer the question.
3	MR. LAWRENCE: Sure. Yes. There was
4	an easement egress easement, I think, allowed,
5	and there was language of a just storage of trash
6	at the back of the property.
7	MR. BADAWY: Thank you. No further
8	questions.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
10	by any Board members? Yes, Mr. Short. I can't
11	hear you, Mr. Short.
12	MEMBER SHORT: Good evening, Mr.
13	Lawrence. How are you?
14	MR. LAWRENCE: Doing great. How about
15	you?
16	MEMBER SHORT: Oh, a lot better now,
17	sir. Did you hear the question we had about
18	trash compactors?
19	MR. LAWRENCE: I did not. I've been
20	busy with the kids. I just hopped on the call
21	about 15-20 minutes ago.
22	MEMBER SHORT: Okay. As a landlord,
23	I know you're familiar with the city term peace,
24	order, and quiet?
25	MR. LAWRENCE: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: And you testified 1 earlier that you, at one time, had problems with 2 the tenant's noise yourself, correct? 3 MR. LAWRENCE: Sure, yes. 4 MEMBER SHORT: And how long ago was 5 6 that? It would have been 7 MR. LAWRENCE: probably about a year ago, I think a little over 8 9 a y ear ago. And I know you're -- as 10 MEMBER SHORT: a landlord, you're happy that the noise has 11 12 quieted down, cause that makes life a little 13 easier for everybody in the neighborhood? MR. LAWRENCE: Absolutely. 14 15 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. But again, the 16 question I had asked -- and I don't know if you 17 were on the line when we were talking about trash compactors, because there are a lot of other 18 businesses that have similar circumstances that 19 your tenant has with trash and the disposal of 20 trash and the storage of trash until it can be 21 2.2 picked up. 23 MR. LAWRENCE: Okay. MEMBER SHORT: Are you familiar with 24 25 the trash compactors that a lot of other

landlords and businesses are using in your 1 vicinity? 2 No, sir, I'm not. 3 MR. LAWRENCE: Ι mean I'm familiar with what a trash compactor is, 4 5 but I've never -- I don't have any kind of 6 understanding about what that is in this 7 capacity. MEMBER SHORT: Well, okay, if you 8 9 don't have any idea what it is, I'll just say this to you. It saves a lot of grief for a lot 10 11 of people in the community to have a trash 12 compactor rather than have trash sitting out. would take care of a lot of your problems with 13 rodents and with the odors and other things that 14 15 happen in the summertime when you have trash 16 stored close to people's residences and 17 businesses. MR. LAWRENCE: 18 Okay. That is something I'm not against looking into or 19 understanding more about what it is. 20 21 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's all I 2.2 wanted to get from you, that you would look into 23 it. Thank you very much. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. 24 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other

questions by any other Board members? 1 Lawrence, a quick question. Where is this 2 tenant, where is it that they're supposed to 3 store their trash? 4 MR. LAWRENCE: The tenant, Louie 5 Hankins for El Techo --6 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. MR. LAWRENCE: -- Rito Loco? 8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 9 Yes. MR. LAWRENCE: So the trash is 10 11 currently being stored right at the alley side of 12 the building. 13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that only area that -- is it -- this is the area that the 14 15 trash is supposed to be stored? I'm just trying to get confirmation from you, the landlord. 16 MR. LAWRENCE: Understood. Yes. 17 Ι mean with the situation that was prior in COVID, 18 19 we have set up a patio space that was a part of the business that is located at the property, 600 20 21 T Street. And trash was, obviously, very much a 22 problem at that point. And they are 100 percent 23 landlocked. So we're all locked in with no real access to put cans any which way. So it looks 24

like public space is really the only option.

1	the alley we have is where all the residential
2	trash cans are also located. It's a very wide
3	alley, so there's plenty of room for cars to be
4	moving each way. So that was a way we had to
5	deal with the situation we have being landlocked
6	with no public space. That was the only option.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Mr.
8	Badawy, any brief redirect?
9	MR. BADAWY: No redirect, Your Honor
10	or Mr. Chairman.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
12	INSPECTOR KLINE: No questions, thank
13	you.
14	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very
15	much for your testimony, Mr. Lawrence. You're
16	free to go. You have a
17	MR. LAWRENCE: Okay. Thank you. Have
18	a nice night, guys. Appreciate it.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have
20	another witness?
21	INSPECTOR KLINE: Daniel Hatem.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that person
23	online?
24	INSPECTOR KLINE: Yes.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Hatem?

1	MR. ORELLANO: Access has been
2	elevated.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Mr.
4	Hatem? Can you please can you raise your
5	right do you have a okay, good. Mr. Hatem,
6	can you raise your right hand, please? Do you
7	swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but
8	the truth?
9	MR. HATEM: Yes, I do.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
11	Mr. Kline.
12	INSPECTOR KLINE: Thank you, Mr.
13	Chair. State you name, please?
14	MR. HATEM: My name is Daniel Hatem,
15	H-A-T-E-M.
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	INSPECTOR KLINE: I've been
18	mispronouncing it all these years. That's
19	terrible.
20	MR. HATEM: Yes.
21	INSPECTOR KLINE: What's your
22	connection to this business?
23	MR. HATEM: I came on board with Louie
24	about three years ago and a couple months. He
25	was, as you mentioned earlier on the calls,

struggling with the permits and the finance, and 1 I have a long history in the business, and I now 2 3 have a consulting and accounting and finance building -- business that focuses on restaurants 4 5 in D.C. And so I basically kept him from going under because, as you mentioned, he -- the 6 permitting time it took him and all of the 7 problems initially basically put him in a million 8 dollars' worth of debt. So I had to restructure 9 the company. Louie is afloat today because of 10 the work that I did. 11 12 INSPECTOR KLINE: Now the difficulties included difficulties during COVID, correct? 13

MR. HATEM: Yes. So the plan that I implemented financially included operating agreement, partnerships, contracts, obviously the financing for the business. He mentioned that it was a D.C. grant but that was nowhere near the amount of money that he spent from family and friends and private loans at high interest rates. Once we start --

INSPECTOR KLINE: I'm going to stop you cause I'm not sure it's responsive to my question. My question to you --

> MR. HATEM: I'm sorry. I'm going to

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tell you right now. By the time we got that plan implemented, COVID hit and we had to shut down on March of 2020, and we stayed closed for about a full three months. We completely got rid of the DJs. We had no DJ expense during that year. We were table seating six feet apart, no more -- followed the rules of, you know, obviously, the shut down and the Mayor. And so that's what 2020 was all about. And as you mentioned, we didn't fully recuperate until 2021 when Mr. Badawy was referring to the summer and fall. So at that point, we were just in a holding pattern to make sure that we didn't lose the business in its entirety.

INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. And what are your -- what's your role, what are your responsibilities in the business?

MR. HATEM: My role is basically a lot of the finance back of the house operations, giving guidance. I do that for about 20 different businesses in the city, built businesses anywhere from, you know, 14th and K up to the Adams Morgan area all the way to Arlington. I've been around a while. Let's just put it that way.

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INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. Do your responsibilities at Rito Loco-El Techo include noise mitigation?

MR. HATEM: Yes.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. HATEM: -- working. So the residents in the back building, the adjacent building, which is the south wall -- that's not Mr. Badawy's side; that's the north, and Mr. Badawy was actually not a resident at the time, but we did have complaints from the north side -but the south wall was the big issue. I was on a group text with the residents there, and I was giving them play-by-play, up to the minute basically every action I took to hire Ivan Burkett, the sound engineer who worked on other projects including Coyote Ugly and their big noise issues that they had in Chinatown. gave them, on the text thread, constant updates of what we are doing, what we are buying, how There was a big lag time with COVID shipments. It took -- it was impossible to buy equipment and sound, so it took many months for it to arrive. We kept them, you know, in the loop of it was purchased, it's on the way, the

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lead time, so on and so forth, the date it was installed. And I did go into the residents with Ivan to speak to Lynn was one of them, Alex was another, and the young lady that I'm not sure if she's still there or not. I don't remember her name.

INSPECTOR KLINE: And were there any community leaders that you were working with at that time?

MR. HATEM: No. I have never met anyone from the ANC in person. I've only seen an email to me from Alex Lopez which I actually responded in full detail, maybe about five paragraphs of everything that we were doing. If you're interested, I can send it to you.

INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. And in terms of what you were doing, what is it you were doing to address the issues? We've had some discussion about it. You may be the best person to discuss it.

MR. HATEM: So, you know, first and foremost, I've built a lot of places in D.C. that have a huge amount of sound. We're talking about \$150,000, \$200,000 worth of sound equipment. And what Louie was referring to about the size, I

mean you go to any nightclub, and literally, my bass cabinets are probably up to my chest and I'm 6 foot 2. So this -- what I did was even though he had a small cliche system, which is a very high fidelity system that was zoned, we upgraded to a high fidelity sound with short throw and better sound waves. The only real way I can explain it is like if you have a Bose system at home with more small speakers that service just a small part of the area, then the people sitting in front of the speakers can hear it, but it won't carry in a long distance.

Now Mr. Badawy and some others I've given this explanation, I am not the technical sound engineer, but the engineers have explained the concept of soundwaves and how they carry through walls and into longer distances. We've talked about amplified sound. We've talked about the fact that base is non-directional and will go in any direction. But there's a lot of -- there was a lot of recommendations, and you guys mentioned that there was multiple sound engineers. Some engineers will come in and they have this concept that it's carrying through the metal, and that's not it. You know, one of it

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was like the placement of the speakers. That was it. And so that was one of the things.

So we took -- the DJ booth is along the south wall of the adjacent building. removed the one base cabinet that was not of good quality from that area and took it out of service. We took the two mid-size tops, as you call them, which do treble and mid-range, and we took those out of service. Now nothing is on the south wall, and if you just walk into the space and stand in front of the booth, you will actually hear a dead zone. It's a complete dead zone for base, and all you have to do is step in there and listen to it. So now as Louie mentioned, all the speakers, there's six tops and four small subs that are only 10 inches by 20, that is literally like this size. That's not That is not nightclub sound. You do very biq. not build a nightclub with this size speaker, that they direct towards the center of the space so that the customers can hear it without it escaping from the venue as much as possible. I'm not saying that it's perfect, but since we installed it, they have direct access to my personal cell phone, and I did not get one single

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text message complaint from any of the residents after I installed it. They basically just -- you know, just cut off and went silent, and I had to assume that they were content with my progress.

INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. Now there's been a lot of discussion about whether this establishment is a nightclub, has it morphed into a nightclub. You have a great deal of experience in the industry, you've indicated, correct?

MR. HATEM: Absolutely, yes. I mean I've built some of the largest nightclubs in the city.

INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. So why isn't this establishment a nightclub? What's different here?

MR. HATEM: Well, what's different is the level of sound and the type of music as well as the hours. A nightclub, as you know -- let's say Flash across the street is a perfect example. No one shows up until midnight. People come to El Techo to eat starting from noon on the weekends and they have drinks while they're seated. There is a small bar area that can host about 20 people standing, but even that disappeared during COVID because we were not

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allowed to have standing during COVID. So basically, we shut down including now for the last number of months cause the business has been seriously affected. We don't even have sales hardly after midnight anymore because of the way the neighborhood is frightened Louie to the point that he cannot exercise his right to have music until 1:30 per the agreement. And as you were trying to state, Mr. Kline, per our liquor license, we are allowed to technically, if it wasn't for the agreement, operate until 2:00 a.m., and we don't.

So we do not operate that way. People don't come that late at night. They leave and they go to a full club, Flash being one, Howard Theater another, and all of the U Street corridor which if anyone drives down the U Street-Florida corridor at night, it is jammed pack, you know, especially before COVID.

Anyway, size of sound, cover charge.

We never have a cover charge. All sort of symbiotic with the night life. The loud music, the large dance floors, table bottle service, all of that is typical of a nightclub, and this is not what Rito Loco-El Techo is.

1	INSPECTOR KLINE: Is scale another
2	issue in terms of size of an establishment?
3	MR. HATEM: For the scale, meaning
4	INSPECTOR KLINE: Yes. In other
5	words, you do we see nightclubs the size of
6	this place?
7	MR. HATEM: No, absolutely not. If
8	I mean the smallest clubs that I can think of,
9	Ice just reopened. It used to be Red. It was
10	one of the smallest nightclubs in the city that
11	holds about 150 people.
12	INSPECTOR KLINE: And your capacity up
13	there is 79, correct?
14	MR. HATEM: Yes, absolutely. And
15	mostly seated even late in the late hours.
16	INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. If I can
17	get sharing privileges, there are some exhibits
18	that I would like Mr. Hatem to identify?
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe that
20	you did did you have earlier Mr. Orellana,
21	can you please, if Mr
22	(Simultaneous speaking.)
23	You have it, Mr. Kline.
24	INSPECTOR KLINE: Great. Thank you so
25	much. All right. I'm showing you what's been

1	marked as Exhibit A. Can you identify what that
2	is?
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're not
4	sharing your screen, Mr
5	MR. KLINE: I'm not? Bear with me.
6	I thought I did.
7	MR. HATEM: And while you're doing
8	that, if after my testimony with you, I'd love
9	to address Mr. Short or Chairman Short or
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr no,
11	Mr. Hankins. You are go ahead go ahead,
12	Mr. Kline.
13	INSPECTOR KLINE: You'll respond to my
14	questions, Mr. Hatem. Can you identify do you
15	see it now, do you see an Exhibit in front of
16	you?
17	MR. HATEM: I do.
18	INSPECTOR KLINE: Good. I've
19	succeeded. What is that?
20	MR. HATEM: That was the initial
21	consulting fee for Ivan to come out and assess
22	the situation with the sound, do a test, and then
23	recommend a new set of speakers, amplifiers, and
24	mixers. So high fidelity sound is based on all
25	the equipment being of higher quality.

INSPECTOR KLINE: And who -- and Ivan, 1 clarify who's Ivan? 2 Ivan is one of the sound 3 MR. HATEM: engineers that has done a lot of auditoriums, 4 5 some nightclubs as well as venues in the city. 6 He did work for me in the past on 14th and K. did the work to mitigate the noise pollution from 7 Covote Ugly. He's done churches. He's done 8 9 stadiums, so on and so forth. INSPECTOR KLINE: And was this paid? 10 11 MR. HATEM: Yes. They're all paid. 12 I think four invoices total around 27,5, and then we have other invoices to Washington Music Center 13 which is the main purveyor. 14 15 INSPECTOR KLINE: And just to clarify, you're responsible for the accounts for the 16 17 establishment and payment of bills, correct? Absolutely. All bills 18 MR. HATEM: 19 come through me. Nothing gets paid unless I know about it. 20 21 INSPECTOR KLINE: So when you say this 2.2 is paid, you know this based upon your position 23 with the company that it was paid, correct? Yes. I can provide you 24 MR. HATEM: 25 check images. I can provide you Quickbooks,

anything you'd like. 1 INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. Exhibit 2 B, what do we have? 3 MR. HATEM: This is one of the other 4 5 invoices that include some of the technical equipment, the amplifier, the processor, and the 6 rack to hold the amplifiers. These are not the 7 These are -- this is the technical 8 speakers. 9 side of it, especially as they keep referring to amplified sound. You need an amplifier to 10 produce music. 11 12 INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. And this is -- the invoice is dated June 30, 2021? 13 MR. HATEM: Yes, sir. That's --14 15 (Simultaneous speaking.) MR. HATEM: -- the process roughly in 16 17 June. INSPECTOR KLINE: So it was done over 18 the summer of '21? 19 MR. HATEM: No. It took a long time 20 for this equipment to arrive. 21 It was -- you 22 know, we couldn't even get the -- most of the 23 equipment was not even available that was the one -- the preferred one, so we went with a Hankis 24 25 and Rhines, which is another high fidelity sound

1	equipment company just to speed up the process.
2	So I pick we had to pick another brand just so
3	we wouldn't delay until 2022, because I knew the
4	tenants needed this resolved as fast as possible.
5	INSPECTOR KLINE: Exhibit C is another
6	expenditure related to the upgrade of the sound
7	system?
8	MR. HATEM: Yes. And this would be
9	the bulk of the speakers, as you can see, and the
10	subwoofers and the amps.
11	INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. And this was
12	paid also?
13	MR. HATEM: Yes, sir.
14	INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. Exhibit D?
15	MR. HATEM: That was basically a
16	service call to tweak what he had installed, I
17	think, and these are
18	(Simultaneous speaking.)
19	MR. HATEM: some checks, yes.
20	INSPECTOR KLINE: Do you know what
21	Exhibit E is?
22	MR. HATEM: That is the check
23	downpayment for Martin Beam dated July 29th,
24	because Ivan did the equipment but we got a
25	recommendation that Martin had solved some of the

sound problems in downtown and other 1 establishments including one of my other partners 2 who completely resolved the ABRA case with and 3 that he could sort of -- he could take care of 4 5 our establishment. So I went and paid him in advance to make sure that we had him contracted 6 for the future. 7 INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. Exhibit F? 8 9 MR. HATEM: That is an explanation from Ivan, which is 71Z, LLC. The residents were 10 11 asking for, you know, a lot of -- an easy to 12 understand explanation of sound and what he was 13 doing. You know, sound engineers can talk a lot about pink noise and soundwaves and no one really 14 15 understands that. So he just wrote out a document to make it easy to understand. 16 17 INSPECTOR KLINE: Okay. Mr. Chair, I would move Exhibits A through F into evidence. 18 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy, any objection? 20 21 MR. BADAWY: No objections. 22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved. 23 (Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were marked as Exhibits A through F for 24 identification and received into evidence.) 25

1	INSPECTOR KLINE: If I can did I do
2	that right stop sharing now? All right. And
3	so Mr. Hatem, just to clarify, you've been
4	involved with this establishment for how long?
5	MR. HATEM: For about three years and
6	four months.
7	INSPECTOR KLINE: And is it your
8	intention to continue to be involved?
9	MR. HATEM: Yes. I'm invested. It
10	would be a failure of a return on my investment
11	if it goes south.
12	INSPECTOR KLINE: And you heard Mr.
13	Hankins testify. Are you committed as involved
14	in the management of the company to no longer
15	using promoters at the establishment?
16	MR. HATEM: You want the honest
17	answer? I never
18	INSPECTOR KLINE: You're under oath
19	MR. HATEM: I never wanted promoters
20	in the first place, so I have I've used some
21	of the biggest promoters in the city. I don't
22	agree with promoters always. They do what they
23	want and they don't listen to management and to
24	the ownership and direction so, yes.
25	INSPECTOR KLINE: And as an owner,

	operator, and partner in this establishment,
2	you're committed to addressing the concerns that
3	have been raised about noise?
4	MR. HATEM: Absolutely. I run only
5	clean businesses as much as possible, so I want
6	to fix this. I want to solve it. I do not like
7	waking up with the stress and the headache of
8	these problems. We need to come up with a
9	solution. It needs to be resolved. I can't I
LO	mean you have no idea how stressed out Louie is
L1	about it and in turn stresses me out about it as
L <b>2</b>	well. I mean we can't live this way.
L3	INSPECTOR KLINE: All right. Thank
L <b>4</b>	you. I have no further questions at this time.
L5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
LO	
L6	CROSS-EXAMINATION
	CROSS-EXAMINATION  MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
L6	
L6 L7	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
L6 L7 L8	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Mr. Hatem.
L6 L7 L8	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Mr. Hatem. MR. HATEM: How are you?
L6 L7 L8 L9	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  Good evening, Mr. Hatem.  MR. HATEM: How are you?  MR. BADAWY: Good, thank you.
L6 L7 L8 L9	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  Good evening, Mr. Hatem.  MR. HATEM: How are you?  MR. BADAWY: Good, thank you.  Mr. Hatem, you've been testified
L6 L7 L8 L9 20	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  Good evening, Mr. Hatem.  MR. HATEM: How are you?  MR. BADAWY: Good, thank you.  Mr. Hatem, you've been testified  that you have been associated with Mr. Henkins

1	Q Okay. And I believe you testified
2	that one of your duties and responsibilities is
3	the, I guess, sound engineering associated with
4	this establishment, correct?
5	A It was passed on to me when I realized
6	that they were not getting it done. I'm the guy
7	that tries to get things done. So that became my
8	responsibility around July of 2021 when they
9	contracted Ivan Burkitt.
10	Q Okay. And again, you've testified
11	you're not a sound engineer, but you were
12	you've overseeing these efforts, correct?
13	A Yeah, I work with sound engineers to
14	build out many different forms of sound, large
15	spaces, small spaces. But I always rely on the
16	experts, whether's an architect or a sound
17	engineer or a structural engineer. I do not
18	pretend I know something I don't.
19	Q The exhibits that were just admitted,
20	these are invoices, correct, money that was paid
21	from El Techo?
22	A Yes, to Ivan to 71Z LLC, Ivan
23	Burkitt, yes, sir.
24	Q Okay, and Ivan Burkitt is a sound
25	engineer, correct?

1	A Yes.
2	Q And the range of dates that these
3	bills were paid, right, for your upgrades are, I
4	think it starts on June 9 of 2021, correct?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q June 30, 2021.
7	A Yes.
8	Q July 29, 2021.
9	A Yes.
10	Q And August 30 of 2021, correct?
11	A Yes.
12	Q And despite these upgrades, there were
13	still noise complaints after August 30, 2021,
14	correct?
15	A Not to me directly, on the group
16	chain. But as you've mentioned, I do not have
17	access to ABRA's list of complaints. I hear from
18	them that there are complaints that are going on,
19	but you guys have pointed out that there was 45
20	complaints.
21	Q Right. And in are you aware that
22	in September of 2021, after these upgrades, there
23	were complaints made to ABRA about loud music
24	coming from El Techo?
25	A These the sound system was not

1	completed until October of 2021. The invoices I
2	do not pay in full until the product is
3	delivered. I would never do that. The
4	installation took time, and that was October.
5	And as Louie stated, my the sound system that
6	Ivan installed was for high fidelity. The
7	promoters brought in their own sound systems.
8	Q And you're aware that after October
9	21, there were noise complaints about El Techo
10	coming from the community, correct?
11	A I'm sorry, what date?
12	Q After October of 2021, you're aware
13	that there have continued to be complaints about
14	loud music
15	A Yes, actually Sidon made me who's,
16	I don't know if she's still on the call, she made
17	me aware of those a few, a couple months. I paid
18	the violation notices of course, so I did see
19	them. And the ones that I had to was
20	referring to was November and December 7 I think
21	the last one was.
22	Q Okay, and those were substantiated
23	noise complaints, correct, on November 13 and
24	December 2 of 2021, correct?
25	A The truth is, Mr. Badawy, I'm not sure

how the Offer in Compromise works, so I can't 1 attest to that. I just know that I was told to 2 send a check, and I do. 3 All right. Now, Mr. Hatem, you said 0 4 that Ivan Burkitt is one of the sound engineers 5 that you employed, correct? 6 Yes, sir. 7 Α Okay. And I think you referenced 8 9 another one before that, or maybe after that, Washington Sound Systems? 10 Washington Music Center is Chuck 11 12 Levin's, it's based on Silver Spring. 13 not a sound engineer, they provide the equipment for almost every establishment in the city except 14 15 for Protec, which is another company. So yeah, I mean, mostly everyone knows Washington Music 16 17 Center. Okay, and now of course you have 18 contracted with Miller Beam Acoustic Consulting 19 Services, correct? 20 21 Α Yes. And in October of 2021, did you have 22 23 Ivan Burkitt or the Washington Sound System go into the homes of the abutting property owners? 24 I think it was before October or 25 Α

September. I don't -- I would have to go through my text messages and whatnot to find the exact date. Yes, it was before the new sound system was installed and we ran a pink noise test.

A pink noise is the gold standard, court-approved that will rate how much noise waves are coming through the wall or through the buildings.

Q Okay.

A Any sound, I mean, I'm not going to attest to that, but it was minimal, it was minimal waves. And we had a tenant present with us the entire time and brought her in to Rito Loco so she could hear how loud we were running the test at. And she was like, oh my God, it's so loud in here but I can't hear this in my space.

Q But you testified that she -- you couldn't hear -- you could in fact hear music in her residence coming from El Techo at that time, correct?

A No, the pink noise is not music, it is actually a buzzing sound. It's like white noise like when your is, you know, making, you know, popcorn static.

Q Which could be heard in her residence,

1	correct?
2	A No, only by the by the laptop he
3	was using to record it. It was a very low
4	amount. I couldn't hear it with my with my
5	own ear, I could not hear it. Sorry, if that's
6	what you're asking.
7	Q And the resident allowed you to come
8	in with the sound expert for you to do this test,
9	correct?
10	A I'm sorry?
11	Q And the resident allowed
12	A Yes
13	Q To come in to her?
14	A She is, and I don't believe she's a
15	protester here.
16	Q And there was there was no base
17	test at that time, correct?
18	A No, that was the base test, because
19	that was before the new sound system.
20	Q Okay.
21	A So now with the new sound system,
22	anyone can run a followup test to see how it's
23	changed.
24	Q And again, you've testified that there
25	all of these upgrades have been completed.

And yet there are still complaints of loud music 1 coming from the neighbors about -- excuse me, let 2 3 me rephrase that. Despite these upgrades that you've 4 made, you remain aware that there are noise 5 complaints from community members claiming that 6 El Techo's music can be heard inside their homes, 7 8 correct? I've been made aware that there are 9 Α noise complaints, yes, sir. 10 And I'll ask you this, Mr. Hatem --11 12 Α Hello? 13 Do you believe these complaints, when you hear that the neighbors are saying loud music 14 15 is coming into our homes from El Techo, do you believe those complaints? 16 17 You want my opinion, or? Α Yeah, I'm asking you what you believe. 18 0 19 Α Okay, so as someone who knows about sound, I believe that sound can carry in any way, 20 shape, or form, based on your windows, the 21 22 thickness of it, based on the street noise. 23 I actually choose to live in Rosslyn because of the street noise in DC. But I can 24 25 still hear the planes going over, I can hear the

street signs, I can hear my neighbors, I can hear a lot of things. So yes, sound does carry.

So but by the time -- the time and dates of the complaints, do I believe that Rito Loco El Techo's sound system is large enough to produce the complaints when there's so many establishments, like the Howard Theater and Flash and these other places that have much bigger sound systems that carry for blocks and blocks?

Because I've dealt with Adams Morgan,
I've dealt with Dupont Circle. Those sound
systems will carry almost all the way to Foggy
Bottom, you know. So it is, yes, sound carries.
But Rito Loco El Techo's sound system is very
tiny, it's very small. Unless you blast it at
full capacity, which we do not.

That's another thing we did is we dampened the sound and put governors on it. And a governors limit's the ability to turn the sound past a certain point so that when any DJ comes in with their own ideas and gets drunk or whatever it is that they do, they cannot pass a certain threshold. That's what a limiter and a governors is.

So no, I do not believe, especially to

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the north side, that Rito Loco and El Techo is capable of making that kind of sound to, as you've stated in previous meetings, to wake your child when your back plaza area behind your house is butted up against Flash and the -- the other nightclub open deck there.

Those I can -- I definitely imagine are carrying into your space. So where it's coming from, I don't know. But am I willing to resolve it? Absolutely. Are we going to go the extra mile? Sure, I will go the extra mile just to prove that it is not us, you know.

You know, I -- we talked about before there was a recent complaint out on Quattro.

Quattro is a small restaurant with a, you know, with a minor patio speakers. I mean, am I to believe that that's carrying into your space as well? I don't know. But I will take whatever tests necessary and the decibel readers and ABRA coming.

You know what, run Mr. Badawy -- the ABRA coming out almost every weekend, as they say, is doing the testing for us. They are providing the proof. So you asked about complaints. Do I believe that the residents have

gotten organized and are filing more complaints 1 on a regular basis? Absolutely. 2 3 Because you all know the more complaints you file, the more likelihood we will 4 5 get our license revoked. So it is a strategy. And the ABRA agents come and consistently say we 6 7 are not a problem. So, but even with that, I will take it 8 9 the next step. I will pay Martin Beam whatever he wants to put sound proofing wherever he can 10 find and solve this issue in its entirety. 11 12 MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Hatem, I 13 have no further questions. Thank you, sir. 14 MR. HATEM: 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by the Board members? Mr. Short. 16 17 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Hatem, how are you, sir? 18 MR. HATEM: Hello, Mr. Short, I wanted 19 to talk to you. 20 Oh, I could tell, and 21 MEMBER SHORT: 2.2 I'm glad you do. But I need to ask this question 23 because there was a time on this board when someone came to testify before this board, 24 25 especially with the names you've thrown at us,

Mr. Ivan Burkitt?

2.2

MR. HATEM: Ivan Burkitt? Yeah.

MEMBER SHORT: Yeah. Do you have any idea, because he's not here to defend him, but what school did he go to or what -- where did he get his papers from making him a certified person dealing with sound?

MR. HATEM: I would have to get you his CV, but he actually is a sound engineer with the White House at times. He does a lot of churches in the area as well as stadiums. So he would have to just give you his CV.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay, I would say this, so then your testimony for him, I can't take it as though you were giving us or producing some type of certificate or something saying that the person that you hired, are bonafide, certified sound engineers.

MR. HATEM: Yes, sir, I don't expect to certify Mr. Burkitt. I do expect to certify Martin Beam.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, the next time you come, maybe -- I don't know, this would be up to our Chairman. But there was a time when anybody came before this board with the kind of testimony

you gave, they would have to bring some credentials to actually get credit for what they are saying to us.

Because I could be a sound engineer if I were talking to the right people, I guess. But any rate --

MR. HATEM: I agree, I understand.

MEMBER SHORT: And there was -- there was a question you wanted to ask me. If I could ask a question of you ask what question did you have for me?

MR. HATEM: I've been working in this city and I was born in this city, and I've been trying to get compactors for a long time. First of all, I love compactors. It provides, you know, multiple establishments to compact their trash and only get picked up once. And believe me, I hate rats. I've physically fought rats in this city from every neighborhood myself.

Now, there is no space in the alley in question next to Rito Loco El Techo for even a dumpster, unfortunately. I would -- that's why Louie and Mr. Kline were trying to say we'll take any recommendation as where you can put the dumpster or compactor.

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I'm even trying to get a compactor approved in another location and the World Bank was kind enough and next to their building to give us, you know, approval. But the Golden Triangle is now helping us trying to get it approved.

So easier said than done. It would -- I would make everyone happy. But in this scenario all we have are bins, nothing else.

MEMBER SHORT: I understand. If I could just say this to you. I do know, like yourself I've been in this city for 70-some years. And I once lived in LeDroit Park.

But I'll just simply say this to you:

I do know that we've had other businesses come

before this board and through a little

persistence and talking to the Environmental

Office at the Mayor's Office they were able to

get trash compactors.

MR. HATEM: Right.

MEMBER SHORT: And some places that have less space than you have. One being around 18th and Vernon Street. There's a trash compactor in there that kind of solved a lot of their problems. So it's not -- it's not that

2.2

we're trying to be burdensome. 1 But because of peace, order, and quiet 2 3 we want, when people come before this board, citizens complaining, we want to come with 4 answers and just not a lot of fluff and talk --5 MR. HATEM: Right, exactly. 6 7 MEMBER SHORT: And --(Simultaneous speaking.) 8 MEMBER SHORT: So the bottom line is 9 can I get you or someone from your establishment 10 11 to just go to the environmental persons at the 12 Mayor's Office and ask about getting a contractor 13 or a --I will definitely do it 14 MR. HATEM: 15 for multiple locations. I just don't -- if someone can tell me, I don't know the ANC rep, 16 17 where we can put it, where's feasible. And then 18 I will propose it. Now, as --(Simultaneous speaking.) 19 MEMBER SHORT: That's what the 20 21 environmental people would do for you, they work 22 with DPW and all. So it's a city effort when we want to solve these types of problems. 23 And I can almost quarantee you from 24

what I know about the city and the way it

functions, if you were to go to ask someone in the Mayor's line with the environmental folks, you would be able to probably get some great ideas about what do dealing with compactors.

MR. HATEM: I mean, I'll get with the landlord, because as 600 T Steve Lawrence, because as you know, he owns the whole block and needs space. The only reason why we were allowed to have trash was because he put us in the back.

The only other option is to put it on the street on Florida Avenue, like the residents of 1B01 do. They leave their cans in front of the buildings. And I don't believe in that. In New York City, they throw the bags every night on the street, you know.

But out of the ten cans that we have, only about five of them are ours, two for Steve Lawrence and maybe three or so for Quattro. We just got stuck with the bill. Rito Loco El Techo has been paying it for two years for everybody.

Now one --

MEMBER SHORT: Okay, now that's enough with the trash. Thank you very much. But now you've admitted yourself with your testimony since you've done some of the sound mitigation,

there still have been complaints. What do you think that's coming from?

MR. HATEM: What I think it's coming from is, again, my opinion, I'm not trying to project and put anything in anyone's mouth. I think it's a lot of frustration. I mean, me growing up in this city, I know the amount of complaints for 30 years Adams Morgan had and tried to shut down all of their establishments, right.

I think being next to the arts and entertainment district, they have nobody else to complain against except us. And they can't say anything about Howard, they can't say anything about Flash, they can't say anything that's going on from 7th and U or 9th and U -- 7th and U over. And all that traffic comes from New York Avenue through Florida Avenue.

Sometimes the cars, the ATVs and their sound systems and larger. We had the Mayor's Office and eight ambulances pass, and we could not hear -- I was yelling, we were yelling at each other because we couldn't hear each other talk.

So ambient noise is absolutely a

2.2

1	problem. I think the, LeDroit Park has a lot of
2	history. Some of the buildings are not up to the
3	most modern specifications of windows of
4	three-paned glass, four-paned glass. And then
5	it's, unfortunately in the city's it's required.
6	You know, you need that level of thickness in a
7	window and a door.
8	So there's a lot of things that are
9	playing into this, and I'm not here to pass the
10	blame. I can only do my part, but other people
11	have to do their part as well.
12	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Hatem, I thank you
13	very much for your testimony.
14	Mr. Chair, that's all I have for this
15	witness. Thank you very much, Mr. Hatem.
16	MR. HATEM: Thank you, Board Member
17	Short, thank you.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
19	questions by any other Board member? Mr. Badawy,
20	any question, any redirect based on the questions
21	that were asked by the Board?
22	MR. BADAWY: No redirect, Mr. Chair,
23	thank you.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Kline, any
25	redirect?

1	MR. HATEM: Thank you all for hearing
2	my testimony.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir,
4	have a great day.
5	MR. HATEM: You too.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
7	MR. KLINE: Call to the stand Martin
8	Beam.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
10	Beam.
11	MR. BEAM: Hello, Martin Beam here.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a
13	camera, sir?
14	MR. BEAM: Yeah, let me turn that on.
15	There we go. Oh, sorry about the lights.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't see
17	you, I can't see you, Mr. Beam.
18	MR. BEAM: It says preview only. Am
19	I coming through yet?
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Nope.
21	MR. BEAM: It's saying it's on I
22	can only do a preview. It's giving me the red
23	slash on the camera, even though I can see
24	myself, unfortunately but.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, we can't

1	see you.
2	All right, I need you to raise your
3	right hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the
4	truth and nothing but the truth?
5	MR. BEAM: Yes, I do.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
7	Kline, you are are you presenting Mr. Beam as
8	an expert?
9	MR. KLINE: Yeah, I'm getting ready to
10	qualify him.
11	MEMBER SHORT: Chair?
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're hold
13	on. Hold on sorry, hold on.
14	Mr. Badawy, do you have a problem with
15	Mr. Beam being an expert, or do you need further
16	information regarding his qualification?
17	MR. BADAWY: I'll just wait for
18	we'll the Protestants will accept Mr. Beam as
19	an expert.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
21	thank you. All right, Mr okay, Mr., it's
22	your witness, Mr. Kline. And please have Mr.
23	Beam spell his name for the record, please.
24	MR. KLINE: All right.
25	MR. BEAM: Martin Beam, that's

1	M-A-R-T-I-N B-E-A-M, as in Martin.
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION
3	BY MR. KLINE:
4	Q And you are an acoustical engineer, is
5	that correct?
6	A I'm an acoustical consultant. You
7	can't really call yourself an engineer unless
8	you're a professional engineer.
9	Q Okay. But you do have an engineering
10	degree, correct?
11	A Yes, I do. I'm a I have a degree
12	in mechanical engineering.
13	Q All right. And how long have you been
14	working with respect to noise issues?
15	A Thirty-three years.
16	Q And have you testified as an expert
17	concerning noise issues in the past?
18	A Numerous times.
19	Q Any idea how many?
20	A Dozens. In front of this board, a
21	lot. You know, at least a couple dozen, I would
22	think.
23	Q All right. And you've testified both
24	on behalf of applicants and on behalf of
25	Protestants, is that correct?

1	A That's correct.
2	Q And you you've been engaged to
3	assist with noise issues at Rito Loco El Techo?
4	A That's correct.
5	Q And what's the scope of your
6	engagement, what is it you're going to do?
7	A Well, he's rebuilding the rooftop
8	deck, and so he wants to make sure he's doing it
9	to maximize the sound control. And so we're
10	going to help him with that.
11	Q Have you been out to the site?
12	A Yes I have.
13	Q And what do you find in terms of
14	issues related to noise, if any, at this
15	establishment?
16	A Well, in terms of noise I don't know,
17	you know, I wasn't able to get into the adjacent,
18	so I wasn't able to do a, you know, an objective
19	measurement. But there's certainly room for
20	improvement, and he's indicated that they're on
21	board with making it much tighter.
22	Q Okay. And do you believe that there
23	are recommendations that you can make that will
24	be effective in mitigating the noise?
25	A Definitely.

Okay, any idea what those might be? 1 0 Well, the partition adjacent to the 2 Α adjacent building is full -- it's not very solid, 3 it's got a lot of holes. And there's a walkway 4 5 behind it, and there's just a lot of ways for 6 sound to escape that area. Just wanted to clarify that we only do 7 the consulting, we don't sell or install 8 9 anything. So when there was talk about, you know, I would have helped them install it, I 10 don't do any of that stuff. 11 12 And why is that? Because I think it clouds our 13 Α judgment. We're strictly consultants working to 14 15 make sure the best, most cost-effective solutions 16 are engaged, not what makes us the most money for 17 installing. And were you here for Mr. 18 Okay. Hatem's testimony when he describes the changes 19 that they've made to the sound system? 20 Yes, I was here. 21 Α 22 Do you have any opinion as to whether 23 that had any effectiveness in terms of mitigating noise from the establishment? 24

It should have. I didn't know the

Α

previous, I don't know what was there previously. But the concept of putting smaller speakers closer to the people is that way you don't have to turn it up as much is always better than having two large speakers that you're trying to like build the whole space with.

Q So is it kind of like, this is the example I like, is it kind of like in the diner where they have a juke box and you've got the little speaker at your table when you can put in money and only hear it at your -- at your table?

A That's a good way to put it.

Q So smaller speakers rather than -many smaller speaker rather than a smaller number
of large speakers, is that what we're talking
about?

A Yeah, that keeps it closer to the people so you don't have to turn it up as much. And it doesn't -- because otherwise if you're like trying to serve people in the back of the space with two speakers, you end up turning it up to reach them, and now you're really blasting everybody.

Q Now, what about -- what about base?

That's a constant complaint in these cases, and I

know you've dealt with before. What is done to mitigate the issues with respect to base?

A Well, first it's not putting too many base speakers in because they're really not necessary. One or two, you know, quality base speakers can fill a space like that without a problem.

But you know, some of the sound system guys, you know, they're all about the base. They love the base and they want it to like, they want it to crush you in the chest. And you know, we're not of that opinion.

So that's step one, is just don't overdo the amount and the size of the speakers, as Mr. Hatem was saying. Like they're not putting in these humongous, you know, person-sized base speakers, which you would in a nightclub. So that's step one.

Step two is then properly isolate those base speakers. A lot of times they're just like people don't know, they push them up against the wall or they're sitting on the floor. And that drives -- that low frequency will actually drive the structure and then that whole structure becomes sort of a speaker, as it's all

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resonating.

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So we'll isolate, we'll have the speakers isolated so that they're not physically driving the structure through vibration.

Q So speaker placement is also very important, is that what we're hearing?

A Yup, sure, you definitely don't want them like right up against the wall where you've having the complaints called for. You'd rather have them farther from that. Even if it's facing that wall, it's better to have it further away and facing.

Another thing Mr. Hatem said which was correct is that the base spreads out in all directions, it's not really a directional thing. So that they can go almost anywhere and still fill the space.

Q I'm going to ask you a similar question I asked you before. Approximately how many establishments have you worked with in the District of Columbia concerning noise issues?

A Hundreds, me and my company. I mean we, you know, we've got ten engineers, ten consultants. And we -- this is a small but steady source of jobs. I mean, it's not -- it's

1	probably less than five percent of our business,
2	but they're pretty regular.
3	Q If the owner of the establishment
4	follows your recommendations, or when the owner
5	of the establishment follows your
6	recommendations, have you ever failed?
7	A We've never been called back as to
8	have an issue, we never missed a noise code.
9	Q And has this operator committed to you
10	that they're going to follow your
11	recommendations?
12	A Yes, he has.
13	MR. KLINE: Great. I have no further
14	questions of this witness. Thank you.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy.
16	CROSS-EXAMINATION
17	MR. BADAWY: Just one question, Mr.
18	Chair.
19	Good evening, Mr. Beam
20	MR. BEAM: Good evening.
21	BY MR. BADAWY:
22	Q Mr. Beam, you do not have any
23	influence or control over whether your client
24	will fully implement your recommendations that
25	you ultimately come up with, correct?

That's correct. I don't have that on Α 1 any of the jobs I do. I'm a consultant and I 2 3 tell the owners of big, you know, the big developments what to do, and if they -- it's 4 5 their money, they can choose what to do. MR. BADAWY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. 6 7 No further questions. Beam. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions 8 9 by any Board members? Good ahead, Mr. Short. Mr. Short. Have you turned your -- have you 10 11 unmuted your line, sir? I can hear you, Mr. 12 Short. MEMBER SHORT: 13 Thank you. Mr. Beam. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. 14 15 Short, we can hear you. Okay, I was asking Mr. 16 MEMBER SHORT: 17 Beam, Mr. Beam, are you familiar with the rooftop 18 sound? Yes, I am. We do -- we've 19 MR. BEAM: done a lot of rooftop establishments ever since 20 21 DC changed their smoking law. Everybody had to 2.2 have a rooftop lounge after that, and we did a 23 lot of those. Are you familiar with 24 MEMBER SHORT: 25 the rooftops that they had problems with on

Connecticut Avenue? 1 MR. BEAM: Which -- I'd have to -- I'm 2 3 not sure which ones you're referring to. MEMBER SHORT: Well, let's say this, 4 when you're on a rooftop, to really properly 5 control noise, you need to have a closed roof, is 6 that correct? Is it better to have a closed 7 roof? 8 It's better, but it's not 9 MR. BEAM: always necessary. We did one right in the area 10 11 It's a gym and they had a rooftop pool 12 and everything and they had speakers up there. 13 It was like a party -- party kind of room. It's a big gym in the city, I can't 14 15 draw it off the top of my head. But they did not have any rooftop, but we were able to solve it 16 17 with -- with the proper barrier walls. MEMBER SHORT: So you had four barrier 18 walls on all four sides of the roof, is that what 19 you're saying? 20 21 MR. BEAM: Yes. 22 MEMBER SHORT: So if you have a 23 barrier wall that is not completely all the way up or you have holes in it, then it's not doing 24 25 its job, correct?

MR. BEAM: Well, no, it really depends 1 on where you're going. Where the sound is. 2 this case, you'd almost, the sound -- adjacent 3 neighboring building that's generating most of 4 the complaints, you certainly want a full wall 5 there without -- without holes in it. 6 But the other walls wouldn't matter as 7 much because any sound that goes out those walls 8 9 isn't coming back. It actually -- it actually acts like it's fully absorbed. So like an 10

MEMBER SHORT: Okay, well, I guess we're talking about Loco El Techo, correct?

outdoor stadium the sound goes out and never

returns. Whereas an indoor club it bounces

MR. BEAM: Yes.

around and actually builds up.

MEMBER SHORT: And so currently, what is the -- what is the sound control you have for the rooftop of this particular business?

MR. BEAM: Well, they have a wall between them and the neighbor. As I said, it wasn't constructed very well, as Mr. Hankins testified to, that they, you know, they did it themselves.

They did the best they could with the

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And they did it in good faith. 2 they had. 3 it, you know, it certainly wasn't as good as it could have been. 4 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Beam, this is not 5 as good as it could have been. Are they going to 6 7 continue having noise problems until they get it done the way you've recommended? 8 In your 9 opinion. It sounds to me like MR. BEAM: 10 there's -- I mean, if they haven't been cited, I 11 12 mean they certainly, as other people have said, 13 complaints are complaints. People like to complain, but I mean, that's something we can --14 15 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Beam, apparently you haven't -- apparently you have not been 16 17 keeping up with this hearing. There have been 45 complaints against this business rooftop. 18 19 what I'm saying to you, they've done some work up there and you've seen the work that they've done, 20 21 correct? 22 MR. BEAM: I mean, I saw it in its 23 current state. MEMBER SHORT: 24 In its current state, 25 would you say it is soundproof?

knowledge they had and the construction abilities

1	MR. BEAM: No.
2	MEMBER SHORT: Is it sound mitigating?
3	MR. BEAM: Compared to where they were
4	in the past, from what I understand, yes, they
5	have certainly made progress, it sounds like.
6	MEMBER SHORT: Is it sound mitigating
7	or isn't it?
8	MR. BEAM: I mean, that's a if they
9	reduced the sound by one decibel, that's sound
10	mitigating. So I'm saying where it was where
11	it sounds like where it came from before, which
12	was large speakers, they put in small speakers.
13	It sounds to me not having
14	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you Mr thank
15	you, Mr. Beam. You've answered the question that
16	I asked. Thank you very much.
17	Mr. Chair, that's all I have with this
18	witness. Thank you.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
20	questions by any other Board members?
21	Mr. Beam, just I'm sorry, do you
22	have a question, Mr. Grandis?
23	Mr. Beam, what's the scope of
24	what's the scope of the work that you have with
25	this establishment?

MR. BEAM: It's to help them work with 1 the architect that they've hired to design 2 3 properly sound attenuating walls and structures. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And have you 4 started the work as yet? 5 MR. BEAM: I've looked at the -- I 6 7 went out there and made a site survey. I've got some things working up. There's been a bit of 8 miscommunication between us and the architect, 9 but now we're on the same page and we're starting 10 11 to make progress. 12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long do you 13 believe that this process will take? For the design? 14 MR. BEAM: 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. MR. BEAM: It should be over in a 16 17 month. I can't imagine it taking more than a month, but permitting and who knows how long. 18 things get changed during permitting. I mean, my 19 stuff I could do, you know, work with the 20 21 architect very quickly. But in terms of how it 2.2 gets implemented through permitting and all that, 23 who knows. 24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank 25 you, Mr. Beam.

1	All right, Mr. Badawy, any questions?
2	MR. BADAWY: Just one brief question.
3	Mr. Beam, you said it takes a month to make the
4	design. How long would it be to build the
5	design, is there any way to say that?
6	MR. BEAM: There's no way for me to
7	say. I mean, that's dependent on other people
8	that I have no control over.
9	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, sir.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
11	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
12	MR. KLINE: Mr. Short was asking you
13	about what's been done to date. In your, based
14	on your knowledge of the situation, do you
15	believe you would have been hired if the
16	establishment were satisfied with the current
17	level of noise attenuation?
18	MR. BEAM: I think it's clear they
19	if they were if it was going well, they
20	wouldn't have I never would have gotten a
21	call.
22	MR. KLINE: Thank you. That's all I
23	have.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
25	Beam. Thank you for your testimony, have a great

1	day.
2	MR. BEAM: Thank you, everybody. Bye
3	bye.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have had
5	four witnesses so far, Mr. Kline. Do you have
6	one more witness?
7	MR. KLINE: With that, we rest. I'm
8	going to spare the Board additional neighborhood
9	witnesses and let's get to the Protestants' case.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
11	Thank you. It is 7:23, we're going to take a
12	ten-minute break. So at 7:33, Mr. Badawy, you
13	can call your first witness. So you can basically
14	have your witnesses available by letting them
15	know that we're going to that you're going to
16	start.
17	So all right, so we're off the record
18	until 7:33. Thank you.
19	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20	wen off the record at 7:23 p.m. and resumed at
21	7:35 p.m.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on
23	the record.
24	Mr. Badawy, do you have a witness you
25	wish to call?

1	MR. BADAWY: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
2	Protestants call Craig Kujawa.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kujawa, can
4	you raise your right hand, please. Do you swear
5	or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
6	truth?
7	Your witness, sir.
8	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9	Good evening, Mr. Kujawa.
10	THE WITNESS: Good evening, Mr.
11	Badawy.
12	DIRECT EXAMINATION
13	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, where do you
14	live?
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Mr.
16	Badawy, can you ask him to spell his name for the
17	record, please.
18	MR. BADAWY: Apologize. Mr. Kujawa,
19	if you could spell your first and your full name
20	for the record.
21	THE WITNESS: Yes. My name is Craig
22	Kujawa, and that is spelled C-R-A-I-G
23	K-U-J-A-W-A.
24	BY MR. BADAWY:
25	Q And again, Mr. Kujawa, where do you

1	live right now?
2	A I live at 1838 6th Street, NW, in the
3	Matinee Condominium.
4	Q And which particular unit do you live
5	in?
6	A It's Unit B. There are only four
7	units in the building.
8	Q And how long have you lived in that
9	unit for?
10	A I've lived here since the building was
11	constructed in August, July or August of 2005.
12	But since I'm under oath, I did move out and rent
13	the unit to tenants for about 15 months from
14	January 2020 to May 2021 while I was deployed to
15	the Horn of Africa.
16	Q Are you familiar with an establishment
17	known as El Techo?
18	A Yes, very much so.
19	Q And can you tell the members of the
20	Board where your home is in relation to El Techo?
21	A From the street, it's around the
22	corner. Because the Matinee, the front of the
23	Matinee Building is on 6th St., and Rito Loco El
24	Techo is around the corner on Florida Avenue.
25	But physically the roof deck is literally on the

other side of the wall you see behind me. 1 Okay, Mr. Kujawa I'm going to show you 2 some exhibits now. I'm showing you what's been 3 previously marked as Protestant's Exhibit A. Do 4 5 you recognize this exhibit? Yes. 6 7 And can you tell us what we're looking 0 at here? 8 This is an aerial view looking south 9 Α across Florida Avenue from a period of time 10 before the roof deck El Techo was constructed 11 12 atop the single story Rito Loco establishment. The area highlighted in gray is the 13 general area of where the roof deck was 14 15 constructed, and the area highlighted in orange 16 behind that, to the south, which is my building, is a representation of where my particular unit 17 is in the building. 18 Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to show you 19 what's marked as Protestants' Exhibit B. 20 tell us what we're looking at here? 21 This is also a south-facing view 2.2 23 across Florida Avenue from street level showing the original Rito Loco first floor establishment 24 in the red brick. You can see how the 25

second-level roof deck extends across onto the --1 atop the first floor section of 1840 6th St. 2 3 Behind you can see the salmon-colored building is the Matinee Condominium, which is 4 5 where I live. And then on the right side of the image is 600 T St., where the previous witness. 6 7 Mr. Lawrence, resides. And Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to show you 8 0 what's marked as Protestants' Exhibit C. Can you 9 tell us what we're looking at here? 10 Yes, this is a eastward-looking view 11 12 along the property line from the north-south 13 alley that you have all been discussing with the trash. On the left you can see the plywood and 14 15 tri - whatever polycarbonate panels that enclose the roof deck, the abutting wall. 16 17 And then on the right side the image is, again, the Matinee Condominium at 1838 6th 18 And the highlighted portion is my unit, and 19 St. the upper left window there is where I'm sitting 20 21 right now. 2.2 MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chair, the 23 Protestants would move Exhibits A, B, and C in for evidence. 24

(Whereupon, the above-referred to

documents were marked as Exhibits A-C for 1 identification.) 2 MR. KLINE: No objection. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without 4 5 objection. (Whereupon, the above-referred to 6 documents were received into evidence as Exhibits 7 A-C.8 9 MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, do you know whether or not your home is located in a 10 residential zone? 11 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is in a residential zone. 13 It's RF 1. BY MR. BADAWY: 14 15 Mr. Kujaw, I'm showing you what's 16 marked as Protestants' Exhibit D. Do you 17 recognize or do you -- can you tell us what we're looking at here? 18 Yes, and in the -- similar to the 19 Α investigator's report, it's from the same 20 This is the zoning map for the area. 21 website. 2.2 The small green rectangle near the center bottom 23 of the image is the lot of Rito Loco, although the rooftop El Techo extends greater than the 24 25 small rectangle shown.

1	The mixed-use zone is the orange. The
2	arts zone is in the green. The large square to
3	the to the left across the alley is the Shaw
4	Condominium, which is about a seven-story tall
5	building.
6	And then the image simply shows the
7	abutment to the RF Zone 1 to the south., the
8	distance to the RF Zone 1 across Florida Avenue,
9	and the row homes, including mine, directly to
10	the south of the establishment.
11	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Kujawa.
12	Mr. Chair, Protestants would move Exhibit D into
13	evidence.
14	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
15	document was marked as Exhibit D for
16	identification.)
17	MR. KLINE: No objection.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
19	objection.
20	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
21	document was received into evidence as Exhibit
22	D.)
23	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, how much of
24	the licensee's establishment actually abuts your
25	building or your unit, if you know?

THE WITNESS: The lot that they're on, the old barbershop, is only 18 feet across. But at the level of the roof deck, it extends pretty much the entire length of my unit, which is about 27 feet.

## BY MR. BADAWY:

Q Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's marked as Exhibit E, Protestant Exhibit E. Can you tell us what we're looking at here?

A This is a map view of the neighborhood with a 400-foot radius around the Rito Loco lot denoted in the red dotted line. As one of the Board members mentioned, the length of Florida Avenue within a, you know, 400-foot radius is almost exclusively residential. It's residential north of Florida Avenue on the 1900 block of 6th Street.

The 500 block of Florida Avenue is all residential, the 500 block of T Street is all residential, and the 1800 block of 6th Street to the south is all residential as well, with the exception of Quattro Osteria on the corner and Shaw's Tavern across the street on the southeast corner of 6th and Florida.

Q And Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's

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1	marked as Protestants' Exhibit F. What are we
2	looking at here?
3	A This is a closer 200-foot radius view
4	of the same area showing a quantifiable number of
5	residences within that radius.
6	Q Mr. Kujawa, you've described the, I
7	think the nature of the neighborhood that you
8	live in. Do you know how many private residences
9	exist within a 200-foot radius of El Techo?
10	A Yes, unfortunately I do, because I've
11	used this map and I've added them all up and
12	listed them. There are about 100 actually, if
13	you count them up, just within 200 feet.
14	Q And I'm showing you what's been marked
15	as Protestants' Exhibit G. Can you tell us what
16	we're looking at here?
17	A This is the list of all the private
18	residences numbered 1-100 within the 200-foot
19	radius shown on the prior exhibit.
20	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairperson, the
21	Protestant would move in Exhibits E, F, and G
22	into evidence.
23	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
24	documents were marked as Exhibits E-G for
25	identification.)

1	MR. KLINE: I don't have any objection
2	to E and F. G, it seems like a compilation
3	that's not an independent document. It was
4	something created for litigation, so I don't deem
5	that to be evidence and would object to its
6	admission.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is what
8	is G, Mr. Badawy?
9	MR. BADAWY: Mr G, as Mr. Kujawa
10	explained, is a list of 200 excuse me, a list
11	of 100 residences that are within a 200-foot
12	radius of El Techo. And if you allowed me to, I
13	could ask Mr. Kujawa how he prepared this
14	exhibit.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, you can,
16	let's further explore.
16 17	let's further explore.  MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell
17	
	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell
17 18	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell us well, Mr. Kujawa, did you create this
17 18 19	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell us well, Mr. Kujawa, did you create this exhibit?
17 18 19 20	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell us well, Mr. Kujawa, did you create this exhibit? THE WITNESS: I did.
17 18 19 20 21	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell us well, Mr. Kujawa, did you create this exhibit?  THE WITNESS: I did. BY MR. BADAWY:
17 18 19 20 21 22	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Kujawa, can you tell us well, Mr. Kujawa, did you create this exhibit?  THE WITNESS: I did.  BY MR. BADAWY:  Q And can you tell me how you created

radius, I simply went to every door within this map. Printed it out, went to every location reflected within the red circle and identified whether it was a private residence and added it to the list. And then I tabulated them all.

MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Kujawa.

Mr. Chair, again, the witness, yes,

Mr. Chair, again, the witness, yes, this was created for purposes of litigation, but the witness has stated how it was created and that he has personal knowledge that all of these places listed on Exhibit G are residences within a 200-foot radius. Because he went out and he walked it and checked them himself.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?

MR. KLINE: It still was created for the purposes of litigation. We're here to hear his testimony, not what he compiled in the privacy of his own living room.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to -I'm going to allow the document in Exhibit G. So
we'll -- so Exhibit E and F are -- excuse me, are
included without objection. And G is included
over the objection of Counsel.

(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Exhibits

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1	E-G.)
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, let's
3	move on.
4	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5	Mr. Kujawa, in the past three years,
6	have you been able to hear music from El Techo
7	inside your residence?
8	THE WITNESS: Yes, with the exception
9	of the months I was in Africa and I had tenants,
10	both before the pandemic. And since the pandemic
11	I have heard music from El Techo inside my
12	residence.
13	BY MR. BADAWY:
14	Q And can you tell me during that
15	three-year period when you've been in your home,
16	how often have you heard music coming from El
17	Techo inside your residence?
18	A You mean how many times?
19	Q Yes, how many times, if you know,
20	approximately?
21	A It's pretty regular.
22	Q And can you tell the board what that
23	music sounds like when you can hear it inside
24	your residence?
25	A It's not exclusively the base,

although the base is a big part of it. The sound is, as have been stated, sort of omni-directional. So I can hear it through walls. I can hear it as it emanates I believe through the roof of the enclosure of the roof deck.

And at least I perceive it as reflecting to the west off of the large building, the Shaw, that's been referred to on the other side of the alley in the arts district.

It's pretty intrusive most of the time. Certainly makes it very difficult to fall asleep. Sometimes I'm woken up by it as it gets louder and sort throughout the evening (audio interference). And I'm not really able to watch television either without turning it up louder than I would otherwise have it. I don't know if the sound (audio interference).

Q And specifically through your wall I think you described base and you described music.

Can you tell us what that music sounds like?

A It's house music. I would call it electronic dance music with a pretty strong base component to it. But it's obvious to me that's coming from El Techo because I actually never

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heard anything from Howard Theater and the other 1 places (audio interference) other side of the 2 wall. 3 And how is this music that you hear 0 4 5 inside your home from El Techo, how is it different from ambient street noise, sirens, 6 cars, things of that nature? 7 As mentioned that the TVs are a 8 9 problem. The sirens, you sort of get used to living within the range of the hospital. And the 10 traffic on Florida Avenue as people go into and 11 12 out of the U Street corridor from New York Avenue 13 is certainly audible. Those things are transitory, but the 14 15 music from El Techo, particularly when they have 16 DJ entertainment, it goes on for the three, four, five hours that they have -- that they feature 17 that music. It's nonstop so you can't really get 18 away from it. 19 So you talked about DJ entertainment. 20 Do you know how often El Techo had DJs at their 21 2.2 establishment? 23 Α They've had well over 100 in the last year and a half based on their, you know, 24 promotional social media advertisements. 25 So

dozens and dozens and dozens of DJs over even an 18-month period.

Q Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's marked as Exhibit, Protestants' Exhibit H. Can you tell us what we're looking at here?

A Can you make it a little bit bigger on your screen, both for me and for the Board?

Okay. These are just their own self-promotion social media either profile or postings that they've made identifying themselves and holding themselves out to the public as a, I think as Mr. Hankins said, as a house music scene for the District of Columbia.

That's their Facebook profile representing themselves as a bar. This description, which is another aspect of their Facebook profile, refers to their Miami vibes and their killer beats. On the next one is just sample imagery and text of how they have tried to attract the public.

The Good Vibes Tribe, there's an image of what I believe to be a typical night at El Techo when they have the DJ entertainment featuring their dance floor. I can't count how many people are there in the photo, but.

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That's a image of the DJ that has performed there frequently, based on their advertisements. The one you're seeing now just highlights the fact that the, if you can read the text, Expect a different techno vibe that gets progressively deeper throughout the night. I can vouch for that, it often does get deeper and louder throughout the night.

And as far as the dance floor goes, this is just examples from a year ago, where they encouraged people to try to come dance on their rooftop all weekend long. You know where the party is at this weekend, so. And that's from January 27, 2022.

Q Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit I. Can you take a look at this, please.

A Yes. Whenever they feature DJs at the establishment, at least during the period reflected in the exhibit from May 2021 to just October of this year, they would post about it either on their Instagram account or their Facebook account.

And this is simply a collection of promotional professional designed artwork

advertisements for their disc jockeys. Each row 1 of these is a different weekend, and it goes on 2 for about 12 pages featuring both the name of the 3 DJ, the date, and the El Techo logo in various 4 5 places on all of this artwork. And what is the timeframe of this, of 6 these advertisements in this exhibit, Mr. Kujawa? 7 I believe the first one is back in May 8 Α 9 of 2021, maybe perhaps a little bit earlier. And they go, you know, beyond December of last year. 10 I think like on page 10, you start getting into 11 12 And the last five pages are additional advertisements for disc jockeys since the 13 beginning of this year. 14 15 Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's now 0 marked as Protestants' Exhibit J. Can you take a 16 17 look at that, please. 18 Α Yes. 19 Do you recognize that? Yes, this is an alphabetical listing 20 Α of all the DJs that have been promoted and 21 featured in those 150 or so artwork 2.2 23 advertisements from their social media pages over the period in question, May of 2021 to October 24 25 2022, reflecting the name of the DJ, the dates on

1 which they performed. Some of them performed seven, eight, nine times, others were single, 2 3 single appearances. And then just for context, the link to 4 5 the different styles of music that all these DJs 6 These are their own SoundCloud pages where they upload examples of the music that they play 7 or that they have created. 8 9 0 And just to be clear, did you create this exhibit, Mr. Kujawa? 10 I did. It is a compilation, but it is 11 12 made strictly from all of the artwork images on the prior exhibit. I think there's about 133 13 different DJs on this list. 14 15 0 Finally, Mr. Kujawa, I'm showing you what's marked as Exhibit K. Can you take a look 16 at this please? 17 Α 18 Yes. 19 0 And what are we looking at here, Mr. Kujawa? 20 Well, it was such a large volume of 21 22 information that I just created this calendar 23 view to reflect all of the dates on which DJs were featured at the establishment from May 2021 24 25 all the way, I think, as I said to October 2022.

It goes on for two pages, but the 1 black squares are just dates on which DJs were 2 featured based on the advertisements from the 3 social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. 4 July 25 of course is the protest 5 petition deadline after the establishment was 6 7 placarded. And Mr. Kujawa, just to be clear, you 8 created this exhibit as well, correct? 9 I did. But strictly from the artwork Α 10 that was posted featuring the DJs on the 11 12 establishment's social media presences. 13 MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Kujawa. The Protestants would offer exhibits 14 15 H, I, J, and K into evidence. (Whereupon, the above-referred to 16 documents were marked as Exhibits H-K for 17 identification.) 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? 19 MR. KLINE: We don't have any issue 20 with H and I. J and K, same objection I had 21 2.2 earlier. These are not -- these are not 23 documents that existed, they were created for purposes of this hearing. 24 25 And we would object to them being

considered as original evidence. We have a 1 witness to testify, that's what he's here to do. 2 And we would make the same objection that we made 3 earlier, that it's inappropriate to accept this 4 5 compilation as evidence. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll admit it 6 for the record. The witness has testified that 7 it's his own, he created this document and he 8 testified about it. So I will admit the 9 document. 10 (Whereupon, the above-referred to 11 12 documents were received into evidence as Exhibits 13 H-K.) CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 14 15 MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Kujawa, I believe you testified 16 17 that based upon the music that you've heard and you know, these exhibits that we have, that you 18 19 feel as a place, El Techo is operating as a nightclub. Can you tell us more what you mean by 20 that? 21 2.2 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to object as to relevance. The hour is late. 23 But. T recall that we've had testimony about what it is, 24 25 what the activity is.

Under the law, we have different classes of licenses. One's a CN, a nightclub license. One's a CR, which this is, a restaurant license. It's just not meaningful to talk about whether this is a nightclub. It's not. It's not licensed as a nightclub. It's the only legal definition we have.

And I would, I would object to this, to this line of inquiry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?

MR. BADAWY: Yes. So, I mean, Mr. Chairperson, number one, this is, this is

relevant. Okay. The witness has testified about loud trance techno music coming from DJs and that come through his house and affects the peace, it

affects, you know, how he can live in his house,

17 number one.

2.2

Number two, the topic of whether something is a nightclub that promotes dance music, and dancing, and loud music, is in fact critical to what the Board is going to decide here.

Because the issue is, are they acting as a restaurant, or are they acting as, as a nightclub. And if they're acting as a nightclub,

well, that corroborates not only Mr. Kujawa's 1 testimony but the expected testimony from other 2 individuals in the neighborhood, that they're 3 able to hear loud DJ music coming from the 4 5 establishment late hours, you know, you know, beginning in the early evening late until night. 6 MR. KLINE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Badawy 7 clearly doesn't understand the law. In terms of 8 9 acting as a restaurant, what one must do to qualify for a restaurant, as we all know, is meet 10 the minimum food service requirements, meet the 11 12 requirements that the kitchen be open, and the 13 other requirements of being a restaurant. Those are the requirements. 14 15 With respect to other activity, the 16 law allows restaurants to have entertainment. So, it seems to me our time is better 17 spent focusing on the actual activity that's 18 thought to be objectionable, rather than fighting 19 about how to label it. 20 21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 2.2 sustain the objection. 23 I mean, Mr. Badawy, it's a restaurant. It has a CR license. And so, you can ask 24 25 questions about noise or what's going on, but it

is not a nightclub, and I don't think there's an 1 allegation that it's a nightclub. 2 3 So, you can ask the question but not -- this is not a nightclub. I think that it's 4 they have a restaurant license and I've not heard 5 there's an allegation given this is a nightclub. 6 MR. BADAWY: That's okay. 7 BY MR. BADAWY: 8 9 0 Mr. Kujawa, how often in the past three years have you been able to hear music from 10 11 El Techo loud enough so that you can hear it in 12 your home? You're on mute, Mr. Kujawa. 13 I'd say between 50 and 100. 14 Α 15 I travel a lot. And as I said, I was deployed for a certain amount of the last three years. 16 17 But when, you know, when there are just bar patrons there and diners, you know, it's 18 not audible unless they have a really, really 19 large crowd there and that crowd is loud. 20 It is audible when they have features 21 2.2 and have a DJ performing because they turn the 23 sound up and it operates as a de facto nightclub from a layman's observation in terms of the 24

volume of the music, the nature of the music, the

1	dancing.
2	Q Mr. Kujawa, have you ever contacted
3	ABRA about these complaints of loud music from
4	the establishment inside your home?
5	A I have.
6	Q Can you tell us approximately how
7	often you contact ABRA investigators about,
8	again, this music?
9	A I've certainly not contacted them
10	every time I've heard it because that sort of
11	eventually becomes, seems to be not a pointless
12	exercise but just one like one of banging your
13	head against the wall.
14	But I've probably contacted them at
15	least 15 to 20 times just within the last
16	year-and-a-half. Don't call them when I can't
17	hear it. But I do call them when I, when I'm
18	home and it is an intrusion.
19	Q And, Mr. Kujawa, have you ever
20	attempted to work with the owners of El Techo to
21	address the loud music in your home?
22	A Yes. As has already been stated, they
23	have been invited in into our home.
24	The recommendation of Ivan, I think it
25	was, was to add some sound insulating material

inside of the building, like on the inside walls 1 of our condominium. And we weren't really 2 willing to do that just because the square 3 footage is small enough to, to get walled in with 4 5 sound insulation on the inside of our home was considered a bridge too far. 6 7 Okay. Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to go now to a line of questioning about trash. 8 9 Have you observed where the establishment El Techo stores its garbage? 10 In the alley, south alley to the 11 Yes. 12 west of 600 T Street. 13 Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to show you what's been marked as Protestant's Exhibit N. 14 15 And can you tell us what we're looking at here. (Whereupon, the above-referred to 16 document was marked as Protestant's Exhibit N for 17 identification.) 18 This is a series of photographs taken 19 Δ from that alley reflecting months and months and 20 months of instances where not only that the trash 21 2.2 is there in the alley but when it is often 23 overflowing, as pictures I think from May all the way up through just last month. 24

And I provide these just to indicate

that when the trash is overflowing it's not 1 simply an issue with the vendor, it's pretty much 2 a regular occurrence, especially on Friday nights 3 and Saturday nights. 4 And, Mr. Kujawa, can you tell me how 5 wide is the alley at the point where the trash 6 bins are where the trash is stored? 7 Yeah. It's about 15 feet, 15 feet 6 8 Α 9 to 8 inches, depending on where you measure. And would you say that's about 20 10 0 percent of the width of the alley then? 11 12 If you consider the trash bin being 3 13 to 4 feet deep, then, yeah, it's about 20 to 25 percent of the width of the alley. 14 15 0 To your knowledge, Mr. Kujawa, does the establishment have any public space permit to 16 permanently store its solid waste in that alley? 17 No, they do not to the best of my 18 Α I've conducted a search of the 19 knowledge. Department of Transportation permitting database, 20 and there's nothing reflected that allows them to 21 22 do that in that area. 23 And as is mentioned, it's actually quite the opposite: they are subject to the 24 25 summary order of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

which requires them to keep the trash at the rear 1 of 600 T Street as a condition of their 2 certificate of occupancy associated with the 3 granting of relief that they required to operate 4 5 their fast food restaurant there. Okay. Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to show 6 you what's marked as Exhibit O. Do you recognize 7 this? 8 9 (Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant's Exhibit O for 10 identification.) 11 12 Α Yes. This is the aforementioned summary order from the Board of Zoning Adjustment 13 from 2014. And further down the document I 14 15 believe it shows specific conditions that they 16 were required. The Applicant shall shore --17 Yes. shall store trash cans at the rear of 600 T 18 Street with all refuse collected from the 19 north/south alley located adjacent to and to the 20 west of 600 T Street, N.W. 21 2.2 So, the rear of 600 T Street is not 23 the alley, it is the area behind Mr. Lawrence's home, the landlord. 24

And can you clarify for the Board why

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the Board of Zoning Adjustment issued this order?

A Yes. The zoning regulations in effect at the time and, in fact, today, have two particular requirements that they needed relief from, frankly, to get the certificate of occupancy to open the original Rito Loco fast food restaurant at 2000 14th.

Those conditions were, or those requirements were, one, that fast food restaurants are not permitted to be on any lot within 25 feet of a residential district, a resident zone. And Rito Loco is, as has been documented in the record, 0 feet from a resident zone.

And the other condition for fast food restaurants is that their, their refuse or dumpster must be in an enclosure that has walls on three sides, that is at least 6 feet or at least as high as the dumpster.

And so, to grant relief from those requirements of the zoning laws, the Board of Zoning Adjustment included this stipulation in their order that the trash had to be kept behind 600 T Street, which Mr. Lawrence granted permission for Rito Loco to do for the duration

2.2

of their lease. 1 Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to show you 2 what's marked as Exhibit P. 3 (Whereupon, the above-referred to 4 5 document was marked as Protestant's Exhibit P for identification.) 6 7 Can you tell us what this exhibit is, please? 8 9 Α This is correspondence from --MR. KLINE: Objection as to relevance. 10 This is the ABC Board. This is not the 11 12 Department of Buildings nor the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection. 13 This is a notice of a potential 14 15 violation. There is a time by which to file an 16 That time has not elapsed. How that appeal. appeal will be dealt with, if filed, is certainly 17 an open question. 18 And it is not for the ABC Board to 19 litigate issues of coordinate agencies of the 20 District of Columbia. And I would site Top vs. 21 The District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage 2.2 23 Control Board, and the proposition that in that case a TFO was issued. And it was deemed that 24

it's not for the ABC Board to go behind the TFO

and determine those issues. 1 There may be issues there, but they're 2 not the province of this particular board or 3 agency. 4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy? 5 MR. BADAWY: The issue of litter goes 6 7 to the appropriateness standard. And I know we've heard testimony about litter tonight from 8 9 both sides and, you know, the impact it has. This addresses that issue. 10 In fact, Mr. Hankins himself said 11 12 where am I supposed to store it? And it's clear that the City of D.C. has told him he has to 13 store it behind 600 T. And he's not doing that. 14 15 Again, the issue of litter goes to appropriate. 16 17 Also, this goes to whether or not the Applicant is willing to follow the rules and 18 regulations that he has committed to following. 19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to 20 sustain the objection. I agree with -- I mean, 21 2.2 one of the things that we cleared up that we 23 could stay in our lane, but I'm not even sure this is any longer relevant. 24 25 I thought Mr. Lawrence testified that

1	this, this space is no longer, I guess I
2	thought his testimony was that since COVID, since
3	the onset of COVID that this space is no longer
4	available for garbage to be stored.
5	So, I thought, that's what I thought
6	I heard. But at this juncture I'm not going
7	I'm going to sustain the objection.
8	I mean, you can testify about if
9	you want to testify about the trash as you have
10	done, but I think I'm going to sustain the
11	objection.
12	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Chair
13	We offer Exhibit N into evidence.
14	That's the photographs of the solid waste.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
16	MR. KLINE: I don't have any objection
17	to this coming in.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Without
19	objection.
20	(Whereupon, the above-referred to
21	document was received in evidence as Government
22	Exhibit N for identification,.)
23	BY MR. BADAWY:
24	Q Mr. Kujawa, I'm going to ask you about
25	the waste. Have you, have you noticed an

increase in the number of rodents in the area of 1 your home and El Techo since the establishment 2 began storing its waste in the alley? 3 Certainly in the last Α Yes. 4 5 year-and-a-half the visible rodent population has There have been vehicle owners who 6 increased. have been in my building whose vehicles have had, 7 you know, things chewed out of their vehicles in 8 9 the inch department. It's I see rats in the alley more 10 often in the vicinity of the trash, crawling in 11 12 and out of it, as well as down the alley right 13 here past my windows outside. There are multiple new rat burrows 14 15 that have emerged in the planters of Duke 16 Ellington Plaza, which is to the northwest exit of the end of the alley. And just last week we 17 called rodent control. There's a new rat burrow 18 in the tree box literally in front of Rito Loco's 19 front door within the last two weeks. 20 21 Mr. Kujawa, I want to go back now, just a few questions about, about the music. 2.2 23 You were present for Investigator Puente's testimony; correct? 24 25 Α Yes, I was.

I believe you heard him testify Okay. 1 0 about the investigative history of the 2 establishment; correct? 3 Α Yes. 4 Let me ask you, do you recall, I 5 believe you heard him testify that there were 17 6 charges secondary tier violations of failure to 7 follow settlement agreement. Is that correct? 8 9 Α I think it was 17 secondary tier viola -- or charges in general. But six of them were 10 for violation of the settlement agreement. 11 12 Okay. And you've heard, I think, 13 repeated testimony that there were two substantiated complaints of noise, both in 14 15 November, most from El Techo inside a residence in November and December of 2021; correct? 16 17 I did. Α And on those dates are those the only, 18 those two dates where there were substantiated 19 complaints, are those the only two days when 20 you've been able to hear El Techo's music in your 21 2.2 residence? 23 Α No, not by a long shot. Like I said, we, we call often when we hear it. Usually they 24 say when they're able they will go out to El 25

Techo. 1 But there's been a number of occasions 2 where they just don't even go to El Techo because 3 they say they don't have the staff at the time, 4 5 or it's a, it's a particularly busy night 6 elsewhere in the city. So, no, I do not believe that the two 7 substantiated violations in the record are an 8 accurate reflection of how often music can be 9 heard in people's residences, even in the last 10 year during which those 45 complaints that 11 12 Investigator Puente testified to have been 13 lodged. MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Kujawa. 14 15 have no further questions for you. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline. 16 17 MR. KLINE: Just a couple. CROSS-EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. KLINE: 19 So, is it your testimony that you 20 offered to allow representatives of the 21 22 establishment into your apartment to check the 23 noise level? 24 Α Yes.

And is it your testimony that they

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refused to do so or would not, would not do so? 1 My testimony was that we invited 2 them in and their recommendation, both to me and 3 another unit owner of the building, was to put 4 5 sound insulating materials on the inside of our walls inside our property. 6 7 Wasn't there also an agency investigator in your, in your apartment, in your 8 9 home at one point? We have had them here, yes. 10 And haven't they told you that they 11 believed the noise was coming from 600 T Street 12 and not from Rico Loco/El Techo? 13 I believe on one occasion they may 14 Α 15 have done so. But it's very clear --They may have done so? 16 0 17 It's very clear from my residence when Α the noise I can hear is coming from 600 T, 18 because 600 T doesn't have the loudspeakers. 19 Most of the sound I can hear from 600 T is from 20 the unauthorized rear summer garden with their 21 22 concrete floor, brick building, metal gate. 23 Well, when you called the investigator 0 out and you voiced the opinion that it was coming 24 25 from 600 T, it was your impression that it was

	Country from kito Loco-El Techo, correct:
2	A Yes. At the time we made the call it
3	most certainly was.
4	Q Okay. So, you can't really say, you
5	don't really know when you hear noise as to
6	whether it's coming from this establishment or
7	from some other source; isn't that true?
8	A No. I would say that's not true
9	because the sound from El Techo has been coming
10	for five years and I know what it sounds like.
11	And from 600 T, that rear summer garden has not
12	been there anywhere near as long. So, I can
13	easily make the distinction of what I'm hearing,
14	when.
15	Q Is it your testimony that it's no
16	different today than it was a year ago? Is that
17	what I'm hearing you say?
18	A I do not believe I said that, no.
19	Q Okay. Well, let's explore that.
20	So, there has indeed been improvement
21	in 22, hasn't there?
22	MR. BADAWY: Object to the form of the
23	question. What improvement is he, is Mr. Kline
24	talking about?
25	MR. KLINE: Sure enough.

1	BY MR. KLINE:
2	Q The issues with respect to noise have
3	been less frequent and less of a problem in 22
4	than they were prior to 22. Isn't that correct?
5	A Two thousand twenty Yes, it is.
6	Because 2021 had significant higher number of DJ
7	performance, as you can see from the
8	advertisements and from the, from the calendar
9	representation of the dates when DJs perform.
10	So, from a numerical point of view,
11	yes, it has gotten better because it has been
12	less frequent. But it doesn't have to change the
13	nature of the problem.
14	Q Have you been here for the whole
15	hearing?
16	A Yes.
17	Q And you, you heard the testimony
18	concerning the previous use of promoters; did you
19	hear that testimony?
20	A Yes.
21	Q Is it your contention that that wasn't
22	really, that that's not what the issue was, that
23	the use of promoters exacerbated the problems
24	with noise?
25	A Well, I believe you're conflating the

1	use of promoters with the actual presence of DJs.
2	And DJs have been there for months after when the
3	it was stated that the relationship with the
4	promoters had ceased. You can see from the DJ
5	advertisement they went on well past December,
6	when I believe Mr. Hankins said he severed that
7	relationship.
8	Q He said he severed the relationship
9	with the promoter. Isn't that what he said?
10	A It is. And what I'm trying to clarify
11	is that even after that you can see from the
12	advertisements that you can see from the
13	advertisements that DJs were featured for months
14	beyond that, into the summer of 2022.
15	Q Do you not know the difference between
16	a DJ and a promoter?
17	MR. BADAWY: Objection; argumentative.
18	MR. KLINE: Fair question based upon
19	where we are.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. I'm going
21	to overrule the objection. If he can answer the
22	question, answer it. If not, let's move on.
23	Are you Can you answer the
24	question, sir?
25	MR. KLINE: I'll withdraw it and

rephrase it. 1 BY MR. KLINE: 2 Is it your position that the use of a 3 0 DJ is the same thing as the use of a promoter? 4 Α No. That's not what I'm saying. 5 I'm saying that just because the use 6 7 of the promoter ceased at a particular date, the use of DJs did not, at least not in a way that 8 9 can be in accordance with prior testimony. I believe I heard, since that's what 10 you're asking about, that they stopped using the 11 12 promoter on such and such a date. And, yet, there's evidence that they featured or advertised 13 for DJs beyond the date that the promoters, as 14 15 you say it, were not used anymore. Well, let me go back to my original 16 17 question. Isn't it true that since last year, 18 meaning 21, December of 21, that the issues 19 with noise have, have lessened, even on Friday 20 and Saturday nights? Isn't that a true fact? 21 22 The frequency with which DJs have 23 performed has lessened, yes. That wasn't my question. My question 24 25 was DJs have been there almost every Friday and

1	Saturday night in 2022, correct, according to
2	your calendar, with the exception of March?
3	A I would have to look at it again.
4	It's not in front of me. But there, there has
5	not been DJs every weekend in 2022. They were
6	much more frequent in 2021. So, I'm
7	Q Well, you need to look at your
8	calendar to be refreshed about that with respect
9	to this issue that's so intrusive on your life
10	that you need to look at your calendar?
11	MR. BADAWY: I'm going to object to
12	this. This is an argumentative question.
13	What is, what is counsel's question
14	here?
15	MR. KLINE: That he needs to look at
16	his calendar to figure out when he was bothered,
17	and is unaware as to what's gone on in the last
18	year. And contends that the issues continue
19	despite ample testimony to the contrary.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
21	overrule the I'm going to overrule the
22	objection.
23	If the witness can answer the
24	question, he may answer the question. Then let's
25	move on.

THE WITNESS: Unfortunately, I think 1 I'm just unclear on what you're trying to get at, 2 Mr. Kline. 3 There have been fewer DJs performing 4 5 in 2022. That does not mean that when DJs have performed the noise has been any less. 6 So, if that's what you're trying to 7 clarify, I, I can still hear the DJs perform when 8 9 they are there. They have been there less frequently, but when they are there it's audible. 10 BY MR. KLINE: 11 12 So, your contention is when the DJs are there it's been no different in 22 than it 13 was in 21 when DJs were there? 14 MR. BADAWY: Object to the form of the 15 I think there's several questions in 16 17 that question. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Rephrase your 18 question, Mr. Kline. 19 BY MR. KLINE: 20 Is it your contention that when a DJ 21 22 is present on the premises that it's been no 23 different in 22 than it was in 212 Sorry. Could you repeat that? 24 Α I just 25 want to make sure I answer it clearly.

1	Q I'm just trying to understand.
2	The prior testimony was that one of
3	the issues, or a major issue was the use of an
4	outside promoter, the use of an outside sound
5	system that was brought in that had larger
6	speakers. It was an issue, you heard Mr. Hankins
7	testify about it. You heard Mr. Adams say I
8	wouldn't even have been involved in that, we're
9	not doing it anymore.
10	And I just want to understand, is it
11	your contention it doesn't make any difference,
12	that wasn't, that wasn't the issue? Everything's
13	exactly the way it is now in 22 on the nights
14	that they have a DJ as it was in 21?
15	A I can still hear it.
16	Q Seems to be dodging my question, but
17	I'll move on.
18	MR. BADAWY: Objection. Move to strike
19	the last part of that.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There is no
21	question. Let's go ahead, Mr go ahead, Mr.
22	Kline.
23	MR. KLINE: All right.
24	BY MR. KLINE: If I may be given
25	permission to share.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't believe
2	it has been taken away Mr. Kujawa.
3	MR. KLINE: Okay.
4	BY MR. KLINE:
5	Q All right. In front of you is Exhibit
6	E, which you testified about, which you contend
7	is a 400 foot radius around Rito Loco-El Techo;
8	correct?
9	A Yes.
10	Q And it's your contention that almost
11	everything within the circle is residential? Was
12	that your testimony?
13	A I believe I No, sir. I believe I
14	was referring to Exhibit F when I made that
15	statement.
16	Q Oh. So, not Exhibit E.
17	So, Exhibit E indeed contains a number
18	of licensed establishments, doesn't it?
19	A It contains a few, yes.
20	Q And in fact, Flash on the edge of the
21	circle where my cursor is pointed, isn't it?
22	A I don't know where exactly where Flash
23	is. I know it's in that 600 block of Florida
24	Avenue near 7th Street. So, perhaps.
25	Q And Shaw's Tavern is over here across

1	6th Street?
2	A That is correct.
3	Q All right. And there's another
4	establishment next door?
5	A I don't believe so, no. Next door to
6	what? Perhaps I misunderstood the question.
7	Q A couple doors down from Shaw's Tavern
8	on Florida Avenue.
9	A No.
10	Q Now, so, you testified that you've
11	attempted to work with the establishment. Is
12	that your testimony?
13	A I testified that I had invited them
14	into my home, their sound engineers, yes.
15	Q Okay. You testified that you
16	contacted ABRA 15 to 20 times in the last year to
17	register complaints about noise; correct?
18	A I don't believe I said in the last
19	year. I think the question that I answered was
20	in the last three years. But I may be mistaken.
21	Q I'm looking at my notes. I think what
22	you said was the last year-and-a-half. And I
23	misspoke. I apologize.
24	Is that, do you think in the last
25	year-and-a-half?

1	You tell me, how many times did you
2	complain in the last year-and-a-half do you
3	think?
4	A Using both the online form and phone
5	calls to the hotline, yeah, I'd still say that's
6	a fair estimate in the last year-and-a-half.
7	Q And how many times did you reach out
8	to your neighbor to discuss issues related to
9	noise?
10	MR. BADAWY: Objection; relevance.
11	Which neighbor are you talking about?
12	MR. KLINE: Talking about Rito Loco,
13	the owners of Rito Loco/El Techo, going up 7th
14	Street.
15	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll give you a
16	chance to ask the question, sir. Can you
17	rephrase the question. I don't know if there's
18	still an objection, but the question was
19	rephrased.
20	MR. KLINE: I'll rephrase it.
21	BY MR. KLINE:
22	Q So, you reached out to ABRA maybe 15,
23	20 times. How many times did you reach out to
24	the owners, or managers, or operators of Rito
25	Techo I'm sorry, Rito Loco-El Techo concerning

1	noise issues at the establishment?
2	A Personally I have not.
3	Q You have not.
4	MR. KLINE: No further questions.
5	THE WITNESS: Simply because I
6	MR. KLINE: There's nothing pending.
7	Thank you. You answered my question.
8	I have nothing further.
9	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by
10	any board members?
11	MR. BADAWY: Sure.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, Mr.
13	Badawy.
14	Is there, is there any?
15	MR. BADAWY: I apologize. I'll await
16	for my turn to do redirect, Your Honor. I
17	apologize.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, you're going
19	to get your chance. Now is the Board's
20	opportunity to ask questions.
21	MR. BADAWY: Apologies.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.
23	Short.
24	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Kujawa, how many
25	years have you lived at your residence?

THE WITNESS: Seventeen, with the 1 exception of a 15-month period when I was 2 3 overseas deployed. MEMBER SHORT: Seventeen years. 4 So, would it be fair to say you were 5 there long before this rooftop business opened? 6 THE WITNESS: Yes. I've been here long 7 before even Rito Loco, the original taco, burrito 8 9 restaurant opened. Before Shaw's Tavern, before Flash, before Right Proper, before the Howard 10 Theater was refurbished. 11 Yes. 12 MEMBER SHORT: So, the problem we, some 13 board members have is they say people move into your area where these businesses have already 14 15 So, your wall is now adjacent to where been. your rooftop. Before that time was it -- how was 16 17 it before this licensee came in two, three years 18 ago? THE WITNESS: In terms of noise it was 19 just the standard sounds of the city, the sirens 20 that were referred to, and the traffic on Florida 21 Avenue. But other than that it was not 2.2 23 objectionable whatsoever. MEMBER SHORT: Okay. 24 So, we've 25 established you were there when this business

opened.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: So, it comes to, it comes to basically were you a part of the ANC or the neighborhood when this business first opens, when this application for this business was first applied for? Were you a part, were you a part of the community's efforts?

THE WITNESS: When the license was first applied for in 2014, when Mr. Hankins opened the ground floor, there was no objection to it.

When he sought the substantial change and sought the ANC's support in 2017 to add the roof garden on, you know, to build the roof garden and add it up, yes, there was community objection to it at that point.

Weren't as familiar with the AN -sorry, the ABRA rules and processes and
procedures at that time. But, yes, to answer
your question.

MEMBER SHORT: So, as a part of all of that, if I'm understanding the testimony we've had today, there was a, there was an agreement between the community and the, and the Applicant

for the rooftop regarding hours and other issues. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: There is an agreement now. But that agreement was reached as a result of the withdrawal of a protest at the time of their last renewal in 2019 because the issues that had been experienced by the neighborhood from the time they opened in 2017 with the roof garden, based on the approval of the significant change to their license, until their regular 3-year renewal period in 2019.

So, we worked with the community -sorry, worked with the establishment three years
ago. There, there was -- my point I'm making is
there were so many noise issues prior to the last
renewal that there was a protest in progress at
that time, but the neighborhood, working with the
establishment, agreed to withdraw its protest and
entered into the settlement agreement, which is
the one you saw in the Investigator Puente
report.

MEMBER SHORT: So, can you again just refresh me or refresh us, the Board. The settlement agreement, what hours were on it?

THE WITNESS: I don't know the hours on

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the settlement agreement by heart. It does refer 1 to the hours in which the polycarbonate panels 2 need to be in place by a particular time of 3 night, based on the day of the week. But I don't 4 5 recall if it refers to the actual hours that entertainment is allowed, and if that is 6 different from what is in the basic license. 7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, your 8 9 residence is in the rear. Are you familiar with Wiltberger Place, or Wiltberger Street? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes. A block on it, it 11 12 is about half a block to the west and it goes down along north/south street on the east side of 13 Howard Theater all the way down to S Street from 14 15 Florida Avenue -- or from T Street, excuse me. MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, this goes to 16 17 the pictures that were just put into evidence regarding the overflowing trash containers. 18 19 often does that happen? THE WITNESS: How often are they 20 21 overflowing? 22 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. 23 THE WITNESS: I walk the dog pretty much every day and you can -- it's the only 24 25 reason I would be out at the time stamps you see

on the photos. I would say it's a couple times a 1 It's not uncommon. Particularly on 2 Saturday morning and Sunday morning when there's 3 been a lot of business on Friday night and --4 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's good. 5 That's already on the record. 6 7 But now, are you aware that is a violation of the ABC Board or the ABRA Code Book 8 9 that if you have trash cans and you're doing that, those trash cans have to be -- lids have to 10 be solidly down, they can't be overflowing? 11 12 you familiar with that? THE WITNESS: I'm not familiar if it 13 specifically refers to conditions of the lids. 14 15 But I know that the appropriateness standards 16 includes provisions of litter so that it's not a fire hazard, it's not a nuisance, and it doesn't 17 harbor the breeding or feeding of rodents. 18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And, again, the 19 exhibits that you had about DJs and 20 advertisements, in one of those there was they're 21 2.2 advertising as a bar. As far as you know, is 23 this establishment a bar? THE WITNESS: Not in terms of its 24

licensure, no, because it has a CR not a CT

They, I mean, you heard the owner 1 license. testify that there is a bar on the second level, 2 3 so. MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You've been very, 4 very candid. And thank you for your, for your 5 testimony today. And thank you for your time. 6 That's all I have, Mr. Chair. 7 you very much. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. 8 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any of the board members? 10 I do want to ask, I want to ask you a 11 12 question, Mr. Kujawa, regarding the trash. It's my understanding, and maybe I'm 13 confused, that two establishments and some 14 residents store trash in that alley. So, I saw 15 there are pictures. How do you know that the 16 trash belongs to this establishment? 17 THE WITNESS: The trash barrels in my 18 photos are directly to the west of 600 T Street. 19 And it's been testified to that those 12 bins are 20 five of them belong to El Techo, two of them 21 belong to Mr. Lawrence's residence, and three of 2.2 them belong to Quattro Osteria. Because of their 23 geography they don't have any other place to, to 24 25 keep it.

As far as the trash barrels for the rest of the residents along the 1800 block of 6th Street, their trash bins are only in the alley on the days that it is scheduled to be picked up, picked up by the Department of Public Works. The rest of the time there are rear yards to all the homes on this street, and they have gates that open up to the alley where they take their trash barrels in and out.

It's only the trash barrels at the north end of the alley, the 12 or so that are pictured, that are in the alley on a permanent basis in the public space.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so you're saying, though, so are all those trash cans do they belong to this establishment?

THE WITNESS: Yes. Well, they belong to this establishment and the other properties on either side for which Mr. Steven Lawrence is the landlord.

Quattro Osteria on the corner, which is also operated by Mr. Hankins. And then Steven Lawrence himself, who lives in the adjacent rowhouse. And his establish -- and his licensed establishment, 600 T.

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1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, so you're
2	saying then these trash cans could belong to 600
3	T, Rito Loco, and Osteria I'm sorry, the third
4	licensee; is that correct?
5	MR. KUJAWA: Yes. I believe one of the
6	Applicant's witnesses testified that the 12 trash
7	cans do belong to those three establishments
8	collectively. And that Mr. Hankins is actually
9	paying the trash bill for it.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
11	Kline.
12	FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	BY MR. KLINE:
14	Q Mr. Kujawa, wasn't there also
15	testimony that those trash cans service
16	residences along that row as well?
17	A That's the ones that are Are you
18	referring to the ones in my photos that are
19	immediately adjacent?
20	Q Yes. Aren't those the same ones that
21	were in the investigator's photo?
22	A Don't remember the investigator's
23	photo. But the trash barrels in the only
24	residents that I'm aware of that those trash
25	barrels service is Mr. Lawrence's residence,

which is 600 T Street where he has a licensed 1 establishment in his basement. 2 MR. KLINE: Nothing further. 3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy. 4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. BADAWY: 6 7 Mr. Kujawa, you were asked on cross-examination if you had reached out to El 8 Techo. 9 And you said no. Can you tell the Board why you haven't 10 reached out to El Techo about the loud music that 11 12 you could hear inside your place? As has been stated, I've lived here 13 Α for a long time. It's been a known issue for a 14 15 long time. And I'm in communication with plenty 16 of other people that have communicated with Mr. Hankins. 17 Given that I live immediately adjacent 18 to the building and I don't want to sour any 19 relationship that I might have to live with on a 20 permanent basis, I have left the communication 21 2.2 with Mr. Hankins to the numerous other people 23 that have complained about this issue and have attempted to work with him as well. 24

And just to be clear, Mr. Kujawa,

0

1	since you've heard testimony that there have been
2	numerous changes since 2021 of promoters, sound
3	systems, are you still able to hear music from El
4	Techo inside your residence?
5	A Yes. We've heard it even just
6	recently.
7	Q And I think there was some talk about
8	Shaw's Tavern being across the street. Have you
9	ever, you know, heard loud music coming from
10	Shaw's Tavern inside your residence?
11	A No.
12	Q Okay. I believe further down the
13	street is The Royal, which is a restaurant. Are
14	you familiar with The Royal?
15	A Yes. It's at the corner of Florida
16	Avenue and 5th Street.
17	Q And have you ever heard loud music or
18	noise coming from The Royal inside your
19	residence?
20	A No.
21	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Kujawa. I
22	have no further questions.
23	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you very
24	much, Mr. Kujawa, for your testimony today. Have
25	a great day.

1	THE WITNESS: Thank you, Mr.
2	Chairperson. Thank you, members of the Board.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Call your next
4	witness, Mr. Badawy.
5	MR. BADAWY: The Protestants called
6	Jonathan Horsford. Mr. Horsford.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's Mr.
8	Horsford online.
9	Mr. Horsford, can you raise your right
10	hand, please.
11	(Witness sworn.)
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
13	sir. Thank you.
14	MR. BADAWY: Thank you.
15	DIRECT EXAMINATION
16	BY MR. BADAWY:
17	Q Mr. Horsford, can you please state and
18	spell your full name?
19	A Certainly. Jonathan Horsford,
20	J-O-N-A-T-H-A-N H-O-R-S-F-O-R-D.
21	Q And, Mr. Horsford, where do you live?
22	A I live at 531 T Street, N.W., Unit
23	101.
24	Q And how long have you lived there for?
25	A I moved here in 2016. So, it's been
25	A I moved here in 2016. So, it's been

1 six years. And 531 T Street, N.W., Unit No. 1, do 2 0 you live in an apartment or a condominium? 3 It's a condominium complex. It's one Α 4 5 of the old mansions that they renovated and put 6 an extension on. And so there are 11 units over two floors. 7 Okay. And do you know whether or not 8 531 T Street, your unit in particular, is located 9 in a residential zone? 10 It is in a residential zone. 11 12 believe it's RF-1. 13 Okay. And can you describe the neighborhood that you live in? 14 15 Α So, we are north of Florida. It's 16 actually in LeDroit Park. So, it's primarily residential. There are no businesses on 6th 17 18 Street or T Street nearby me. Of course, on Florida, as we just 19 discussed, it is multi-use, so there are 20 certainly restaurants and other businesses on 21 Florida. And then, you know, just south of 2.2 23 Florida going down 6th Street is mostly residential once you get past Shaw's Tavern and 24

Quattro.

1	Q And, again, Mr. Horsford, I don't know
2	if I asked you this already, how long have you
3	been in your unit?
4	A Six years.
5	Q And where did you live before that?
6	A I lived in Woodley Park.
7	Q Mr. Horsford, are you familiar with an
8	establishment by the name of El Techo?
9	A I am.
10	Q And can you tell me where your home is
11	in relation to El Techo
12	A So, I'm basically diagonal from El
13	Techo. So, where 6th, T, and Florida meet
14	there's almost like a little courtyard space.
15	And our building is at the corner of 6th and T,
16	kind of facing Florida and facing El Techo.
17	I live, actually, in the corner unit
18	that is most close to 6th and T, so most close to
19	El Techo. And I am on the first floor.
20	Q Mr. Horsford, I'm going to show you
21	what's marked as Protestant's Exhibit E.
22	A Right.
23	Q Do you see that right there?
24	A Yep.
25	Q On this map can you show where your

residence is in relation to El Techo? 1 So, you are, you're going to move the 2 cursor for me? 3 Yes. So, this is --0 4 Α Yes, yes. 5 -- El Techo over here. 6 7 The big, the fairly large square Yes. building up, up and to the right, that building 8 9 right there. Yeah. So, if you move your cursor just down 10 a little bit to the left and bottom, that corner 11 right there is my unit. So, it basically faces 12 El Techo through that gap where the LeDroit Park 13 arch is. 14 15 Mr. Horsford, in the past three years 16 have you been able to hear music from El Techo inside your residence? 17 Α Yes. 18 And can you tell the members of the 19 Board, in that period approximately how many 20 times you've been able to hear music from El 21 22 Techo inside your residence? 23 Α Well, as has been discussed, you know, most weekends we can hear the music, either 24 Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. You know, I, I am 25

-- I have lived here the whole time, I have not 1 lived anywhere else. So, if you think about 2 3 three years, and I can hear it almost every weekend at least once or twice, so we're talking 4 5 between, you know, 100 or 150 times. And can you for the members of the 6 Board can you describe what that music sounds 7 like when you hear it inside your residence? 8 9 Α So, as has been discussed, I hear not only the music inside with the doors and windows 10 closed, but I also -- it's also the type of 11 12 Because it's a trance type music the beat 13 is very strong. It, it's very low, so it has this feature almost kind of vibratory within my 14 15 unit. Let me ask you, how is that 16 Okay. music that you hear from El Techo inside the 17 residence different from, say, you know, ambient 18 street noise, sirens, and cars, honking horns, 19 those kind of things? 20 You know, obviously we live off 21 Α Yeah. Florida so there's a lot of ambient street noise. 2.2 23 6th and T and Florida is a very busy intersection, especially with the construction, 24 so there's often a lot of noise. 25

I want to be clear that the noise I hear is from El Techo, because I can walk out of my unit, walk over across the street to El Techo, and it's the exact same music. So, to be absolutely clear, this music is not coming from any other establishment because I can tell it is the same music.

Q And again, when you hear that music inside your residence, how has that affected your ability to enjoy your home?

A So, the corner that faces El Techo is my bedroom. So, it is very loud in the evening.

I am the kind of person that goes to bed early.

So, it is very challenging to sleep when the music is on and very loud.

I try and drown it out with some kind of sleep machine, but it still doesn't work.

In addition, you know, since the music starts, can start quite early on a weekend, if I want to have a quiet afternoon reading in my unit, I'm unable to do so unless I turn up some type of music or something to drown it out because otherwise I'm kind of sitting here listening to the music coming from the establishment.

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1	Q And when the music is coming from the
2	establishment are you able do you keep your
3	doors and windows open or closed?
4	A No, they're always closed.
5	Q Mr. Horsford, when you've heard music
6	from El Techo inside your home have you reached
7	out to ABRA investigators?
8	A Yes. So, I have actually let everyone
9	know that I was part of the original settlement
10	agreement.
11	So, you know, in 2020 when we were
12	developing the settlement agreement I went over.
13	I've been to El Techo. I have talked to Mr.
14	Hawkins with another, a number of other
15	residents. We worked to try and come up with
16	that settlement agreement.
17	So, we did a lot of outreach in 2020
18	before that happened.
19	Apart from that, I have also called
20	ABRA a number of times, left voicemail, done the
21	online, talked to people in person. In fact,
22	even about, about a month ago I did a 311 call
23	to, to comment on the noise. So, it's something
24	that I've done a lot of.
25	Q When you have talked a little bit

about your contact with El Techo, do you recall exactly when that was, or roughly? Let me rephrase that.

A So, the settlement agreement was filed and signed in January of 2020. So, it was the fall of 2019. And a number of residents met with Mr. Hawkins to try to work out ways to work on the noise.

There were other -- there was certainly somebody from, from the nightlife, D.C. nightlife. I know some ANC commissioners, the previous ANC, at least one was involved.

So, there were a number of discussions, a lot of back and forth in negotiation to try and come up with a settlement agreement. And that is where now we have -- as part of the settlement agreement we had those, those plastic panels put up with specific times.

And I have written down the times.

So, the settlement agreement says the panels must go up Monday through Thursday at 10:30 p.m. They must go up Friday and Saturday at midnight. And they must go up Sunday at 9:00 p.m.

Q And, Mr. Horsford, have you -- you've heard testimony today about a lot of steps and

changes that have taken place at El Techo; is 1 that correct? 2 3 Δ Yes. Have you -- Let me ask this question: 4 5 you know, you talked about engagement with ABRA. 6 You talked about engagement with El Techo. testimony about changes. What is role -- what 7 has the result of all that been --8 9 Α Right. -- as far as your ability to hear 10 music in your house coming from El Techo? 11 12 I, I have, I have seen a very marginal improvement over the time since the settlement 13 agreement. I cannot comment on the DJs. 14 15 cannot comment on the, you know, the promoters. 16 That is not my area of expertise. All I can tell 17 you is what I experience. And what I experience is a very 18 similar frequency and a very similar level of 19 Regardless of improvement, it is still noise. 20 incredibly disruptive to my life. 21 22 Though I don't know what a percent 23 might be of an improvement, I can certainly say that it, it has not been a dramatic improvement, 24 25 and it has not improved the quality of my

1 experience.

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I have also tried to do other things. So, I have gone and photographed El Techo after the required time that the panels have gone up. And I have filed at least one violation where the panels weren't up in a timely manner on a Sunday evening.

So, I've also tried to do other things, I think, to try and mitigate the issue because I have not found that, I have not found that engagement previous to the settlement agreement was very successful.

Q Okay. And, Mr. Horsford, last question.

Are you still, at this point are you willing to continue working with El Techo about the noise that you hear in your unit?

A I really felt like in, in 2020 when I had been here for a few years that I really wanted to work with them. All of us residents wanted to work with them. That's why we had the ANC.

You know, we, we went to the ABRA Board. We did negotiation. We did the settlement agreement. And then I do not feel

1	like the settlement agreement really has improved
2	very much.
3	I cannot comment on all the changes
4	that have been made. I'm not a sound engineer.
5	But I can certainly say from my experience it has
6	not been very productive. So, I don't think that
7	further engagement is a very productive way.
8	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr. Horsford.
9	I have no further questions.
10	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline.
11	CROSS-EXAMINATION
12	BY MR. KLINE:
13	Q You were here for the testimony of Mr.
14	Beam?
15	A Yes.
16	Q And you acknowledge his credentials as
17	a sound engineer?
18	A Yes.
19	Q And you don't see any reason to work
20	with the establishment in implementing a program
21	that he might develop to mitigate noise?
22	A I, I, no, I do not. Because as was
23	said, the consultant can say whatever he would
24	like. He can make recommendations. But Mr.
25	Hawkins would have to invest the money and make
	Al Company of the Com

the changes. And I feel that, given my 1 experience with the settlement agreement, I don't 2 feel that necessarily he's going to do that. 3 And you heard Mr. Beam testify that 0 4 5 when those with whom he works take his recommendation the issues are resolved? Did you 6 hear that testimony? 7 8 Α Yes. And it's your position that you don't 9 0 believe, despite the testimony of Mr. Beam, that 10 owner committed, and despite the testimony of the 11 two owners that they would commit to do what he 12 recommended, you, you don't believe that's going 13 to happen? 14 15 I can only go on past experience. In six years we've had a lot of conversations. 16 We've made a lot of complaints. We've tried to 17 make changes. We've had a settlement agreement. 18 We had a negotiation. 19 So, if past evidence demonstrates the 20 future, then that is, that is my experience. 21 22 How many times have you called ABRA 23 with complaints? Pardon me? 24 Α 25 0 How many times have you called ABRA

1	with compla:	ints?
2	А	In what time frame?
3	Q	The last year-and-a-half?
4	A	I would say, oh, probably about five
5	to seven tir	mes.
6		MR. KLINE: Thank you. I have no
7	further que	stions.
8		CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
9	from any boa	ard members?
10		MEMBER GRANDIS: May I?
11		CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis.
12		MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you.
13		Mr. Horsford, thank you for your
14	patience to	day. It's been a long day for all of
15	us.	
16		THE WITNESS: Yes.
17		MEMBER GRANDIS: I moved here in 1976.
18	And I moved	on Cathedral Avenue.
19		THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.
20		MEMBER GRANDIS: A few blocks from
21	Connecticut	•
22		I think I heard you say you were in
23	Cleveland Pa	ark? Did I hear that?
24		MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes, off of what
25	street?	

MR. HORSFORD: I was at the corner of 1 29th and Calvert. 2 MEMBER GRANDIS: Nice area. I decided 3 that I wanted to move down into, closer to the 4 5 city, Dupont Circle specifically, but I had 6 already been having some experience down there. You had no experience with Shaw and that area 7 before you purchased where you did? Because this 8 9 is not accusatory. I'm just trying to --MR. HORSFORD: Yeah. 10 MEMBER GRANDIS: -- understand what 11 12 you thought you were moving into. 13 MR. HORSFORD: No, as a member of the LGBT community, I'm very familiar with Shaw. 14 very familiar with Dupont. I've been in this 15 neighborhood many, many times. I've been to many 16 bars and restaurants. 17 And when I moved here, I moved here 18 19 purposefully because I wanted a vibrant neighborhood. I wanted the streets to be safe at 20 1:00 in the morning so I could come home from a 21 2.2 bar because there were other people around, 23 right? MEMBER GRANDIS: 24 Yes. 25 MR. HORSFORD: I go to Uproar. I've

been to Shaw's Tavern. You know, I think these 1 establishments fit, you know, fit within the 2 3 nature of the area they're in, you know. They have a restaurant. They have a 4 They might have some music, you know, and 5 patio. I'm very comfortable with kind of the noise level 6 7 and the engagement of all of those establishments. 8 I have found that this establishment 9 stands out in terms of the level of noise that 10 really does, is very different than any of the 11 12 other establishments I've experienced. MEMBER GRANDIS: 13 Have you ever eaten at this establishment? 14 15 MR. HORSFORD: No, I have not. MEMBER GRANDIS: 16 Have you ever had 17 cocktails or taken friends there and hung out? MR. HORSFORD: The only time I have 18 been in this establishment is previous to the 19 settlement agreement when I did go up there to 20 21 talk to Mr. Hankins, and we talked, you know, got 2.2 a tour and looked at the speakers and things like 23 That's the only time I've been there. that. MEMBER GRANDIS: So, I have a better 24 25 idea about where the noise problem is. You know,

we've had exhibits showing different parts of the
building.

From your knowledge, and you may not

be so specific because, while you live close, you don't live right on it, do you perceive that the noise is related to the deejay, which I understand is on the rooftop in the summer garden, or is the noise general throughout the building when people just go in, stand out in front, whatever? What's your sense?

MR. HORSFORD: Oh, so you mean the noise coming from El Techo?

MEMBER GRANDIS: Yes.

MR. HORSFORD: I mean, I think there's an appropriate, you know, a comfortable level of hubbub, so, you know, people in line, you know, hearing people, you know, leaving.

You know, it's a busy neighborhood.

People are out late at night. I hear voices, you know, so that's a very expected part of the neighborhood. It's really the music, and again, it's much more of the type of music, the trance.

You know, I don't know exactly their business model, but I do know sometimes it seems to start early on a Sunday afternoon, perhaps

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part of brunch, you know, so then it really can 1 be kind of a long Sunday if it's starting in the 2 afternoon and going until 9:00 or 10:00 at night. 3 MEMBER GRANDIS: So, as I understand 4 for you, and not speaking for the others, that 5 it's the music, which I understand from the 6 7 hearing today, because I have not been to this establishment either, it's basically from the 8 9 roof garden if I understand correctly. MR. HORSFORD: 10 Yes. MEMBER GRANDIS: It's not from the 11 12 entrance when you walk in. MR. HORSFORD: No. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: So, you're asking the 14 15 Board to be cognizant and concerned about that voluntary agreement or the settlement agreement 16 back in 2020 when it comes to the music side of 17 the equation. That's what you feel has not been 18 19 lived up to. And I'm not trying to put words in your mouth. I'm just trying to understand --20 21 MR. HORSFORD: Yes. 22 MEMBER GRANDIS: -- you know, what we 23 need to focus on. Yeah, from my 24 MR. HORSFORD: 25 experience, it really is the music. And again, I

am not an expert. I have not done the work that 1 others have of looking at the type of music, or 2 3 the deejays, or who is playing, but I can certainly say from my experience, it is the 4 5 music. It is usually on the weekends. It goes late, you know, but even sometimes on weekdays, 6 you know, sometimes I'll hear it. 7 MEMBER GRANDIS: I also looked at the 8 9 exhibit that you had us look at where your building is located. 10 MR. HORSFORD: Yeah. 11 12 MEMBER GRANDIS: And it seemed to be, 13 compared to some other residents, it seemed to be closer to Uproar and Flash --14 15 MR. HORSFORD: Yeah. MEMBER GRANDIS: -- if I can say it 16 17 that way. Okay, they both also have rooftops, and you and I probably have been at Uproar when 18 they've had actually a deejay on their roof. 19 MR. HORSFORD: Mm-hmm. 20 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: So, do you feel that 22 you may be hearing some of that noise, you know, 23 and relating it to this place, or do you really think you can discern the deejay from one 24 building on a roof deck from another? Once 25

again, I'm not trying to corner you. I'm just 1 trying to understand how --2 3 MR. HORSFORD: Yeah. MEMBER GRANDIS: -- we can address 4 your concern, the concerns that have been raised. 5 MR. HORSFORD: So, my experience has 6 7 been that the geography is, and again, I'm not a sound engineer, but the geography is such that 8 9 there's a bit of a space and the music comes over from El Techo, and I feel like it kind of 10 actually hits some of the buildings around here 11 12 and I find it surprisingly loud. 13 Now, Uproar, even though it might be closer, there's a lot of buildings in between, so 14 15 I have never heard Uproar music. Whenever I hear music, I can go out on my porch or I can walk 16 17 across the street. It's very clearly El Techo. MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay, well, you've 18 been very helpful, and of course, we want the 19 business to thrive, but we also want them to 20 thrive in a way that it's not violating any of 21 2.2 the noise provisions and the comfort that you're 23 entitled to enjoy, so thank you. 24 MR. HORSFORD: Thank you. 25 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

2.2

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board members? I guess one of the questions I want to ask you, Mr. Horsford, you talked about the settlement agreement.

MR. HORSFORD: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you talked about that there were some panels. Where did that come from?

MR. HORSFORD: So, in my memory, when we talked with Mr. Hankins about potential mitigation strategies for the noise, we talked about changing the speakers and how they were oriented, and not facing Florida and kind of facing different directions.

And then we knew that -- you know, we had as an example Flash and Uproar, which both have some type of paneling on their rooftop decks.

So, we discussed potentially this as a noise mitigation strategy where the panels might help alleviate the noise, and then we got into the question of when do they go up? And so, that's where the settlement agreement had very

specific times that they go up only later in the evenings.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, are you saying that he has not complied with the settlement agreement as far as the panels and putting them up or what are you saying?

MR. HORSFORD: So, I'm saying that first of all, the panel, during the summer, the panels are not up. They only -- there may be some permanent panels, but then the moveable panels are not up in the summer until midnight on Friday and Saturday, so that means that they're not really serving a lot of noise mitigation until midnight on a Friday or Saturday and then they do go up.

And the panels do have a slight improvement in the noise. Again, I am not a sound engineer. I don't know if there would be different ways to do it. I did hear in the testimony that it sounded like a lot of this at the beginning was kind of put together, you know, without sound engineers. Again, I can't comment on any of that.

All I can say is the panels help a little bit when they're up, but the vast majority

1	of the time, especially, again, when the weather
2	is good and you put a you know, the panels
3	aren't up for very long in the winter, so most of
4	the time, the panels are down, so therefore, it's
5	the full noise.
6	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
7	thank you. Any other questions by any other
8	Board members? Mr. Kline?
9	MR. KLINE: No, I have no further
10	questions. Thank you.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
12	MR. BADAWY: No questions. Thank you.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Horsford,
14	thank you very much for your testimony.
15	MR. HORSFORD: Thank you. Have a good
16	night, everybody.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a great
18	day. Thank you. Do you have another witness,
19	sir?
20	MR. BADAWY: The protestants call Paul
21	Baranowski.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Baranowski,
23	all right, there you are. Is that you?
24	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise

1	your right hand, sir?
2	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes.
3	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
4	affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
5	truth?
6	MR. BARANOWSKI: I do.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
8	sir.
9	MR. BADAWY: Good evening, Mr.
10	Baranowski.
11	MR. BARANOWSKI: Good evening.
12	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, can you
13	please state and spell your full name for the
14	record?
15	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes, it's Paul, last
16	name is B-A-R-A-N-O-W-S-K-I.
17	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, where
18	do you live? Can you hear me, Mr. Baranowski?
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think he's
20	frozen since his yeah, yeah, he was frozen, so
21	let's wait for him. Okay, are you there, sir?
22	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, can you
23	hear us?
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, he's
25	moving, but

1	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes, I'm back and
2	we're back here. I'm not sure what's happening
3	with the connection. I'm sorry.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead.
5	MR. BADAWY: Okay, Mr. Baranowski,
6	where do you live?
7	MR. BARANOWSKI: I live at 1911 6th
8	Street, NW.
9	MR. BADAWY: And what kind of place do
10	you live at? Is it a single family home? Is it
11	a condo? What's it like?
12	MR. BARANOWSKI: It is a two-unit
13	condo building.
14	MR. BADAWY: And where do you live in
15	that two-unit condo building?
16	MR. BARANOWSKI: I live in the upper
17	floors.
18	MR. BADAWY: And do you know whether
19	or not your residence is located in a residential
20	zone?
21	MR. BARANOWSKI: I believe it is, yes.
22	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, how
23	long have you lived there for?
24	MR. BARANOWSKI: It will be 18 years
25	in February.

1	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, can you
2	describe the neighborhood that you live in?
3	MR. BARANOWSKI: I would characterize
4	6th Street as an historic, tree-lined street,
5	relatively quiet, but walkable and accessible to
6	the community for whatever you might like to
7	have, an evening or life in general.
8	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, are you
9	familiar with an establishment known as El Techo?
10	MR. BARANOWSKI: I am.
11	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell the
12	members of the Board where your home is in
13	relation to El Techo?
14	MR. BARANOWSKI: I would estimate that
15	it's approximately a 300-foot radius diagonally
16	to the northeast.
17	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, I'm going
18	to, if you can see on your screen there, I'm
19	showing you what's marked as Protestants' Exhibit
20	E.
21	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes.
22	MR. BADAWY: Looking at this map, can
23	you tell us where your home is in relation to El
24	Techo, El Techo being in blue here?
25	MR. BARANOWSKI: I am the first home

1	to the north of where the previous protestant
2	testified, so right where your cursor is here,
3	yes.
4	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr.
5	Baranowski. Mr. Baranowski, in the past three
6	years, have you been able to hear music from El
7	Techo inside your residence?
8	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes.
9	MR. BADAWY: And are you able to say
10	approximately how many times you've been able to
11	hear music from El Techo inside your residence?
12	Mr. Baranowski, can you hear me?
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We've lost him.
14	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, can you
15	hear me?
16	MR. BARANOWSKI: I can now. I'm
17	sorry. I don't know what's happening with the
18	connection. I'm sitting in one spot.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Baranowski,
20	do me a favor. Turn your video off.
21	MR. BARANOWSKI: Okay.
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And maybe that
23	will help. Okay, not that I don't want to see
24	you, but I think it will help.
25	MR. BARANOWSKI: I can do that.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I
2	think it will help if your video is off. Okay,
3	go ahead.
4	MR. BADAWY: Okay, thank you, Mr.
5	Chair.
6	MR. BARANOWSKI: I'm going to try
7	moving to a different spot.
8	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, in the
9	past three years, have you been able to hear
10	music from El Techo
11	MR. BARANOWSKI: Are you able to hear
12	me?
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir, we
14	can hear you.
15	MR. BADAWY: Yes. Mr. Baranowski, can
16	you hear me?
17	MR. BARANOWSKI: I can see you now.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you know
19	what, Mr. Baranowski? Turn your video back on
20	because I think we're going to have a problem in
21	the sense that at least if I can't see you, then
22	I know that we can't hear you, so please turn
23	your video back on, sir. I was trying to figure
24	out if because a lot of times it works better
25	if your video is off, but please turn your video

1	on so at least we can have a better idea what is
2	going on.
3	MR. BARANOWSKI: I've restarted.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, all right,
5	okay. Go ahead.
6	MR. BADAWY: Again, I'll ask this
7	question again. Mr. Baranowski, in the past
8	three years, have you been able to hear music
9	from El Techo inside your residence?
10	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes, I have.
11	MR. BADAWY: All right, and can you
12	say during that time period approximately how
13	many times you've been able to hear music from El
14	Techo inside your residence?
15	MR. BARANOWSKI: I would say certainly
16	on a weekly basis, maybe once a week, twice a
17	week, so that would be probably 40, 50 times.
18	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell us, when
19	you hear that music, when does it start and when
20	does it end?
21	MR. BARANOWSKI: Generally on a Friday
22	or Saturday evening, late evening, but also
23	Sunday afternoons and going late into the evening
24	as well.
25	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, can

you tell the members of the Board or can you 1 describe for the members of the Board what that 2 music sounds like when you can hear it in your 3 house? 4 5 MR. BARANOWSKI: It's a loud thumping It's pretty consistent techno music or 6 trance music as I understand it, and it's 7 definitely penetrating. 8 9 MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, how has that music affected your ability to enjoy 10 your home? 11 12 MR. BARANOWSKI: I generally on 13 weekend nights have resorted to using an additional air conditioner in my bedroom, my 14 15 bedroom is on the front of the street, or I have to use a large floor fan. 16 17 MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, can you tell the members of the Board how the music 18 you hear from El Techo differs from, say, ambient 19 street noise that you might hear in the area? 20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have lost 21 2.2 him again. 23 MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski, can you 24 hear us yet? 25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He's back.

1	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Baranowski?
2	MR. BARANOWSKI: Like I say, I have no
3	idea what's happening with the connection. I
4	apologize.
5	MR. BADAWY: No problem, sir. We,
6	again, appreciate your time this evening. My
7	question was can you tell the Board the
8	difference between the music you hear from El
9	Techo and ambient street noise?
10	MR. BARANOWSKI: There are standard
11	sirens. There are standard cars that pass by.
12	It's a passing thing. It's a temporary thing.
13	I've lived in the neighborhood for 18 years. I'm
14	familiar with those sounds, but the music from El
15	Techo is a consistent thing that bangs through
16	the evening and goes late at night.
17	MR. BADAWY: Have you ever contacted
18	ABRA about the loud music coming from El Techo?
19	MR. BARANOWSKI: I have, yes.
20	MR. BADAWY: Okay, and how have you
21	contacted ABRA?
22	MR. BARANOWSKI: Primarily through the
23	online form.
24	MR. BADAWY: Have you ever contacted
25	El Techo about the music you hear?

1	MR. BARANOWSKI: I have not.
2	MR. BADAWY: And Mr. Baranowski, are
3	you have you been present for the testimony
4	tonight?
5	MR. BARANOWSKI: I have, yes.
6	MR. BADAWY: You've heard a lot of
7	testimony about, you know, changes, proposed
8	changes to El Techo, correct?
9	MR. BARANOWSKI: Yes.
10	MR. BADAWY: Are you willing to work
11	with the establishment about their loud music
12	that you can hear in your home?
13	MR. BARANOWSKI: On a neighborly
14	basis, I would like to say yes based on long-term
15	relationships. I've been part of this community
16	for a long time. However, I don't see that would
17	be fruitful.
18	I know many of the neighbors in the
19	community have worked with them through the
20	settlement agreement and we still have
21	considerable problems, and that's why we're here
22	this evening. Disappointingly, I don't think
23	that would help.
24	MR. BADAWY: Okay, thank you, Mr.
25	Baranowski. I have no further questions for you.

1	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
2	MR. KLINE: Mr. Baranowski, how many
3	times did you contact ABRA with complaints?
4	MR. BARANOWSKI: Over what time
5	period, please?
6	MR. KLINE: Over the last year and a
7	half?
8	MR. BARANOWSKI: I would say probably
9	approximately a dozen to 15 times.
10	MR. KLINE: Twelve to 15 times?
11	MR. BARANOWSKI: Approximately.
12	MR. KLINE: And just so we're clear,
13	the number of times that you contacted the
14	establishment to address these issues is zero,
15	correct?
16	MR. BARANOWSKI: I have not engaged
17	with the establishment.
18	MR. KLINE: Thank you. I have no
19	further questions.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
21	by any Board members? Mr. Baranowski, have you
22	ever been to this establishment?
23	MR. BARANOWSKI: Not this
24	establishment, but I was a frequent patron of the
25	restaurants for the last 18 years in that

1	location.
2	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you have
3	never been to this establishment?
4	MR. BARANOWSKI: I have not. I have
5	been to Burrito Loco for burritos, but not to the
6	El Techo upstairs.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, I'm
8	sorry, isn't it one establishment?
9	MR. BARANOWSKI: Burrito Loco is the
10	takeout place where I have taken out tacos from
11	before. I have not been to the dine-in portion
12	of the restaurant above, El Techo.
13	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't have
14	any other questions. Mr. Kline?
15	MR. KLINE: Nothing further of the
16	witness. Thank you.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
18	MR. BADAWY: Nothing further for the
19	witness. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Baranowski,
21	thank you very much for your testimony, sir.
22	Have a great day.
23	MR. BARANOWSKI: Thank you. Good
24	evening.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have

1	another witness, sir?
2	MR. BADAWY: Yes, the protestants call
3	Margo Badawy.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
5	Margo Badawy. Ms. Badawy, can you raise your
6	right hand, please? Do you swear or affirm to
7	tell the truth and nothing but the truth?
8	Your witness, sir.
9	MR. BADAWY: Good evening, Ms. Badawy.
10	Can you please state and spell your name for the
11	record?
12	MS. BADAWY: Yes, my name is Margo
13	Badawy. Margo is spelled M-A-R-G-O, Badawy,
14	B-A-D-A-W-Y.
15	MR. BADAWY: Okay, and Ms. Badawy, in
16	the interests of full disclosure, what is our
17	relationship?
18	MS. BADAWY: We are married.
19	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, where do you
20	live currently?
21	MS. BADAWY: I live at 1904 6th
22	Street, NW.
23	MR. BADAWY: And who do you live there
24	with?
25	MS. BADAWY: I live with you, my

1	husband, and I live with our two young children,
2	little Naville who is five and little Noir who is
3	one.
4	MR. BADAWY: And how long have you
5	lived in this residence?
6	MS. BADAWY: We moved here in May of
7	2021, so approximately 18 months.
8	MR. BADAWY: And where did you live
9	before that, Ms. Badawy?
10	MS. BADAWY: Before that, we lived
11	near the intersection of 10th and V really close
12	to the American Ice Company if members of the
13	Board are familiar with that location.
14	MR. BADAWY: Do you know whether or
15	not your home is located in a residential zone?
16	MS. BADAWY: It is.
17	MR. BADAWY: And if
18	MS. BADAWY: RF-1, I believe.
19	MR. BADAWY: And can you describe the
20	neighborhood that you live in?
21	MS. BADAWY: Yeah, it's a lot of
22	families. It's a lot of single people. You see
23	women, men walking babies with strollers. You
24	see a lot of people out with their dogs. It's a
25	very friendly place.

1	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, are you
2	familiar with an establishment by the name of El
3	Techo?
4	MS. BADAWY: I am.
5	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell me where
6	your property is in relation to El Techo?
7	MS. BADAWY: So, we are north across
8	Florida Avenue on the west side of 6th Street.
9	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, I'm going to
10	show you what's marked as Protestants' Exhibit E.
11	Can you see this on your screen?
12	MS. BADAWY: Yes.
13	MR. BADAWY: With El Techo in blue,
14	can you tell the members of the Board where 1904
15	6th Street is, your residence?
16	MS. BADAWY: Yes, so it's north of
17	there. I would say, yeah, keep going. There's
18	6th Street, so then keep going, keep going, keep
19	going. It's that one right there to the left.
20	That's our residence.
21	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Ms. Badawy.
22	Ms. Badawy, since moving to your home in May of
23	2021, can you tell me whether or not you've heard
24	music from El Techo inside your home?
25	MS. BADAWY: I have. I've heard it

inside my home with the windows and doors shut. 1 MR. BADAWY: Okay, and can you tell 2 the members of the Board in that time frame 3 approximately how many times you've heard music 4 5 from El Techo inside your home? MS. BADAWY: I would say dozens, 6 7 probably around 50 times at least. And typically, can you 8 MR. BADAWY: 9 tell me when you hear that music, approximately what time does it start and what time does it 10 11 end? 12 MS. BADAWY: It starts on Fridays 13 usually around happy hour, sometimes on Thursdays. Sometimes on the weekends, it starts 14 15 like in the afternoon, I would assume during brunch time, but I don't know. That's what I 16 would think. 17 MR. BADAWY: And what time does it 18 end? 19 It ends well after I go MS. BADAWY: 20 I've called ABRA when I couldn't fall 21 to bed. 22 asleep, when my children are up, when my son 23 couldn't fall asleep and asked me mommy, is there a train under our house? 24 25 MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Badawy, can you

1	when we talk about you being able to hear
2	music inside your residence, can you describe,
3	you know, what that sounds like?
4	MS. BADAWY: Sure, it's very
5	disruptive. It's a multitude of things. It's
6	the beats from the bass. It's the actual music
7	itself. You can hear the undercurrent of the
8	rhythms. A few times, I was able to actually
9	identify some of the songs that were playing.
10	I can hear it in the back of my house.
11	I can hear it in the courtyard. I can hear it in
12	the front of the house. I can hear it everywhere
13	in the house.
14	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, when you've
15	heard music from El Techo inside your residence,
16	have you contacted ABRA investigators?
17	MS. BADAWY: I have.
18	MR. BADAWY: And do you know
19	approximately how many times you've contacted
20	ABRA investigators?
21	MS. BADAWY: Gosh, I would say
22	probably at least a dozen.
23	MR. BADAWY: And how do you call ABRA
24	investigators? Excuse me, let me rephrase that.
25	How have you contacted ABRA investigators?

MS. BADAWY: I actually have them 1 saved in my phone because I was calling them so 2 frequently regarding El Techo. 3 MR. BADAWY: Okay, Ms. Badawy, have 4 you ever contacted El Techo about the loud music 5 that you hear in your home? 6 7 MS. BADAWY: I have. MR. BADAWY: And what was the result 8 of that? 9 So, the very first time 10 MS. BADAWY: I heard it, I didn't know what was happening and 11 12 I walked outside, and I saw the windows, the panels are up, and I quickly identified that it 13 was El Techo. I looked up the restaurant's 14 15 website. I saw their number. I called the It went straight to voicemail. 16 17 So, I didn't leave a message because I was afraid that nothing would take place, no 18 one would answer or no one would get my message, 19 so I actually emailed the establishment on the 20 21 website, the contact information on the website, 2.2 and I said hi. 23 I can't remember the contents of the email, but I said something that I could hear the 24

noise and it was loud and disruptive, and if they

25

1	could please get back in touch with me so we
2	could address the issues, and I didn't hear
3	anything back.
4	MR. BADAWY: And did you notice any
5	change in the music?
6	MS. BADAWY: Absolutely not. It just
7	got worse after that. That was the very first
8	time I heard it, and then after that, I heard it
9	dozens and dozens of times.
10	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, did you take
11	any steps to sort of mitigate the music you hear
12	from El Techo inside your home?
13	MS. BADAWY: So, I got shush machines
14	for both of my children. I spent about \$1,000 on
15	soundproofing moondream curtains and I wear
16	earplugs.
17	MR. BADAWY: Has that helped at all,
18	Ms. Badawy?
19	MS. BADAWY: No.
20	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Badawy, you've heard
21	testimony tonight about the well, have you
22	heard testimony tonight, Ms. Badawy, from the
23	owners of the establishment?
24	MS. BADAWY: I have on and off because
25	I was putting the children to bed and cooking

them dinner. 1 MR. BADAWY: Let me ask you, are you 2 willing to work with the establishment to address 3 the loud music that you can hear in your 4 5 residence? You know, I was willing MS. BADAWY: 6 7 to in the beginning, but now I'm not any longer, I guess because of the attitude of Mr. Hankins. 8 You have emailed him directly and I've been cc'd 9 on that, and he's always very dismissive of our 10 11 concerns. 12 Like I said, I emailed the restaurant 13 directly and no one ever got in touch with me, and even I substantiated a complaint with ABRA, I 14 15 can still hear the music in my house with the windows and doors shut. 16 17 MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Ms. Badawy. I have no further questions for you. 18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline? 19 MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 20 So, 21 Ms. Badawy, you've contacted ABRA at least 12 2.2 times concerning the --23 MS. BADAWY: Correct. -- establishment? 24 MR. KLINE: 25 MS. BADAWY: Correct.

1	MR. KLINE: And you sent one email to
2	the establishment over the last year and a half
3	to your neighbor?
4	MS. BADAWY: Yes, the first time, and
5	I never heard a response since then.
6	MR. KLINE: And what email did you use
7	to send that?
8	MS. BADAWY: I don't remember,
9	whatever was on their website.
10	MR. KLINE: And you never went over
11	there to chat with ownership about these issues?
12	MS. BADAWY: I have not spoken to Mr.
13	Hankins directly, no.
14	MR. KLINE: So, this attitude that you
15	complain about is not something that you
16	experienced, is it?
17	MS. BADAWY: I would say that I have
18	in a negative sense. He never got back in touch
19	with me. I mean, I would think that, as a
20	business owner, if someone is complaining about
21	noise, wouldn't you want to follow up with that,
22	at least acknowledge that email?
23	MR. KLINE: When did you send your
24	email?
25	MS. BADAWY: I'm sorry?

1	MR. KLINE: When did you send your
2	email?
3	MS. BADAWY: I would say back in May
4	of 2021, May or June.
5	MR. KLINE: So, your approach is to
6	send one email, and if you don't get a response
7	from your neighbor, to complain 12 times to the
8	government?
9	MS. BADAWY: Yes.
10	MR. KLINE: Okay, now you testified
11	that one of the incidents or one of the times
12	that you heard loud music was on Thursday night?
13	MS. BADAWY: Yes.
14	MR. KLINE: And when was that?
15	MS. BADAWY: I don't know.
16	MR. KLINE: Would you be surprised to
17	learn that this establishment does not normally
18	have a deejay on Thursday night?
19	MS. BADAWY: Well, maybe it did when
20	I thought it did.
21	MR. KLINE: Maybe it did.
22	MS. BADAWY: Are you saying they never
23	had a deejay on Thursday night?
24	MR. KLINE: Well, I ask the questions
25	here, not you.

1	MS. BADAWY: Okay.
2	MR. KLINE: How close are you to
3	Flash?
4	MS. BADAWY: Are you talking about in
5	a block? Are you talking about a foot radius?
6	MR. KLINE: However you can
7	characterize it.
8	MS. BADAWY: How would you like me to
9	characterize it? That's a pretty open-ended
10	question.
11	MR. KLINE: How far are you from
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Badawy, Ms.
13	Badawy, you're under cross examination. Cross
14	examination sometimes is not friendly.
15	MS. BADAWY: I understand. I just
16	don't want to answer
17	(Simultaneous speaking.)
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Badawy, Ms.
19	Badawy, please, Mr. Kline asked you a question
20	and you need to answer the question, ma'am, okay?
21	MS. BADAWY: I
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Badawy, he
23	will ask you a question. You will answer the
24	question, please. If you are unable to answer
25	the question, just say I cannot answer the

I don't have an answer, but he's the question. 1 only one who asks questions, ma'am. 2 This is cross examination. 3 Cross examination, unfortunately, it's never friendly, 4 5 so therefore, I need you to take a deep breath, please, and answer the questions as asked by 6 7 counsel. You will have another opportunity, Mr. 8 9 Badawy. Once we have gone through the process, Mr. Badawy will ask questions if he thinks that 10 he needs to ask questions that he thought were 11 12 not helpful in cross examination then, okay? 13 right. MS. BADAWY: Yes, sir. 14 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Kline. 16 17 MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms. 18 Badawy, how far are you from El Techo did you 19 say? MS. BADAWY: How far from El Techo? 20 I would say approximately 200 to 300 feet based 21 22 on the exhibit that Mr. Kujawa provided. 23 MR. KLINE: You don't know. You've only based that upon the exhibit? 24 25 MS. BADAWY: Yes.

1	MR. KLINE: And do you know how far
2	away you are from Flash?
3	MS. BADAWY: I don't. I know where it
4	is, but I don't know how many feet if that's what
5	you're asking.
6	MR. KLINE: Is it closer to you than
7	El Techo?
8	MS. BADAWY: I don't know.
9	MR. KLINE: You don't know if it's
10	closer to you?
11	MS. BADAWY: I don't know if it's
12	closer. I think it's farther away, but I'm not
13	entirely sure.
14	MR. KLINE: How long have you been
15	married?
16	MR. BADAWY: Objection, relevancy.
17	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is that
18	relevant, Mr. Kline?
19	MR. KLINE: Her husband is the
20	attorney in this case. It's completely relevant.
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)
22	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't think
23	it's not relevant how long they've been
24	married. I mean, it was disclosed that he is her
25	husband, but how long they're married, it's not

1	relevant, so let's move on.
2	MR. KLINE: All right, I'll move onto
3	the next question which is your husband is the
4	attorney for the protestants in this case,
5	correct?
6	MS. BADAWY: Yes.
7	MR. KLINE: And your husband likes to
8	win when he tries cases, doesn't he?
9	MS. BADAWY: I'm also an attorney. I
10	don't know how that's
11	MR. BADAWY: Objection, objection,
12	objection, objection to the relevancy.
13	MR. KLINE: It goes to bias. Mr.
14	Chair, if I had my wife on the stand, I would
15	certainly expect that opposing counsel would ask
16	her exactly the same questions. Are we serious?
17	MR. BADAWY: Mr. Chairman, if I could?
18	I apologize.
19	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
20	Badawy, go ahead.
21	MR. BADAWY: I would object on
22	relevancy. I would also object that this is
23	beyond the scope of direct. I've already
24	disclosed that she is my wife. She has stated we
25	live together.

You know, how long we're married, 1 whether or not I like to win when I try cases, 2 again is not relevant to the issues that are at 3 play in this hearing. 4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'm 5 sorry, is there a pending question, Mr. Kline, 6 for me to rule on? 7 There was a pending 8 MR. KLINE: 9 question, but I'll withdraw it. We can move on. I think the point is made. 10 11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, all 12 right, any other questions? 13 MR. KLINE: No, I have no further questions. 14 15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by any Board members? Yes, Mr. Grandis? 16 17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Thank you. Badawy, I want to thank you for the patience 18 you've had today and everyone else who is here 19 has had today, but I think you have a little 20 additional burden of two little children probably 21 2.2 this time of night probably also trying to grab 23 your arms and attention, so thank you for being able to be with us. 24 25 I think you said you all were living

at 10th and Vermont, no, 10th and -- I'm sorry. 1 MS. BADAWY: 10th and V. 2 MEMBER GRANDIS: Very different 3 direction, 10th and V, okay. Over that area, was 4 5 the nightlife at all similar to the nightlife you live with now? 6 7 MS. BADAWY: I mean, there were bars and restaurants nearby, but I never filed a 8 9 complaint with ABRA while I was there. We lived right by American Ice, so, you know, you would 10 hear the patrons coming and leaving the bar. 11 12 That wasn't a problem. That's what I understood would happen when I lived in the city. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: You also mentioned 14 15 that since you have moved in that area, you have not gone into the roof deck, I would imagine, 16 17 because the first floor is, from what we're learning, is sort of a carryout, but you've never 18 been into the roof deck, have you? 19 MS. BADAWY: No, sir. 20 21 MEMBER GRANDIS: I understand that you 22 did not get a reply to your email. We all 23 perceive that when one gets an email, the person should respond, but we really don't know where 24

that email went, right? We don't know.

25

So, you

didn't feel like you needed to go in and say 1 hello and that there's a problem? You just 2 3 didn't think that was an option or --I'm sort of puzzled on why you would 4 5 send the email, and I understand I would expect a response, okay, but if I didn't get one, maybe I 6 7 want to shake the tree a little bit. So, did you have any thought of going in and saying wait a 8 9 minute, I haven't heard back from you all or --MS. BADAWY: So --10 11 MEMBER GRANDIS: -- can you put it --12 you know, yeah, go ahead. Thank you. 13 MS. BADAWY: Yeah, no, I'm sorry I interrupted you. So, I called the business 14 15 I'm not sure how many times. I would say again. a couple more times after that and it would 16 17 always just go to voicemail. And then around that time is when we 18 started learning about the ABRA process and 19 getting a complaint substantiated, so then I 20 21 think our focus was more about getting ABRA 22 involved, added to the fact that I didn't hear 23 back from the business owner. 24 MEMBER GRANDIS: Once again, I 25 understand that in our civil society, people

should be responsive. At the same time, you 1 moved into this neighborhood and it's like 200 to 2 3 300 feet away. It just seems like there would be --4 I don't understand why neighbors don't go in and 5 even order a meal, or the carryout, or something 6 7 just to get a sense of is it just the music that irritates me. 8 9 So, we're not taking away -- I'm not taking away from your concern. 10 I'm just concerned that maybe we all need to be neighborly 11 12 and talk to each other, but there's more --MS. BADAWY: I've gone in -- sure. 13 MEMBER GRANDIS: Excuse me. Go ahead. 14 15 MS. BADAWY: I'm sorry. I've gone in before and I've gotten a burrito --16 17 MEMBER GRANDIS: Okay. MS. BADAWY: -- but I didn't see Mr. 18 19 Hankins there or any -- I didn't recognize. just saw the workers there behind the desk or the 20 21 22 MEMBER GRANDIS: And when you went and 23 got that burrito, did you mention that hey, the noise bothers my children and myself? You know, 24 25 did you mention anything? Oh, I think she went

1 away. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think she has 2 3 -- she didn't go away. She has some -- clearly she's in a different -- I'm sorry, Mr. Badawy, 4 5 clearly she's in a different location than you are because you have never had any problems all 6 7 day with your connection. MR. BADAWY: That is the reason that 8 we are in different locations, Mr. Chairman. 9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. 10 MEMBER GRANDIS: Well, that was going 11 12 to be my last question is just --CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, Mr. 13 Grandis. Are you back, Ms. Badawy? 14 15 MS. BADAWY: I am back, I believe. Sorry, I'm not sure what happened there. 16 17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Grandis. 18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Yeah, so, it's just, 19 I'm hearing that today, because of the 20 frustration and the disruption, and it's serious, 21 that there seems to be a lack of trust from the 2.2 23 protestants, now I'm putting you in that group, to say let's sit down and talk this out. 24

And I can understand there's a place

that that happens, but what puzzles me is I 1 haven't heard from one protestant that they 2 actually have ever gone in there, that they've 3 actually tried to have a meal. 4 It may not be your kind of music, but 5 still it just seems like we are being asked to 6 make a decision when, at the same time, I think 7 there should be an opportunity for the 8 9 neighborhood, particularly the protestants today, to say okay, we'll sit down with them. 10 11 Not that we accept or you accept the 12 noise, but to be neighborly. And I just wish 13 that when this is over, that you all can try to make peace in a way if you all get a result that 14 15 you feel is fair, so that --You know, that they are a business in 16 17 the neighborhood and yes, you know, you all have a right to privacy. You have a right to guiet. 18 19 So, that's my little speech here. I just would encourage people to go in and try to talk to each 20 21 other, but --22 MS. BADAWY: Can I just clarify something, Mr. Grandis? 23 MEMBER GRANDIS: 24 Yes. 25 MS. BADAWY: Also, I quess, the

situation with the business owner not responding to my email, the voicemails not working, and also talking with folks in the neighborhood who informed me of the settlement agreement and how Mr. Hankins wasn't really abiding by it, it just made me feel that he wouldn't take my concerns seriously.

And there were also email exchanges

And there were also email exchanges between him and my husband that I was cc'd on where he was very dismissive of us when we informed him that we could hear the music in our house.

MEMBER GRANDIS: I understand and I really do appreciate, we all do appreciate the time and the energy that you've given through this process and particularly today. It's been a very long day and I'm sure your children want attention. So, thank you and we just move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, thank you. Any other, any questions by any other Board members? Mr. Kline? Mr. Badawy?

MR. BADAWY: Nothing further, Mr.

Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have

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1	another witness, sir?
2	MR. BADAWY: We have one more witness,
3	Mr. Chair. The protestants call Lynne Venart.
4	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Venart, can
5	you raise your right hand, please?
6	MS. VENART: Yes.
7	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you swear or
8	affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the
9	truth?
10	MS. VENART: I do.
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,
12	sir.
13	MR. BADAWY: Good evening, Ms. Venart.
14	MS. VENART: Hi.
15	MR. BADAWY: Would you please state
16	and spell your full name for the record?
17	MS. VENART: Yes, it's Lynne Venart,
18	L-Y-N-N-E V-E-N-A-R-T.
19	MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, where do
20	you live?
21	MS. VENART: I live at 1838 6th
22	Street, NW in Unit C. I'm in the same building
23	as Craig.
24	MR. BADAWY: And by Craig, do you mean
25	Mr. Craig Kujawa?

1	MS. VENART: Yes.
2	MR. BADAWY: And who do you live there
3	with?
4	MS. VENART: I live there with my
5	fianc,, Scott.
6	MR. BADAWY: And how long have you
7	lived in this place?
8	MS. VENART: Since 2013, so nine
9	years.
10	MR. BADAWY: And do you know whether
11	or not your home is located in a residential
12	do you know whether or not your home is located
13	in a residential zone?
14	MS. VENART: Yes, I believe it is.
15	MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, can you
16	describe the neighborhood that you live in?
17	MS. VENART: I would say it's
18	residential. We are on Florida Avenue, so there
19	are businesses, you know, shops across the street
20	and there's a couple of other businesses, but
21	there are lots of residences as well. I would
22	say that the residences outnumber the businesses
23	as far as I can gauge.
24	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Venart, are you
25	familiar with an establishment by the name of El

1	Techo?
2	MS. VENART: Yes.
3	MR. BADAWY: Okay, and once again, can
4	you tell us where your home is in relationship to
5	El Techo?
6	MS. VENART: So, as Craig mentioned,
7	our building is four units. My unit is facing
8	6th Street on the third and fourth floor of the
9	building. So, to my left is the building that El
10	Techo is in, but they are kind of behind me,
11	behind.
12	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Venart, I'm going to
13	show you what's been entered as Protestants'
14	Exhibit F. Can you tell us where, using this
15	diagram, your residence is in relationship to El
16	Techo?
17	MS. VENART: Yes, so if you go below
18	El Techo to that building and then to the right,
19	to the front part of it, further, yes, in there,
20	right there.
21	MR. BADAWY: Okay, thank you, Ms.
22	Venart.
23	MS. VENART: You're welcome.
24	MR. BADAWY: Ms. Venart, in the past
25	three years, have you been able to hear music

1	from El Techo inside your residence?
2	MS. VENART: Yes.
3	MR. BADAWY: And can you say during
4	that time period approximately how many times
5	you've heard music from El Techo inside your
6	residence?
7	MS. VENART: I would many dozens of
8	times, definitely over 50, closer to 100 maybe.
9	MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, can you
10	tell the members of the Board, when you're able
11	to hear that music, what that music sounds like?
12	MS. VENART: I hear a lot of bass.
13	It's definitely heavy bass. I mean, it's, you
14	know, I know it was described as house music.
15	You know, I would say that's fairly accurate.
16	I'm not a musician, but, you know, electronic
17	dance music with a lot of beats and a lot of
18	bass.
19	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell us, you
20	know, typically what time that music starts and
21	what time that music ends?
22	MS. VENART: I would say it varies.
23	I mean, a lot of times, it's, you know, early
24	evening to the nighttime.
25	MR. BADAWY: And can you tell the

members of the Board how hearing that music in 1 your home has affected you and your fianc,? 2 I would say that it's 3 MS. VENART: been fairly maddening. We can hear the bass very 4 5 clearly when -- you know, it's caused a lot of stress and frustration for us, both of us, over 6 It's difficult to relax. 7 the last few years. We like to cook to relax, and even 8 though our kitchen is kind of furthest away from 9 our windows and that side of the building where 10 El Techo is, even if we turn up our stereo or TV 11 to drown out the music, we can still feel the 12 bass in the floor in our kitchen, so there's just 13 nowhere we can get away from it. 14 15 MR. BADAWY: Ms. Venart, have you contacted ABRA when you can hear loud music from 16 17 El Techo inside, El Techo, excuse me, inside your residence? 18 19 MS. VENART: Yes. MR. BADAWY: Okay, and can you tell me 20 21 how many times -- let me ask you, yeah, how often 2.2 in this three-year period have you contacted ABRA 23 about the music? I mean, I would say in 24 MS. VENART: 25 the beginning, we were mostly just contacting the

establishment itself, and then we started making 1 noise complaints. 2 We, you know, didn't realize that we 3 needed to have somebody come establish or come 4 5 inside the unit, so we were just calling or 6 putting in the web request, the web form. 7 And so, I forget, did you ask how many I would say over the last three years, 8 9 between calling and the web form and everything, maybe, I don't know, at least 20 times. 10 11 MR. BADAWY: Do you contact ABRA every 12 time you hear loud music in your residence? 13 MS. VENART: No, I mean, it's frustrating to have to do that and I kind of just 14 want to try to ignore the music as much as 15 16 possible, and like having them come out to the residence, I mean, it like turns it into a whole 17 big thing, so I do not contact them every time. 18 MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, I believe 19 you testified earlier that you have contacted El 20 Techo about being able to hear their music inside 21 2.2 your home, is that correct? 23 MS. VENART: Yes. And can you tell the 24 MR. BADAWY: 25 members of the Board about that engagement with

El Techo?

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MS. VENART: I mean, I think when they first opened, we called a few times. I'm sure we left messages. I mean, it's been a few years, so I don't totally remember how many times we left messages or whatever.

My fianc, did go over there and get
Mr. Hankins' cell phone number, which I
appreciated. I also have an email address for
Shaw's Tavern's owner that he has been responsive
to, so I appreciate having contact information.

So, after we got the cell phone number, we did text him when we had issues and, you know, I admit that it was a lot of texts because we could hear the music loudly and feel the bass, and we were just trying to get them to turn it down and just it, you know, it was very frustrating.

MR. BADAWY: Did they turn the music down when you would contact them, Ms. Venart?

MS. VENART: I don't feel like they did.

MR. BADAWY: Did you ever try to engage El Techo in other ways concerning the music that you could hear from their

establishment in your home?

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MS. VENART: I mean, they did have -in June of 2021, I started talking to Mr.
Hankins' colleague, Daniel, who testified
earlier, and he came over with the sound
engineers and they came into my unit as well as
Craig's unit to --

They said they were going to run tests, but they, at that visit that I was present at, they just talked to us and made the suggestion about, you know, increasing our hallway space to add extra insulation, which we didn't feel like was a reasonable request.

MR. BADAWY: Ms. Venart, there's been testimony that there are many restaurants and businesses, you know, Flash in the area. When you hear music in your residence, how do you know it's coming from El Techo?

MS. VENART: I would say in the beginning, it was very easy to tell because there was a sharp, dramatic increase in sound once El Techo opened.

We had never felt bass in our unit before aside from the occasional motorcycle going by or something that happened to have something,

but that's fleeting.

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We had never heard this level of music inside of our establishment, inside our residence, I mean, so the fact that El Techo opens and that all of a sudden, we can hear this music all the time and feel the bass all the time.

We did go outside to like check, so that's how it was very easy to tell in those beginning times when -- but that's where it was coming from because there was a dramatic shift.

MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, I apologize. I don't know if I asked you this question. If I have, forgive me, but when you can hear music in your home from El Techo, can you tell us what time typically it starts and what time it typically ends?

MS. VENART: I think I said earlier that it's, you know, typically evening to, you know, midnight or so, but, you know, I don't -- I can't give you an exact time.

MR. BADAWY: And Ms. Venart, are you still willing to work with El Techo to address the loud music coming from their establishment that you can hear in your residence?

MS. VENART: I mean, I feel very hesitant to want to work with them to be honest because, I mean, the interactions over the years have not been very positive, and here I know over the last year, they have had the --

Louis and Daniel both testified that they have not had as many deejays over the last year, and you saw Craig's chart about the deejays sort of declining over the last year, the frequency of them.

I know that since their license was up for renewal, it just makes me very suspicious that they have been, you know, on their best behavior over the last year because they know that this hearing today is going to happen, and so they want to be able to say that they've been making improvements.

So, it makes me very nervous when I heard Louis testify that, you know, they have lost -- they have cut back some of their business, and in doing so, in the last year, they have lost \$350,000 in income from the extra alcohol sales that they had been making before.

And Daniel also testified that they have been not staying open as long or having

2.2

1	music as long as they are allowed to in their
2	license.
3	So, if that's the reason why it hasn't
4	been quite as bad the last year, it makes me
5	nervous to go back to that, because then once, if
6	they get the license renewed, they'll go back to
7	the old ways and having live music until 1:30 in
8	the morning and the bigger crowds that they used
9	to have, and then, you know, where are we? Then
LO	we're back to, you know, them having free reign
L1	for a few years.
L <b>2</b>	MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Ms. Venart.
L3	I have no further questions for you.
L <b>4</b>	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Kline?
L5	MR. KLINE: Have you been here for the
L6	entire hearing?
L <b>7</b>	MS. VENART: Yes.
L8	MR. KLINE: You heard Mr. Beam
L9	testify?
20	MS. VENART: Yes.
21	MR. KLINE: Do you doubt that he can
22	solve this problem?
23	MS. VENART: I trust that, as a
24	professional, he can make the best recommendation
25	to the owners.

1	MR. KLINE: And you heard Mr. Hankins
2	testify?
3	MS. VENART: Yes.
4	MR. KLINE: And you heard Mr. Hatem
5	testify?
6	MS. VENART: Yes.
7	MR. KLINE: And you heard them testify
8	under oath that they're committed to following
9	Mr. Beam's recommendations?
10	MS. VENART: Yes.
11	MR. KLINE: Is it your contention that
12	they're lying, that they don't intend to do that?
13	MS. VENART: I'm saying I given
14	past experience, when we have asked them to turn
15	music down and things like that, it has not
16	happened. So, based on my experience, I'm not
17	100 percent confident that this will follow
18	through and have me, you know, be able to live in
19	peace in my home.
20	MR. KLINE: So, you testified about a
21	time when Mr. Hatem came to your home, correct?
22	MS. VENART: Yes.
23	MR. KLINE: And is it your testimony
24	that the only thing he did was tell you to
25	soundproof your own place?

MS. VENART: Well, they walked through the units and just sort of asked us questions, and they were sort of talking amongst themselves about different ideas they had. This was prior to them coming up with a plan, so they were putting out suggestions.

MR. KLINE: Right, and didn't one of

MR. KLINE: Right, and didn't one of the things that they said they would do would be to relocate the speakers in the establishment so as to potentially have less effect on your residence?

MS. VENART: They didn't say that in that conversation. This was after they sent us some text messages a couple of months later that said what they would do. On October 6, they said that new equipment was installed and they had moved the bass away from the common wall.

You know, I will say in that text conversation, they said that it happened the day before was when they installed all of these changes, and the day before, we did happen to hear loud bass in our residence from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. that same day, so it's, you know --

MR. KLINE: And when was that?

MS. VENART: October 6.

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MR. KLINE: Right, and did you hear 1 the testimony that that was during a time when 2 there were promoters and a different sound system 3 was brought in? 4 5 MS. VENART: Well, in the text thread, they said that they had implemented all of the 6 7 changes that they wanted to implement. MR. KLINE: That's not my question. 8 9 My question is did you hear the testimony that that was the time during which they had a 10 promoter and brought in an alternate sound 11 12 Did you hear that testimony? 13 MS. VENART: I heard testimony that there was a promoter. I don't know if that 14 promoter was there on October 6, but if they had 15 16 indicated to me via text that they had solved the 17 problems, then I'm not sure why they would send a text to me about that if they had a promoter 18 using different equipment that day. 19 MR. KLINE: And the noise issues 20 21 improved at least as early as January 1 of this 2.2 year, correct? 23 I would say they have MS. VENART: improved, but I would also say that in the last 24 25 year, Quattro Osteria has been playing a lot of

1	music right outside my living room window, so it
2	makes it more difficult for me to tell if the
3	music since Quattro Osteria has started playing
4	music outside my living room window is from
5	where it's coming from.
6	MR. KLINE: Don't you live on the
7	opposite side of the building from where this
8	establishment is located, the opposite side of
9	your building?
10	MS. VENART: I live facing 6th Street
11	right next to Quattro Osteria and El Techo is in
12	that same building, but behind it in the back
13	side, yes.
14	MR. KLINE: Right, but you face the
15	opposite direction, correct?
16	MS. VENART: I face 6th Street.
17	MR. KLINE: And that's the complete
18	opposite direction of where El Techo is located,
19	correct?
20	MS. VENART: I don't know what you
21	mean by opposite. El Techo faces Florida Avenue.
22	MR. KLINE: All right, I have no
23	further questions for the witness.
24	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions
25	by the Board members? I want to ask a question,

1	and I apologize, Ms. Venart, if you have answered
2	that question. How long have you lived at the
3	location?
4	MS. VENART: Since 2013.
5	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you been
6	into the establishment?
7	MS. VENART: Yeah, we used to get
8	burritos at Rito Loco, not all the time, but
9	occasionally, and when friends would come visit,
10	they would pick up tacos or burritos at Rito Loco
11	and have them at our place.
12	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
13	thank you. Any other questions by any other
14	Board members? Mr. Kline?
15	MR. KLINE: I have none. Thank you.
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy?
17	MR. BADAWY: I have none. Thank you.
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Ms.
19	Venart. Thank you very much for your testimony.
20	MS. VENART: Thank you.
21	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Badawy, do
22	you have any other witnesses?
23	MR. BADAWY: No, Mr. Chair. We've
24	reached our five witness limit.
25	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, we've done,

and I'm not being facetious, but we've done five witnesses already? I've just -- you know what? Yeah, we've done five witnesses already. Well, I am glad to hear that we have gone through five witnesses without me realizing, but that's good to hear. All right, so do you rest?

MR. BADAWY: Yes, we rest.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, okay, so we'll do closing. I'm going to take a break, but what I want both sides to do is specifically provide instructions to the Board what is it that you're asking the Board to do, okay?

And once we have done closing, I need to make sure that you have moved to introduce all of the records, all of the documents that need to be moved into evidence, so we can have that conversation to make sure that whatever records that you want to be moved into evidence are moved into evidence, okay?

It is 9:59. Let's just say it's 10:00. We're going to take a ten-minute break. At 10:10, we'll do closing and then we'll wrap this matter up, okay? So, ten-minute break. At 10:10, we will come back on the record, okay?

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Thank you.

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(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 9:59 p.m. and resumed at 10:10 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, now it's time for the parties to do closing. As I've stated before, I need specific guidance and instructions from both, the Applicant and from the Protestant what it is that they are requesting from the Board.

I will give -- you have five minutes to do your closing, and so go ahead, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. What presented tonight -- today/tonight, was an unfortunate situation where it seems as if civility in a neighborhood somehow broke down.

There clearly were problems with this establishment, and there were clearly efforts to address those problems. It appears that the efforts to address those problems were not as successful as they might have been, but nonetheless the efforts were there.

For whatever reason, residents in the neighborhood, rather than continuing to try to

work with this establishment, decided that -according to my account -- contacting ABRA in
excess of 70 times to build a case -- and you
heard that from Ms. Badawy, Counsel's wife -that's, yeah, that's what they thought they would
do, that they would build a case rather than
working with their neighbor to address the
problems.

Now, what you heard, you heard testimony from Martin Beam, who you've heard from many times, who was clearly an expert in his field. And, according to his testimony, if -- and, if, and we'll get to in a minute -- if business operators followed his recommendations, he doesn't fail, he solves these problems.

And, I know this Board has seen that in other cases and I expect that it is something, if given the chance, the Board will see again here, that these problems can be and will be solved.

The only way that doesn't happen is if Mr. Hankins who, let's keep in mind, built this business from a food truck into a brick-and-mortar, fast casual place and now to what it is, survived the pandemic somehow and has

lived to tell about it, but needs your help to be able to move further.

But, as I was saying, the only way this doesn't happen is if you conclude that what Mr. Hankins and what Mr. Hatem told you under oath was a lie. And, that lie would be that they will not follow the recommendations of Mr. Beam.

And, frankly, I don't think that there is anything that you've heard during today's, tonight's hearing that would lead you to conclude that those two individuals are lying to you about what their intentions are, and what they will do if this license is approved.

Now, what do we want? Mr. Chairman, you asked us to be explicit in terms of what we want -- here's what we think is reasonable and addresses the issues that have been raised during this hearing.

One is, obviously we want the license renewed and we want it, provided that the other conditions are met, renewed without restriction or reservation. And, those conditions are pretty straightforward and please simple, but they're very important.

Number one is that the establishment

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will have produced by a qualified sound engineer, in this case Mr. Beam, recommendations to mitigate the issues that we've heard about from residents tonight concerning noise from the establishment.

Second is that the Licensee will implement those recommendations as they testified to you they would do.

We think it's all very simple, how this got off the track, and why it is the neighbors decided that they couldn't even go into a place to talk to the owners, and in one instance never made any effort to contact the owners but instead contacted an agency 25 times to report them, is beyond me -- I don't know.

I've been doing this a long time and I haven't seen this level of consistent obstinance to working with an establishment, across the board. Every single witness, it was almost as if it was engineered -- let's all take the position that we're not going to work with this establishment, let's all take the position that, when contacted ABRA, that's what we're going to do here.

And, it's not reasonable in a city,

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it's not reasonable where businesses and residents needs to coexist and learn to get along,

And, I submit to you that the two witnesses, the two owners of the operator testified honestly of their intentions -- you've already saw, they already spent a whole bunch of money, they didn't do it not to try to solve the problem. But, they're prepared to spend more, they've already retained Mr. Beam, and they testified as to their willingness to follow through on that.

And, we would request that you take them at their word and hold their feet to the fire, frankly. And, put it in an order and say, this is what you're going to do, you will submit a report reflecting the noise mitigation measures to be implemented, and you'll implement them, otherwise we're going to have you back here and we'll talk about it some more.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the Board. Thank you for your diligence in being here until 10:17, until Mr. Badawy finishes. We appreciate your attention to this case, we know it's been a very long day.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.

Kline. Mr. Badawy?

MR. BADAWY: Thank you, Mr.

Chairperson. And, I want to reiterate what Mr. Kline said, that I want to thank you and thank the Board for what has been a very long day, a very long hearing. And, we appreciate your service. And, I also appreciate Mr. Kline's efforts at representing his client, and I thank him for participating in this hearing, as well.

To begin with, I believe it was something that, I believe Board Member Grandis said that kind of stuck with me. We want businesses to thrive but not in a way that disrupts homeowners from thriving. And, I think that's important here because what we're talking about is balance, right?

We're talking about the ability of businesses to function, to make money, to thrive, but abutting, adjacent surrounding homeowners need to also be able to live and enjoy their homes, and the community, that is very important.

The issue before the Board is not whether or not El Techo at some point in the

future will meet the appropriate fitness standard, at some point in the future it will be soundproofed, everything will get taken care. The issue before the Board is, is it appropriate now?

And, we've heard from the expert,
Martin Beam, and he has said that he's
supervising the sort of rebuild of the structure,
as he described, rebuild of the roof deck. And
he, when asked, said that, no, it's not
soundproof right now and there are certainly
problems with the back wall abutting neighbors,
right? He said that very clearly.

He also said that he'll be able to design a month in a month but he has no idea how long it take to actually implement that plan.

And, you know, his findings are understandable, right? What we're talking about is basically a plastic roof deck with a translucent ceiling, and these translucent in the middle of Shaw, surrounded by homes.

And, although the owner, you know, has claimed that he has made many upgrade over time, the problems persist. And, the problem is, maybe not necessarily whether or not the owners are

unable or unwilling to change, but because of the way the structure exists right now it is not able to contain music inside.

And, hearing all the testimony and looking at it and looking at the steps that were taken, and the fact the problem hasn't been solved, that is why -- this structure, as it exists, cannot contain music right now.

I will also add that, yes, things have, you know, unfortunately broken down between the business owners and the community. My mother told me a long time ago that it takes two in a situation, two to fight, two to make up.

So, to claim that it's all one side, the people in the neighborhood, and that the owners have no responsibility I think is unfair -- everyone probably deserves responsibility here.

I will say that there is testimony in the record that the members of the community have worked with the establishment, over a period of years. And, if they are reluctant to believe what they're saying now it's because of their experiences.

And, you know, again we can look at

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their experiences -- also, if we want to know perhaps why they're struggling to accept why, perhaps the Board should have some pause to accept the owners at their word, it's because of the investigative history that we've seen and we've heard.

I would also say that it's hard to take someone at their word that they're willing to fix a problem, if they don't believe there's a problem. They believe they're being unfairly put upon, they believe that all the neighbors want to do is build a case -- if they in fact don't believe that the music is coming from their establishment, that it's coming from someplace else.

It's a problem, then to take someone at their word, that they say they're going to commit to something, when, you know, that's the testimony that you've heard. And, that's what we heard from Mr. Hatem and that's what we've heard from Mr. Hankins. So, that's something I think the Board should consider when they're looking at whether or not this place is appropriate now and whether it can ever be appropriate in the future.

I want to summarize just briefly, the

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evidence, we've shown through the testimony of multiple witnesses that, when this establishment has live music, when it features disc jockeys on dozens and dozens of occasion, the establishment has regularly produced noise that is audible within homes.

Now, both, the abutting condominium building of Mr. Kujawa and Mr. Venart and those that live 200 or more feet away across Florida Avenue, such as Mrs. Badawy and Mr. Baranowski.

The Board, however, need not rely however on the witness testimony alone, since the investigative history documents instances of noise that can be heard in people's homes, that were substantiated by ABRA investigators. These have not been rare occurrences.

We've shown through photographs, we've shown through testimony that, in addition to the loud noise the establishment has stored rubbish and trash in a manner that harbors rodents, violates public space, and violates the ability of people to enjoy the area when they walk by it.

And, finally, all of these facts exist within the context of the establishment's record of compliance with Title 25 in the last five

years, which includes six instances of a failure to file a courtly statement, four instances of a failure to comply with the Mayor's order, three instances of increasing occupancy without approval, and six instances of failure to follow a settlement agreement.

And, various other infractions.

Twenty-four primary and secondary tier violations in total, resulting in two show cause hearings, two offers in compromise, and the payment of 11 different fines, totaling \$10,000.

What the evidentiary record shows, whether on the issue of noise, on garbage, or compliance is an enduring pattern of behavior in which the establishment places a high priority on operating in accordance with the owner's vision of this adult treehouse, Miami vibes, and killer beats than it does in operating in accordance with the requirements of the law, and the respect for its neighbors.

Any one of these issues would be sufficient grounds for non-renewal of this license, but taken together such outcome more than justifies as a conclusion of law, based on the facts in the record.

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We congratulate Mr. Hankins on his creation of a successful and popular establishment, but we submit that the success and the popularity cannot come at the expense of the reasonable expectations of the residents to enjoy the peace of their own homes -- for five years now, it has.

We are sympathetic to the monetary investment the Licensee claims to have made in the establishment, and by extension the neighborhood. But, entrepreneurs assume risks associated with not just the regulatory environment, but the limitations of the location and the physical structure they create or choose to operate in.

Business owners don't earn special credits that empower them to ignore or violate the law, once they have invested enough of their own money.

This is not a case of new people in the neighborhood disapproving of or wanting to change the vibrant culture of Shaw they moved into, many of the protestants have lived in their homes affected by Rito Loco El Techo for a long time.

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And, for the record, the protestants are not opposed to having licensed taverns and restaurants in the neighborhood — the opposite is true. It's places like Right Proper Brewing Company, The Royal less than a block away, and even Shaw's Tavern right around the corner are valued neighbors and coexist respectfully in a predominantly residential area of Shaw and LeDroit Park.

Prior to the addition of El Techo rooftop in 2017, Rito Loco the fast food restaurant was in this category, too. And, the culture of Shaw cannot be construed to mean music so loud and uncontained that it cannot be heard in other buildings. Nor is this is a case of residents unwilling to work with the establishment, as I said earlier.

The issue of amplified entertainment emanating from El Techo has existed since this rooftop opened in 2017, and the renewal of the license was protested three years ago for the exact same reason as it is today.

The only reason the protestant did not reach a hearing then was because, the residents were willing to let them attempt measures to

prevent the escape of music from their establishment.

We have previously invited the Licensee's sound engineer into our homes, and his recommendation was to put sound-absorbing material on the inside of our walls.

Unfortunately, all of those measures have failed but it has not been for a lack of trying to afford a new business the opportunity to find its legs.

The Licensee may point to the lack of violations in the last 12 months as an argument that no conditions are necessary, but we strongly argue against that flawed conclusion.

The absence of violations during that period is not due to the resolution of the persistent problem that is intrinsic to the physical characteristics and construction of the establishment, and its location.

The recent drop in violations can just as easily be explained by the fatigue and cynicism of residents who have seen their complaints over the past five years have little, if any, tangible effect.

Or, by the common practice of

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establishments to temporarily change their practices in the few months preceding the predictable protest period for their license renewal.

I would remind the Board that the initial deadline for the Class CR license here was March 31 of 2022.

Now, we're not -- now, we are realistic and do not anticipate that the Board will decide to revoke this license. But, unless the Board can impose conditions that ensure noise cannot be heard in the dozens of nearby homes that have been affected for the last five years, this is what we respectfully recommend the Board should do.

The volume and breadth of complaints that resulted in two different ANCs protesting this renewal, and the willingness of 31 different nearby residents to sign onto the group of five or more protest, to say nothing of the abutting property owner who's building is most affected, show that the opposition to the establishment's manner of operation is genuine, it is wide-spread, and it has persisted well beyond the last violation.

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DCMR Section 2701 states that it is the declared public policy of the District that every person is entitled to ambient noise levels that are not detrimental to life, health, and enjoyment of his or her property.

The establishment's entertainment produces ambient noise that is detrimental to all three of those things for dozens of people, and it doesn't become acceptable merely by limiting it to hours before midnight or some other arbitrary time of day.

In view of all that has been presented today, we strongly believe and would recommend that the revocation of the entertainment endorsement is the only condition that can reasonably assure that the establishment will not operate as it has, adversely impacting the neighborhood for another three years.

With his original Rito Loco restaurant license, Mr. Hankins should not -- should have the right to operate an open-air rooftop restaurant. But, we strongly believe that he should not have the right to operate playing music at extreme levels in an elevated, thin plastic and plywood box. And, he especially

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should not have the right abutting someone's home 1 in a residential zone that is predominantly a 2 residential area. 3 And, members of the Board, Mr. 4 Chairman, and Counsel I thank you for your time 5 6 today. 7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Before I close the record, did everyone move all 8 the documents that they need to be moved in 9 evidence -- have all the documents been moved? 10 I'm (audio interference), 11 MR. KLINE: 12 yeah. 13 MR. BADAWY: I believe yes, Mr. Chair, I don't know if there's a way to check that now, 14 15 but I believe the protestants have. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, well 16 17 I know the documents that you had testimony on, I brought them into -- entered into evidence, so 18 that's fine. 19 All right, thank you very much. 20 the parties wish to file proposed findings of 21 fact and conclusions of law, or waive their right 2.2 23 to do so? MR. KLINE: We're going to waive. 24 25 MR. BADAWY: The protestants do wish

to file a proposed findings of fact and law, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so since the parties have chose to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, then 90 days from when the Board receives proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law we'll issue a decision.

The transcript will be emailed to the parties within the next three weeks, the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law are then due to the Board 30 days after they have received the transcript.

If the parties change their mind, they are welcome to advise the Board that they have changed their mind, and providing us with the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, okay?

And, okay, so hold one minute, please.

As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Board for the District of
Columbia and in accordance with D.C. Code Section
2-575 of the Open Meetings Act, I move that the
ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the purpose
of seeking legal advice from our Counsel on Case

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1	Number 22-PRO-00072 Rito-Loco-El Techo, pursuant				
2	to D.C. Official Code Section 2-575(b)(4)(a) of				
3	the Open Meetings Act. And, deliberating upon				
4	Case Number 22-PRO-00072 Rito-Loco-El Techo for				
5	the reasons cited in D.C. Official Code Section				
6	2-575(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act.				
7	Is there a second?				
8	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.				
9	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen will				
10	second.				
11	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short and				
12	Ms. Hansen has second the motion, I will now take				
13	a roll call vote on the motion.				
14	Mr. Short?				
15	MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.				
16	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?				
17	MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.				
18	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?				
19	MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.				
20	CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?				
21	And, Mr. Anderson, I agree. As it				
22	appears that the motion has passed, I hereby give				
23	notice that the ABC Board will recess these				
24	proceedings to have a closed meeting.				
25	I'm sorry, I'm trying to do too many				

things at one point, give me one minute. We'll recess to have a closed meeting, and so therefore, we will -- as I stated before -- 90 days after we have received a proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law we will issue a decision.

And, I want to thank all the parties for their participation today and their attention today, we thank you for your presentation.

And, if you hold on one more minute, I now need to close the record officially for the day. You can sign -- the parties can sign off if they so desire, all I'm going to do is close the record.

So, you don't have to be here unless you want to hear me read my official closing the record for the day. But, that's all I need to do and we're going to sign out -- but, I just want to thank you again before I do that. But, let me close the record, then, for the day.

As Chairperson of the Alcoholic

Beverage Control Board for the District of

Columbia, in accordance with D.C. Official Code

Section 2-575(b) and 2-575(b)(14) of the Open

Meetings Act, I move that the ABC Board hold a

closed meeting on December 14, 2022.

For the purpose of discussing and hearing reports concerning on-going or planned investigations of alleged criminal or civil misconduct, or violations of law or regulations, and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel on matters identified on the Board's legal, license, and investigative agenda for December 14, 2022 as published in the D.C. Register on December 9, 2022.

Is there a second?

MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato seconds.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato has second the motion, I will now take a roll call vote on the motion before us now that it has been seconded. Mr. Short?

Mr. Cato?

MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

And, Mr. Anderson, I agree. As it appears that the motion has passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will this closed

meeting. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act,

notice will also be posted on the ABC Board 1 2 hearing room bulletin board, placed on electronic calendar on ABRA's website, and published in the 3 D.C. Register in as timely a manner as practical. 4 5 We are now adjourned for the day, I again would like to thank all the parties for 6 participating in our day today. Thank you very 7 much for your attention to this matter. 8 We are now adjourned request that all 9 Board members return to executive session for 10 further development. 11 12 Have a good night, thank you very much. 13 14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 15 went off the record at 10:37 p.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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## ${\color{red} \underline{C} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{E} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{R} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{F} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{C} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{A} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \underline{E}}$

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Rito Loco

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 12-07-22

Place: teleconference

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

Court Reporter

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