



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

2 1:36 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case  
4 on our calendar is a Fact-Finding Hearing. It's  
5 for Sequence, LLC, a fundraiser, applicant is  
6 Adam B. Ross, 2046 West Virginia Avenue, N.E.

7 Will the parties, please, approach and  
8 identify themselves for the record, please?

9 MR. ROSS: Yes, good afternoon. Adam  
10 Ross, applicant.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
12 sir. There is a sign-in sheet, if you all can  
13 sign your name in, please?

14 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Investigator  
15 Mark Brashears, ABRA.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
17 Mr. Brashears.

18 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Good  
19 afternoon, sir.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
21 Ross, one of the reasons why we brought you here,  
22 you are a new applicant to -- you are a new

1 applicant. I don't think you have ever applied  
2 for a license before from ABRA. Is that correct?

3 MR. ROSS: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So maybe -- and  
5 so that's one of the reasons why we would like to  
6 just find some more information about you.

7 MR. ROSS: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The address I  
9 think -- it's my understanding that we have  
10 issued a one-day license for this address before,  
11 but I think one of the concerns that the Board  
12 has is that alcohol sales would end at 2:45, but  
13 the event ends at 8:00 a.m.

14 MR. ROSS: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so that's  
16 one of the concerns that the Agency has. It's  
17 that well, we approve you to -- we have not had a  
18 history with you and how -- what's the assurances  
19 that you have or you will provide the Agency that  
20 at 2:45, that alcohol would not be sold from  
21 2:45, consumed from 2:45 to 8:00 a.m., so maybe  
22 you can tell us about you and about this event

1 and what is it that is going to occur those  
2 hours.

3 MR. ROSS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
4 Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to  
5 present myself. I am here, I am an applicant. I  
6 have had some of these parties before. We have  
7 had several parties. This is the first time at  
8 this address.

9 I understand the concern primarily is  
10 security-related, how we are going to ensure that  
11 alcohol sales are stopped at 2:45.

12 So I guess our first assurance is that  
13 we have four licensed security officers, two of  
14 whom I know personally from previous events that  
15 I volunteered with. They are very well-  
16 experienced in making sure that only 21 year-olds  
17 are admitted to our event.

18 Second, the two individuals that we  
19 have who will be dispensing of the alcohol, they  
20 have TIPS certification. We have had -- when I  
21 say we, I mean Sequence. Sequence is a single-  
22 member LLC. It was formed in 2017 in Maryland.

1 That single-member has probably five volunteers  
2 who help him run these types of events.

3 On previous occasions of events that  
4 he has held where he has had applicants using --  
5 one of our volunteers, she actually has gotten  
6 temporary licenses twice before and --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For Sequence?  
8 For what?

9 MR. ROSS: For Sequence.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What address?  
11 It's the same address or different address?

12 MR. ROSS: This is a different  
13 address.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What -- so who  
15 is -- I mean, I guess what I'm saying is because  
16 I guess you are saying Sequence, because  
17 initially when I saw, I mean, I'm saying the LLC  
18 cannot -- could not apply for a license, it has  
19 to be an individual. So and I guess it is  
20 because you are new and we are not familiar and  
21 also the time, so that's the concern that the  
22 Agency has. But go ahead. All right.

1 MR. ROSS: So in previous events, we  
2 have had another individual who applied who is a  
3 resident of D.C. and she is part of our group.  
4 She was not available and I have a D.C. address,  
5 so I thought it would be easiest for me to apply  
6 for the license, since I could.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. Well,  
8 can you share with us who is this person and what  
9 address that they have applied for licenses  
10 before?

11 MR. ROSS: Sure. Her name is Juana L.  
12 Llorens.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Um-hum.

14 MR. ROSS: And she -- do you want her  
15 address?

16 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: What's her name  
17 again?

18 MR. ROSS: Her name is Juana Llorens.  
19 That's two L-L-O-R-E-N-S. And she applied for a  
20 license at, I know, 300 Morse Street, which I  
21 know is not -- I know they no longer have, I  
22 don't believe they do, events there.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: Do you know why they  
2 stopped having them at 300 Morse Street?

3                   MR. ROSS: Actually, sir, I have no  
4 idea.

5                   MEMBER SHORT: Okay. When I question  
6 later, I'll bring it up. Go ahead. Okay.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

8                   MR. ROSS: So I have the D.C.  
9 residence and that's why I am making this  
10 application.

11                   Again, we have TIPS certified people  
12 who will be dispensing of the alcohol. I  
13 understand my role as the person who will be the  
14 applicant that is primarily my responsibility to  
15 stand there and make sure that alcohol is stopped  
16 being dispensed at 2:45.

17                   Actually, if I may elaborate, Sequence  
18 has made kind of strident efforts with our  
19 security to make sure that everyone who attends  
20 is safe. If you would like me to elaborate on  
21 that, I can.

22                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can go

1 head, sir. This is your opportunity to

2 MR. ROSS: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is your  
4 opportunity. You are new to us and you are  
5 asking for a license application, so this is your  
6 opportunity to convince the Board that we should  
7 exercise our discretion and grant the application  
8 for the time that you are asking for, sir.

9 MR. ROSS: Okay. Thank you. So we  
10 have enlisted four licensed security guards, two  
11 of which I know personally and I know they are  
12 licensed to check IDs. We do not let anyone in  
13 who is under 21, that's extremely strict.

14 The kind of second tier of our new  
15 security policy is that we have -- it comes from  
16 an anti-harassment. However, you get past the  
17 person who has checked your ID and they are  
18 licensed to do so. They come to a place where  
19 they -- where we will check, because we are  
20 primarily selling tickets before hand and at the  
21 door they are going to come to a table where we  
22 are going to check them in.



1           We are going to make sure that they  
2 actually have a ticket. If not, they are going  
3 to pay us cash in-person. There is going to be  
4 three people seated at that table. Those  
5 individuals all actually have taken courses in  
6 kind of recognizing inebriation.

7           We are going to review the anti-  
8 harassment policy with everyone who approaches  
9 the check in table, after we make sure they have  
10 tickets. They are going to get a wristband.  
11 Again, nobody under 21.

12           We are going to recite the anti-  
13 harassment policy to them, making sure that, you  
14 know, we are kind of connecting with them. We  
15 are agreeing and we are saying who we are. And  
16 that's an extra check to kind of make sure they  
17 are not visibly intoxicated. It's our goal to  
18 make sure they are not visibly intoxicated. And  
19 that's for -- I mean, obviously, it's for an ABRA  
20 purpose. We don't want anybody to come in who is  
21 going to be a liability, that's number one.

22           Number two, we are implementing safety

1 measures here, because the safety of our guests  
2 is extremely important to us. We actually held a  
3 town hall two days ago in which members of, you  
4 know, our community, we have community who puts  
5 on these events, in which they voiced their  
6 concerns and we have taken that and formed the  
7 anti-harassment policy, which we are implementing  
8 hopefully this coming Saturday. So that's our  
9 second tier.

10 And so our third tier will be composed  
11 of volunteers and committed people associated  
12 with Sequence and they are going to wear LED  
13 necklaces and they are going to be what we call  
14 our monitors. So those monitors will be people  
15 that you can approach if you see -- if you are  
16 having a problem. If somebody who is attending  
17 the party, maybe they have had too much to drink  
18 and they are bothering someone else, they will be  
19 immediately ejected from the event and they can  
20 go up and talk to somebody with the LED band and  
21 we will make sure that security handles that  
22 immediately.

1                   Now, in terms of stopping alcohol  
2 sales at 2:45, the person who is going to -- the  
3 two individuals who, you know, were planning on  
4 purchasing the alcohol, when the alcohol is  
5 dispensed at 2:45, we are going to shut down and  
6 remove the alcohol from the premises, thereby  
7 ensuring that it no longer is available to  
8 anybody.

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
10 Brashears, do you wish to ask any questions?

11                   INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Sure, sir.  
12 I reviewed the application, Mr. Ross. It listed  
13 the type of entertainment. It listed amplified  
14 music, DJ, dancing, light effects and a  
15 fundraiser. So am I to take it that this is some  
16 type of fundraiser?

17                   MR. ROSS: Thank you for asking that  
18 question. So in previous events we have these  
19 big red boxes and I actually -- if the Board  
20 would like to allow me, I have copies of the two  
21 benevolent organizations that we donate money  
22 that people put into those boxes. Should I --

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Someone will  
2                   come and take it from you, sir.

3                   MR. ROSS:  Okay.  Thank you.  This  
4                   event, we have giant sound -- a fairly  
5                   substantial sound system.  We have two DJs that  
6                   are coming to us internationally.  It might be  
7                   that we don't make any money.  However, what we  
8                   do to make sure that, you know, these  
9                   organizations get money, we have people kind of  
10                  donate as they come in.  If they are paying in  
11                  cash, most of the time, you know, we are going to  
12                  charge \$35 at the door, an extra \$5, sometimes  
13                  they will put it right into these big red boxes.

14                  So on previous occasions we have  
15                  donated to these organizations.  I believe  
16                  January of 2017, we were able to donate over  
17                  \$1,000 to HIPS, I think, yes.  So that's -- I  
18                  mean, that's our goal.  We hope to make money and  
19                  we hope to give money and we hope others who are  
20                  coming to our party might drop some money in the  
21                  -- inside of these boxes.

22                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Okay.

1                   INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS:  So I guess  
2 another concern I had it looks like we have  
3 requested or you have requested a license to go  
4 from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  So after the  
5 alcohol sales, when I reviewed the application,  
6 it basically talks about what type of food to be  
7 served.

8                   Obviously, if you are going to have  
9 food or alcohol for several hours and then have  
10 an event that goes on, you know, another six  
11 hours, the application listed that there would be  
12 desserts, such as cupcakes.  Is there going to be  
13 anything more substantial for the customers to  
14 eat?

15                  MR. ROSS:  Actually, we did address  
16 that and we plan on providing bananas, oranges  
17 and we will have water for free, that's -- people  
18 can come up, they can get bottled water.  We  
19 usually have like a -- probably a waist-high  
20 stack of bottled water that we hand out to  
21 anybody who -- really who wants it.

22                  Beyond that, we actually are planning

1 on getting the -- I think it is Nature Foods that  
2 offers the little -- the shakes that potentially  
3 we can get some money from selling to go. It  
4 would be free.

5 MEMBER SHORT: I don't know if the  
6 Chairman heard you say that, but go ahead.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Repeat, sir.

8 MR. ROSS: What would -- where would  
9 you like me to begin?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The last thing  
11 you said.

12 MR. ROSS: The last thing I said is we  
13 may go and buy a quantity of prepared and closed  
14 health shakes that people may want to buy. They  
15 cost \$3. We would sell them for \$5. But we are  
16 giving away water to be clear.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

18 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: So I guess my  
19 next question, obviously, it's listed as a  
20 fundraiser and dance. What type of activities  
21 are going to go on from say the time the alcohol  
22 service ends until say 8:00 a.m.?

1                   MR. ROSS: Well, from 1:00 to 3:00, we  
2 have an international DJ and then from 3:00 until  
3 6:00, we have another international DJ. So we  
4 fully expect people to continue dancing. Folks  
5 might show up knowing that alcohol sales have  
6 even ended and they will come in and they come  
7 there almost strictly to just come in and dance.

8                   INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Okay. And  
9 you listed on the application you expected a  
10 turnout of possibly 200 people?

11                   MR. ROSS: That's correct. Currently,  
12 we have 95 pre-sales and forgive me, I think you  
13 are looking at an application -- this -- your  
14 legal assistant, Ms. Walker, sent me one. It  
15 looks like we do have pre-sale tickets and we  
16 have sold 95 of those so far.

17                   Based on previous efforts, we will  
18 probably -- we might sell out pre-sales. If we  
19 get to 200, then we are going to stop and nobody  
20 is going to be able to come in and buy at the  
21 door.

22                   INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Okay. Well,

1 that would bring me to my next question. I  
2 noticed you attached like a blueprint of the area  
3 and an accompanying Certificate of Occupancy that  
4 lists it as office and warehouse space. So there  
5 is no occupant load listed on the Certificate of  
6 Occupancy, but if I did my math correctly, it  
7 looks like, approximately, 3,300 square feet.

8 MR. ROSS: Okay.

9 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: And I just  
10 wanted to make sure that, you know, you didn't  
11 overload the space. Even though there is no  
12 certificate or no occupant load listed, I just  
13 wanted to make sure you were aware of that and  
14 were aware, you know, of the exits and things of  
15 that nature from a safety standpoint.

16 MR. ROSS: Yes. Thank you. I  
17 actually do have -- we did prepare a diagram that  
18 shows where security and we have three -- well,  
19 we have three security guards and one will be  
20 roaming throughout the space. We are well-  
21 cognizant of the size of the space. It seems  
22 like some improvements are being made.



1           We are renting some curtains that are  
2 going to be part of like so the designated kind  
3 of DJ area, I guess, you would call it.

4           INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Okay. And  
5 then in reference to the security, it stated that  
6 you would have four, as you had stated. And it  
7 said that they were being provided by the venue?

8           MR. ROSS: Well, when we signed the  
9 contract, the contract that we signed said that  
10 the venue would provide the security. And when  
11 we spoke to them, we said look we are going to  
12 need four. They said okay, we will provide two  
13 and after that we kind of went out and found the  
14 two that we know personally.

15           So two will be provided by the venue.  
16 We plan on them being primarily securing the  
17 exits and then the two that we have kind of hired  
18 are going to be the ones that kind of help secure  
19 kind of the dancing area. You know, if anybody  
20 looks intoxicated, they can help us assess the  
21 situation, take care of it immediately.

22           INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Do you know

1 what type of training or background these  
2 security people have?

3 MR. ROSS: To my knowledge, the one  
4 who is kind of headed up our previous security  
5 crews, he was a former MPD officer. And my  
6 recollection is that they are licensed through --  
7 that's my -- my recollection is that they are  
8 licensed and they are former police officers.

9 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: And as far as  
10 the area controlling the exits and things of that  
11 nature, the security personnel will be doing that  
12 and make sure that alcohol doesn't leave the  
13 venue?

14 MR. ROSS: That's correct. That's  
15 absolutely correct.

16 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: And other  
17 than the security personnel, the staff that you  
18 are going to be using, I know you mentioned  
19 someone had TIPS training, what -- is there any  
20 other type of training that your staff has?

21 MR. ROSS: Our staff, they went  
22 through, I believe it is an organization called

1 Safe Bar DC and what they do is -- so we get  
2 members of the LGBTQIA community. They are a  
3 vulnerable community, so kind of what we want to  
4 make to -- what we want to make sure is that they  
5 feel safe in the space.

6 And two of the volunteers who kind of  
7 said look, we agree we are going to wear these  
8 LED lights. We will be someone that someone who  
9 feels vulnerable, they feel maybe attacked in  
10 some way, they feel like somebody is bothering  
11 them, they can approach this person.

12 So they have taken a course on kind  
13 of, I want to call it vulnerability training, I  
14 know it's something specific. Forgive me I don't  
15 recall off the top of my head.

16 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: So --

17 MR. ROSS: So in terms of training, I  
18 think they went to maybe like an afternoon, four  
19 hour type of course and just how to recognize  
20 vulnerable individuals.

21 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: And I guess  
22 the night of the event, is there going to be

1 someone who, basically, has some type of staff  
2 meeting, you know, round table, how things are  
3 going to go, procedures, things of that nature,  
4 should say an emergency arise?

5 MR. ROSS: Okay. From our town hall,  
6 I actually gathered notes, if that might help,  
7 but however, we have told all the security guards  
8 to arrive promptly at 9:30, at which point we  
9 know we have this kind of -- our kind of tiered  
10 approach to security.

11 We are going to do a complete rundown  
12 with them and make sure they know about kind of  
13 our prominently displayed posters, they know  
14 about who the people wearing the LED lights are,  
15 they know who the six members -- well, I don't --  
16 I say members. We are the team, Sequence Team,  
17 they know who they are. They can identify them  
18 by face. They know to approach them with -- if  
19 there are any situations.

20 So there will be a 30-minute  
21 debriefing at 9:30 going into 10:00 when we  
22 anticipate doors opening.

1                   INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS:  And as far as  
2                   the security personnel, do you know how they are  
3                   -- as far as how they are going to communicate?  
4                   Types of equipment, things like that that they  
5                   are going to utilize?

6                   MR. ROSS:  Well, typically they have  
7                   walkie talkies that they use to communicate.  
8                   However, what we are going to do is we have, hang  
9                   on if you would just allow me, we have -- we are  
10                  going to be using this app that you can get on  
11                  your phone, it's called Firechat.  It operates  
12                  entirely through Bluetooth and its an instant  
13                  message type of thing that, you know, the  
14                  security personnel will be hooked up to it as  
15                  well as the Sequence Team as well as volunteers  
16                  who have taken the training.

17                  So everyone is going to get a message,  
18                  hey, there is an incident.  Who is going to  
19                  handle it?  They will respond through this  
20                  Bluetooth Firechat and then they will kind of  
21                  address the situation.  So that's kind of how we  
22                  are anticipating communication to go, other than,

1 you know, simply go find security.

2 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: And as far as  
3 ID check procedures, you stated that those are  
4 going to be strictly enforced. It's going to be  
5 21 and up.

6 MR. ROSS: That's correct.

7 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Are the  
8 people being allowed in, are they going to be  
9 given -- even though it's a 21 and up, are they  
10 going to have markings or any kind of wristbands  
11 to show that they have been checked --

12 MR. ROSS: Yes.

13 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: -- or  
14 anything of that nature?

15 MR. ROSS: Yes. We use wristbands.  
16 We typically have fluorescent colors or we use --  
17 we buy custom ones that say Sequence on them. I  
18 actually have one in my wallet if you would like  
19 to see it, but they are fluorescent. Everyone  
20 can see them.

21 We make sure people -- so the way that  
22 we are working exits for this event, so there is

1 kind of a long hallway that leads to the check-in  
2 desk. There is an exit that kind of goes out to  
3 street level, that is completely blocked off.  
4 Anybody who enters must get past security and  
5 show their ID. Then they have to go down the  
6 hallway to the check-in desk.

7 So really, what we are anticipating  
8 here is that nobody is going to be able to leave  
9 the premises to -- and then with the expectation  
10 okay, I'm going to get back in. They are  
11 probably going to just want to stay there, so I  
12 guess that's --

13 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Okay.

14 MR. ROSS: -- that might be something  
15 the Board might be interested in.

16 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: I think  
17 that's all the questions I have, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
19 Thank you, Mr. Brashears.

20 Any questions by any Board Members?

21 Yes, Mr. Short?

22 MEMBER SHORT: Hello, sir, is it Mr.

1 Ross.

2 MR. ROSS: Correct.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Great. And I  
4 would like to say this, because my questions are  
5 based on some history I have and knowledge I have  
6 about fire safety.

7 MR. ROSS: Okay.

8 MEMBER SHORT: I'm looking  
9 schematically at the floor plan.

10 MR. ROSS: Okay.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Tell me how many exits  
12 are there to that -- exits to the outside from  
13 this building? How many exits are there?

14 MR. ROSS: To my knowledge, two.

15 MEMBER SHORT: So you are going to  
16 have 200 people. And the reason why I'm going to  
17 D.C. Law and I want this on the record, the  
18 reason why we don't allow 200 people in places of  
19 public assembly, public assembly being any number  
20 over 50, is because there is a serious problem if  
21 one of those exits gets blocked, those people  
22 won't get out of there.



1 I'll give you a little more history,  
2 if you're not aware of it. But first of all, let  
3 me go to Morse Street. Why were the events  
4 stopped in Morse Street?

5 MR. ROSS: We only did one event  
6 there.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, why are we  
8 taking Morse, because there were no applications.  
9 300 Morse Street, I could tell you the  
10 information I have, is that the Fire Marshals  
11 went by there and they can't allow a place to use  
12 a public assembly and I understand vulnerable  
13 populations and all of that, please, let me say  
14 this to you.

15 There was a fire in the city, it was  
16 called The Cinema Follies Fire. Were you  
17 familiar with that?

18 MR. ROSS: No, sir.

19 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, let me  
20 tell you what happened with some of the follies.  
21 19 people died. It was because the city wanted  
22 to make sure that populations who couldn't use

1 other places had places. But it didn't work out  
2 so well because 19 people died. 19 people died.  
3 One of the Catholic priests, one of the  
4 Congressmen.

5 But the city for a while relaxed a lot  
6 of things to try to accommodate a lot of people.  
7 That backfired on the city. It cost the city a  
8 lot of money, lawsuits and a lot of other things.  
9 So we got away from that, the city did.

10 And I'll say that because I was in the  
11 Fire Department at that time. You can only  
12 imagine 19 people. They ran to the roof, because  
13 all the exit doors were locked and that's where  
14 we found them all on the roof burned up. Right.  
15 And I see the look on your face.

16 MR. ROSS: Yes.

17 MEMBER SHORT: So I, as a Board  
18 Member, and I understand a lot of other votes  
19 that are going to be coming, have a problem with  
20 200 people in a place that has a -- that doesn't  
21 have any kind of occupancy for over 200 people.  
22 Office storage is not adequate to protect you and

1 protect the people you are going to sell the  
2 tickets to.

3 Some people you have told me you have  
4 already sold tickets to, but the bottom line is--  
5 let me ask you this question. How difficult  
6 would it be -- what was the other person's name?  
7 You said that was getting to the place on Morse?

8 MR. ROSS: I'm not aware. So the only  
9 other event that we had at 300 Morse?

10 MEMBER SHORT: Yeah.

11 MR. ROSS: She got a temporary  
12 license, the same as I'm doing.

13 MEMBER SHORT: I understand, I  
14 understand. But and then she applied again and  
15 she wasn't allowed to get it, because the Fire  
16 Marshal -- what happened was they asked her had  
17 that building ever had a fire inspection?

18 MR. ROSS: Okay.

19 MEMBER SHORT: I'll just say this.

20 MR. ROSS: Okay.

21 MEMBER SHORT: It hadn't. And if it  
22 had, it's not for public assembly. It's for an

1 office building for office space.

2 How difficult would it be for your  
3 organization to abide with public assembly exits  
4 and get a regular license?

5 MR. ROSS: To get a regular --

6 MEMBER SHORT: When you -- yeah, get  
7 a regular license where you could have all of the  
8 protection you need. You could have as much  
9 security as you want. You could have all exit  
10 doors done. You also mentioned you are going to  
11 have curtains there. Are those curtains going to  
12 be flame retardant, because in places of public  
13 assembly, before you can have curtains, even  
14 nightclubs and restaurants, the Fire Marshal's  
15 Office may come and take a piece of that and  
16 sample it.

17 By law, you have to have those flame  
18 retardant once a year, that's in the D.C. Code  
19 and the Fire Code and the National Code. So you  
20 are going to have curtains. Who is providing the  
21 curtains?

22 MR. ROSS: Theatrix. Someone --

1                   MEMBER SHORT:  Never mind, never mind.  
2           You don't have an answer.  But the bottom line,  
3           if I don't vote for this, it won't be for any  
4           other reason than, and I want this on the record,  
5           that public safety-wise we as a city should not  
6           allow again -- because we also had this happen in  
7           California maybe two years ago where the State of  
8           California got sued because there was some people  
9           that got burned up in a warehouse and they were  
10          using it for public assembly and other things and  
11          they come to find out the city officials knew  
12          about it, but they still allowed it to happen  
13          until those people died and now they have stopped  
14          it again.

15                   And I wouldn't want to see anybody  
16          hurt or see anybody injured, but I am a Board  
17          Member who has public safety on his mind.  And  
18          for no other reason than for the record that I am  
19          saying if you only have two exits from this  
20          floor, two exits, I'm looking at the drawing.  
21          Unless you can tell me there are more, two exits  
22          to it.  And actually one of them goes outside,

1 the other one comes back through the building.

2 MR. ROSS: Are you looking at the exit  
3 there on the far right side?

4 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Let me ask you  
5 a question. Do you know how many exits are  
6 required when you have 200 people in a building  
7 in Washington, D.C., and they are dancing and  
8 drinking alcohol? It's called public assembly.  
9 Two exits is not enough, unless the city allows  
10 it.

11 And it has happened before and I  
12 understand the vulnerable community and all that,  
13 so and I have the biggest heart in the world. I  
14 have church members, family members, neighbors,  
15 friends who are all a part of that community, so  
16 I don't have any problems with that community.  
17 They are Washingtonians just like I am and human  
18 beings just like I am.

19 But for me to sit back and allow  
20 someone to hurt themselves and I know something  
21 that is probable, then I have to go on record as  
22 stating I, as a Board Member, until these answers

1 -- questions are answered a lot more, I just have  
2 a problem with it.

3 Do you have any idea when the last  
4 fire inspection was for this building?

5 MR. ROSS: Unfortunately, no.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Do they have sprinklers  
7 in the building?

8 MR. ROSS: Yes.

9 MEMBER SHORT: They have sprinklers?

10 MR. ROSS: Yes.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's good.

12 I'm glad to hear that. But they don't have  
13 enough exit doors.

14 MR. ROSS: Well, I'm hope --

15 MEMBER SHORT: For the record, what do  
16 you say about exit doors? There are only two.  
17 And you want to have 200 people in this space.

18 MR. ROSS: One is -- well --

19 MEMBER SHORT: Go ahead.

20 MR. ROSS: One is quite wide and the--  
21 one leads right down to the street. We expect  
22 that the hallways and whatever leads up to our

1 check-in desk will be extremely well-lit. We  
2 have had these security guards --

3 MEMBER SHORT: Sir, I don't have a  
4 problem telling you as a person who knows public  
5 safety, those answers are not acceptable for  
6 public safety.

7 Now, we are talking about alcohol  
8 licenses. I have no problem with that either,  
9 but I, as a Board Member, try as best I can with  
10 a clear conscience to make decisions based on  
11 public assembly and these alcohol licenses that  
12 we, as a Board, are responsible for issuing.

13 So I'll be headed -- I'm glad this is  
14 all on public record. And I'll just say this to  
15 you, I think I have one last question.

16 No, that's all I have, Mr. Chair.  
17 Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.  
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other  
20 questions by any -- yes, Mr. Alberti?

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm just going to be  
22 real quick. So is it Mr. Ross?



1 MR. ROSS: That's me.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, Mr. Ross. Just  
3 to make sure we got the right place, this is the  
4 place next to Magnus, Joseph Magnus, in that  
5 warehouse?

6 MR. ROSS: Unfortunately, I'm not  
7 aware.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, you're not aware.  
9 Okay. All right. All right. I'm pretty sure  
10 that's it. Anyway, I'm looking at a website. I  
11 just want to make sure this is the website for  
12 the event.

13 MR. ROSS: Yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's -- yeah, okay.

15 MR. ROSS: Yes, it is.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Undisclosed  
17 warehouse. All right. Okay. I just wanted to  
18 make sure I was looking at the right thing.  
19 Okay. So it's really a dance party that goes  
20 until whatever, early hours of the morning.

21 MR. ROSS: That's correct, yeah.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you. I

1 just wanted to be looking at the right thing.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other --  
4 yes, Mr. Silverstein?

5 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Very quick.  
6 Thank you for coming, Mr. Ross. You say you are  
7 going to have 200 people.

8 MR. ROSS: Well --

9 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Is that going to  
10 be all at the same time? Is it going to be --  
11 explain the 200 figures. Does that mean 200  
12 tickets and people will be coming at different  
13 times and leaving at different times? What's the  
14 maximum number that you expect to be there at any  
15 time? Give me a good guess.

16 MR. ROSS: A good guess would probably  
17 be 150. I think what we do is so we announce  
18 when the DJs are playing and we have kind of a  
19 varied, you know, group. So one might come for  
20 one, might come for the other, some people might  
21 jut wake up at 5:00 a.m. and say hey, let's go do  
22 this and they will come and they will dance for--

1 dance until 8:00 a.m. and, you know, if nobody is  
2 there, then we might just shut it down.

3 What I should say is that our managers  
4 and staff are cognizant of how many people we let  
5 in. So we have tickers that count the number of  
6 people. In previous events we have had at  
7 actually the DC Eagle, we had tickers and when we  
8 were up to their Fire Code, we stopped.

9 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. I had just  
10 -- I just want you to know that this Board is  
11 very concerned after what happened in Oakland,  
12 California, which was a type of -- that horrific  
13 situation at the pirate ship where those people  
14 died. And that we had our own situation similar  
15 to that at the Cinema Follies, which was a gay  
16 club in Southeast Washington, and that that was a  
17 case where doors were locked and people  
18 unnecessarily died within our community.

19 And after what has occurred in these  
20 things, we need to be very careful. People are  
21 using alternative spaces and when they use  
22 alternative spaces, we must vet those spaces so

1 that we can be sure that something doesn't happen  
2 when inexperienced people use pyrotechnics or  
3 curtains or things like that. This is not a  
4 matter of animus. This is a matter of care.

5 MR. ROSS: Okay. If the Board would  
6 like, I can show a photo of the actual space.  
7 There is absolutely nothing from wall to wall.  
8 The Ghost Ship situation that you referred to was  
9 kind of built as almost a tinder box, if I may.

10 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

11 MR. ROSS: That's not a situation we  
12 have. We have -- it's a box and it's filled with  
13 concrete. Now, the measures that we are taking  
14 are primarily for sound that is -- see, as I hope  
15 I have -- I really hope I have explained to the  
16 Board safety is a real concern for us. And we  
17 have --

18 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: That's why we are  
19 here, Mr. Ross. We need to check these things  
20 out for the safety of everyone.

21 MR. ROSS: We have instituted this  
22 three tier approach, which I hope I have

1 explained to the Board that we hope is going to  
2 be an extra check beyond what ABRA and the City  
3 of Washington would -- the District of Columbia  
4 would want to see from an applicant.

5 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other  
7 questions by any of the Board Members?

8 Mr. Brashears, any last questions you  
9 want to ask?

10 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: No, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Ross, any  
12 final questions that you want to make, any final  
13 statements you want to make?

14 MR. ROSS: No. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chairman.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When is this  
17 event?

18 MR. ROSS: It's Saturday.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This Saturday?

20 MR. ROSS: That's correct.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 MR. ROSS: We submitted our

1 application on July 27th.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 Well, you know, based on presentation that was  
4 made today, I make a motion that we approve this  
5 event. Is there a second?

6 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I second Mr.  
7 Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silverstein  
9 has seconded the motion.

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Aye.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Aye.

14 MEMBER ISAAC: Aye.

15 MEMBER WAHABZADAH: Aye.

16 MEMBER CATO: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed?

18 MEMBER SHORT: Opposed.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has  
20 opposed it, so I'll sign-off on it and you can go  
21 and pick up your license, sir.

22 I just want to let you know that the

1 Board is concerned that -- and one of the reasons  
2 why is you are a new operator. We are not  
3 familiar with you. And we have to take it on  
4 your face that at 2:45 there will be no alcohol  
5 served. And it would behoove you that if you  
6 want to you, yourself, come back and apply for  
7 events or if another person under Sequence, LLC  
8 comes back and applies for an event and if we so  
9 find out that you did not comply with the law,  
10 that it will not be favorable to the Board when  
11 you come back for another license under -- even  
12 if it's a different person, as long as we are  
13 aware that we have no faith in Sequence, LLC.

14 Because -- and the reason why I'm  
15 saying it that way, I know that you are the one  
16 who is applying for the license, but you have  
17 stated that this LLC and that if we don't have  
18 assurances that we can have confidence in you,  
19 that at 2:45 that there are no alcohol sales or  
20 folks should not be drinking alcohol after 2:45.

21 So we need to make sure that that is  
22 clear with you, that that doesn't occur. Okay,

1 sir?

2 MR. ROSS: Sir, not only is that  
3 crystal clear, if I may, I am happily a member of  
4 the DC Bar.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you  
6 said what, sir?

7 MR. ROSS: I'm a member of the DC Bar.  
8 I'm an attorney.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, that's  
10 even better.

11 MR. ROSS: Not only that, I have a  
12 public trust security clearance from my  
13 employment at the EPA. So those two things are  
14 on the line for me, so I'm very well-cognizant.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well --

16 MR. ROSS: And I appreciate the  
17 Board's time and thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you know,  
19 sir, I like the fact that you know when someone  
20 comes and says they are an attorney, at least it  
21 gives the Board assurances that if something  
22 happens, that there is someone -- that there is



1 some public accountability.

2 And I know I am also -- well, there  
3 are two of us here who are attorneys. And I'll  
4 say to you, sir, that if it's one thing that I  
5 learned in law school, one of my professors,  
6 Professor Greehalgh, who is now deceased, but he  
7 said to me, you see how difficult it is to earn  
8 this diploma, this law degree, just like that you  
9 can lose it.

10 So as long as you keep that in mind,  
11 sir, then you will be fine. She will provide you  
12 the application and you can take it to the front  
13 desk and get your license. Good luck.

14 MR. ROSS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The  
16 Board will be in recess until our 2:30 hearing.

17 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing  
18 was concluded at 2:15 p.m.)

19

20

21

22

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**6:00** 15:3

**7**

**8**

**8** 1:11  
**8:00** 3:13,21 13:4 14:22  
 35:1

**9**

**9:30** 20:8,21  
**95** 15:12,16

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Adam Ross

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 08-08-18

Place: Washington, DC

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



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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