# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA <br> + + + + + <br> ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD <br> + + + + + <br> MEETING 

IN THE MATTER OF:
Brothers Burger Bar, LLC,:
t/a Aroma
707 H Street NE : Protest
Retailer CR - ANC 6C : Hearing
License No. 112502
Case \#19-PRO-00017
(Application for a New : License)

Wednesday
June 5, 2019

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson, presiding.

## PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
JAMES SHORT, Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JEFF MISKIRI, APPLICANT
DARYL JONES, APPLICANT
JOEL KELTY, ANC 6C
INVESTIGATOR RHODA GLASGOW, ABRA

## CONTENTS

Opening Statement
Applicant. ..... 19
Protestant ..... 25
Closing Statement
Applicant. ..... 140
Protestant ..... 144
WITNESS DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS
RHODA GLASGOW ..... 31

53 ..... 66
JEFF MISKIRI
JOEL KELTY ..... 115 ..... 138
EXHIBIT NO.IDENTREC'D
Board
1 Neighborhood Commission 6C ..... 43
email to the Director,
Fred Mosby, re: concernswith Aroma's application2 Email from Mr. Kelty to Ms.43
Glasgow, re: concernswith Aroma's application
3 Photograph of front of the ..... 43
store
4 Photograph of inside of the ..... 43
Aroma
5 Photograph of the bar area ..... 43
of Aroma
6 Photograph of kitchen and ..... 43
restroom area of Aroma
7 Photograph of the kitchen of ..... 43
Aroma
8 Photograph of hallway leading ..... 43
to the kitchen of Aroma
9 Photograph of the bathrooms at ..... 43Aroma
Photograph of a small, empty ..... 43
closet at Aroma
Photograph of staircase at ..... 43
Aroma
Zoning District ..... 43
GIS report of the licensees ..... 43
near Aroma
GIS report indicating schools ..... 43
near Aroma
Notice of Public hearing for ..... 43
Aroma application
Establishments near Aroma and ..... 43
the bus stop
Bus stop near Aroma and ..... 43
upcoming stops
Parking in vicinity of Aroma ..... 43
Parking time zones and ..... 43
the parking limitations near
Aroma
Service calls made to the area ..... 43
Copy of application form ..... 134submitted by the ApplicantRoll call transcript134
DCRA Corporate Registration ..... 134
Records for Brothers Burger
Bar, LLC
Record showing administrative ..... 134
actions taken by ABRA againstPo Boy JimDCRA records showing Felicity134
Lounge
Document showing location of ..... 134
nearby Residential District ABL meeting information ..... 134
Letters from residents ..... 134

Records of DCRA administrative 134
actions taken against
Applicant
Photographs of neighboring 134
businesses
Document showing neighboring 134
schools and daycare facilities
Tabulation of CT and CR 134
licenses along $H$ Street, Northeast, in ANC 6C Settlement Agreement with 134
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. We're back on the record.

Our next case is a protest hearing case, No. 19-PRO-00017, Aroma, License No. 112502.

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

MR. MISKIRI: Good afternoon.
Jeff Miskiri, partner.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What's your name, sir?

MR. MISKIRI: Jeff Miskiri.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And who are you, sir?

MR. MISKIRI: I'm a partner.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good afternoon.
You can have a seat.
MR. JONES: Good afternoon.
Daryl Jones. I'm the owner.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good afternoon,

Mr. Jones.
Yes, sir?
MR. KELTY: Good afternoon.
My name is Joel Kelty. I am
representing ANC 6C. I am the SMD Commissioner for 6C05.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. This is a protest hearing. This is an application for a new license. It's an application for a new license. And so, let me ask -- clearly, there has been no, you couldn't settle this. So, you're here today for the Board to make a decision.

Is there a way that we can -- all right, let me ask the question: what is it that ANC is asking us to do?

MR. KELTY: We're asking for denial of the application.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, your position is that, not even with conditions, you're saying that we should deny the application?

MR. KELTY: We've gone to great
lengths to try to make a compromise with the Applicant. We've been unsuccessful in doing so. And there are very serious misrepresentations of the Applicant --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, I'm just -- we don't have to go there -- I'm just saying sometimes people can -- say, for example, we're moving forward to a protest hearing and we have agreed and there are certain issues that we can't come to agreement. And so, what I could say, if there issues you could agree to, then we could memorialize, we could issue a license and memorialize to say, issue a Board order to say these are the conditions that, if the license is granted, that can be given. So, you're saying that -- and that's fine. All right.

All right. Hold on. Has either side ever participated in a protest hearing before?

MR. KELTY: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No? All right.
So, how this operates is that what we're asking to ask, the way the process is that I'm going to
ask -- the Board will call its witness, which is a Board agent. You should have a copy of the report that was written by --

MR. KELTY: I do not.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'll make sure that you get a copy.

Does the other side have a copy of the Board report?

MR. JONES: In hard copy, no, sir, but I do have the email.

MR. KELTY: When did the email go out?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you don't have
a copy of the Board report? You're sure you don't have a copy of the report that was written by the investigator?

MR. MISKIRI: I don't think I do, but let me look.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: How would -- both sides are supposed to have gotten a copy of the report that was issued. How would they receive, how would -- by email? How would they have received a copy of the report?

All right. Can we get a copy of the Board report, that both sides can have a copy of it? So, the Board agent, the way the process is set, our investigator, we'll call her to testify. The Board members will ask questions of our investigator regarding the nature of the report. And once we ask questions, then the licensee will have an opportunity, the Applicant will have an opportunity to ask questions of the Board agent. And then, you will have questions of the Board agent. And then, the parties will, then -- the Board might have other questions.

Once that's done, then the licensee will put, will present -- I'm sorry -- the Applicant will present its case. And once the licensee presents its case, then you will have an opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses, whatever witnesses the licensee has. The Board will ask questions, and we'll go back and forth.

Once the Applicant has presented its case, then you will have an opportunity. Then, as the ANC, then you present your case. You will
have whatever documents or witnesses that you have. And once that's done, then the Board will have closing, both sides will do closing arguments and we will have -- then, the Board will issue a decision within 45 days, whether or not we will grant the license, whether or not we'll deny the license. And if we grant the license, will there be conditions on the granting of the license? And that's how that will go.

How many witnesses do you have you're calling?

MR. JONES: No eye witnesses. We just have, we have evidence of Applicant's that is the court.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, both of you are going to testify?

MR. MISKIRI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You're not calling any more?

What about the ANC? Do you have any witnesses you're going to call? Or you're the witness?

MR. KELTY: I am the sole person testifying.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Then, the process is, the way, normally, the process goes is that each side has an hour and a half to present its case. But since we're talking about three people -- I usually don't put time limits on because I want everyone to have an opportunity to present. But I think in this particular case, since we only have three people, or four witnesses, $I$ would hope that it doesn't take three hours to go through, but stranger things have occurred.

All right. So, let me wait until -once we have copies of the Board Order -- I'm sorry -- the Board report, then the Board will call its first witness. So, let me just wait for a couple of minutes. So, we can figure out how you can get a copy of your report, of the report.

MR. KELTY: Do I understand that the Applicant received a copy of the report already?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The question I'm
asking the Agency is, how is that -- I don't know how these reports are transmitted to the parties. I don't know.

MR. KELTY: I'm just going to check my junk mail and make sure it's not --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Normally, both sides have a copy. So, I don't know how they're given. So, $I$ just ask this simple question, and I've been told neither side has it. So, neither side is aware of the findings of the Board?

MR. KELTY: He has it, right?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: How did you get it, sir? How did you get a copy of the -MR. JONES: It was sent through email. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: When was it sent through email?

MR. JONES: I'm checking right now. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And who sent it to you?
(Pause.)
At least Mr. --
MR. KELTY: Kelty.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- Kelty --
K-I-L-T --
MR. KELTY: K-E-L-T-Y.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: K-E-L-T -- Kelty. Mr. Kelty can check his email to see if he has it.

MR. KELTY: I do not have it. Do we know who it did it come from?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I think Mr. Jones, I think, is checking his email, since he said he has it. So, if you can tell me --

MR. JONES: I either have that or --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
MR. JONES: I say I either have the actual document or an updated about it. You know, someone sent it sometime.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Well, I'll get a copy. I'll provide you both with a copy, so at least you can follow along when our agent investigator is testifying.

Who is Steve O'Neal?
MR. KELTY: Steve O'Neal is the Chair
of the NC6C Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. So, on Wednesday, May 29th, at 7:58 a.m., Ms. April Randall from the ABC Board -- I'm sorry -- the Assistant General Counsel for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, sent an email with the protest hearing report to Mr. Daryl Jones and Mr. Steve O'Neal.

MR. KELTY: I'm sorry, what date was that?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: May 29th at 7:58 a.m., yes.

MR. KELTY: Okay. Well, unfortunately, $I$ didn't receive it. I'll have to speak with Steve and see --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: It was sent to
Steve O'Neal. And what did you say that person is the Chair of?

MR. KELTY: He's the Chair of our Committee, but I'm actually representing the protestant and it should have gone to me. I provided my ANC email address multiple times. We
also have a full ANC email for receiving official correspondence.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But it appears that the Agency has been sending emails consistently to Mr. --

MR. KELTY: I have received email from Ms. Randall.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you said what?

MR. KELTY: I have received other emails from Ms. Randall, but not this one.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But I think she has been sending emails to Daryl Jones -- I'm sorry -- Steve O'Neal, because she had sent another email again to him on April, on May 23rd, to remind him. And so, I don't understand why, if he's -- I guess $I$ don't understand why that he has not --

MR. KELTY: It may be not be material. If I could just take a quick look at this, maybe we can not worry about it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes. No, I'm just
saying, this is -- the ABRA investigator is going to testify about the report.

MR. KELTY: Great.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, she's going to go through her report and testify about it. So, you can listen to what it is and ask her a question, based on the testimony she's going to give regarding the report. Okay?

MR. KELTY: Sounds good.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. So, the Board will call it's first witness and the -well, I'm sorry. Uh-uh. I apologize. I did not give you the proper procedures.

So, the proper procedures to follow in this matter occurs. It is that I made my opening statement.

Are there any preliminary matters that anyone wants to bring to our attention? This is not about the case-in-chief, but is there like any administrative matters that you want to bring to the attention of the Board?

MR. KELTY: There are technical errors
and misrepresentations in the application that I believe are grounds for immediate denial of the license. If you would like to discuss those before we get into the rest of it, I'd be happy to do so.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That appears to be more, a little bit more substantive. So, that's more substantive. So, in testimony, you can bring that out.

All right. With that said, then each side would have an opportunity to an opening statement.

So, we'll start with the Applicant. Do you have an opening statement? So, basically, tell us why we are here today and what it is that you're seeking from the Board. Once that's done, then the Protestant would also have an opportunity to give us an opening statement, in a sense of what it is that the Protestant wants us to do.

So, from the Applicant's perspective, what's your opening statement? What is this?

Why are we here today and what is it you're seeking from the Board?

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT
MR. JONES: We're here today because we were unable to come to an agreement with the ANC after meeting with them several times. We went over several different settlement agreements.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't want to hear what -- settlement agreements are -- we're here just to --

MR. MISKIRI: Just to have a fair share to be able to operate our business.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And so, what is it that you want us -- what is it you're asking from us?

MR. JONES: Approval of our application, sir.

MR. MISKIRI: Our application.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And what is it specifically?

MR. MISKIRI: For an opportunity to be
able to compete with competitors. We want to be able to have the hours that -- the hours. We want to be able to have a summer garden. We just want our fair share compared to other, you know -- to be able to compete with this. You know, being high rent in D.C. and seeing that we put all our money into this business, we want to be able to, we want to when Aroma decides, not when the ANC decides.

We want to have a summer garden just like our neighbors two doors down to us. And we want to have, we want to be able to have our own promotion and bring a promotion, so we can be able to compete and not have a statute of limitations like the ANC has presented us, which we believe is not fair. We already have a low CFO. So, we want to be able to maximize our potential in dollars as much as possible.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you're asking for -- what hours are you asking? What specifically in the sense of hours, what are you asking for?

MR. MISKIRI: On the weekends, Friday and Saturday, so 3:00 a.m., just like a - and Sunday to 2:00 a.m. I think the only issue was Friday and Saturday.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you're asking for a Friday? You're asking -- this is for the business itself or for the interior or for the exterior?

MR. MISKIRI: Interior.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, Friday and Saturday, 3:00 a.m. And so, Monday through -- I guess Sunday through Thursday, what time?

MR. MISKIRI: Was that 1:00 a.m.?
MR. JONES: 1:00 a.m.
MR. MISKIRI: 1:00 a.m.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: 1:00 a.m. So, what time are you asking to be open in the mornings?

MR. MISKIRI: We are not open during the mornings. But --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What time are you asking us to be open? What's on your
application? What was advertised as the opening hours? So, I guess that can go back to --

MR. MISKIRI: Well, we will be open at
3:00 p.m. So, we won't be open -- on Saturday and Sunday, we're open around the clock.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Okay.
What was -- all right. On the --
MR. KELTY: If I may, I have their application.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, I have it.
So, basically, you're asking to be open from Sunday, Sunday through Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and from Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. And you're asking for entertainment from Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

And I don't see, I don't see on the application that there is a -- you did not request a summer garden on your license application.

MR. KELTY: Sir, it's on page 1 of the
application.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm looking through it, and maybe there's an error in the report that was done by the -- in the report that was done by our investigator. I don't see in our report, the report, $I$ don't see any reference to a summer garden.

MR. JONES: And the thing with the summer garden, the summer garden is on the second floor. So, it doesn't pertain to this current situation because we only have a CFO for the first floor.

MR. MISKIRI: But we want to add because we don't want to be back at the Board again.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Hold on. Let me -- all right, hold on.

MR. KELTY: If it helps, the Investigator's Report, on page 2, in the first paragraph, references the summer garden.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What paragraph?
MR. KELTY: On page 2, the first page
with text in the report $I$ just received, in the first paragraph, about halfway down, it mentions a proposed summer garden with seating for approximately 30 patrons. And then, also, additional endorsements, it also lists summer garden.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Where is the notice that was provided to the ANC when it was protested? Okay. All right.

So, what are the hours -- all right. So, you're asking for hours Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. for the summer garden and from, Friday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. for the interior of the property and, also, the same hours for the summer garden?

MR. MISKIRI: We're willing to negotiate our summer garden.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But --
MR. MISKIRI: They don't want us to have it at all. I'm saying something different. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's what you're
asking for?
MR. MISKIRI: Yeah, that's what we applied for, correct.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. All right. So, basically, you're asking -- so, what's been requested then, you're asking for a seating capacity of a hundred, total occupancy of 130; summer garden, 30 seats. You're asking for an entertainment endorsement inside of the premises and a second-floor summer garden with, also, a cover charge. And you're asking for basically hours from -- for the summer garden and for the interior, Sunday through Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and Friday and Saturday, from 11:00 to 3:00 a.m.? Yes.

So, does the ANC wish to make an opening statement? What is it that the ANC, as its opening statement, what is the ANC saying to the Board.

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PROTESTANT
MR. KELTY: I have a prepared statement. And if it's helpful to you and the
transcriber and the Board, I can provide you a copy. I apologize, it's a little long.

The ANC 6C protests the license application of Brothers Burger Bar, LLC, who requests a CR license at 707 H Street, on the following basis:

The Applicant willfully misrepresented critical aspects of the proposed establishment in the license application.

The Applicant does not meet the criteria for licensure.

The proposed establishment does not conform to construction codes or other relevant laws.

And the proposed establishment will disturb the peace, order, and quiet of the surrounding neighborhood and adversely impact property values.

The ANC respectfully requests that the application be denied, in accordance with Section 25-401, because the Applicant has willfully misrepresented on its license application the
true nature of the planned establishment, as well as the true identity of the establishment's ownership. In addition to being a criminal violation of the D.C. Code, the Applicant's willful misrepresentations raise substantive questions regarding whether the Applicant and its members are of good character and generally fit for the responsibilities of licensure.

The ANC also requests denial of the application because the premises to be occupied do not meet the minimum standards for licensure, as set forth in D.C. Code Title 23, Chapter 3, Subtitle 2, specifically relating to emergency egress, structural loading, and meaningful separation of the premises to be occupied from that portion of the premises that may not be legally occupied due to zoning restrictions.

The ANC further requests denial of the application on the basis of the proposed establishment's detrimental impacts on peace, order, and quiet and adverse impacts on property values.

The ANC expended considerable time and effort in an attempt to negotiate a settlement agreement with the Applicant to address concerns regarding peace, order, and quiet and property values. Ultimately, that effort was unsuccessful.

The three primary objections to the proposed establishment are the Applicant's request to remain open until 3:00 a.m., the Applicant's plans for a summer garden; i.e., a roof deck, and the Applicant's intention to rely heavily on outside promotions and special events to sustain its business. The neighborhood believes that these aspects of the application render it incompatible with the residential portion of the square in which the establishment is located.

The Board has sufficient grounds to deny the application solely on the basis of defects and misrepresentations in the application. Should the Board decline to deny the application on the basis of these defects and
misrepresentations, the ANC will argue denial on the basis that the proposed establishment doesn't meet the Code requirements; is not appropriate for the locality; will disrupt peace, order, and quiet, and will adversely impact property values.

I'm going to speak first about defects in the license application. I'll then pause and see if you want to hear the rest of it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, the reason I'm saying that, an opening statement is just that. You're going to tell us, and then, you're going to put it in. So, you don't necessarily in your opening statement need to go through -that's more so for closing. So, an opening statement is giving us an overview of your case and what it is that you intend to prove as we go forward. And so, I would hope that --

MR. KELTY: Then, that would be an opening statement.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
MR. KELTY: Then, what I just told you would be an opening statement. I have
additional --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Right.
MR. KELTY: -- detail specifically
about the misrepresentations and defects in the application.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right.
MR. KELTY: I'll hold that until you ask me --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, that's information that you need to provide in your case-in-chief, but that's information -- then, that's your presentation of your case-in-chief. Once they have provided their case-in-chief, then you'll have an opportunity to present your case-in-chief. And then, we'll see what evidence you put on. And then, after all of that, then you can do a closing statement. Then, you can tell us what it is that you approve and what it is that you want the Board to do.

So, all right. All right. So, what the Board will do now is that we will call the Board's first witness. And we'll call Ms. Rhoda

Glasgow .
Can you raise your right hand?
WHEREUPON,
INVESTIGATOR RHODA GLASGOW
having been called for examination by the ABRA Board, and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You can have a seat, and please pull the microphone to you and speak clearly in the microphone, please.

Can you state your name for the record, please?

THE WITNESS: Rhoda Glasgow.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And where are you currently employed?

THE WITNESS: At the Alcoholic
Beverage Regulation Administration.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And how long have you been employed at the Agency?

THE WITNESS: Approximately four months.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And what are your duties and responsibilities as an employee of the Agency?

THE WITNESS: I conduct inspections and investigations of licensed ABC establishments in the District of Columbia.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Are you familiar with this establishment Aroma?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I was assigned to this establishment on this protest investigation.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And what information, if any, were you able to find regarding this establishment?

THE WITNESS: Well, I was assigned this investigation of this, the Class CR new application for Brothers Burger Bar, trading as Aroma, located at 707 H Street, Northeast. The application for Aroma was submitted by Mr. Daryl Jones, and the application was protested by the ANC 6C.

The ANC 6C submitted a letter to ABRA opposing Aroma's application on the grounds that
the establishment will have an adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet; real property value, including noise and litter; residential parking needs, and vehicular and pedestrian safety. On May 15, I visited Aroma, which was closed around the construction. However, I was able to enter the premises to obtain interior photos. Mr. Jones stated that he intends to operate a summer garden, but is awaiting approval from DCRA. He stated that, in the event of live entertainment, he will provide security to conduct ID checks and to ensure compliance with D.C. laws and regulations.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, I
contacted the Office of Unified Communications regarding service calls for the proposed license address and was provided three service calls from May 26th, 2018 until May 9th, 2019. These calls were related to disturbance and parking complaints. However, none of these calls were affiliated with Aroma because they were closed at the time.

On May 17, I received an email from the ANC 6C Commissioner, Joel Kelty, who is representing the ANC on this matter. Commissioner Kelty stated that the two largest objections the ANC has were that Mr. Jones requested to remain open until 3:00 a.m. and a request for the summer garden.

Commissioner Kelty stated that the ANC's concerns were the hours of entertainment be restricted to 1:00 a.m. during the week and 2:00 a.m. on the weekends. This is so that the community cannot be impacted by the established operations.

Mr. Kelty also stated that the position or angle of the proposed summer garden faces the residents across the alley that they share and result in unacceptable noise for those residents nearby.

According to the zoning regulations, Aroma is located in N-16, mixed zone, which, according to the GIS, as of May 14, 2019, there are 26 ABRA licensed establishments operating
within 1200 feet of Aroma. Of those 21 establishments, one is considered A Class retail licensed establishments selling beer, wine, and spirits; three are Class B licensed establishments; eight are Class CR restaurant licensed establishments, and seven Class CT, tavern, licensed establishments; one DR and one Class DT establishment.

Out of the 21 establishments in the area, six have summer gardens endorsement and, collectively, the latest time for each of their summer garden operation is at 1:00 a.m. Of the six establishments, five have voluntary agreements, with the exception of Whole Foods. Duffy's Irish Pub operates their summer garden from Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 a.m. They also have cover charge and sidewalk cafe endorsements.

Chupacabra -- probably I pronounced that wrong -- Sunday through Thursday, they operate their summer garden from 6:00 a.m. to

11:00 p.m.; Friday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., and they only have a summer garden endorsement as well as a sidewalk cafe.

Mythology and Lore, Dirty Water, from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; Friday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. They have an endorsement, dancing and cover charge endorsement.

The Wydown operates their summer garden from 6:00 a.m. -- no, I'm sorry, they don't have a summer garden -- from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

And Whole Foods operates their summer garden from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Saturday.

And Hikari Sushi \& Sake Bar operates their summer garden from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and Friday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Now I would like to mention that in my report $I$ did not reflect schools within 400 feet of Aroma. That was an error on my part, and I
would like the record to reflect that the three schools within 400 feet of Aroma, Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School and NCC at the Ludlow-Taylor Daycare Center are 383 feet away. However, Loving Care is currently closed. That was located on $H$ Street.

Aroma is a medium-sized establishment with two stories. There are two main entrances that are located at the front of the building where one leads to the main entrance and the other leads to the summer garden. It is located in a heavily-populated commercial area comprised of rows and retails, fast-food restaurant establishments, and ABC licensed establishments.

In my visit to the establishment, I was unable to determine what the interior of the summer garden was supposed to be because it was closed, pending DCRA approval, and was unable to determine the layout of the interior. However, the establishment plans to have a seating capacity of 100 on the inside seating capacity and 30 in the summer garden. Aroma has requested
an entertainment endorsement inside of the premises and on the outdoor summer garden, with a cover charge endorsement from ABRA. Aroma intends on offering live music.

The hours they requested was Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and Friday to Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. There is one Metro bus and one streetcar stop located at the vicinity of Aroma. It is in the 700 block of $H$ Street, and there are no public parking or garages in that area. However, in the 700 block through the 800 block, needed parking is offered from Monday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. as zone parking, Zone 6 parking permit-holders.

And lastly, to address ANC's property value concern, ABRA personnel are not qualified to address these issues.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Is that it?
THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Are there exhibits attached to your report? Can you tell us what
the exhibits are?
THE WITNESS: Well, $I$ don't have the report on me. I don't have the report.

So, I have here -- these are all the exhibits they gave you?

MR. KELTY: That's what I was just handed.

THE WITNESS: Well, Exhibits 1 through 3 is missing from the packet that $I$ have here. So, does anyone have a full packet for me?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can we have our copy up for the investigator, for the court?

MR. JONES: I have the full copy on --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Not you, sir.
MR. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you. This
is not --
MR. JONES: That's okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: This is not addressed to you. So, whatever unhappiness that I have, it has nothing to do with the Protestant or the Applicant. I just think that it's
confusing because she's look at the first picture and that's Exhibit 3, but Exhibit 1 is -- that's one of the reasons why; this is the Agency's report --

MR. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- and I need the Agency to tell me what is in the Agency's report. As I said before, my displeasure is not addressed to the Protestant or to the Applicant.

All right. So, I'm waiting for the investigator to have a copy of the investigative report.

MR. KELTY: Could I also have a copy of Exhibits 1 through 3 as well, please? I don't have the -- I gave her a copy of what was handed to me, which was -- didn't have the exhibits. I'm sorry, maybe I shouldn't have handed her my copy because I think that was a mistake, and I apologize.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Maybe you shouldn't have handed her your copies there. You need to have your copy, and the investigator
needs to have a copy of her report.
I don't think the investigator has a copy of her report.
(Pause.)
THE WITNESS: I still don't have 1 through -- do you have $1 ?$

MR. KELTY: I have an exhibit marked 1 and an exhibit marked 2 --

THE WITNESS: Okay. Okay.
MR. KELTY: -- and an exhibit marked
3. I don't know if they're --

THE WITNESS: Okay. I've got them.
Okay. So, Exhibit 1 is actually the Neighborhood Commission 6C email to the Director, Fred Mosby, about their concerns for the Applicant's hours of operation, that license that they are requesting.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right.
THE WITNESS: Exhibit 2 is an email by Mr. Kelty, sent to me, indicating the same issues that he has, the same concerns he has about the establishment in more detail.

Exhibit 3 is the front of the store. As you can see, it's closed.

Exhibit 4 is the inside of the store. This area here is the bar area facing outside.

Exhibit 5, again, is the interior of the establishment, focus on the bar.

Exhibit 6, the focus is on, would be, I'm assuming would be the kitchen area and the restroom area.

Exhibit 7, again, the kitchen area.
Exhibit 8, it's a hallway leading to the kitchen area.

Exhibit 9 is a photo of the dual bathroom, male and female or unisex.

Exhibit 10, here we have, it's a small closet that has nothing in it.

Exhibit 11 is a staircase. I believe that's going towards the summer garden, but I had no access to the summer garden. So, I'm not sure.

Exhibit 12 is the Zoning District.
Exhibit 13 is the GIS report of the

> licensees that are surrounding Aroma's establishment. $$
\text { Again, Exhibit } 14 \text { shows, is a GIS }
$$ report as well that's indicating the schools in the area.

Exhibit 15 is the Notice of Public Hearing for the application that Mr. Jones applied for.

Exhibit 16 is the surrounding establishments and the bus stop.

Exhibit 17 shows the bus stop and its upcoming stops.

Exhibit 18 shows the parking around the area of Aroma.

Exhibit 19 shows the parking time, the time zones and the parking limitation.

And Exhibit 20, it's the service calls that were made to that area for the prior licensee.
[Whereupon, the documents were marked as Board Exhibits 1 through 20 for

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I guess a question -- I want to go back to Exhibit, I think that's 14. And maybe I'm confused. Is Ludlow-Taylor within the circle or is it outside the circle?

THE WITNESS: It's 380, 383 feet away from Aroma.

MR. MISKIRI: Where's that?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Are there others?

THE WITNESS: There are only two.
According to the GIS report, there were three schools in the area, but one is not there anymore. It's closed. So, the only two that are there are Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School and NCC at Ludlow-Taylor Daycare Center.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, the reason I'm asking, if this establishment is within 400 feet, then we can't issue an license unless there are other licensees in this area. So, are there other ABC licenses in this area?

THE WITNESS: Yes, 21.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm not talking
about within this GIS area. Or is this the only -- is this the only license that's within 400 feet of this establishment? That's within $383 ?$ Say, for example, if we have issued other licenses for other establishments that are within, that are already in the zone, then we can grant this license. But if this is the only license that's within that 388 (sic) of this establishment, then we can't issue it. So, that's what I'm trying to find some clarification from the Agency here.

THE WITNESS: I don't have that answer.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what ABC establishment is located -- are there others --

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Are there -- it's
not for you, sir. You can tell me later on.
What other ABC establishment is
located close to 707 H Street, Northeast?
THE WITNESS: Po Boy Jim.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What's Po Boy

Jim's address?
THE WITNESS: I didn't have that information right --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Not for you, sir.
This is not your time.
MR. MISKIRI: I'm sorry.
MEMBER SHORT: Please be respectful, sir, please.

MR. MISKIRI: Oh, excuse me. I apologize.

MEMBER SHORT: Be respectful.
MR. MISKIRI: I apologize.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Is there anywhere within your report -- is Po Boy Jim listed in your report as an establishment that's listed that was in the area?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. So, what's the address of Po Boy Jim?

THE WITNESS: 709 H Street, Northeast.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, I stand
corrected. This is a restaurant. So, the 400
feet does not apply to a restaurant. All right. Okay. Because I'm concerned that we're issuing a license to an establishment that's within 400 feet, and especially since you did not mention that in your report. So, that's what -- that was the concern that $I$ was having. But since they are applying for a restaurant license, it's not applicable in this particular case. All right.

All right. Let's see. Now you had stated that you didn't have access to the summer garden.

THE WITNESS: That's correct.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What do you mean you didn't have access to the summer garden?

THE WITNESS: Well, we -- he said that the door was locked and it was, it wasn't safe for us to actually go up there.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, we're being asked to give a license to a summer garden and we don't know whether or not -- and that the summer garden doesn't exist?

THE WITNESS: Yes, because he said
that, the Applicant said that he was still awaiting approval from DCRA.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But do you know whether or not the licensee was granted approval for a summer garden?

THE WITNESS: $I$ do not know.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Now, for the establishment that has a summer garden -so, let's go to, so Mythology and Lore, that's -how far is that from the establishment?

THE WITNESS: That is on the 800 block of $H$ Street.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Is that the same side of it? Is that the same side --

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, that's not --
THE WITNESS: No, it's on the opposite side.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. So, I guess from what I'm seeing from the licensees on page 3 and 4, so there's no establishment that's on that same side of the street that has a summer
garden, is that correct?
THE WITNESS: Yes, that is correct.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do you know what's on the -- do you know whether or not are there residents on the -- or how close are residents on the opposite side of the street, on the even side of the street? If you don't know, you don't know.

THE WITNESS: I don't know, but -- no, I do not know.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do you know how far -- how far are the residents from this establishment?

THE WITNESS: They mostly share -- the residents that $I$ believe that are the residents share an alley with the establishment.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right.
THE WITNESS: So, it's not that far away.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Do you know, do you know whether or not Po Boy Jim has an entertainment endorsement?

THE WITNESS: No, I do not.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do you know whether or not Po Boy Jim has a cover charge endorsement?

THE WITNESS: $I$ do not know.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Do any
other Board Members have any other questions for the witness? Go ahead, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon.

THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.
MEMBER SHORT: During your inspection, in one of the exhibits $I$ see an inspection sticker that says -- okay, that's not ours. I'm sorry.

Well, when you went inside the building -- I guess this is Exhibit No. 11.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: Tell me again, what is that a picture of?

THE WITNESS: It is a picture of a staircase that goes to, I believe, what is the summer garden.

MEMBER SHORT: And that comes from the actual restaurant itself?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: So, it has no railing there?

THE WITNESS: No.

MEMBER SHORT: What's under the steps?
THE WITNESS: It's just a table with a bunch of stuff.

MEMBER SHORT: Is that paint? Does that appear to be paint or some kind of building materials?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's -- yeah, it looks that way.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. In your estimation, how close are they to having this cleared up and railings up to open up?

THE WITNESS: I mean it doesn't --
MEMBER SHORT: I know you're not a construction person, but are they ready to open for business?

THE WITNESS: From what $I$ can tell
when I was there, no.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
THE WITNESS: There's a lot of work to be done.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any other questions by any of the Board Members?
(No response.)
Mr. Jones? And it can't be both people asking. So, one person has to take the lead. So, who's going to get the lead to ask questions of the investigator? This is your opportunity to ask questions of the investigator on her report.

MR. MISKIRI: Oh, just on her report?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: On the report or her testimony --

MR. MISKIRI: Base it off the exhibits? Ask her questions?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You can ask
whatever questions you have based on her

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { testimony and the report that was -- } \\
& \text { CROSS-EXAMINATION }
\end{aligned}
$$

BY MR. MISKIRI:
Q Good afternoon.
A Good afternoon.

MR. MISKIRI: First, I want to apologize. I'm sorry, this is just kind of my first -- I've been -- the first like that.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: When it's your time -- that was our time asking questions.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: This is your time to ask questions. And this is what's going to happen: you're going to ask questions.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Then, Mr. Kelty will have an opportunity to ask questions. The Board will ask questions, and then, 1 might give you an opportunity to ask questions again. You can only ask questions when I instruct you to ask questions --

MR. MISKIRI: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- because I'm the one who runs this hearing.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, this is your opportunity to ask questions based on her report.

BY MR. MISKIRI:
Q Hello. Good afternoon. Excuse me.
A Good afternoon.
Q Are you aware of the Exhibit 19, the establishment that is located right here?

A No, I am not. I do not know where the establishment is at.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Remember, we don't know what you're talking about "right here". So --

MR. MISKIRI: Right here with the summaries --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you're in exhibit -- what exhibit?

MR. MISKIRI: Nineteen.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Exhibit 19 of her --

MR. MISKIRI: Nineteen.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Right.
MR. MISKIRI: We have this facade. We have rails up, and we have our seats, outside seating. We have --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what is Exhibit 19?

MR. MISKIRI: That's a Mexican restaurant that's located at 701 H Street with -it's in a -

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, you're asking --

MR. MISKIRI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you're asking her about her report?

MR. MISKIRI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Go ahead. I apologize.

THE WITNESS: The focus of Exhibit 19 was the parking signs and not the establishment behind it.

BY MR. MISKIRI:

Q Correct. Getting the next question, so, my question is, with exhibit -- is sidewalk cafe and summer garden considered the same?

A No, it is not.
Q It's different?
A Yes.

Q Okay. All right. So, are you aware of the establishment at 707 H Street?

A I am not aware of it, no. Wait. I'm sorry?

Q Exhibit 18, two doors down from Aroma, to the right of where the No U-Turn sign is.

A Uh-hum, yes.
Q Yes. So, are you aware like of their hours?

A I am not aware, no.
Q Okay. So, excuse me, Exhibit 18, which is called the Lore. They have hours that goes to 3:00 a.m. and they're located two doors down. The building in between is Po Boy Jim's. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You're asking her questions, sir.

THE WITNESS: The focus on Exhibit 18 was the parking situation, sir.

BY MR. MISKIRI:

Q The parking? Okay. All right.
MR. MISKIRI: So, just any question like ask her does she have any issues when she -BY MR. MISKIRI:

Q Did you see any threats when you walked to the building or did you come -- see it as being in danger to the community?

A I cannot answer that question, sir.
Q Okay.
MR. MISKIRI: I mean, that pretty much is it. You know, everything else is selfexplanatory from the pictures.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You don't have any other questions for her?

MR. MISKIRI: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty, do you have any questions for her?

MR. KELTY: I think just one.
CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELTY:
Q I'm new at this, being a new Commissioner, and this is my first protest hearing. I'm trying to understand your scope of work. Are you responsible for reviewing the application or are you simply dispatched to do a field investigation and, you know, after the application has been accepted by ABRA?

A I am assigned to get all the facts and put it in my report, the facts of the Applicant's side and the ANC's side of the application.

Q Thank you.
MR. KELTY: That's all.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any other
questions by the Board Members?
(No response.)
No?
All right, Ms. --
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Very briefly.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
Silverstein.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. To confirm, the nearest -- the sidewalk cafes or summer gardens in the area, is there a general pattern of closing times?

THE WITNESS: No later than one o'clock. MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: In any of them? THE WITNESS: 1:00 a.m. in any of them, yes.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And on weekdays? THE WITNESS: The latest with any of them is one o'clock, 1:00 a.m. MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: On weekdays as well as weekends? THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes. MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And the nearest --

THE WITNESS: They vary between 12:30 and 1:00 a.m., 12 o'clock/1:00 a.m., but no later than 1:00 a.m. in the week and on weekends.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And the nearest residence to the --

THE WITNESS: To the establishment, they share --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: -- to the sidewalk cafe or summer garden would be?

THE WITNESS: The alleyway behind, the alleyway behind the establishment.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And you could -and the approximate --

THE WITNESS: It would be like --
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: It's a small
alleyway?
THE WITNESS: -- 15 feet maybe, 15-20 feet maybe.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty, do you wish to ask any question of the investigator based on the questions that were asked by the Board Members? It has to be based on the questions that were asked by the Board Members.

MR. KELTY: No, I'll let it go. That's all right.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Jones or Mr. -- I'm sorry -- Mr. --

MR. MISKIRI: Miskiri.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- Miskiri --
MR. MISKIRI: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- do you have any questions? Do you have any questions you have of the Board Member -- I'm sorry -- of the witness, based on the questions that were asked by the Board Member? If you have any -- if you don't have any, you don't have any.

MR. MISKIRI: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. All right, Ms. Glasgow, thank you for your testimony. You can step down.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
(Witness excused.)
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
Miskiri, how do you plan to present testimony/evidence to your case? You're going to testify? Are you going to ask questions? Tell me what, how you plan to -- this is your

> opportunity -- or Mr. Jones -- how you plan to do this.

MR. JONES: Say that again, sir?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: How do you plan to provide testimony and evidence about why we should offer this, we should approve your license? How do you plan to do this?

MR. JONES: Just through the testimony, sir.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you're going to testify?

MR. JONES: Correct.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, please?

WHEREUPON,
DARYL JONES
having been called for examination by the Applicant, and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
MR. JONES: Well --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Please move the microphone closer to you. Yes, sir.

MR. JONES: So, I was on testifying that we would get an approval on the license on the basis that we're a brand-new business. We don't have any violations. My personal background is through public safety, through public service. I worked as a firefighter for the past four years.

I've met with the ANC Board and tried to come to a settlement agreement on multiple occasions. For example, he said that his main two issues were the summer garden and the closing at 3:00 a.m. I proposed an email to Mr. Kelty on multiple occasions and one that detailed closing at 2:00 a.m. and withdrawing the summer garden in agreeance (sic) that he will remove the stipulations of the --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't necessarily want to hear the discussions that you two had in settlement.

MR. JONES: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, I don't want -- that's not -- that's confidential. So, that's not necessarily -- I don't want to hear that.

MR. JONES: Oh, okay, yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, just tell me why -- how you present your case. So, I'm just saying, normally, 1 don't -- when we get here, $I$ don't want to hear testimony about the discussion that you had --

MR. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- during
settlements because that clearly it wasn't settled, so it's not relevant for us.

MR. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you don't have to go through your negotiation and what is it you wanted to give or didn't, or take. So, what you need to do is tell me how you are presenting -what is it you're trying to do and how is it that you -- and what is it that you want us to do and why.

MR. JONES: Okay. Well, again, at
this point, I've spent a great deal of my own personal money in opening this establishment. I just want the opportunity to compete on a fair basis. There's other establishments in the area that close within the time that ABRA provides and that's the exact same thing, the same opportunity that we were looking for.

I was looking to open a business just on fair practices of what $I$ read as far as the hours of operation and just the certain things that we could apply for in order to be successful in the business. And that was the basis of wanting to open the restaurant.

I don't feel that opening the restaurant and running it in the manner that $I$ plan to, that it would be or show any poor reflection on the neighborhood or the people of the area. I just look to open up a restaurant that would provide food and entertainment to the area.

That's my testimony.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty, do you
have any questions you want to ask him?
MR. KELTY: I do not.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Questions?
(No response.)
CROSS-EXAMINATION
Well, let me ask a question. So, have
you ever opened a restaurant before? Have you ever worked in a restaurant, operated a restaurant before, sir?

MR. JONES: I have not operated a restaurant, but I have operated a catering business and --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you elaborate?
Sir --
MR. JONES: Yes?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- this is your
opportunity. You're asking us to do something. So, this is your opportunity to tell the Board why that the Board should give you an opportunity. I shouldn't be pulling information out of you. You're here at the Board.

MR. JONES: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You're asking the Board to give you a license to operate a restaurant.

MR. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, if that's what you want from the Board, you need to give us information. So, if you have experience before, you tell them what the experience is. This is your opportunity. You know, we don't know, I don't know who you are.

MR. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't know nothing about you. You are coming to the Board asking for a license. So, you need to tell the Board -- this is your opportunity to -- I'm asking you a question, to tell the Board why the Board should, why that you -- if you want to open a restaurant, what is it -- what do you bring to the table? What is it that --

Sir, you'll get your chance. This is his opportunity. He is under oath. You have asked questions. Now the Board is going to ask
questions, and back and forth.
So, I'm asking the questions, that you need to present information about what is it that -- so, the question I'm asking you, have you ever operated a restaurant before? And you said you have operated a catering business. So, I don't know nothing. So, this is an opportunity for you to tell the Board.

MR. JONES: So, I've operated a mealprepping catering service for the past six years where I provide different meal plans for people who want to lose weight or party events for just small business offices and things of that nature.

Honestly, I came to this opportunity with Jeff, with his background in the restaurant industry, and that's why I'm here.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. So, what catering company have you -- did you own a catering company?

MR. JONES: So, yes. It's through my fitness business, Elite Performance Fitness, LLC. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what's the
name of the -- so, you had a catering license?
MR. JONES: It's all through this service.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What is that?
MR. JONES: It's -- what do you mean what is that?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What's the name of
it?
MR. JONES: It was provided through my fitness company.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. So, what's your background?

MR. JONES: I'm a Virginia firefighter, and I've owned and operated my personal training business for the past 10 years, Elite Performance Fitness, LLC.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what type of food do you plan to, what type of food do you plan to serve at this restaurant?

MR. JONES: A mix between Caribbean and American cuisine.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do you have a
menu?
MR. JONES: We have a -- yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Where is the menu?
Did you provide us with a copy of the menu to say the type of food you're planning to serve?

MR. JONES: I do have a copy of the menu, but $I$ don't have any hard copies of it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I know that when we had the protest status here, and I told both sides, if you have documents or witnesses that you want to rely on, that you need to exchange that seven days before. So, you didn't any provide any documents to show the menu or anything like that? That was not provided, is that correct?

MR. JONES: Correct. So, I spoke -and again, $I$ guess it's just $I$ guess my first time, and not understanding exactly the means or things that I need to provide, I spoke with Ms. Randall and was trying to figure out what exactly was what I should bring to the table.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And so, she didn't
tell you? She never -- you spoke to her, and what questions did you ask her?

MR. JONES: I asked her what should I provide, what should I have as far as exhibits or things of that nature. Because $I$ wasn't sure exactly how it went because $I$ wasn't the one protesting against anything. And she was like, she pretty much responded -- I can't remember exactly what she said, but it was pretty short.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Now, from what $I$ saw on this list of other establishments -- and I heard a lot -- you're saying you want to compete with the other establishments on here. So, there are -- because you're a restaurant. You're applying for a restaurant license. So, therefore, you have DC Harvest. You have Fancy Radish. You have Le Grenier. You have The Wydown. You have, I think, Po Boy Jim, Taqueria Fresca. You have, I guess, Chupacabra. You have Hikari Sushi \& Sake.

Are these the establishments you're talking about that you're trying to be
competitive with? What establishment are you saying that you want a fair -- you want to be competitive with? Are these the establishments or are there other -- if you have a copy of this report, what establishments is it that you're saying that you're trying to be competitive with?

MR. JONES: I mean, I was just saying competitive in the food industry as a whole.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But because I heard, the reason I'm asking is because you're talking -- you are a restaurant.

MR. JONES: Right.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And most of the
other establishments on this list, they're not restaurants. They're taverns, meaning that they don't have to serve food.

MR. JONES: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, who is it that
you're trying to be competitive with? Because you have taverns. You're asking for an entertainment endorsement. You're asking for a cover charge. That's not typically what a
restaurant does. A restaurant is, they primarily serve food.

See, I'm just trying to get an understanding of what you're asking for. Because when you're saying, "I'm trying to be competitive with," "I want an opportunity to have," "I want to open until 3:00 a.m.," do you know that, okay, if you're going to open until 3:00 a.m., that you have to serve food through 1:00 a.m.?

MR. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But these other, a lot of these other establishments on there, they don't have to serve food, period. And I don't necessarily -- and I guess I'm asking, a typical restaurant doesn't have a cover charge. So, if you're a restaurant selling food, why is it that you're asking for a cover charge and entertainment endorsement?

MR. JONES: Well, that was just in the event that we had someone promote an event, if we had like a comedian come in, or something like that, to provide entertainment for people while
they ate. But this was, I was under the assumption that we had to apply for that as a whole in the event that we did have that. But we don't have a cover charge or plan to have a cover charge on a nightly basis, no.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. All right. You're also asking for a summer garden and you're asking for entertainment in the summer garden. So, why is it that you need entertainment in a summer garden if you're a restaurant?

MR. JONES: Just because people enjoy to eat outside. I mean --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, why do you need entertainment? I mean, a typical -- I'm asking; you tell me. I'm asking you -- these are things you're asking me for. So, I'm asking you why is it that, if you are a restaurant -- I mean, we have lots of places where they say they are a restaurant, but they're not a restaurant. We had a hearing earlier with -- I saw a place with a restaurant, and $I$ looked at the video, and

I was asking the question about, are you truly a restaurant, although they had a restaurant license.

So, why is it, I guess, why is it that we should provide, if we are going to do the license, issue the license, why do you need a cover charge or entertainment endorsement to have a summer garden? I mean, I'm asking, why is it? Are people going to be out eating on $H$ Street in a summer garden until 3:00 a.m. in the morning? I'm asking.

MR. JONES: Well, again, my basis behind that was just for promotional events, as far as the entertainment and those things go.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board Members? Go ahead, Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon.
MR. JONES: Hi.

MEMBER SHORT: As the Chairman was just saying, we've had a real situation in this city with people opening restaurants that morph
into nightclubs. And they have no intention on being a restaurant. They just want endorsements and they want entertainment endorsements. They want to be able to bring in people to take over their clubs and make a lot of money. And a lot of them run into a lot of big problems.

So, if you just want a restaurant, well, if we just gave you, if this Board granted you a restaurant without an entertainment endorsement, would you be okay with that?

MR. JONES: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: You would?
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. No cover charge? You'd be okay with that?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: All right. And your summer garden, is it -- how is it attached to your building?

MR. JONES: The summer garden is
attached to the second floor. So, from my understanding at the meeting where Ms. Fletcher
was, that in order to occupy the summer garden, because it would be considered a large move or a large renovation, then we would have to come back through this process. So, I was under an assumption that -- I wasn't even thinking about the summer garden because it is on the second floor and we don't have zoning for the second floor currently.

MEMBER SHORT: Is it on the interior? MR. JONES: The --

MEMBER SHORT: Or on the roof?
MR. JONES: It's on the roof, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now how many people are you going to have up there?

MR. JONES: It's supposed to be 30.
MEMBER SHORT: One way up; one way down?

MR. JONES: Yes, for patrons, yes, one way up and one way --

MEMBER SHORT: So, if there is a fire downstairs, how do the people upstairs get off the --

MR. JONES: There's two different exits for --

MEMBER SHORT: From the top?
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Two separate exits?
MR. JONES: Correct.
MEMBER SHORT: They're both on the interior of the building?

MR. JONES: The exits?
MEMBER SHORT: Yeah.
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So, again, if the fire is on the first floor, how do the people get off the roof?

MR. JONES: Well, the second entrance and the first floor entrance are separate entrances. So, if there was a fire on the first floor, I mean, it wouldn't affect the second floor for them to exit through the --

MEMBER SHORT: You're a firefighter, right?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: And the fire on the first floor is not going to affect the second floor?

MR. JONES: Yeah, if there's a fire on the first floor, $I$ can gladly tell you, as a firefighter, that they can escape throughout the second floor without an issue.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm smiling. I'm not sure if you know that. Mr. Short is a retired firefighter.

MR. JONES: Oh, yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, I just want you to know that.

MR. JONES: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: Thirty-three years.
MR. JONES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I want you to know that.

MR. JONES: I mean, I'm not trying to act like I --

MEMBER SHORT: One last question for you.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: In one of the exhibits -- I think it was Exhibit 19 -- where there was a stairway leading to the second floor that has no railings --

MR. JONES: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: -- is that acceptable in Virginia?

MR. JONES: In Virginia?
MEMBER SHORT: Yeah, if you had a restaurant or had a nightclub, whatever else that you had, if you had, leading to the second floor where you want to sell food in your restaurant --

MR. JONES: There has to be a railing, sir. And again, that railing is going to be put in place. But, again, there is no -- we don't have clearance to go to the second floor. But, yes, there is a railing that would be put in place and, no, that it's not acceptable --

MEMBER SHORT: Would you believe it or not, right on the same street, $H$ Street that you're talking about, there was a restaurant that
was there, and they didn't have any business using the second floor and they claimed they were not going to use the second floor.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And they got fined three times for using the second floor because they said it just got so crowded, they couldn't help it.

MR. JONES: Well --
MEMBER SHORT: I know you wouldn't do that.

MR. JONES: Yeah, I was going to say, I don't want to --

MEMBER SHORT: You wouldn't do that.
I know you wouldn't do that.
MR. JONES: Yeah, that's not in my character.

MEMBER SHORT: Not a problem.
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair, that's all
I have. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any other
questions by the Board Members?
(No response.)
All right. Do you have any questions of him, sir, based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

MR. KELTY: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, Mr. Jones, thank you for your testimony.
(Witness excused.)
Do you have another witness you want
to call?
MR. JONES: Mr. Jeff Miskiri.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. Raise your right hand, sir.

WHEREUPON,
JEFF MISKIRI
having been called for examination by the Applicant, and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What is it that you want to say, sir?

DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: Just to elaborate a little more about the questions that you was asking Mr. Jones, we feel as though the entertainment nature is needed, one, from my experiences and my background. I am one of the partners in Po Boy Jim, which is located right next door. And seeing I've been in business since 2014 on that street, I know how competitive every establishment is, no matter what -- if you're just a restaurant and you're offering food, sometimes that's not just enough.

If you have entertainment -- and my background, my mom being from the Islands, the Caribbean Islands, the West Indies, the entertainment, it's our culture; it's our belief; it's, you know, the music or the vibe. It does something to the soul. You know, you come out from a long day at work. Not only did we want good eats, but you want to be entertained. So, we ask that -- if like there's a nice jazz band playing, it's just a competitive edge that you receive.

Not only that, you have people, you have establishments that do, they pair food with this entertainment. Fine. For example, you have karaoke nights with discounted food. So, we're not going at it as a full club, a full-blown club. Ask that we're going at it as just trying to have extra incentive, but still not lose our identity, and we will offer great food and service.


#### Abstract

A lot of these restaurants -- my background is in the restaurant field. I've been doing it for 20 years, and I'm only 31 . So, we always preach good food and service. So, a lot of events that we have done in the restaurant aspect, it's always been based around food, where we might have a brunch event where we serve a midnight brunch as a late-night brunch. It's uniqueness. It's a competitive edge. It's how we make our money because no one, no other establishments -- they might offer the same food, but they're not doing it at that time of the day. So, when we did this midnight brunch event, we


get extra incentives because we're the only establishment that does this type of event at this time of night. Brunch is usually during the day; we're doing it at night.

So, we want to always have the option to not just solely rely on food. I've been having my restaurant for five years, and until this day, $I$ know when it's going to be slow and I know what can give me the extra curve to make more money. And that's entertainment.

You know, we feel like we're being prejudged, for whatever the case may be. But, like I said, this is a clean slate. There's never been any fights or any mad drunkness coming out of Po Boy's, which is next door.

I'm doing this not only -- excuse me -- I'm not only doing this for a personal gain, but it's for the community. You know, I have people who look up to me. I feed a lot of kids in the neighborhood. Social recognition. I bring my kids to work. You know, I show them the ropes out, meaning I'm an entrepreneur, and how
rough and difficult it may be. So, I'm teaching them the ropes.

We welcomed the neighborhood into the establishment several times. They ignored it; they didn't want to come in. Everything that they put in place, we all agreed, we agreed to, except for the last couple of issues. So, it didn't work. So, that's why we're here.

But, like I said, I mean, it's been -I've been for five years now, and if we have to compete with known establishments, we have to compete with corporate establishments, Chipotle, Whole Foods, a lot of gentrification. So, we need every aspect we can to make money. So, we know what we have to do to control it. We know the program that the police offers for security. And like I said, H Street, we know H Street. At the H Street Festival, I volunteered for the $H$ Street Festival before $I$ even opened up Po Boy's as an establishment. So, we know what we need to do to make sure our business is running correctly and smoothly. And it's not
going to be perfect. Yes, we will have hiccups. But we will make sure that, if we do make a mistake, we're accountable; we'll make sure we fix that error.

And like I said, a lot of people know me personally from, you know, from my establishment. And I have a lot -- I hire 60 people and we'll be trying, I'm trying to create more jobs.

And me and Daryl go back; we had this dream of a business since we were kids and we knew each other for a very long time. So, he loves to cook. I love to cook. That's what we're in it for, but $I$ have to be realistic on myself. I know that sometimes cooking and good food isn't enough. Sometimes you need a little bit of an edge to make it over the top. And all that edge that we're asking for is a little live entertainment. And we want to be able to compete with feasible hours, you know, and that's that. That's pretty much it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's it? Do you
have anything else you want to say?
THE WITNESS: We did our research with establishments. We know The Big Board that's in the same corridor, they don't even have a settlement agreement. They close at 3:00 a.m. They have entertainment. They have a lesbian night. So, that's a form of entertainment. So, they basically do whatever they want, and they're supposed to be a burger spot. So, if they're just a burger spot, why do they have to do that if they're just a restaurant? Obviously, there's something that is not enough that somebody has to go over the edge to bring in more money.

There's another spot. They have an arcade room inside. Bar Elena -- excuse me -that's the name, Bar Elena. They have an arcade room. So, that's a form of entertainment. So, they're enticing their guests with not only their food, but they're giving some competitive edge.

And we haven't pinpointed what type of entertainment we want to do, but we know we need entertainment, no matter what, to compete with
other establishments.
There's a sidewalk cafe three doors down at 701 H Street, a Mexican restaurant. So, the same issues that they're worried about with the summer garden with our building, it wouldn't be no different from what's already going on right now. This sidewalk cafe is always full, and it's the same distance in terms of from the residential to the business.

So, it's like, okay, because it's a new establishment and it's a new ANC involved, well, let's send a message; let's cap off -let's not let them bring this stuff here because of the new establishment. But we feel like that's, at the Code, that's not fair. It's not.

Our rent is \$10,000 a month. We're paying there as we speak. We should have been open.

The issues about the railing on the second and third floor, I already -- we know the fire, $I$ know the fire marshal in that area. I know how stiff those fines are. We know not to
play those games. One simple fine and we'll be out of business. The second floor, it's not even -- you can't even walk. It's not even presentable to walk up there. So, if we had a full first floor, that's it. No one's going to go up there and want to smell construction and dust and see an old toilet sitting around. Everything is gutted out.

We know we have to go present new drawings and go through DCRA. We know the process. No one's taking any shortcuts.

Po Boy's have an outside seating area where I have a CFO walking, half outside seating. So, no one's not trying to break the laws or break the rules because we know the stiff penalties. I mean, it could be detrimental to a business, especially a small business where you have to compete with, like I say, corporates and known establishments.

The moment we signed this lease, we took, I took even a bigger risk. Well, we took a risk. We took a bigger risk because it's not a
known entity. So, basically, you're starting all over again. It's like a newborn baby.

So, we just want our fair chance to be able to make it, to inspire business, because restaurants, 9 out of 10 restaurants close. And why? Because they're not knowledgeable about what to do. They don't think outside the box. They don't try to go the extra mile.

So, we want to make sure -- we're young. We have a target on our back. We want to make sure that we do what we need to do, so we can make it in business. And that's always about creating jobs and economics. That's what we want to do. We want to be successful. We went to school. We went to college for this. He cooks. I cook. We put our minds together and we just want to make this work.

I did toy drives, WPTC, twice a year. I feed the homeless Thanksgiving, so on and so forth. So, I know, we know we're responsible with what we're supposed to do. The radio stations, they even know about the new spot. So,
we're going to carry it on over there. So, that's all we're trying to do here, man. It's no gimmicks. It's no "Oh, I think they're going to do this." Or "We don't believe this will do that." No, it's not what it is.

We have a full-service, we are a fullservice restaurant. We have a menu. We have a niche. A lot of restaurants are going into this restaurant lounge aspect, and that's all we're doing.

We're offering just a little bit more other than the food because we have to compete. H Street is just like U Street or every other spot that is offering unique service. So, we're just trying to stay above, you know -- and that's it. I'm done.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty, questions?

MR. KELTY: Sure.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. KELTY:
Q Has DCRA contacted you, either of you,
to conduct a property compliance inspection to date?

A Property --
Q A property compliance inspection? It's my understanding DCRA is supposed to be reaching out to you for that.

A See, they don't reach out to us. They would probably reach out to the landlord.

Q I'll take that as no.
How do you intend to comply with Section 25-311, Section (c), which says, "No license, except for a solicitor's license, shall be issued to an applicant unless the applicant has a valid certificate of occupancy for the premises in which the establishment is located and has all other licenses and permits required by law or regulation for its business."?

A If it's not up-to-date, we'll go to DCRA and handle it. We have a CFO for the first floor. We passed the health inspection. So, we took our steps. We have our sales and use tax registered. So, every step we've taken, and
whenever there's an issue, we don't hide and duck from it. We don't open the doors illegally. We go down to DCRA and taxation and we fix it.

Q Perhaps I wasn't clear in my questioning.

A Well, make it clear.
Q Your application is for an establishment with a summer garden. You've represented that you are not, that you don't have a Certificate of Occupancy for a summer garden, or even that the summer garden is completely constructed. How do you plan to comply with this regulation today that says a license shall not be issued unless you're in full compliance; you have a Certificate of Occupancy for what you've applied for, and you're in compliance with all the laws and regulations?

A At this point, we just want to work with what we have. If we need to remove the summer garden at this time-being, and reapply later on, if we have the right to, we will do that. We just want to work with what we have.

We have the first, we have the CFO for the first floor. If we're not in compliance, we know we can't use it. So, we're not, like I say, we're not trying to break the laws. We know we have to get an architect to provide a full set of drawings for the second and third floor and for the -- excuse me -- for the outside seating area. So, that's how we plan to fix that. Any issues that we have, we'll hire an architectural firm like I had before, HapstakDemetriou, which is a known, ranked architectural firm in D.C.

Other than that, $I$ don't know how to answer his questions.

Q How do you provide the required second means of egress from the ground floor, required by having an occupancy load of over 49 individuals, when your rear exit goes through a kitchen, a trash room, and a locked steel gate?

A I'm not an architect. I can't answer those questions. Once we pay an architect for our services, then he will redesign the building to make code. Like I said, we deal with

HapstakDemetriou. They're a known establishment, a known architectural firm, and they don't cut any corners.

Q I'll ask one last question. How is that you were able to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from DCRA for 65 occupants in an establishment that lacks a second means of egress? How did you do that?

A What do you mean?
Q Did you personally go down there? Did you hire an expediter? How did you obtain an Occupancy Certificate for 65 occupants in a building with a single means of egress

A It was a, there was a previous use. The previous tenant was a restaurant. They had a CFO. And what we did is it changed the use form. MR. KELTY: That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any questions by any Board Members? Go ahead, Mr. Short. CROSS-EXAMINATION

MEMBER SHORT: I must ask this
question.
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: I already know the answer. The answer is, if you have a Certificate of Occupancy for the first floor with more than 50 people, you must have a second means of egress and it can't go through the kitchen. That's the law.

So, what would you expect this Board to do, with me knowing that? What would you expect us to do?

THE WITNESS: We just have to fix the issue, sir, or drop the CFO load under, to 50. But, I repeat, like I said, we're not trying to cut any corners and we're trying -- I mean, that's safety. That's his department.

MEMBER SHORT: And you are affiliated with Po Boy Jim's next door?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir, and we have --

MEMBER SHORT: You've been here before?

THE WITNESS: Well, my mother has, yes.

MEMBER SHORT: And you were here with her?

THE WITNESS: Yes, correct.
MEMBER SHORT: And so, you know how people are supposed to conduct themselves?

THE WITNESS: Right.
MEMBER SHORT: And not shout out and make noises and --

THE WITNESS: Correct, sir. I apologize.

MEMBER SHORT: Oh, okay, I understand. Okay.

But, again, Po Boy Jim's, when they first opened up, was kind of rocky, but we haven't seen them in a while. So, they're getting along pretty well with the community, correct?

THE WITNESS: Correct. H Street, yes, we didn't have any issues. I mean, yes, correct. Yes. Yes, sir. Yes, everything's fine.

MEMBER SHORT: There were some issues with the alley and some other issues?

THE WITNESS: Yes, correct.
MEMBER SHORT: Yes.
THE WITNESS: Everything is under control. We worked around that.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, if you know you have a problem already with over 50 people, can you -- and you're talking about, I heard the number a hundred someplace.

THE WITNESS: No, 69, the CFO, CFO of 69. But, I mean, like you said, we went through the Zoning Departments and they knew -- they looked at -- I don't work for DCRA. They seen that and they --

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I'll just make one last statement and to make one more question. I cannot -- I'm only one vote, Board Member -- go against the Building and Fire Code, knowing that someone could die. I'm not going against the law.

THE WITNESS: Right.

MEMBER SHORT: So, you need to fix that and maybe come back after you've got some of those things ironed out. But the gentleman, Mr. Jones, next to you, said, if you were to get a restaurant license, then you wouldn't get a-you wouldn't want an entertainment endorsement; you wouldn't want all of those added things.

THE WITNESS: Don't want any, yes.
MEMBER SHORT: So, one of you gave me one answer and the other one is giving me the other answer. So, what is the answer between the two of you? If you were to get a restaurant Certificate of --

THE WITNESS: I think --
MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me. If you were to get a restaurant license from this Board, and you know you can't have over 50 people, and you know you need to get that repaired, and you know you're not going to be a nightclub, because I know you want to have a competitive edge, and you can't use the second floor and you can't use the third floor, you're going to be solely a
restaurant, is that correct?
THE WITNESS: That's incorrect, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. No further questions. Thank you very much. No further questions, Mr. Chair.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, give me some information about your background, sir.

THE WITNESS: Me, personally, you know, I was born and raised in D.C. I went to --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm more so interested in --

THE WITNESS: Restaurants?
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes.
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Okay. I
started, I went to community college, Prince George's Community College. I took, went to school for business administration, and I won a business competition. And part of my business competition was to open up a restaurant. I received a grant for \$10,000.

So, I took the idea and I ran with it.

I partnered up. It was my mom. My mom, she funded the majority of the Po Boy Jim's. And my cousin and me opened up the restaurant back in 2014. We had a vision set on just having a small, little carryout, quick service, not even a sit-down restaurant.

We came across $H$ Street. We found this big, beautiful building. The offer from the landlord was very presentable. So, we said, let's try something new. We went to try a fullfledged restaurant. We opened it up. It was an instant success.

We had bumps, our rolls, just like any human being. We had a couple of issues in terms of a little fines and stuff like that, like you mentioned before. But, like you said, we always a created a culture and great experiences for people.

Won the top minority-owned black
business in D.C. Voted No. 1 Cajun-Creole restaurant in D.C. Voted tons of rewards.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, tell me.

THE WITNESS: Just a lot of CajunCreole awards, soul food restaurants, D.C. top 10 restaurants on H Street, No. 1 sandwich-sub shop in D.C., the Washingtonian votes for the best place to eat, neighborhood bars, so on and so forth. Diversified, one of the most diversified establishments on H Street. That's pretty much it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what's going to be -- and you have asked, you stated that you are involved in Po Boy Jim's. So, what's the difference going to be in the menu between this place and Po Boy Jim's?

THE WITNESS: It's more fine, highend, fine dining. Po Boy's will make sandwiches with a little bit of entrees. This is more elegant, mor elegant food. You know, we're not fine dining, but a little bit more upscale food. Of course, they're still with the Southern roots.

A lot of business owners on $H$ Street own multiple establishments. Like the owner for Sticky Rice, he owns like six-seven
establishments. A lot of owners own multiple businesses and with different concepts and niches. So, that's kind of where the direction we was going with.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, what's the concept? What's the niche? What is it?

THE WITNESS: It's a combination of Caribbean and soul food, but it's -- so, you combine them both because the instance of one is a little bit more upscale.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't have any other questions. All right. Any other Board Members have any questions?

Do you have any questions, sir?
MR. KELTY: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No?
Is there any clarification? Based on the questions asked, do you need to provide any clarification?

REDIRECT EXAMINATION
THE WITNESS: Yes. I just had a question for Mr. Short. I know you have your
mind set on this whole CFO, the people zoning the code. Like I said, it was the previous -- so, we weren't aware of what the load, the calculation load is. So, could you -- do you know, do you know why they would give us a CFO --

MEMBER SHORT: I would suggest that you get a Code book or go down to the office and talk with the fire marshal and talk with the building inspectors. Because the bottom line is, I can't tell you from this podium what to do, because if something happens, then you can say, "The Board told me."

THE WITNESS: No, I wouldn't. No, no, no.

MEMBER SHORT: So, I wouldn't dare do that.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: And if you own a business, I would hope that you would want to take the responsibility of learning as much as you possibly could about safety and business and everything else that's going on, besides making
the money. You want to make the money safely. THE WITNESS: Correct.

MEMBER SHORT: And the reason why we've been kind of successful in this city, not like a lot of other cities where there's a lot of fires in places of public assembly, it's because the laws have been adhered to.

THE WITNESS: Correct.
MEMBER SHORT: And when people don't adhere to laws, they're asking for trouble. THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. MEMBER SHORT: So, I want it on the public record that I'm saying to you, as a Board Member, I'm concerned about you having more than 50 people on that first floor and no way to get out except for going through the kitchen, if there's a fire on $H$ Street.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: And then, you have to run to the alley, correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. And following up, let me ask a question. You said you have a current Certificate of Occupancy for a restaurant in that location, in this specific location?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And it is current?
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And what's the occupancy load for this Certificate of Occupancy?

THE WITNESS: A hundred and twentyfive or something. It was over a hundred. Had two means of ingress, has sprinklers.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, I'm saying, what is --

THE WITNESS: Over a hundred people. I kind of know -- I don't know off the top of my head, but it's two floors, over a hundred people.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But two floors?
Now did the certificate -- did the previous restaurant, did they occupy just one floor or two
floors?
THE WITNESS: Of the newest, this establishment?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, you said you have a Certificate of Occupancy. You have a current certificate? Okay.

THE WITNESS: Correct.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Right.
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Is that for one floor or for two floors?

THE WITNESS: One floor. One floor.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And so, what does that Certificate of Occupancy say?

THE WITNESS: Sixty-nine people --
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, it --
THE WITNESS: -- standing.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, it's --
THE WITNESS: Total people, 69 people.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, the
Certificate of Occupancy for the space that you have said that there is a standing capacity for

69 people?
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, if it says 69 people, why were you asking us for 100 people? Because I think what you had requested, you had said -- I know you had also requested a summer garden, but you had also -- I think you had asked us for, you had asked us for a seating capacity of 100 on the inside and 30. So, you had asked for 130. So, how --

THE WITNESS: No, the summer garden is only about 15-20.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm just telling you what this that you had asked us for. What was asked for, it says that -- and it maybe in the Investigator's Report. Maybe it's wrong.

MR. JONES: Yes, it may be because there's two different CFOs. The first one may reflect a hundred people, and we had to change it and get a second one that reflected only the 69 to occupy the first floor.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, the current

Certificate of Occupancy that you have, it says it's 69?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, therefore, if it says 69, and then, we can't approve a hundred if your Certificate of Occupancy said 69.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The ABC Board will only issue -- the ceiling --

THE WITNESS: Correct.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- is what your Certificate of Occupancy is. It's not, and the Board will not issue a license until you present us, if you haven't done it with a Certificate of Occupancy -- and the total occupancy will be what's on the Certificate of Occupancy as a ceiling, not as a floor.

THE WITNESS: Okay. But I have it on my phone right here.

MR. JONES: I've got it right here, too.

THE WITNESS: You've got it?

Fifty-nine. Excuse me. Fifty-nine. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, the Certificate of Occupancy that you currently have, it says what?

MR. JONES: It's first floor occupant load, 59 people.

THE WITNESS: Approved, both Building Code restaurant; approved, Zoning Code restaurant; approved, Zoning, eating and drinking establishment. So, I think --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The total is 59 people?

MEMBER SHORT: Has the fire department inspected you yet?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: What is it? You have the sign-off from the fire department, too?

MR. JONES: No, the fire department has not come to do the inspection.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
MR. JONES: We just had the other --
MEMBER SHORT: All right.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Any other questions by the Board Members?
(No response.)
Do you have any questions, based on this, the questions we asked?

MR. KELTY: No.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. No?
All right. Do you have anything that
you want to -- is that it? Do you rest?
THE WITNESS: Yes, I have one last thing. Am I able to -- because I have the fire marshal's number. It's in my card, a business card. If I call them and, then, $I$ let them know about the occupancy load, and so on and so forth, and then, he tells me the Code and says that I am in Code, can I -- am I able to give that information via email to you guys?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, that's a --
we're going to go with what we have. So, basically, where I am right now, you have told us that you have a Certificate of Occupancy for 69 --

THE WITNESS: Fifty-nine.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- 59.
THE WITNESS: Fifty-nine.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And whatever, if the Board was to approve the license, the license would, no, it not be more than what your Certificate of Occupancy is. And so, therefore, so that would be the feeling. So, that would be the feeling. So, if you present us with a Certificate of Occupancy that says 50 people or 40 people or like 10 people, that's what it is. So, we're not going to -- the ABC Board wouldn't issue, it wouldn't issue a license that says a hundred people if your Certificate of Occupancy says another number.

Your Certificate of Occupancy can say a hundred people, but if our license, if we issue a license to you, and if our license says 50, in order for you to accommodate a hundred, you would have to come back to us to say, "Oh, by the way, I have a new Certificate of Occupancy, and my Certificate of Occupancy now says a hundred. So,
you should change our license to issue a capacity of a hundred."

THE WITNESS: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, the numbers that, if we approve it, whatever number that we approve is what's in your current Certificate of Occupancy.

All right. All right. So, that's the presentation that you wish to make, is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. All right. So, Mr. Kelty, it's your opportunity to present your case. How do you plan to present your case?

MR. KELTY: I'll be presenting the case on behalf of the ANC.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you have no witnesses? You're the only witness?

MR. KELTY: I'm the witness.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. Raise your right hand, please.

WHEREUPON,
JOEL KELTY
having been called for examination by the Protestant, and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: First of all, by way of a little background about myself, not only am I an ANC Commissioner, I'm also a licensed architect. And I'm a former EMT and a former wildland firefighter. And I've done a fair amount of work with the Department of General Services on fire department and police facilities in the District. So, some of my technical background may come out in what I'm about to say.

So, as I mentioned in my opening statement, $I$ 'm going to first talk about defects in the application and misrepresentations, and then, I'll get into defects in the actual physical characteristics of the establishment. And then, I'll end with adverse impacts on the
neighborhood.
And so, in box 18 of the application form submitted by the Applicant, which is in Exhibit 1 that I have submitted, the Applicant lists only Daryl Jones as a member. The Applicant left the percentage ownership box blank on the form, which, in the opinion of the Protestant, should have resulted in a rejection of the application. The total number of shares outstanding is also blank, leaving open the question of whether Mr. Jones owns all shares. For reasons unknown, ABRA accepted the incomplete application.

In sworn testimony at the roll call hearing and, in fact, today, Mr. Jeff Miskiri represented that he is a partner in the establishment. You can see that on lines 16 through 18 of the roll call transcript, which is Exhibit 2.

Mr. Jones confirmed Mr. Miskiri's partnership status in the venture on several other occasions. The DCRA Corporate Registration
record for Brothers Burger Bar, LLC, confirms that Mr. Miskiri has ownership, participates in the establishment. That's in Exhibit 3, page 2.

Therefore, the response provided in box 18 on the ABRA application is not accurate. Given that the Applicant has misrepresented the true ownership of the establishment, neither the Board nor the public can be certain as to whether there are other partners in the venture who may not meet the criteria for licensure, including 25-301(A)(3)(a), which disqualifies an applicant that has a prior felony conviction in the past 10 years.

The Applicant also appears to violate 25-301(A)(5), which requires the Applicant to be the true and actual owner of the establishment, and that he or she intends to operate for his or her self and not as an agent of any other individual partnership or entity.

25-401 states that the making of a false statement, whether made with or without the knowledge of consent of the Applicant, shall, at
the discretion of the Board, constitute sufficient cause for denial of the application or revocation of the license.

There are also other errors or misrepresentations in the application. The trade name is blank, but in ABRA documents as Aroma and as Felicity Lounge on DCRA documents, as shown in Exhibit 5.

When asked in Question 7 whether it holds any other licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages, the Applicant answered in the negative. See the third page of Exhibit 3. The Applicant is defined in 25-101(6) as, "As the context requires, the individual applicant, each member of an applicant partnership or limited liability company, or each of the principal officers, directors, and shareholders of an applicant corporation" -- it goes on and on, but I think you get the idea.

Since many businesses are held in limited liability companies, as Mr. Miskiri testified earlier today, each owning and
operating a single location, the context requires this section to include not only the LLC making application, but also its individual officers, directors, and shareholders.

Partner Jeff Miskiri, who by definition is included in the term "applicant," currently holds at least the following licenses: ABRA 087903 and ABRA 105468. Therefore, the Applicant's response to the question is not accurate.

In Section 12 of the application, the Applicant misstated distances from the proposed establishment to facilities caring for children. Now while $I$ recognize that this isn't pertinent for a restaurant license, it's a willful misstatement of the truth, and I think that's why it's worth mentioning.

Specifically, under daycare center, the Applicant identified the distance to the nearest facility is 0.3 miles, which is 1,584 feet. Kiddie University, located in the next block at 806 H Street, is actually located less
than 400 feet from the proposed establishment. I'm not sure why your investigator didn't see that.

Sherwood Rec Center is described as 1 mile away, when it is actually approximately 400 feet from the property, also shown in Exhibit 11.

The nearest school is not J.O. Wilson, as the Applicant indicated, but, rather, LudlowTaylor, which is less than 450 feet from the subject property, also shown in Exhibit 11.

These errors are too great to be considered minor measurement discrepancies, and therefore, the Protestant believes they are intentional.

The Applicant failed to provide a detailed explanation, as required, for Questions 19A, B, and C, regarding how the proposed establishment will impact the surrounding community. 25-311 makes it clear that it is incumbent upon the Applicant to demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that the proposed establishment will not have deleterious effects
on the surrounding locality.
Item 20 asks whether any administrative action has been taken against the Applicant in the past 10 years, and specifically asks about alcohol law violations. As established previously, the Applicant in this case includes Mr. Miskiri. As shown in Exhibit 4, ABRA has taken a number of administrative actions against Po Boy Jim, an adjacent licensee which Mr. Miskiri owns.

DCRA has also taken administrative action against the Applicant in issuing several Stop Work Orders related to illegal construction at the property and revoking its original Certificate of Occupancy, as shown in Exhibit 9.

Mr. Miskiri, who it had been established is a partner, neither signed the application nor otherwise attested to the truthfulness and accuracy of the application, as required in 25-401(C).

Those are errors in the application. Now we're going to talk about the Applicants.

The Applicant does not meet the criteria for granting of a license. As previously discussed, the Applicant in this context includes the partners, including Mr. Miskiri. D.C. Corporate Registration records, as well as his own representations, indicate that Mr. Miskiri owns the adjacent licensed establishment, Po Boy Jim, at 709 H Street, Northeast, Exhibit 3.

The investigative history for Po Boy Jim, Exhibit 4, documents a long list of ABRA violations, including for failure to control litter, operating a summer garden without the required endorsement, failing to file quarterly reports, and failure to have appropriate staffing.

Section 25-301(A)(1) requires the Board to consider prior violations of the District's alcohol laws and regulations by the Applicant for establishments owned or controlled by the Applicant in evaluating suitability for a licensure. The long list of prior violations at the adjacent establishment controlled by the

Applicant renders the Applicant unsuitable for licensure, and the Board should deny the license application on this basis.

Because the true ownership of the establishment is in question, the Board cannot be certain that there are not other members of the Applicant, such as a convicted felon who would not be eligible for licensure without further ABRA investigation.

Let's talk about the proposed operation. I think the Board has picked up on this in their questioning.

The Applicant has represented that the establishment will be a full-service restaurant and has applied for a CR license. However, the Corporate Registration Fee establishment lists as its trade name Felicity Lounge -- that's in Exhibit 5 -- as does the Certificate of Occupancy, also in Exhibit 5.

While the term, quote, "lounge" is not
well-defined in ABRA regulations, it is not typically used to refer to a full-service
restaurant. The only time the phrase "lounge" is used in the regulations is to refer to a space for consumption of alcoholic beverages within a hotel. A restaurant, per Section 25-101, shall, quote, "be held out to and known to the public as primarily a food service establishment." The term "lounge" does not convey that the primary purpose of the establishment is the provision of food, but, rather, that it is a place for other leisure activity, such as listening to music.

The Protestant, myself, traveled to Silver Spring to observe operations at a lounge that was established by the Applicant's brother. The lounge included large openings onto the street as well as rooftop tenant area in which a disc jockey was playing loud music. The music could be heard inside the front door of another establishment across Georgia Avenue, which is four lanes wide at this point.

On the basis of its observations, the Protestant, me, believes that a lounge does not meet the criteria to be classified as a


#### Abstract

restaurant, as defined in ABRA regulations. It is the Protestant's belief that the Applicant has submitted for a restaurant license rather than a tavern or a nightclub license in order to circumvent the requirement of 25-314(C) that the Board consider whether the proximity of the proposed establishment from residents of the District would generate a substantial adverse impact on residents of the District.

Now I'm going to talk about qualifications of the establishment. The proposed establishment does not meet the minimum requirements for occupancy under District laws governing construction and occupancy. Through failures at DCRA, the Applicant was able to obtain Building Permits B1609458 and B1807658, as well as Certificate of Occupancy 1802784, to occupy the second and third floors of the premises, in violation of the District zoning regulations. DCRA revoked the permits and Cofo after being alerted to the problem by ANC 6C. That's Exhibit 9.


The Applicant, subsequently and explicitly, was able to obtain CO 1901866 for 65 persons, Exhibit 9, despite the fact that no new Building Permit was issued and the existing building does not meet current Code requirements, including for emergency egress. Specifically, the D.C. Construction Code requires that restaurants with occupancies in excess of 49 persons have a second means of egress.

While the establishment has a rear door, it exits through a trash room with a locked steel gate. The path of egress is blocked by trash cans, which are shown in my Exhibit 10. And you can also see interior shots of that same egress route in the investigator's exhibits in her report. The Construction Code prohibits exiting through a trash room at all, and the Certificate of Occupancy for 65 persons should never have been granted, simply on this basis.

In an email of March 6th, Zoning Administrator Matt LeGrant indicated that DCRA would be conducting additional property
inspections to confirm the property meets the legal requirements for occupancy. To date, the Protestant has not received a response from DCRA with the results of that investigation.

The ANC requests the Board not accept the Applicant's Certificate of Occupancy in fulfillment of the requirements of 25-311(C) until such an inspection has been performed and DCRA has confirmed the project meets all Construction Code requirements.

Screenshots from DCRA's Property Information Verification System, Exhibit 9, demonstrate that there are existing holds on the property for illegal construction. The status of these holds remains uncertain in the absence of clarification from DCRA.

The evidence presented, and as described above, reasonably determines that the establishment for which the license is sought is in violation of one or more of the Construction Codes and other laws and rules of the District. And therefore, the regulations require that the

Board deny the license. See Section 25-344, "Denial - Public Health and Safety".

And I'll also point out that in the Investigator's Report, which I just reviewed today, as Mr. Short correctly pointed out, there is a staircase without a railing. I've been in the property, and the second floor doesn't even have adequate ceiling height to get to the roof.

I'll finish up with adverse impacts on peace, order, and quiet. The Applicant has failed to meet the requirements of 25-311, which states that, "The Applicant shall bear the burden of proving to the satisfaction of the Board that the establishment is appropriate for the locality in which it is located."

The investigator mentioned it's in the NC-16 Zone, which is what used to be called the Retail Subdistrict. And while it's commercial in zoning, the property borders an RF-1 Residential District directly across a 10-foot-wide public alley. The investigator said it's 15 feet. It's actually 10 feet. That's shown in Exhibit 6.

Neighbors within this square attended an ABL meeting on March 4th, 2019, in which the Applicant failed to appear, despite numerous invitations to do so, Exhibit 7. The neighbors who did show up expressed universal opposition to the proposed establishment on the grounds of unacceptable noise, litter, and disorder, as well as impacts on vehicular and pedestrian safety. Other neighbors submitted correspondence, in Exhibit 8, opposing the proposed establishment.

The Applicant is required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that it is appropriate. The Appellant has provided no documentation fulfilling this requirement. As outlined in email correspondence, dated February 28th, from a constituent and, also, a letter from another constituent, Mr. Knobby -- and those are both in Exhibit 8 -- the neighborhood feels strongly that the proposed establishment presents a threat to peace, order, and quiet.

The ANC requests, among other reasons, that the application be denied on the basis of
adverse impacts to peace, order, and quiet, and because it is unresponsive to the statutory requirement to prove to the satisfaction of the Board that it is appropriate for the locality. I've written a little bit about daycares. I'm going to skip that because we've determined it's not applicable.

I will speak a little bit about undue concentration of licensed establishments. The Board is required to consider whether the license would create an overconcentration of establishments and whether there would be an adverse impact. Such is the case with this application. In the 700 block, as shown in the photos of Exhibit 10 and in the Investigator's Report, there is Allure Lounge, Po Boy Jim's, the subject property, a barber shop that is in the process of being converted into another, quote, "lounge," unquote, and Fresca Taqueria \& Rosticeria.

As noted in the constituent letter to the Board, there has been an increase in illegal
activity and adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet since Allure opened. The Protestant approached MPD, the Metropolitan Police Department, requesting crime data from the 700 block of $H$ Street. And while a formal response is not provided, Captain Polleo of the 1st District, Sector 2, reported two recent assault with dangerous weapon cases in the subject area as a result of nightlife, both within 200 feet of the subject property. Both resident observations and MPD's response establish that there is a reasonable cause to believe additional establishments in the 700 block would result in an undue concentration of licensed establishments and further exacerbate adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

The Applicant proposes operating daily until 2:00 a.m. during the week and 3:00 a.m. on weekends. These hours are inconsistent with other licensees in the locality; will harm peace, order, and quiet, and adversely impact property values. The ANC went to great lengths to try to
convince the Applicant to reduce its operating hours, but was ultimately unsuccessful.

The western end of $H$ Street is primarily residential in character and, in fact, the bulk of it is in H Street Overlay Residential Subdistrict. Half of the licenses established on this end of $H$ Street close before midnight. Of those that operate after midnight, there are only two licensed to operate until the statutory maximum of 3:00 a.m., The Big Board at 421 H Street and Allure Lounge at 711 H Street.

The Big Board's license predates the ANC's policy of seeking settlement agreements with all establishments. However, The Big Board has generated few, if any, complaints.

It is unclear how Allure was able to obtain a settlement agreement to operate to statutory limits. That was before my tenure on the Commission. I personally believe it was in error. Allure has received four noise complaints in the past several years as well as other regulatory investigations, including for a

Certificate of Occupancy issued in error and failure to bring the building up to current Codes when the use changed from a tax preparation office to a tavern. Like the proposed establishment, Allure is marketed as a lounge as well as a hookah bar, despite being licensed as a tavern and lacking the required Health Department's smoking exception. It's actually illegal to have hookah bars in the District unless you're one of the seven businesses in the District that have an exemption from the Department of Health for smoking.

Operating until 3:00 a.m. is also not
necessary. Exhibit 13 contains a tabulation of all CT and CR licenses along $H$ Street and in ANC 6C. As the table indicates, the vast majority of establishments close well before 3:00 a.m. Other establishments have demonstrated that it is economically feasible to operate a business that closes before 2:00. If ABRA chooses to grant the license, the Applicant will not be harmed by restricting its hours to midnight
during the week and 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. on the weekends.

Special events and outside promotions.
A settlement agreement with the previouslylicensed establishment at the subject address contained a total prohibition on outside promotions. That agreement is in Exhibit 14.
[Whereupon, the documents were marked as Protestant Exhibits 1 through 11 and 13 through 14 for identification.]

THE WITNESS: The Applicant represented to the ANC that its business plan requires outside promotions in order to be viable. In the interest of compromise, the ANC offered to consider permitting three outside promotions in any 12-week period in exchange for certain assurances, including penalties of the youth operating hours, that the outside promotions would not contribute to adverse neighborhood impacts. The 3-in-12 promotions in
any 12-week period language is consistent with the previous settlement agreements accepted by ABRA at other establishments within the ANC. The Applicant rejected the proposed compromise outright.

The ANC objects to special events and outside promotions on the basis that the operators of such events are not engaged with the community, have not been vetted by ABRA, and are more likely than the operator to create a disturbance in neighborhood peace, order, and quiet. There's also the potential for adverse impacts on parking because outside promotions bring in outside patrons, not neighborhood residents.

The proliferation of marijuana gifting parties at licensed establishments, as well as the other types of businesses on $H$ Street, and their accompanying disturbance, demonstrates that the ANC's concern is legitimate.

The application includes a proposed summer garden endorsement. The proposed roof

> deck, i.e., summer garden, would directly face the residents across the alley and result in unacceptable noise for those residents nearby. It should be noted that the roof deck requires zoning relief from the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Because the summer garden cannot be legally occupied without this relief, which the Applicant has not even applied for, the Applicant is not eligible for a summer garden endorsement, per $25-311(C)$, which states that "No license shall be issued unless the establishment has all necessary licenses and permits required by law or regulation."
> in almost certainly oppose any request for zoning relief to permit a roof deck at this location or for occupancy of the upper floors in excess of the maximum allowable floor area ratio permitted numerous justifications for denial and decide to issue a license, it should not include a summer fane should the Board disregard the forsen

In conclusion, the ANC would like to see a bona bide restaurant with experienced, capable management occupy this currently vacant retail storefront. However, any future establishment cannot be permitted to create undue burdens on those residents who are its immediate neighbors.

The application before the Board today does not meet the technical requirements for licensure nor the spirit of the law, whose purpose, in part, is to reduce conflict between the operating businesses and their adjacent residential and commercial neighbors. The willful misrepresentations and defects in the application demonstrate that the Applicant does not meet the requirements for licensure. The physical characteristics of the property and its questionable DCRA licensing status render the premises unsuitable for licensure at this time. The adverse impacts on peace, order, and quiet and diminution of property values and adverse impacts on parking render the proposed
establishment fundamentally incompatible with this locality. We respectfully request the application, therefore, be denied.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Who is going to question him? Do you have any questions?

MR. MISKIRI: I have one question.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: It's the same as when he asked questions. It's not -- you're free to ask him.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MISKIRI:
Q What does an establishment that is not in the District -- first of all, that's prejudgment. That person is not my brother. I have -- he's not even my brother. We have -- we don't even speak, for one. So, what does that establishment have to do with -- an establishment in Montgomery County, Maryland, have to do with an establishment that's located on $H$ Street?

A So, last weekend, I happened to go to an establishment in Silver Spring completely unrelated to this case with my family. And I
happened to notice while $I$ was there that there was loud music coming across the street, and it was coming from an establishment called Society Lounge. And so, I was wondering, what is a lounge? And this is just one example of what a lounge apparently is, since it's not defined in ABRA regulations. I thought it was relevant.

MR. MISKIRI: That's the only question
I have.

THE WITNESS: It was random chance that I picked that lounge and not some other lounge, to be honest with you.

MR. MISKIRI: I bet.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's the only question you have?

Questions by the Board Members?
(No response.)
All right. I don't have any questions.

All right. All right. This is an opportunity for the Applicant to provide us a closing statement, and then, the Protestant would
have an opportunity to provide us a closing statement.

So, what I need you to -- the closing
statement now is for you to tell us what is it that you are asking the Board to do. So, from your perspective, so be very specific in telling the Board what is it you ask the Board, what is it that you want the Board to do.

And then, the Protestant, I will ask the same question in your closing, for you to tell us what it is, what is it that you are seeking from the Board.

The Applicant goes first.
CLOSING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT
MR. MISKIRI: Yes, sir. Well, what it is that we're trying to do is have the Board grant us a license, an entertainment license, so we can be able to not only serve food, but a form of entertainment. If there are rules and restrictions, we want you guys to be able to come up with it. We want a fair share in terms of all the 26 license applicants that's in the area.

Like I said, I guess I am a partner in this business. The majority ownership is with Daryl. But, like you said, my little involvement, I'm going to speak up for what I believe is right and guide my friend because I have the experience of owning an establishment. I mean, this is his first time.

So, we just wanted our fair share, and I believe that the ANC never gave us a fair share or tried to compromise with us at all. Everything that he said to us is personal opinions and his beliefs and his backgrounds. We've been prejudged and executed by him. And that's fine. That's cool, what I'm saying. But I don't have to answer to him. We're answering to the Board and we want our license.

We spent, well, Daryl has took out numerous loans through his fire department, through his credit union, and, you know, he's the money behind the business. It's his business, and I'm just a minority partner.

And we want to be able to not only
make his money back, his contributions back, but gain a profit from this. That's what we're in business for.

We know the rules. We know the laws. We know the regulations. And we will abide by it. You know, D.C. has changed its gentrification. It's diverse, but, you know, there's still opportunity.

And we believe that we did our part with the landlord and he didn't have any questions about the tenant, and he owns most of the properties on $H$ Street and all over. So, we did our part. We gave it our hard-earned money. And actually, if we don't get this license and if it doesn't go through, we're out of luck; we don't get any of that money back. He's not going to say, "Hey, I'll give you your money back. I'm going to give you this money back for doing this." It's our loss. So, we know it's a risk in taking what we did.

And we know that ABRA Board takes their rules and stuff very seriously, and so do
we. I have little children who's -- they're in my life daily and I know that life is, you know, you have to be responsible and follow the rules.

All these codes and zoning and stuff that he's presented to us, I guess he believes that we're going to be operating the second floor without a permit, and so on and so forth. I would never put anyone's life in risk. Like I said, I'm a father, you know, a husband, and I do stuff the right way.

Like I said, yes, Po Boy has had issues with the trash, and so on and so forth, but we're still in business. We just got audited. We did our books, and so on and so forth.

But Daryl, he shouldn't get punished for Po Boy Jim. It's a new Applicant. It's a new establishment. I would think, you know, I'm a minority owner, and we just -- we believe he wants his fair share. It's very bad for him per se right now because he's very sad.

When he got the space, I sold him on
it. You know, the landlord told me -- I say, "Hey, I'm not a greedy person. I have a buddy of mine who" -- you know, I did it just to build my brand in terms of cooking in the kitchen. So, I presented -- me and Daryl are like brothers -- I presented the opportunity to him and we want to continue to grow, you know. I mean, he's a fulltime fire fighter, so I know that he needs help, and that's what I'm here for.

And we just want our license, so we will be able to make our money and prove to the community that we're not a problem, that we won't be a problem, that we will follow the rules and laws, that we will not cut any corners, sir. I know how important that is.

And that's all I have to say.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Kelty?
CLOSING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PROTESTANT
MR. KELTY: The ANC went to great lengths to attempt compromise with the Applicant. As I mentioned, we were unsuccessful. I personally have expended an incredible amount of
time on this protest.
The poor business decisionmaking of the Applicant is unfortunate. And to be honest with you, I feel badly for Mr. Jones. However, that is not the ANC's concern nor is it ABRA's concern.

The application submitted doesn't meet the requirements for an Applicant. The Applicant doesn't meet the requirements for licensure. The building doesn't meet the requirements. And the proposed establishment is not suitable for this location.

On that basis, I ask the Board deny the application.

Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I would like to thank both sides for its application, your presentation today.

Oh, it's quarter to 5:00.
Do you wish to make Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, meaning that, do you want to read the transcript, make closing --
write some legal briefs? Or do you want the Board to make a decision based on the presentation that was made today? You can waive. You can say -- or you can waive your right to do so.

MR. KELTY: I'm not sure if this is permitted, but $I$ have a written copy of my statement, which I would like to provide to the Board, if that's permitted. And is that permitted?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: It is, but I guess basically the statement that he just made. That's what you read from. Well, it's already in the transcript. So, because you made your statement, the transcriber has already -- so we do have your statement.

MR. KELTY: Okay. I'm sorry. Then, please repeat your question. I got sidetracked with that.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, I'm just saying, at the end of the case, normally, one could -- you're listening; you could ask for a
copy of the transcript. And then, you'll say this is what we approve. Basically, you formulate legal opinions to the Board to say this is what, based on the evidence, was presented. This is not you going out and bringing more testimony, more evidence.

MR. KELTY: I think I've made our position clear, and I'll waive that option.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. That's fine.

And you're, I feel you're in agreement, too. All right. That's fine. All right.

MR. MISKIRI: Is it okay if I say one other thing or are we done? I mean, if it's overboard, just don't worry about it.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, the burden is on you to --

MR. MISKIRI: That's fine.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The burden is on you to approve that. So, if you want to make one final statement, you can, sir.

MR. MISKIRI: I just want to, you know, through mediation and all this stuff, we left off with the ANC where they wanted to give us the license; they wanted to give us the deal, but the only issue --

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't want, that's why I don't want to --

MR. MISKIRI: Oh, you don't want to bother?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I don't know -that's why --

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's what I'm saying; I didn't -- I don't want to go through what was discussed at mediation --

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- and stuff.
MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And I remember when $I$ started at the beginning, I said, tell me the deal.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Say, for example, if the ANC had said, "Yes, grant them the license, but these are the conditions that I want," and if you had agreed to those conditions, then the Board would memorialize a Board Order --

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- and issue it, so we didn't have to go through.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Or we would have just had testimony on the hours, if that was the only sticking issue.

Say, for example, you agreed on every other issue, and there's just an issue that you couldn't agree to. So, the Board would memorialize what the issues are and, then, we would take testimony on what it is you couldn't agree. But we didn't start off that way.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay, okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So --

MR. MISKIRI: That's not the way I was leaning towards, but that's okay.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Right. But the ANC says, "I don't want you to grant the license." And you're saying you want the license.

MR. MISKIRI: Right.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And so, the decision that the Board needs to make is whether or not we're going to grant the license.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And if we grant the license, will we give you everything you need, everything you asked for? If we grant the license, would we give some, don't give some, put conditions, or will we go with the ANC and not grant the license? And that's the decision that we're now left with.

One of the reasons that I've said to you, both sides at the status, is that $I$ always tell folks to try to settle it because, if you settle it, it's your neighborhood; you live there; you work there, so, therefore, you determine.

Now it is that we are now left to make this decision, and maybe both sides will be happy. I don't know. I don't know. Whatever decision we make, someone is going to be unhappy.

MR. MISKIRI: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But this is a decision that we now -- it's now our decision that we have to make, and that's where we are.

So, all right. All right. As
Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia, in accordance with D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b) 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 No. 19-PRO-00017, Aroma, pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, and deliberating upon Case No. 19-PRO-00017, Aroma, for the reasons cited in D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act.

Is there a second?
MEMBER SHORT: Second.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Short and Mr.
Silverstein seconded the motion.

I will now take a roll call vote on the motion before us, now that it has been seconded.

Mr. Silverstein?
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
MEMBER CATO: I agree.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson.
As it appears that the motion has passed, $I$ hereby give notice that the ABC Board will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting in the ABC Board room conference room, pursuant to Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act.

We will deliberate upon this matter and we will issue a decision within 45 days. Thank you very much for your
presentation, and have a great day.
All right. As the Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia, in accordance with D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal -- I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on June 12th, 2019, for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel in the matters identified on the Board's legal licensing and investigative agenda for June 12th, 2019, as published in The D.C. Register on June 7th, 2019.

Is there a second?
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Silverstein has seconded the motion.

I will now take a roll call vote on the motion before us now that has been seconded. Mr. Silverstein? MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree. CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
MEMBER CATO: I agree.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson. I agree.

As it appears that the motion has passed, $I$ hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold this closed meeting, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notes will also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar on ABRA's website, and published in The D.C. Register in as timely a manner as practical.

It is 4:53 p.m., and we are adjourned for the day.
(Whereupon, at 4:53 p.m., the proceedings were adjourned.)

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|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

accepted 58:8 116:12 135:2 access 42:19 47:10 47:14
accommodate 113:19
accompanying 135:19
accountable 87:3
accuracy 121:19
accurate 117:5 119:10
act 79:20 151:13,17 151:20 152:19 153:5 154:9
action 121:3,12
actions 5:4,9 121:9
activity $124: 10$ 131:1
actual 14:15 51:2 115:20 117:16
add 23:13
added 100:7
addition 27:3
additional 24:5 30:1 126:22 131:12
address 15:22 28:3 33:17 38:16,18 46:1,19 134:5
addressed 39:20 40:8
adequate 128:8
adhere 106:10
adhered 106:7
adjacent 121:9 122:7,22 137:12
adjourned 154:14 154:17
Adjustment 136:6 administration 15:6 31:18 101:18
administrative 5:4 5:9 17:20 121:3,8 121:11
Administrator 126:21
adverse 27:21 33:1

115:22 125:8
128:9 130:1,13
131:1,15 134:21
135:12 137:20,21
adversely 26:17
29:5 131:21
advertised 22:1
advice 151:15
153:9
affect 78:18 79:2
affiliated 33:21
97:17
afternoon 6:10,18 6:20,22 7:3 50:9
50:10 53:4,5 54:7
54:8 75:18
Agency 13:1 16:4
31:20 32:3 40:7
45:11
Agency's 40:3,7
agenda 153:11
agent 9:2 10:3,9,11
14:20 117:18
agree 8:11 149:15
149:18 152:8,10
152:12 153:21
154:1,3,5
agreeance 63:17
agreed 8:9 86:6,6
149:4,13
agreement $5: 14$
8:10 19:5 28:3
63:11 88:5 132:17
134:4,7 147:12
agreements 19:8
19:10 35:14
132:13 135:2
ahead 50:8 55:17
62:20 75:16 96:20
115:6
alcohol 15:1 121:5 122:18
alcoholic 1:2,15,16
15:5 31:17 118:11
124:3 151:10
153:3
alerted 125:21
alley 34:16 49:16

99:2 106:20
128:21 136:2
alleyway 60:5,6,11
allowable 136:18
Allure 130:16 131:2
132:11,16,20
133:5
American 69:21
amount 115:13
144:22
ANC 1:7 2:19 5:13
7:5,16 10:22
11:20 15:22 16:1
19:6 20:9,15 24:8
25:16,17,18 26:3
26:19 27:9,18
28:1 29:1 32:20
32:21 34:2,3,5
63:10 89:11
114:17 115:10
125:21 127:5
129:21 131:22
133:16 134:14,16
135:3,6 136:14
137:1 141:9
144:19 148:3
149:2 150:2,14
ANC's 34:9 38:16
58:11 132:13
135:20 145:5
Anderson 1:19
2:10 6:3,12,15,18
6:22 7:7,19 8:5,20
9:5,12,18 11:15
11:18 12:3,22
13:6,12,15,18
14:1,4,9,13,17
15:2,11,16 16:3,8
16:12,22 17:4,10
18:6 19:9,14,20
20:19 21:5,10,16
21:21 22:6,10
23:2,16,21 24:7
24:19,22 25:4
29:9,20 30:2,6,9
31:9,15,19 32:1,7
32:11 38:19,21
39:11,14,16,19

40:6,20 41:18
44:2,9,16,22
45:14,17,22 46:4
46:13,18,21 47:13
47:18 48:3,7,13
48:16,19 49:3,11
49:17,20 50:2,6
52:7,17,21 53:9
53:12,16 54:1,4
54:13,18,21 55:2
55:6,11,14,17
56:21 57:16,19
58:14,20 60:16
61:1,4,6,13,18
62:4,10,13,20
63:19 64:1,5,11
64:15 65:22 66:3
66:13,16 67:1,5
67:12 68:17,22
69:4,7,11,17,22
70:3,8,22 71:10
72:9,13,18 73:11
74:6,14 75:15
79:8,12,17 81:22
82:7,13,20 87:22
92:17 96:19 101:7
101:11,14 102:22
103:9 104:5,11,16
107:2,8,10,15,20
108:4,8,10,13,16
108:18,20 109:3
109:13,22 110:4,8
110:11 111:2,11
112:1,7,18 113:2
113:4 114:4,12,18
114:21 115:6
138:4,7 139:14
144:17 145:16
146:11,20 147:9
147:17,20 148:6
148:10,13,17,19
149:1,7,10,20
150:1,6,10 151:6
152:2,9,11,13,13
153:16,22 154:2,4
154:4
angle 34:15
answer 45:13 57:11

95:13,19 97:4,4 100:10,11,11 141:15
answered 118:11 answering 141:15
anymore 44:13
anyone's 143:8
apologize 17:12
26:2 40:19 46:10
46:12 53:7 55:18 98:12
apparently 139:6
appear 51:11 129:3
appears 16:3 18:6
117:14 152:14
154:6
Appellant 129:13 applicable 47:8 130:7
applicant 2:17,18
3:2,4 5:1,9 8:2,4 10:8,15,20 12:21
18:13 19:3 26:7
26:10,21 27:6
28:3 39:22 40:9
48:1 62:18 82:18
93:13,13 116:3,4
116:6 117:6,11,14
117:15,22 118:11
118:13,14,15,18
119:6,12,19 120:8
120:15,20 121:4,6
121:12 122:1,3,19
122:20 123:1,1,7
123:13 125:3,15
126:1 128:10,12
129:3,11 131:17
132:1 133:21
134:13 135:4
136:8,8 137:15
139:21 140:13,14
143:17 144:20 145:3,8,8
Applicant's 11:13
18:21 27:4 28:8
28:10,11 41:16
58:10 119:9
124:13 127:6
applicants 121:22
140:22
application $1: 9$
3:13,15 4:15 5:1 7:8,9,18,21 18:1
19:18,19 22:1,9
22:19,21 23:1
26:4,9,20,22
27:10,19 28:14,19
28:21,22 29:7
30:5 32:16,18,19
32:22 43:7 58:6,8
58:11 94:7 115:19
116:2,9,13 117:5
118:2,5 119:3,11
121:18,19,21
123:3 129:22
130:14 135:21
137:8,15 138:3
145:7,14,17
applied 25:3 43:8 94:16 123:15
136:8
apply 47:1 65:11
74:2
applying 47:7
71:15
approach 6:8
approached 131:3
appropriate 29:3
122:14 128:14
129:13 130:4
approval 19:17
33:9 37:18 48:2,4
63:4
approve $30: 18$ 62:6
110:5 113:5 114:5
114:6 147:2,21
approved 111:7,8,9
approximate 60:8
approximately 24:4 31:21 120:5
April 15:3 16:15
arcade 88:15,16
architect 95:5,19 95:20 115:11
architectural 95:9 95:11 96:2
area 3:17,19 4:20
35:10 37:12 38:11
42:4,4,8,9,10,12
43:5,14,18 44:12
44:19,20 45:1
46:16 59:3 65:4
65:18,20 89:21
90:12 95:7 124:15
131:8 136:18
140:22
argue 29:1
arguments 11:4
Aroma 1:6 3:17,18 3:19,20,21,22 4:10,11,13,14,15 $4: 16,17,18,196: 6$ 20:8 32:8,17,18 33:5,21 34:20 35:1 36:22 37:2,7 37:22 38:3,9
43:14 44:7 56:11 118:6 151:16,18
Aroma's 3:13,15 32:22 43:1
asked 47:19 60:18 60:20 61:9 67:22
71:3 82:5 103:10 104:18 109:7,8,9 109:14,15 112:5 118:9 138:8 150:12
asking 7:16,17 8:21 13:1 19:15 20:19 20:20,22 21:5,6 21:17,22 22:11,15 24:11 25:1,5,6,8 25:11 44:17 52:11
53:10 55:12,14 56:21 66:17 67:1 67:14,16 68:2,4 72:10,20,21 73:4 73:14,17 74:7,8 74:16,16,17,17
75:1,8,11 83:3
87:18 106:10
109:4 140:5
asks 121:2,5
aspect 84:15 86:14

| 92:9 | 26:4 32:16 36:16 | bide 137:2 | 152:15,17 153:3,6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| aspects 26:8 28:14 | 42:4,6 88:15,16 | big 76:6 88:3 102:8 | 153:8 154:7,10,10 |
| ssault 131:7 | 117:1 133:6 | 132:10,12,14 | Board's 30:22 |
| sembly 106:6 | barber 130:1 | bigger 90:21,22 | 120:21 132:12 |
| ssigned 32:9,14 | bars 103:5 133: | bit 18:7 87:17 92:11 | 153:11 |
| 58:9 | Base 52:19 | 103:16,18 104:10 | BOBBY 2:11 |
| ssistant 15:5 | based 17:7 52:22 | 130:5,8 | bona 137:2 |
| ssuming 42:8 | 54:5 60:18,19 | black 102:19 | book 105:7 |
| assumption 74:2 | 61:9 82:4 84:15 | blank 116:6,10 | books 143:1 |
| 77:5 | 104:17 112:4 | 118:6 | orders 128: |
| ssurances 134:19 | 146:2 147:4 | block 38:10,12, | born 101:10 |
|  | basically 18:14 | :11 119:22 | bother 148:9 |
| ached 38:22 | 22:11 25:5,12 | 130:14 131:5,13 | bottom 105:9 |
| 6:18,21 | 88:8 91:1 112:20 | blocked 126:12 | box 91:7 116:2,6 |
| attempt 28:2 | 146:12 147:2 | board 1:2,15 3:11 | 117:5 |
| 144:20 | basis 26:6 27:19 | 7:12 8:13 9:1,2,8 | Boy 5:4 45:21,22 |
| ttended 129 | 28:19,22 29:2 | 9:13 10:2,3,5,9,10 | 46:14,19 49:21 |
| attention 17:18,21 | 63:5 65:4,12 74:5 | 10:12,18 11:2,4 | 50:3 56:20 71:19 |
| attested 121:18 | 75:12 123:3 | 12:15,16,16 13:10 | 83:6 97:18 98:15 |
| audited 143:14 | 124:20 126:19 | 15:4 17:11,21 | 102:2 103:11,13 |
| Avenue 124:18 | 129:22 135:7 | 18:16 19:2 23:14 | 121:9 122:7,9 |
| awaiting 33:9 48:2 | 145:13 | 25:19 26:1 28:18 | 130:16 143:11,17 |
| wards 103:2 | bathroom | 28:21 30:19,21 | Boy's 85:15 86:20 |
| aware 13:10 54:9 | bathrooms | 31:6 43:21 50:7 | 90:12 103:15 |
| 56:7,9,14,16 | bear 128:12 | 52:8 53:18 58:15 | brand 144:4 |
| 105:3 | beautiful 102: | 60:19,20 61:8,10 | brand-new 63:5 |
| B |  | 63:10 66:18,19,21 | 90:14,15 95:4 |
|  |  |  | refly 58:19 |
| B 35:4 120:17 | behalf 19:3 25:20 | 67:17,22 68:8 | briefs 146:1 |
| B1609458 125:16 | 114:17 140:14 | 75:16 76:8 82:1,5 | bring 17:18,20 18:9 |
| B1807658 125:16 | 144:18 | 88:3 96:20 97:9 | 20:13 67:18 70:21 |
| baby 91:2 | belief 83:15 | 99:18 100:16 | 76:4 85:21 88:13 |
| back 6:3 10:19 22:2 | beliefs 141:12 | 104:12 105:12 | 89:13 133:2 |
| 23:14 44:3 68:1 | believe 18:2 20:16 | 106:13 110:8,13 | 135:14 |
| 77:3 87:10 91:10 | 42:17 49:15 50:21 | 112:2 113:5,12 | bringing 147:5 |
| 100:2 102:3 | 80:20 92:4 131:12 | 117:8 118:1 | brother 124:13 |
| 113:20 142:1,1,16 | 132:19 141:5,9 | 122:17 123:2,5,11 | 138:14,15 |
| 142:17,18 | 142:9 143:19 | 125:6 127:5 128:1 | brothers 1:6 5:3 |
| background 63:7 | believes 28:14 | 128:13 129:12 | 26:4 32:16 117:1 |
| 68:15 69:12 83:5 | 120:13 124:21 | 130:4,10,22 | 144:5 |
| 83:13 84:11 101:8 | 143:5 | 132:10,14 136:5 | brunch 84:16,17,17 |
| 115:9,16 | best 103:4 | 136:19 137:8 | 84:22 85:3 |
| backgrounds | bet 139:13 | 139:16 140:5,7,7 | buddy 144:2 |
| 141:12 | Beverage 1:2,15,16 | 140:8,12,16 | build 144:3 |
| bad 143:20 | 15:1,6 31:18 | 141:16 142:21 | building 1:17 37:9 |
| badly 145:4 | 151:10 153:3 | 145:13 146:2,9 | 50:16 51:11 56:20 |
| band 83:20 | beverages 118:11 | 147:3 149:5,5,15 | 57:9 76:19 78:8 |
| bar 1:6 3:17 5:3 | 124:3 | 150:7 151:11,13 | 89:5 95:21 96:13 |

99:19 102:8 105:9 111:7 125:16 126:4,5 133:2 145:10
bulk 132:5
bulletin 154:10
bumps 102:13
bunch 51:9
burden 128:12
147:17,20
burdens 137:6
burger 1:6 5:3 26:4 32:16 88:9,10 117:1
bus $4: 16,1738: 8$ 43:10,11
business 19:13 20:7 21:7 28:13 51:21 63:5 65:8 65:12 66:12 68:6 68:13,21 69:15 81:1 83:7 86:21 87:11 89:9 90:2 90:17,17 91:4,12 93:17 101:18,19 101:19 102:20 103:20 105:19,21 112:12 133:19 134:14 141:2,20 141:20 142:3 143:13 145:2
businesses 5:10 104:2 118:20 133:10 135:18 137:12

| C |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| c 93:11 120:17 | Cato 2:11 152:11 |
| cafe 35:19 36:3 | 152:12 154:2,3 |
| 56:3 60:4 89:2,7 | cause 118:2 131:12 |
| cafes 59:2 | ceiling 110:9,17 |
| Cajun-103:1 | 128:8 |
| Cajun-Creole | center 37:4 44:15 |
| 102:20 | 119:18 120:4 |
| calculation 105:3 | certain 8:9 65:10 |
| calendar 154:11 | 117:8 123:6 |
| call 5:2 9:1 10:4 | 134:19 |
| 11:21 12:17 17:11 | certainly 136:15 |

certificate 93:14 94:10,15 96:5,12 97:4 100:13 107:4 107:11,21 108:5,6 108:14,21 110:1,6 110:12,14,16
111:3 112:21
113:7,10,14,16,21
113:22 114:6
121:15 123:18 125:17 126:18 127:6 133:1
CFO 20:17 23:11 90:13 93:19 95:1 96:16 97:13 99:11 99:11 105:1,5
CFOs 109:18
Chair 14:22 15:18
15:19 81:20 101:5
Chairman 6:3,12,15
6:18,22 7:7,19 8:5 8:20 9:5,12,18
11:15,18 12:3,22
13:6,12,15,18
14:1,4,9,13,17
15:2,11,16 16:3,8
16:12,22 17:4,10
18:6 19:9,14,20
20:19 21:5,10,16
21:21 22:6,10
23:2,16,21 24:7
24:19,22 25:4
29:9,20 30:2,6,9
31:9,15,19 32:1,7
32:11 38:19,21
39:11,14,16,19
40:6,20 41:18
44:2,9,16,22
45:14,17,22 46:4
46:13,18,21 47:13
47:18 48:3,7,13
48:16,19 49:3,11
49:17,20 50:2,6
52:7,17,21 53:9
53:12,16 54:1,4
54:13,18,21 55:2
55:6,11,14,17
56:21 57:16,19

58:14,20 60:16
61:1,4,6,13,18
62:4,10,13,20
63:19 64:1,5,11
64:15 65:22 66:3
66:13,16 67:1,5
67:12 68:17,22
69:4,7,11,17,22
70:3,8,22 71:10
72:9,13,18 73:11
74:6,14 75:15,20
79:8,12,17 81:22
82:7,13,20 87:22
92:17 96:19 101:7
101:11,14 102:22
103:9 104:5,11,16
107:2,8,10,15,20
108:4,8,10,13,16
108:18,20 109:3
109:13,22 110:4,8
110:11 111:2,11
112:1,7,18 113:2
113:4 114:4,12,18
114:21 115:6
138:4,7 139:14
144:17 145:16
146:11,20 147:9
147:17,20 148:6
148:10,13,17,19
149:1,7,10,20
150:1,6,10 151:6
152:2,9,11,13
153:16,22 154:2,4
Chairperson 1:18
2:10 151:10 153:2
chance 67:20 91:3 139:10
change 109:19
114:1
changed 96:16
133:3 142:6
Chapter 27:12
character 27:7
81:17 132:4
characteristics
115:21 137:17
charge 25:11 35:18
36:8 38:3 50:3

72:22 73:15,17
74:4,5 75:7 76:14
check 13:4 14:5
checking 13:17 14:10
checks 33:12
children 119:13
143:1
Chipotle 86:12
chooses 133:20
Chupacabra 35:20
71:20
circle 44:5,5
circumvent 125:5
cited 151:19
cities 106:5
city 75:22 106:4
claimed 81:2
clarification 45:10
104:17,19 127:16
Class 32:15 35:2,4
35:5,6,8
classified 124:22
clean 85:13
clear 94:4,6 120:19 147:8
clearance 80:17
cleared 51:17
clearly 7:10 31:11
64:12
clock 22:5
close 45:20 49:5 51:16 65:5 88:5 91:5 132:7 133:17
closed 33:6,21 37:5 37:18 42:2 44:13
151:14 152:16
153:6,8 154:8
closer 63:2
closes 133:20
closet 4:10 42:16
closing 3:4 11:3,3 29:14 30:17 59:4
63:13,15 139:22
140:1,3,10,14
144:18 145:22
club 84:5,6
clubs 76:5
code 27:4,12 29:3
89:15 95:22 99:19 105:2,7 111:8,8 112:15,16 126:5,7 126:16 127:10 151:12,16,19 153:5
codes 26:13 127:21
133:2 143:4
CofO 125:20
collectively 35:11
college 91:15 101:16,17
Columbia 1:1 32:6 151:11 153:4
combination 104:7
combine 104:9
come 8:10 14:8 19:5 57:9 63:11 73:21 77:3 83:17 86:5 100:2 111:19 113:20 115:16 140:20
comedian 73:21
comes 51:1
coming 67:13
85:14 139:2,3
commercial 37:12 128:18 137:13
Commission 3:12 41:14 132:19
Commissioner 7:5 34:2,4,8 58:3 115:10
Committee 15:1,20
Communications 33:15
community $34: 12$ 57:10 85:18 98:18 101:16,17 120:19 135:9 144:12
companies 118:21 company 68:18,19 69:10 118:16
compared 20:4
compete 20:1,5,14 65:3 71:13 86:11 86:12 87:19 88:22

90:18 92:12
competition 101:19 101:20
competitive 72:1,3 72:6,8,19 73:5 83:8,21 84:18
88:19 100:20
competitors 20:1
complaints 33:20
132:15,20
completely 94:11 138:21
compliance 33:12
93:1,4 94:14,16 95:2
comply 93:10 94:12
comprised 37:12
compromise 8:1
134:16 135:4
141:10 144:20
concentration
130:9 131:14
concept 104:6
concepts 104:2
concern 38:17 47:6
135:20 145:5,6
concerned 47:2 106:14
concerns $3: 13,14$ 28:3 34:9 41:15 41:21
conclusion 137:1
Conclusions
145:21
conditions 7:20
8:14 11:8 149:3,4
150:14
conduct 32:4 33:12
93:1 98:7
conducting 126:22
conference 152:17
confidential 64:2
confirm 59:2 127:1
confirmed 116:20
127:9
confirms 117:1
conflict 137:11
conform 26:13
confused 44:4 confusing 40:1 consent 117:22 consider 122:17 125:6 130:10 134:17
considerable 28:1 considered 35:2 56:3 77:2 120:12
consistent 135:1
consistently 16:5
constituent 129:16 129:17 130:21
constitute 118:1 constructed 94:12 construction 26:13 33:6 51:20 90:6 121:13 125:14 126:7,16 127:10 127:14,20
consumption 124:3 contacted 33:15 92:22
contained 134:6 contains 133:14 CONTENTS 3:1
context 118:14 119:1 122:3
continue 144:7 contribute 134:21 contributions 142:1
control 1:2,15,16 86:15 99:6 122:11 151:10 153:3
controlled 122:19 122:22
converted 130:18 convey 124:7
convicted 123:7
conviction 117:12
convince 132:1
cook 87:13,13 91:16
cooking 87:15 144:4
cooks 91:15
cool 141:14
copies 12:15 40:21
70:7
copy $5: 1$ 9:2,6,7,9
9:13,14,19,22
10:1,2 12:19,21
13:7,13 14:18,19 26:2 39:12,13
40:11,13,15,18,22 41:1,3 70:4,6 72:4 146:7 147:1
corners 96:3 97:15 144:14
corporate 5:3 86:12 116:22 122:4 123:16
corporates 90:18 corporation 118:18 correct 25:3 47:12 49:1,2 56:1 62:12 70:15,16 78:6 98:5,11,19,20,21 99:3 101:1 106:2 106:8,20 108:7 110:10 114:10
corrected 46:22
correctly 86:22 128:5
correspondence 16:2 129:9,15
corridor 88:4
counsel 15:5 151:15 153:10
County 138:18
couple 12:18 86:7 102:14
course 103:19
court 11:14 39:12
cousin 102:3
cover 25:11 35:18 36:8 38:3 50:3 72:22 73:15,17
74:4,4 75:7 76:14
CR 1:7 5:13 26:5 32:15 35:5 123:15 133:15
create 87:8 130:11 135:10 137:5 created 102:17
creating 91:13
credit 141:19
Creole 103:2
crime 131:4
criminal 27:3
criteria 26:11
117:10 122:1
124:22
critical 26:8
CROSS 3:6
CROSS-EXAMIN... 53:2 57:22 66:5 92:20 96:21 101:6 138:10
cross-examine 10:17
crowded 81:7
CT 5:13 35:6 133:15
cuisine 69:21
culture 83:15 102:17
current 23:10 107:4 107:8 108:6 109:22 114:6 126:5 133:2
currently 31:16 37:5 77:8 111:3 119:7 137:3
curve 85:9
cut 96:2 97:15 144:14

## D

D.C 1:18 20:6 27:4 27:12 33:13 95:11 101:10 102:20,21 103:2,4 122:4 126:7 142:6 151:12,16,19 153:4,12 154:12
daily 131:17 143:2
dancing 36:7
danger 57:10
dangerous 131:8
dare 105:15
Daryl 2:18 3:7 6:21 15:7 16:13 32:18

62:16 87:10 116:5 141:3,17 143:16 144:5
data 131:4
date 15:9 93:2 127:2
dated 129:15
day 83:18 84:21 85:4,8 153:1 154:15
daycare 5:11 37:4 44:15 119:18
daycares 130:6
days 11:5 70:12 152:21
DC 71:16
DCRA 5:3,5,9 33:10
37:18 48:2 90:10
92:22 93:5,19
94:3 96:6 99:14
116:22 118:7
121:11 125:15,20
126:21 127:3,9,16
137:18
DCRA's 127:11
deal 65:1 95:22
148:4,21
decide 136:20
decides 20:8,9
decision 7:13 11:5
146:2 150:7,15
151:2,4,7,7
152:21
decisionmaking 145:2
deck 28:11 136:1,4 136:16
decline 28:21
defects 28:20,22 29:6 30:4 115:18 115:20 137:14
defined 118:13 125:1 139:6
definition 119:6
deleterious 120:22
deliberate 152:20
deliberating 151:18
demonstrate

120:20 127:13 129:12 137:15
demonstrated 133:18
demonstrates 135:19
denial 7:17 18:2 27:9,18 29:1 118:2 128:2 136:20
denied 26:20 129:22 138:3
deny 7:21 11:7
28:19,21 123:2 128:1 145:13
department 97:16 111:13,17,18 115:13,14 131:4 133:12 141:18
Department's 133:8
Departments 99:13
described 120:4 127:18
despite 126:3 129:3 133:6
detail 30:3 41:22
detailed 63:15 120:16
determine 37:16,19 150:22
determined 130:7
determines 127:18
detrimental 27:20 90:16
die 99:20
difference 103:12
different 19:7 24:21 56:5 68:11 78:1 89:6 104:2 109:18
difficult 86:1
diminution 137:21
dining 103:15,18
DIRECT 3:6 31:8
62:21 82:22 115:7
direction 104:3
directly 128:20 136:1

Director 3:12 41:14
directors 118:17
119:4
Dirty 36:4
disc 124:16
discounted 84:4 discrepancies 120:12
discretion 118:1
discuss 18:3
discussed 122:2 148:15
discussion 64:8
discussions 63:20
disorder 129:7
dispatched 58:6
displeasure 40:8
disqualifies 117:11
disregard 136:19
disrupt 29:4
distance 89:8
119:19
distances 119:12
District 1:1 4:12 5:6 32:6 42:21 115:15 125:8,9,13,19 127:21 128:20 131:7 133:9,11 138:13 151:11 153:3
District's 122:18
disturb 26:16
disturbance 33:19
135:11,19
diverse 142:7
diversified 103:6,6
document 5:6,11
14:15
documentation
129:14
documents 11:1 43:20 70:10,13 118:6,7 122:10 134:8
doing 8:2 84:12,21 85:4,16,17 92:10 142:18
dollars 20:18

Donovan 1:19 2:10
door 47:16 83:7
85:15 97:18
124:17 126:11
doors 20:11 56:11
56:19 89:2 94:2
downstairs 77:21
DR 35:7
drawings 90:10 95:6
dream 87:11
drinking 111:9
drives 91:18
drop 97:13
drunkness 85:14
DT 35:8
dual 42:13
duck 94:1
due 27:17
Duffy's 35:15
duly 31:6 62:18
82:18 115:4
dust 90:7
duties 32:2
E
earlier 74:21
118:22
eat 74:13 103:5
eating 75:9 111:9
eats 83:19
economically 133:19
economics 91:13
edge 83:21 84:18 87:17,18 88:13,19 100:20
effects 120:22
effort 28:2,5
egress 27:14 95:15
96:8,13 97:6
126:6,9,12,15
eight $35: 5$
either 8:17 14:12
14:14 92:22
elaborate 66:13
83:1
electronic 154:11
elegant 103:17,17 Elementary 37:3 44:14
Elena 88:15,16 eligible 123:8 136:9 Elite 68:21 69:16
email 3:12,14 9:10
9:11,21 13:14,16
14:5,10 15:6,22
16:1,6,15 34:1
41:14,19 63:14
112:17 126:20
129:15
emails 16:4,11,13
emergency 27:13
126:6
employed 31:16,20
employee 32:2
empty 4:10
EMT 115:11
endorsement 25:9
35:10 36:3,7,8
38:1,3 49:22 50:4
72:21 73:18 75:7
76:10 100:6
122:13 135:22
136:9,22
endorsements 24:5
35:19 76:2,3
engaged 135:8
enjoy 74:12
ensure 33:12
enter 33:7
entertained 83:19 entertainment
22:15 25:9 33:11
34:9 38:1 49:22
65:19 72:21 73:18
73:22 74:8,10,15
75:7,14 76:3,9
83:4,12,15 84:3
85:10 87:19 88:6
88:7,17,21,22
100:6 140:17,19
enticing 88:18
entity 91:1 117:19
entrance 37:10
78:15,16
entrances 37:8 78:17
entrees 103:16
entrepreneur 85:22
error 23:3 36:22 87:4 132:20 133:1
errors 17:22 118:4 120:11 121:21
escape 79:6
especially 47:4 90:17
establish 131:11
established 34:12 121:6,17 124:13 132:6
establishment 26:8
26:12,15 27:1
28:8,16 29:2 32:8
32:10,13 33:1
35:8 37:7,15,20
41:22 42:6 43:2
44:17 45:3,9,15
45:19 46:15 47:3
48:8,10,21 49:13
49:16 54:10,12
55:20 56:8 60:1,6
65:2 72:1 83:9
85:2 86:4,20 87:7
89:11,14 93:15
94:8 96:1,7 108:3
111:10 115:21
116:17 117:3,7,16
119:13 120:1,18
120:22 122:7,22
123:5,14,16 124:6
124:8,18 125:7,11
125:12 126:10
127:19 128:14
129:6,10,19 133:5
134:5 136:11
137:5 138:1,12,17
138:17,19,21
139:3 141:6
143:18 145:11
establishment's 27:2,20
establishments
4:16 32:5 34:22

35:2,3,5,6,7,9,13
37:14,14 43:10
45:5 65:4 71:12
71:14,21 72:3,5
72:14 73:12 84:2
84:20 86:11,12
88:3 89:1 90:19
103:7,21 104:1
122:19 130:9,12
131:13,14 132:14 133:17,18 135:3 135:17
estimation 51:16
evaluating 122:20
event 33:10 73:20
73:20 74:3 84:16
84:22 85:2
events 28:12 68:12
75:13 84:14 134:3
135:6,8
everything's 98:22
evidence 11:13
30:15 62:5 127:17 147:4,6
exacerbate 131:15 exact 65:6
exactly 70:18,20 71:6,9
examination 31:5,8 58:22 62:17,21 82:17,22 104:20 115:3,7
examined 31:7 62:19 82:19 115:5
example 8:7 45:4 63:12 84:3 139:5 149:1,13
exception $35: 14$ 133:8
excess 126:8
136:17
exchange 70:11 134:18
excuse 46:9 54:7 56:17 85:16 88:15 95:7 100:15 111:1
excused 61:17 82:9 executed 141:13
exemption 133:11
exhibit 3:10 40:2,2
41:7,8,10,13,19
42:1,3,5,7,10,11
42:13,15,17,21,22
43:3,6,9,11,13,15
43:17 44:3 50:16
54:9,19,19,21
55:7,19 56:2,11
56:17 57:1 80:3 116:4,19 117:3 118:8,12 120:6,10 121:7,15 122:8,10 123:18,19 125:22 126:3,13 127:12 128:22 129:4,10 129:18 130:15 133:14 134:7
exhibits 38:21 39:1
39:5,8 40:14,16
43:22 50:12 52:20 71:4 80:2 126:15 134:10
exist 47:21
existing 126:4 127:13
exit 78:19 95:17
exiting 126:17
exits 78:2,5,9 126:11
expect 97:9,11
expediter 96:11
expended 28:1 144:22
experience $67: 7,8$ 141:6
experienced 137:2
experiences 83:5
102:17
explanation 120:16
explanatory 57:15
explicitly 126:2
expressed 129:5
exterior 21:8
extra 84:7 85:1,9 91:8
eye 11:12

|  | F |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | facade 55:3 |
|  | face 136:1 |
|  | faces 34:16 |
|  | facilities 5:11 |
|  | 115:14 119:13 |

felon 123:7 felony 117:12
female 42:14
Festival 86:18,19
field 58:7 84:11
Fifty-nine 111:1,1 113:1,3
fighter 144:8
fights $85: 14$
figure 12:18 70:20
file 122:13
final 147:22
find 32:12 45:10
findings 13:10 145:20
fine $8: 16$ 84:3 90:1 98:22 103:14,15 103:18 141:14 147:10,12,19
fined 81:5
fines 89:22 102:15
finish 128:9
fire 77:20 78:12,17
79:1,4 89:21,21
99:19 105:8
106:17 111:13,17
111:18 112:11
115:14 141:18
144:8
firefighter 63:8 69:14 78:20 79:6 79:10 115:12
fires 106:6
firm 95:9,11 96:2
first 12:17 17:11
23:12,19,22 24:2
29:6 30:22 31:6
40:1 53:6,8,8 58:3
62:18 70:17 78:13
78:16,17 79:2,5
82:18 90:5 93:19
95:1,2 97:5 98:16
106:15 109:18,21
111:5 115:4,8,18
138:13 140:13
141:7
fit 27:7
fitness 68:21,21

69:10,16
five $35: 13$ 85:7 86:10 107:13
fix 87:4 94:3 95:8 97:12 100:1
fledged 102:11
Fletcher 76:22
floor 23:10,12
76:21 77:7,8
78:13,16,18,19
79:2,3,5,7 80:4,12 80:17 81:2,3,6 89:20 90:2,5 93:20 95:2,6,15 97:5 100:21,22 106:15 107:22 108:11,12,12 109:21 110:17 111:5 128:7 136:18 143:6
floors 107:19,20 108:1,11 125:18 136:17
focus 42:6,7 55:19 57:1
folks 150:19
follow 14:19 17:14 143:3 144:13
following 26:6 107:3 119:7
follows 31:7 62:19 82:19 115:5
food 65:19 69:18 69:18 70:5 72:8 72:16 73:2,9,13 73:16 80:13 83:11 84:2,4,8,13,15,20 85:6 87:16 88:19 92:12 103:2,17,18 104:8 124:6,9 140:18
Foods 35:14 36:13 86:13
form 5:1 88:7,17 96:16 116:3,7 140:18
formal 131:5 former 115:11,11
formulate 147:3
forth 10:19 27:12 68:1 91:20 103:6 112:14 143:7,12 143:15
forward 8:8 29:17
found 102:7
four 12:10 31:21 63:9 124:19 132:20
Fred 3:13 41:15
free 138:8
Fresca 71:19 130:19
Friday 21:1,4,6,10 22:13,16 24:13 25:14 36:1,6,18 38:7
friend 141:5
front 3:15 37:9 42:1 124:17
fulfilling 129:14
fulfillment 127:7
full 16:1 39:10,13 84:5 89:7 90:5 94:14 95:5
full-92:6 102:10 144:7
full-blown 84:5
full-service 92:6 123:14,22
fundamentally 138:1
funded 102:2
further 27:18 60:15 101:3,4 123:8 131:15
future 137:4
G
gain 85:17 142:2
games 90:1
garages 38:11
garden 20:3,10 22:20 23:7,9,9,20 24:3,6,13,16,18 25:8,10,12 28:10 33:9 34:7,15

35:12,15,22 36:2
36:10,11,14,17
37:11,17,22 38:2
42:18,19 47:11,14
47:19,21 48:5,8
49:1 50:22 56:3
60:4 63:13,16
74:7,9,10 75:8,10
76:18,20 77:1,6
89:5 94:8,10,11
94:20 109:7,11
122:12 135:22
136:1,6,9,22
gardens 35:10 59:3
gate 95:18 126:12
general 15:5 59:3 115:13
generally $27: 7$
generate 125:8
generated 132:15
gentleman 100:3
gentrification
86:13 142:7
George's 101:17
Georgia 124:18
getting 56:1 98:18
gifting 135:16
gimmicks 92:3
GIS 4:13,14 34:21
42:22 43:3 44:11
45:1
give 17:8,13 18:18
47:19 53:18 64:17
66:19 67:2,6 85:9
101:7 105:5
112:16 142:17,18
148:3,4 150:11,13 150:13 152:15 154:7
given 8:15 13:8 117:6
giving 29:15 88:19 100:10

## gladly 79:5

Glasgow 2:20 3:7 3:14 31:1,4,14 61:14
go 8:6 9:11 10:19

11:9 12:12 17:5 22:2 29:13,16
44:3 47:17 48:9
50:8 55:17 60:21
62:20 64:16 75:14
75:16 80:17 87:10
88:13 90:6,9,10
91:8 93:18 94:3
96:10,20 97:7
99:18 105:7
112:19 115:6
138:20 142:15
148:14 149:8
150:14
goes 12:5 50:21 56:19 95:17
118:18 140:13
going 8:22 11:16
11:21 13:4 17:1,4
17:7 29:6,11,12
42:18 52:12 53:13
53:14 61:20,21
62:10 67:22 73:8
75:5,9 77:14 79:2
80:15 81:3,12
84:5,6 85:8 87:1
89:6 90:5 92:1,3,8
99:20 100:19,22
103:9,12 104:4
105:22 106:16
112:19 113:12
115:18 121:22
125:10 130:6
138:4 141:4
142:16,18 143:6
147:5 150:8 151:4
good 6:10,18,20,22
7:3 17:9 27:7 50:9
50:10 53:4,5 54:7
54:8 75:18 83:19
84:13 87:15
gotten 9:19
governing 125:14
grant 11:6,7 45:7
101:21 133:21
140:17 149:2
150:2,8,10,12,15
granted 8:15 48:4

76:8 126:19
granting 11:8 122:2 great 7:22 17:3
65:1 84:8 102:17 120:11 131:22 144:19 153:1
greedy 144:2
Grenier 71:18
ground 95:15
grounds 18:2 28:18 32:22 129:6
grow 144:7
guess 16:17 21:12 22:2 44:2 48:20 50:16 70:17,17 71:20 73:14 75:4 141:1 143:5 146:11
guests 88:18
guide 141:5
gutted 90:8
guys 112:17 140:20
H
H 1:7 5:13 26:5
32:17 37:6 38:10
45:20 46:20 48:12
55:9 56:8 75:9
80:21 86:17,17,18
86:19 89:3 92:12
98:20 102:7 103:3 103:7,20 106:17
119:22 122:8
131:5 132:3,5,7
132:10,11 133:15
135:18 138:19
142:12
half 12:5 90:13 132:6
halfway 24:2
hallway 3:20 42:11
hand 31:2 62:14
82:14 114:22
handed 39:7 40:15 40:17,21
handle 93:19
happen 53:14
happened 138:20

139:1
happens 105:11
happy 18:4 151:3
HapstakDemetriou 95:10 96:1
hard 9:9 70:7
hard-earned 142:13
harm 131:20
harmed 133:22
Harvest 71:17
head 107:19
health 93:20 128:2 133:7,12
hear 19:10 29:8 63:20 64:3,8
heard 71:12 72:10 99:9 124:17
hearing 1:7,16 4:15 6:5 7:8 8:8,18 15:7 43:7 54:2 58:4 74:21 116:15 154:10
heavily 28:12
heavily-populated 37:12
height 128:8
held 118:20 124:5
Hello 54:7
help 81:8 144:8
helpful 25:22
helps 23:18
Hey 142:17 144:2
Hi 75:19
hiccups $87: 1$
hide $94: 1$
high 20:6
high- 103:14
Hikari 36:16 71:20
hire 87:7 95:9 96:11
history 122:9
hold 8:17 23:16,17
30:7 151:13 152:16 153:6,8 154:8
holds 118:10 119:7 127:13,15
homeless 91:19
honest 139:12 145:3
Honestly 68:14
hookah 133:6,9
hope 12:11 29:17 105:19
hotel 124:4
hour 12:5
hours 12:12 20:2,2 20:20,21 22:2 24:10,11,16 25:12 34:9 38:5 41:16 56:15,18 65:10 87:20 131:19 132:2 133:22 134:20 149:11
human 102:14
hundred 25:7 99:10 107:12,13,17,19 109:19 110:5 113:14,17,19,22 114:2
husband 143:9
1
i.e 28:10 136:1

ID 33:12
idea 101:22 118:19
IDENT 3:10
identification 44:1 134:12
identified 119:19 153:10
identify 6:9
identity 27:2 84:8
ignored 86:4
illegal 121:13
127:14 130:22 133:9
illegally 94:2
immediate 18:2 137:6
impact 26:17 29:5 33:1 120:18 125:9 130:13 131:1,21
impacted 34:12
impacts 27:20,21 115:22 128:9

129:8 130:1
131:15 134:22
135:13 137:20,22
important 144:15
in-chief 30:15
incentive 84:7
incentives 85:1
include 119:2
136:21
included 119:6
124:14
includes 121:7 122:3 135:21
including 33:3
117:10 122:4,11
126:6 132:22
134:19
incompatible 28:15 138:1
incomplete 116:12
inconsistent 131:19
incorrect 101:2
increase 130:22
incredible 144:22
incumbent 120:20
indicate 122:6
indicated 120:8 126:21
indicates 133:16
indicating 4:14
41:20 43:4
Indies 83:14
individual 117:19 118:14 119:3
individuals 95:17
industry 68:16 72:8
information 5:7
30:10,11 32:12
46:3 66:20 67:7
68:3 101:8 112:17
127:12
ingress 107:14
inside 3:16 25:9
37:21 38:1 42:3
50:15 88:15 109:9
124:17
inspected 111:14
inspection 50:11 50:12 93:1,4,20 111:19 127:8
inspections 32:4 127:1
inspectors 105:9
inspire 91:4
instance 104:9
instant 102:12
instruct 53:20
intend 29:16 93:10
intends 33:8 38:4 117:17
intention 28:11 76:1
intentional 120:14 interest 134:16
interested 101:12
interior 21:7,9 24:15 25:13 33:7 37:16,19 42:5 77:9 78:8 126:14
investigation 32:10 32:15 58:7 123:9 127:4
investigations 32:5 132:22
investigative 40:11 122:9 153:11
investigator 2:20 9:15 10:4,6 14:20 17:1 23:5 31:4 39:12 40:11,22 41:2 52:13,14 60:17 120:2 128:16,21
investigator's 23:19 109:16 126:15 128:4 130:15
invitations 129:4
involved 89:11 103:11
involvement 141:4
Irish 35:15
ironed 100:3
Islands 83:13,14
issue 8:12,13 11:5

21:3 44:18 45:9
75:6 79:7 94:1
97:13 110:9,13
113:13,13,17
114:1 136:21
148:5 149:7,12,14 149:14 152:21
issued 9:20 45:4 93:13 94:14 126:4
133:1 136:11
issues 8:9,11 38:18 41:20 57:6 63:13
86:7 89:4,19 95:8
98:21 99:1,2
102:14 143:12
149:16
issuing 47:2 121:12
Item 121:2

| J |
| :--- |
| J.O 120:7 |
| JAMES 2:12 |
| jazz 83:20 |
| Jeff 2:17 3:8 6:11 |
| $6: 14$ 68:15 82:12 |
| 82:16 116:15 |
| 119:5 |
| Jim 5:4 45:21 46:14 |

46:19 49:21 50:3
71:19 83:6 121:9
122:7,10 143:17
Jim's 46:1 56:20
97:18 98:15 102:2
103:11,13 130:16
jobs 87:9 91:13
jockey 124:16
Joel 2:19 3:8 7:4 34:2 115:2
Jones 2:18 3:7 6:20 6:21 7:1 9:9 11:12 13:14,17 14:9,12 14:14 15:8 16:13 19:4,17 21:14 23:8 32:19 33:8 34:5 39:13,15,18 40:5 43:7 52:10 61:1 62:1,3,8,12 62:16,22 63:3,22

64:4,10,14,22
66:10,15,22 67:4
67:11 68:9,20
69:2,5,9,13,20
70:2,6,16 71:3
72:7,12,17 73:10
73:19 74:12 75:12
75:19 76:11,13,16
76:20 77:10,12,15
77:18 78:1,4,6,9
78:11,15,22 79:4
79:11,14,16,19
80:1,6,9,14 81:4,9
81:12,16,19 82:8
82:12 83:3 100:4
109:17 110:3,20
111:5,15,18,21
116:5,11,20 145:4
JR 2:11
June 1:12 153:8,12 153:13
junk 13:5
justifications 136:20
$\frac{\mathrm{K}}{\text { KELT } 14: 4}$

K-E-L-T 14:4
K-E-L-T-Y 14:3
K-I-L-T 14:2
karaoke 84:4
Kelty 2:19 3:8,14
7:3,4,17,22 8:19
9:4,11 12:1,20
13:4,11,22,22
14:1,3,4,5,7,22
15:9,13,19 16:6
16:10,19 17:3,9
17:22 22:8,22
23:18,22 25:21
29:18,21 30:3,7
34:2,4,8,14 39:6
40:13 41:7,10,20
53:16 57:19,21
58:1,13 60:16,21
63:14 65:22 66:2
82:6 92:17,19,21
96:17 104:15
112:6 114:13,16

114:20 115:2
144:17,19 146:6 146:17 147:7
Kiddie 119:21
kids 85:19,21 87:11 kind 51:11 53:7 98:16 104:3 106:4 107:18
kitchen $3: 18,19,21$
42:8,10,12 95:18
97:7 106:16 144:4
knew 87:12 99:13
Knobby 129:17
know 13:1,3,7 14:8
14:16 20:4,5
41:11 47:20 48:3
48:6 49:3,4,7,8,9
49:10,11,21,21
50:2,5 51:19
54:11,14 57:14
58:7 67:9,9,10,12
68:7 70:8 73:7
79:9,13,17 81:10
81:15 83:8,16,17
85:8,9,11,18,21
86:15,15,17,20
87:5,6,15,20 88:3
88:21 89:20,21,22
89:22 90:9,10,15
91:20,20,22 92:15
95:3,4,12 97:3
98:6 99:7 100:17
100:18,18,20
101:10 103:17
104:22 105:4,5
107:18,18 109:6
112:13 141:19
142:4,4,5,6,7,19
142:21 143:2,2,9
143:18 144:1,3,7
144:8,15 148:2,10 151:3,3
knowing 97:10 99:19
knowledge 117:22 knowledgeable 91:6
known 86:11 90:19

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 91:1 95:11 96:1,2 } \\ & \text { 124:5 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 102:10 123:10 } \\ \text { letter 32:21 129:16 } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 122:21 123:2,8 } \\ & \text { 137:10,16,19 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 107:6 119:1 } \\ & \text { 136:16 145:12 } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| L |  |  | locked 47:16 95:18 126:11 |
| lacking 133:7 | liability 118:16,21 | limitation 43:16 | long 26:2 31:19 |
| lacks 96:7 | license 1:8,10 6:6 | limitations 4:19 | 83:18 87:12 |
| landlord 93:8 102:9 | 7:9,10 8:12,14 | 20:15 | 122:10,21 |
| 42:10 144:1 | 11:6,7,8,9 18:3 | limited 118:15,21 | Iook 9:17 16:20 |
| lanes 124:19 | 22:20 26:3,5,9,22 | limits 12:7 132:18 | 40:1 65:18 85:1 |
| language 135:1 | 29:7 33:16 41:16 | line 105:9 | looked 74:22 99:14 |
| large 77:2,3 12 | 44:18 45:2,7,8 | lines 116:17 | looking 23:2 65:7,8 |
| largest 34:4 | 47:3,7,19 62:7 | list 71:11 72 | looks 51:14 |
| lastly 38:16 | 63:4 67:2,14 69 | 122:10,21 | re 36:4 48:9 |
| late-night 84:17 | 71:16 75:3,6,6 | listed 46:14 | 56:18 |
| latest 35:11 59:11 | 93:12,12 94:13 | Iisten 17:6 | lose 68:12 84 |
| law 93:17 97:8 | 100:5,16 110:13 | listening 124:10 | loss 142:19 |
| 99:21 121:5 | 113:5,5,13,17,18 | 146:22 | lot 52:3 71:12 73:12 |
| 136:12 137:10 | 113:18 114:1 | lists 24:5 116:5 | 76:5,5,6 84:10,13 |
| 145:21 | 118:3 119:15 | 123:16 | 85:19 86:13 87:5 |
| laws 26:14 33:13 | 122:2 123:2,15 | litter 33:3 122:12 | 87:7 92:8 103:1 |
| 90:14 94:17 95:4 | 125:3,4 127:19 | 129:7 | 103:20 104:1 |
| 106:7,10 122:18 | 128:1 130:10 | little 18:7 26:2 83 | 106:5,5 |
| 125:13 127:21 | 12 133:21 | 87: | 74:19 |
| 142:4 144:14 | 136:10,21 140:17 | 102:5,15 103:16 | Ioud 124:16 139:2 |
| layout 37:19 | 140:17,22 141:16 | 103:18 104:10 | lounge 5:5 92:9 |
| Le 71:17 | 142:14 144:10 | 115:9 130:5,8 | 118:7 123:17,20 |
| lead 52:12,12 | 148:4 149:3 150:3 | 141:3 143:1 | 124:1,7,12,14,21 |
| leading 3:20 42:11 | 150:4,8,11, 13, 15 | live $33: 1038: 4$ | 130:16,19 132:11 |
| 80:4,12 | licensed 32:5 34:22 | 87:18 150:20 | 133:5 139:4,5,6 |
| ds 37:10, | 35:3,4,6 | LLC 1:6 5:3 | 139:11,12 |
| aning 149:22 | 5:10 122:7 | :21 69 | 87:13 |
| learning 105:20 | :9 | 19:2 | s 87:13 |
| lease 90:20 | 132:9 133:6 134:5 | load 95:16 | ving 37:5 |
| leaving 116:10 | 135:17 | 105:3,4 107:1 | w 20:16 |
| left 116:6 148:3 | licensee 10:7,13,16 | 111:6 112:14 | ck 142:15 |
| 150:16 151:1 | 10:18 43:19 48:4 | loading 27:14 | Ludlow-120:8 |
| legal 127:2 146 | 121:9 | loans 141:18 | Ludlow-Taylor 37:2 |
| 3151 | licensees 4:13 43:1 | locality 29:4 121 | 37:3 44:4,14,15 |
| 53:7,9,11 | 19 48:20 | 8:14 130:4 |  |
| legally 27:17 136:7 | 131:20 | 131:20 138:2 | M |
| legitimate 135:20 | licenses 5:13 44:20 | located 28:17 32:17 | mad 85:14 |
| LeGrant 126:21 | 45:5 93:16 118:10 | 34:20 37:6,9,11 | mail 13:5 |
| leisure 124:10 | 119:7 132:6 | 38:9 45:15,20 | main 37:8,10 63 |
| lengths 8:1 131:22 | 133:15 136:12 | 54:10 55:9 56:19 | majority 102:2 |
| 44:20 | licensing 15:1 | 83:6 93:15 119:21 | 133:17 141:2 |
| bian | 7:18 153:1 | 122 12 | making 1 |
| let's 47:9 48:9 | lic | 138:19 | 117:20 11 |
| 89:12,12,13 | 27:8,11 117:10 | Iocation 5:6 107:5 | male 42:14 |

man 92:2
management 137:3
manner 65:15
154:13
March 126:20 129:2
marijuana 135:16
marked 41:7,8,10 43:21 134:9
marketed 133:5
marshal 89:21 105:8
marshal's 112:12
Maryland 138:18
material 16:19
materials 51:12
Matt 126:21
matter 1:5 17:15 34:3 83:9 88:22 152:20
matters 17:17,20 153:10
maximize $20: 17$
maximum 132:10 136:18
meal 68:11
meal-68:9
mean 47:13 51:18 57:13 69:5 72:7 74:13,15,19 75:8 78:18 79:19 86:9 90:16 96:9 97:15 98:21 99:12 141:7 144:7 147:15
meaning 72:15 85:22 145:21
meaningful 27:14
means 70:18 95:15 96:7,13 97:6 107:14 126:9
measurement 120:12
mediation 148:2,15 medium-sized 37:7 meet 26:10 27:11 29:3 117:10 122:1 124:22 125:12 126:5 128:11 137:9,16 145:7,9

145:10
meeting 1:3 5:7 19:6 76:22 129:2 151:14 152:17 153:6,8 154:8
Meetings 151:13,17 151:20 152:18 153:5 154:9
meets 127:1,9
member 2:11,12,13
46:7,11 50:9,11
50:18 51:1,4,7,10
51:15,19 52:2,5
58:19 59:1,7,10
59:13,16,21 60:3
60:7,10,14 61:8
61:10 63:1 75:18
75:20 76:12,14,17
77:9,11,13,16,20
78:3,5,7,10,12,20
79:1,15,21 80:2,7
80:10,20 81:5,10
81:14,18,20 96:22
97:3,17,21 98:3,6
98:9,13 99:1,4,7
99:16,18 100:1,9
100:15 101:3
105:6,15,18 106:3
106:9,12,14,19,22
111:13,16,20,22
116:5 118:15
151:22 152:1,8,10
152:12 153:15,21
154:1,3
members 10:5 27:7
50:7 52:8 58:15
60:19,20 75:16
82:1 96:20 104:13
112:2 123:6
139:16
memorialize 8:12
8:13 149:5,16
mention 36:20 47:4
mentioned 102:16
115:17 128:16 144:21
mentioning 119:17
mentions 24:2
menu 70:1,3,4,7,13
92:7 103:12
message 89:12
met 1:16 63:10
Metro 38:8
Metropolitan 131:3
Mexican 55:8 89:3
microphone 31:10
31:11 63:2
midnight 84:17,22
132:7,8 133:22
MIKE 2:13
mile 91:8 120:5
miles 119:20
mind 105:1
minds 91:16
mine 144:3
minimum 27:11 125:12
minor 120:12
minority 141:21
143:19
minority-owned 102:19
minutes 12:18
Miskiri 2:17 3:8
6:10,11,14,14,17
9:16 11:17 19:12
19:19,22 21:1,9
21:13,15,19 22:3
23:13 24:17,20
25:2 44:8 46:6,9
46:12 52:16,19
53:3,6,11,15,22
54:3,6,16,20 55:1
55:3,8,13,16,22
57:3,5,7,13,18
61:3,3,4,5,12,19
82:12,16 116:15
117:2 118:21
119:5 121:7,10,16
122:4,6 138:6,11
139:8,13 140:15
147:14,19 148:1,8
148:12,16,18,22
149:6,9,19,21
150:5,9 151:5
Miskiri's 116:20
misrepresentatio...
8:3 18:1 27:5
28:20 29:1 30:4
115:19 118:5
137:14
misrepresented
26:7,22 117:6
missing 39:9
misstated 119:12
misstatement
119:16
mistake 40:18 87:3
mix 69:20
mixed 34:20
mom 83:13 102:1,1
moment 90:20
Monday 21:11 38:13
money 20:7 65:2 76:5 84:19 85:10 86:14 88:13 106:1 106:1 141:20 142:1,13,16,17,18 144:11

## Montgomery

 138:18month 89:16
months 31:22
mor 103:17
morning 75:10
mornings 21:18,20
morph 75:22
Mosby 3:13 41:15
mother 98:1
motion 152:3,5,14 153:17,19 154:6
move 63:1 77:2
151:13 153:6,7
moving 8:8
MPD 131:3
MPD's 131:11
multiple 15:22 63:11,15 103:21 104:1
music 38:4 83:16 124:10,16,16 139:2
Mythology 36:4

| 48:9 | neighboring 5:10 | numerous 129:3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N |  |  |
| N-16 34:20 | 13 | 0 |
| N.W 1:17 | 37:1 | o'clock 59:6,12 |
| name 6:12 7:4 | neither 13:9,9 | o'clock/1:00 59:19 |
| 31:12 69:1,7 | 117:7 121:17 | O'Neal 14:21,22 |
| 88:16 118:6 | never 71:1 85:14 | 15:8,17 16:14 |
| 123:17 | 126:19 141:9 | oath 67:21 |
| nature 10:6 27 | 143:8 | objections 28:7 |
| 68:13 71:5 83:4 | new 1:9 7:9,9 32:15 | 34:5 |
| NC-16 128:17 | 58:2,2 89:11,11 | objects 135:6 |
| NC6C 15:1 | 89:14 90:9 91:22 | observations |
| NCC 37:3 44:14 | 102:10 113:21 | 124:20 131:10 |
| NE 1:7 | 126:3 143:17,18 | observe 124:12 |
| near 4:13,14,16,17 | newborn 91:2 | obtain 33:7 96:5,11 |
| 4:19 | newest 108:2 | 125:16 126:2 |
| nearby 5:6 34:18 | nice 83:20 | 132:17 |
| 136:3 | niche 92:8 104:6 | Obviously 88:11 |
| nearest 59:2,17,21 | niches 104:3 | occasions 63:12,15 |
| 119:20 120:7 | night 85:3,4 88:7 | 116:22 |
| necessarily 29:12 | nightclub 80:11 | occupancies 126:8 |
| 63:20 64:3 73:14 | 100:19 125:4 | occupancy 25:7 |
| necessary 133:14 | nightclubs 76:1 | 93:14 94:10,15 |
| 136:12 | nightlife 131:9 | 95:16 96:6,12 |
| need 29:13 30:10 | nightly 74:5 | 97:5 107:4,11,11 |
| 40:6,22 64:18 | nights 84:4 | 108:5,14,21 110:1 |
| 67:6,14 68:3 | Nineteen 54:20 | 110:6,12,15,15,16 |
| 70:11,19 74:9,15 | 55:1 | 111:3 112:14,21 |
| 75:6 86:14,21 | noise 33:3 34:17 | 113:7,10,14,16,21 |
| 87:16 88:21 91:11 | 129:7 132:20 | 113:22 114:7 |
| 94:19 100:1,18 | 136:3 | 121:15 123:19 |
| 104:18 140:3 | noises 98:10 | 125:13,14,17 |
| 150:12 | normally 12:4 13:6 | 126:18 127:2,6 |
| needed 38:12 83:4 | 64:7 146:21 | 133:1 136:17 |
| needs 33:4 41:1 | Northeast 5:13 | occupant 111:5 |
| 144:8 150:7 | 32:17 45:20 46:20 | occupants 96:6,12 |
| negative 118:12 | 122:8 | occupied 27:10,15 |
| negotiate 24:18 | noted 130:21 136:4 | 27:17 136:7 |
| 28:2 | 136:14 | occupy 77:1 107:22 |
| negotiation 64:16 | Notes 154:9 | 109:21 125:18 |
| neighborhood 3:12 | notice 4:15 24:8 | 137:3 |
| 26:17 28:13 41:14 | 43:6 139:1 152:15 | occurred 12:13 |
| 65:17 85:20 86:3 | 154:7 | occurs 17:15 |
| 103:5 116:1 | number 99:10 | offer 62:6 84:8,20 |
| 129:18 131:16 | 112:12 113:15 | 102:8 |
| 134:22 135:11,14 | 114:5 116:9 121:8 | offered 38:13 |
| 150:20 | numbers 114:4 | 134:17 |

offering 38:4 83:10 92:11,14
offers $86: 16$
office 33:15 105:7 133:4
officers 118:17 119:3
offices 68:13
official 16:1 151:12 151:16,19 153:4
Oh 46:9 52:16 64:4 79:11 92:3 98:13 113:20 145:19 148:8
okay 6:3 15:13 17:8 22:6 24:9 39:15
39:18 40:5 41:9,9
41:12,13 46:18
47:2 50:13,17
51:15 52:2 53:11
53:15 54:3 56:7
56:17 57:4,12
59:1 60:14 63:22
64:4,10,14,22
66:22 73:7 76:10
76:14,15 77:13
79:16 82:13 89:10
98:13,14 99:7,16 101:3,15 105:17 106:18,22 108:6 110:7,18 111:20 114:3,21 146:17 147:14 148:12,16 148:18,22 149:6,9 149:19,19,22 150:9 151:5
old 90:7
once $10: 7,13,15,20$ 11:2 12:15 18:16 30:13 95:20
one's 90:5,11,14
open 21:17,19,22 22:3,4,5,12 28:9 34:6 51:17,20 65:8,13,18 67:17 73:7,8 89:18 94:2 101:20 116:10 151:13,17,20

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 152:18 153:5 } \\ & \text { 154:9 } \end{aligned}$ | 129:10 <br> opposite $48: 17$ | $\underset{36: 1,5,14,17}{\text { p.m 6:2 } 22: 4} 35: 17$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { pedestrian } 33: 4 \\ & \text { 129:8 } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| opened 66:7 86:19 | 49:6 | 38:14 154:14,16 | penalties 90:16 |
| 98:16 102:3,11 | opposition 129:5 | packet 39:9,10 | 134:19 |
| 131:2 | option 85:5 147:8 | page 22:22 23:1 | pending 37:18 |
| opening 3:2 17:15 | order 8:13 12:15 | 23:22,22 48:21 | people 8:7 12:7,10 |
| 18:11,14,18,22 | 26:16 27:21 28:4 | 117:3 118:12 | 52:11 65:17 68:11 |
| 19:3 22:1 25:17 | 29:4 33:2 65:11 | paint 51:10,11 | 73:22 74:12 75:9 |
| 25:18,20 29:10,13 | 77:1 113:19 125:5 | pair 84:2 | 75:22 76:4 77:14 |
| 29:14,19,22 65:2 | 128:10 129:20 | paragraph 23:20,21 | 77:21 78:13 84:1 |
| 65:14 75:22 | 130:1 131:1,21 | 24:2 | 85:19 87:5,8 97:6 |
| 115:17 | 134:15 135:11 | parking 4:18,19,19 | 98:7 99:8 100:17 |
| openings 124:14 | 137:20 149:5 | 33:3,19 38:11,12 | 102:18 105:1 |
| operate 19:13 33:9 | Orders 121:13 | 38:14,15 43:13,15 | 106:9,15 107:17 |
| 35:22 67:2 117:17 | original 121:14 | 43:16 55:20 57:2 | 107:19 108:15,19 |
| 132:8,9,17 133:19 | outdoor 38:2 | 57:4 135:13 | 108:19 109:1,4,4 |
| operated 66:8,10 | outlined 129:15 | 137:22 | 109:19 111:6,12 |
| 66:11 68:5,6,9 | outright 135:5 | part 36:22 101:19 | 113:10,11,11,14 |
| 69:14 | outside 28:12 42:4 | 137:11 142:9,13 | 113:17 |
| operates 8:21 | 44:5 55:4 74:13 | participated 8:18 | percentage 1 |
| 35:15 36:9,13,16 | 90:12,13 91:7 | participates 117:2 | perfect 87:1 |
| operating 34:22 | 95:7 134:3,6,15 | particular 12:9 47:8 | Performance 68:21 |
| 119:1 122:12 | 134:17,20 135:7 | parties 6:8 10:11 | 69:16 |
| 131:17 132:1 | 135:13,14 | 13:2 135:17 | perform |
| 133:13 134:20 | out | partner 6:11,17 | pe |
| 137:12 143:6 | ov | 16:16 119:5 | 134:18135 |
| operation $35: 12$ | rcon | 1:17 141:1,2 | 6:4 |
| 41:16 65:10 | 0:11 | nered 102:1 | 43:7 |
| 123:11 | Overlay 132:5 | ners 83:6 117:9 | permit-holders |
| operations 34:13 | overview 29:15 | 122:4 | 38:15 |
| 4:12 | owned 69:14 | partnership 116:21 | permits 93:16 |
| operator 135:10 | 2:19 | 17:19 118:1 | 125:16,20 136:12 |
| operators 135:8 | owner 6:21 103: | party 68:12 | permitted 136:18 |
| opinion 116:7 | 7:16 143:19 | ssed 93:2 | 137:5 146:7,9,10 |
| opinions 141:12 | 103:20 | 2:15 154:7 |  |
| 147:3 | 104:1 |  | rson 12:1 15 |
| opportunity 10:8,9 | ownership 27:3 | patrons 24:4 77:18 | 51:20 52:11 |
| 10:17,21 12:8 | 116:6 117:2,7 | 135:14 | 138:14 144:2 |
| 18:11,18 19:22 | 123:4 141:2 | pattern 59:4 | personal 63:6 65:2 |
| 30:14 52:14 53:17 | owning 118:22 | pause 13:20 29:7 | 69:15 85:17 |
| 53:19 54:5 62:1 | 141:6 | 41:4 | 141:11 |
| 65:3,6 66:17, | owns 103:22 | pay 95:20 | personally 87:6 |
| 66:20 67:9,15,21 | 116:11 121:10 | paying 89:17 | 96:10 101:9 |
| 68:7,14 73:6 | 122:6 142:11 | ace 26:16 27:20 | 2:19 144: |
| 114:13 139:21 $140: 1142.8144 .6$ |  | 8:4 29:4 33:2 | , |
| 140:1 142:8 144:6 | P | 128:10 129:20 | persons 126:3,9,18 |
| oppose 136:15 | C-E | 130:1 131:1,20 | perspective 18:21 |
| opposing 32:22 |  | 135:11 137:20 | 140:6 |

pertain 23:10
pertinent 119:14
phone 110:19
photo 42:13
Photograph 3:15
3:16,17,18,19,20
3:21 4:10,11
Photographs 5:10
photos 33:8 130:15
phrase 124:1
physical 115:21
137:17
picked 123:11 139:11
picture 40:1 50:19 50:20
pictures 57:15
pinpointed 88:20
place 74:21 80:16 80:19 86:6 103:5 103:13 124:9
placed 154:10
places 74:19 106:6
plan 61:19,22 62:1
62:4,7 65:16
69:18,19 74:4
94:12 95:8 114:14 134:14
planned 27:1
planning 70:5
plans 28:10 37:20
68:11
play 90:1
playing 83:21
124:16
please 6:8,9 31:10 31:11,13 40:14 46:7,8 62:14 63:1 114:22 146:18
Po 5:4 45:21,22 46:14,19 49:21 50:3 56:20 71:19 83:6 85:15 86:20 90:12 97:18 98:15 102:2 103:11,13 103:15 121:9 122:7,9 130:16 143:11,17
podium 105:10
point 65:1 94:18
124:19 128:3
pointed 128:5
police 86:16 115:14 131:3
policy 132:13
Polleo 131:6
poor 65:16 145:2
portion 27:16 28:16
position 7:19 34:15 147:8
possible 20:18
possibly 105:21
posted 154:9
potential 20:18 135:12
practical 154:13
practices 65:9
preach 84:13
predates 132:12
prejudged 85:12 141:13
prejudgment 138:14
preliminary 17:17
premises 25:10 27:10,15,16 33:7 38:2 93:15 125:19 137:19
preparation 133:3
prepared 25:21
prepping 68:10
present 2:8,15 10:14,15,22 12:6 12:9 30:14 61:19 64:6 68:3 90:9 110:13 113:9 114:14,14
presentable 90:4 102:9
presentation 30:12 114:9 145:18 146:3 153:1
presented 10:20 20:15 127:17 143:5 144:5,6 147:4
presenting 64:18 114:16
presents 10:16 129:19
presiding 1:19
pretty 57:13 71:8,9 87:21 98:18 103:7
previous 96:14,15 105:2 107:21 135:2
previously 121:6 122:2
previously-134:4
primarily 73:1
124:6 132:4
primary 28:7 124:7
Prince 101:16
principal 118:16
prior 43:18 117:12 122:17,21
probably 35:20 93:8
problem 81:18 99:8 125:21 144:12,13
problems 76:6
procedures 17:13 17:14
proceedings 152:16 154:17
process 8:22 10:3 12:4,4 77:4 90:11 130:18
profit 142:2
program 86:16
prohibition 134:6
prohibits 126:16
project 127:9
proliferation 135:16
promote 73:20
promotion 20:13 20:13
promotional 75:13
promotions 28:12 134:3,7,15,18,21 134:22 135:7,13
pronounced 35:20
proper 17:13,14
properties 142:12
property 24:15
26:18 27:21 28:4
29:5 33:2 38:16
93:1,3,4 120:6,10 121:14 126:22
127:1,11,14 128:7
128:19 130:17
131:10,21 137:17
137:21
proposed 24:3 26:8
26:12,15 27:19
28:8 29:2 33:16
34:15 63:14
119:12 120:1,17
120:21 123:10
125:7,12 129:6,10
129:19 133:4
135:4,21,22
137:22 145:11,20
proposes 131:17
protest 1:7 6:5 7:8
8:8,18 15:7 32:10
58:3 70:9 145:1
protestant 3:3,5
15:21 18:17,19
25:20 39:21 40:9
115:4 116:8
120:13 124:11,21
127:3 131:2 134:9
139:22 140:9
144:18
Protestant's 125:2
protested 24:9
32:19
protesting 71:7
protests 26:3
prove 29:16 130:3 144:11
provide 14:18 26:1
30:10 33:11 62:5
65:19 68:11 70:4
70:13,19 71:4
73:22 75:5 95:5
95:14 104:18
120:15 139:21
140:1 146:8
provided 15:22

24:8 30:13 33:17
69:9 70:14 117:4
129:13 131:6
provides 65:5
proving 128:13
provision 124:8
proximity 125:6
Pub 35:15
public 4:15 38:10
43:6 63:7,8 106:6 106:13 117:8
124:5 128:2,20
published 153:12 154:12
pull 31:10
pulling 66:20
punished 143:16
purpose 124:8
137:11 151:14
153:7,9
pursuant 151:16 152:18 154:8
put 10:14 12:7 20:6 29:12 30:16 58:10 80:15,18 86:6 91:16 143:8 150:13

$\frac{\mathbf{Q}}{\text { qualifications }}$| $125: 11$ |
| :--- |
| qualified $38: 17$ |

quain
quarter 145:19
quarterly 122:13
question $7: 15$
12:22 13:8 17:7
44:2 56:1,2 57:5
57:11 60:17 66:6
67:16 68:4 75:1
79:21 96:4 97:1
99:17 104:22
107:3 116:11
118:9 119:9 123:5
138:5,6 139:8,15 140:10 146:18
questionable 137:18
questioning 94:5

123:12
questions 10:5,7,9 10:10,12,19 27:6
50:7 52:8,13,14
52:20,22 53:10,13
53:14,17,18,19,20
53:21 54:5 56:22
57:17,20 58:15
60:15,18,20 61:7
61:7,9,21 66:1,3
67:22 68:1,2 71:2 75:16 82:1,3,4
83:2 92:18 95:13
95:20 96:19 101:4 101:5 104:12,13
104:14,18 112:2,4
112:5 120:16
138:5,8 139:16,19 142:11
quick 16:20 102:5
quiet 26:16 27:21
28:4 29:5 33:2
128:10 129:20
130:1 131:2,21
135:12 137:20
quote 123:20 124:5
130:18
$\mathbf{R}$
radio 91:2
Radish 71:17
railing 51:4 80:14
80:15,18 89:19
128:6
railings 51:17 80:5
rails 55:4
raise 27:5 31:2
62:13 82:13
114:21
raised 101:10
ran 101:22
Randall 15:4 16:7
16:11 70:20
random 139:10
ranked 95:11
ratio 136:18
reach 93:7,8
reaching 93:6
read 65:9 145:22
146:13
ready 51:20
real 33:2 75:21
realistic 87:14
reapply 94:20
rear 95:17 126:10
reason 29:9 44:16
72:10 106:3
reasonable 131:12
reasonably 127:18
reasons 40:3
116:12 129:21
150:17 151:19
Rec 120:4
REC'D 3:10
receive 9:20 15:14 83:22
received 9:22 12:21 16:6,10 24:1 34:1
101:21 127:3
132:20
receiving 16:1
recess 152:16
recognition 85:20
recognize 119:14
record 5:4 6:4,9 31:13 37:1 106:13 117:1
records 5:3,5,9 122:5
RECROSS 3:6
RECROSS-EXAM... 107:1
redesign 95:21
REDIRECT 3:6
58:22 104:20
reduce 132:1 137:11
Reeves 1:17
refer 123:22 124:2
reference 23:6
references 23:20
reflect 36:21 37:1 109:19
reflected 109:20
reflection 65:17
regarding 10:6 17:8

27:6 28:4 32:13 33:16 120:17
Register 153:13 154:12
registered 93:22
Registration 5:3 116:22 122:5 123:16
regulation 15:6 31:18 93:17 94:13 136:13
regulations 33:13 34:19 94:17 122:18 123:21 124:2 125:1,20 127:22 139:7 142:5
regulatory 132:22
rejected 135:4
rejection 116:8
related 33:19 121:13
relating 27:13
relevant 26:13 64:13 139:7
relief 136:5,7,16
rely 28:11 70:11 85:6
remain 28:9 34:6
remains 127:15
remember 54:13
71:8 148:19
remind 16:16
remove 63:17 94:19
render 28:15 137:18,22
renders 123:1
renovation 77:3
rent 20:6 89:16
repaired 100:18
repeat 97:14 146:18
report 4:13,14 9:3,8 9:13,14,20,22 10:2,6 12:16,19 12:19,21 15:7 17:2,5,8 23:4,4,6

23:6,19 24:1
36:21 38:22 39:3
39:3 40:4,7,12
41:1,3 42:22 43:4
44:11 46:14,15
47:5 52:15,16,17
53:1 54:5 55:15
58:10 72:5 109:16
126:16 128:4
130:16
reported 131:7
reports 13:2 122:14
representations 122:6
represented 94:9 116:16 123:13 134:14
representing 7:5 15:20 34:3
request 22:20 28:9 34:7 136:15 138:2
requested 25:6 34:6 37:22 38:5 109:5,6
requesting 41:17 131:4
requests 26:5,19 27:9,18 127:5 129:21
require 127:22
required 93:16 95:14,15 120:16 121:20 122:13 129:11 130:10 133:7 136:12
requirement 125:5 129:14 130:3
requirements 29:3 125:13 126:5 127:2,7,10 128:11 137:9,16 145:8,9 145:10
requires 117:15 118:14 119:1 122:16 126:7 134:15 136:4
research 88:2 residence 59:22
resident 131:10
residential 5:6 28:15 33:3 89:9 128:19 132:4,5 137:13
residents 5:8 34:16 34:18 49:5,5,12 49:15,15 125:7,9 135:15 136:2,3 137:6
respectful 46:7,11
respectfully 26:19 138:2
responded 71:8
response 52:9 58:16 66:4 82:2 112:3 117:4 119:9 127:3 131:5,11 139:17
responsibilities 27:8 32:2
responsibility 105:20
responsible 58:5 91:20 143:3
rest 18:4 29:8 112:9
restaurant 35:5
37:13 46:22 47:1
47:7 51:2 55:9
65:13,15,18 66:7
66:8,9,11 67:3,18
68:5,15 69:19
71:15,16 72:11
73:1,1,15,16
74:11,18,20,20,22
75:2,2 76:2,7,9
80:11,13,22 83:10
84:11,14 85:7
88:11 89:3 92:7,9
96:15 100:5,12,16 101:1,20 102:3,6 102:11,21 107:5 107:22 111:8,9 119:15 123:14 124:1,4 125:1,3 137:2
restaurants 72:15 75:22 84:10 91:5

91:5 92:8 101:13
103:2,3 126:8
restricted $34: 10$
restricting 133:22
restrictions 27:17
140:20
restroom 3:19 42:9
result 34:17 131:9
131:13 136:2
resulted 116:8
results 127:4
retail 35:2 128:18 137:4
Retailer 1:7
retails 37:13
retired 79:10
reviewed 128:4
reviewing 58:5
revocation 118:3
revoked 125:20
revoking 121:14
rewards 102:21
RF-1 128:19
Rhoda 2:20 3:7 30:22 31:4,14
Rice 103:22
right 7:7,15 8:16,17 8:20 10:1 12:3,14 13:11,17 14:17 15:2 17:10 18:10 22:6,7 23:16,17 24:9,10 25:4,5 30:2,6,20,20 31:2 40:10 41:18 46:3
47:1,8,9 48:7,19
49:17,20 50:6
54:10,14,16 55:2
56:7,12 57:4
58:18 60:22 61:13
61:14,18 62:14
68:17 69:11 71:10
72:12 74:6,7
76:17 78:21 80:21
82:3,7,14 83:6
89:7 94:21 98:8
99:22 104:12
107:2 108:8
110:19,20 111:22

112:1,7,8,20
114:8,8,12,13,22
139:18,20,20
141:5 143:10,21
146:4 147:9,12,13
150:1,5 151:9,9
153:2
risk 90:21,22,22
142:19 143:8
rocky 98:16
roll 5:2 116:14,18 152:4 153:18
rolls 102:13
roof 28:11 77:11,12
78:14 128:8
135:22 136:4,16
rooftop 124:15
room 1:17 88:15,17
95:18 126:11,17
152:17,17 154:10
roots 103:19
ropes 85:22 86:2
Rosticeria 130:20
rough 86:1
route 126:15
rows $37: 13$
rules 90:15 127:21 140:19 142:4,22 143:3 144:13
run 76:6 106:20
running 65:15 86:22
runs 54:2
S
sad 143:21
safe 47:16
safely 106:1
safety $33: 4$ 63:7 97:16 105:21 128:2 129:8
Sake 36:16 71:20
sale 118:10
sales 93:21
sandwich-sub 103:3
sandwiches 103:15
satisfaction 120:21

128:13 129:12
130:3
Saturday 21:2,4,11 22:4,14 24:14 25:14 35:17 36:1 36:6,15,19 38:7 38:13
saw 71:11 74:21
saying 7:20 8:6,15 17:1 24:21 25:18 29:10 64:7 71:13 72:2,6,7 73:5 75:21 106:13 107:15 141:14 146:21 148:14 150:3
says 50:13 93:11 94:13 109:3,15 110:1,5 111:4 112:15 113:10,13 113:15,18,22 150:2
school 37:3 44:14 91:15 101:18 120:7
schools 4:14 5:11 36:21 37:2 43:4 44:12
scope 58:4
Screenshots 127:11
se $143: 21$
seat 6:19 31:10
seating 24:3 25:7 37:20,21 55:5 90:12,13 95:7 109:8
seats 25:8 55:4
second 23:9 76:21 77:6,7 78:15,18 79:2,7 80:4,12,17 81:2,3,6 89:20 90:2 95:6,14 96:7 97:6 100:21 109:20 125:18 126:9 128:7 143:6 151:21,22 152:1 153:14,15
second-floor 25:10
seconded 152:3,6 153:17,19
section 26:20 93:11
93:11 119:2,11 122:16 124:4 128:1 151:12,16 151:20 152:18 153:5
Sector 131:7
security $33: 11$ 86:16
see 14:5 15:15
22:18,18 23:5,6 29:8 30:15 42:2 47:9 50:12 57:8,9 73:3 90:7 93:7 116:17 118:12 120:2 126:14 128:1 137:2
seeing 20:6 48:20 83:7
seeking 18:16 19:2 132:13 140:12 151:14 153:7,9
seen 98:17 99:14
self 117:18
self- 57:14
sell 80:13
selling 35:3 73:16
send 89:12
sending 16:4,13
sense 18:19 20:21
sent 13:14,15,18 14:16 15:6,16 16:14 41:20
separate 78:5,16
separation 27:15
serious 8:3
seriously 142:22
serve 69:19 70:5
72:16 73:2,9,13 84:16 140:18
service 4:20 33:16 33:17 43:17 63:8 68:10 69:3 84:9 84:13 92:7,14 102:5 124:6
services 95:21
115:14
set 10:4 27:12 95:5 102:4 105:1
settle 7:11 150:19 150:20
settled 64:13
settlement 5:14
19:7,10 28:2
63:11,21 88:5
132:13,17 134:4 135:2
settlements 64:12
seven 35:6 70:12 133:10
share 19:13 20:4 34:17 49:14,16 60:2 140:21 141:8 141:9 143:20

## shareholders

 118:17 119:4 shares 116:9,11Sherwood 120:4 shop 103:3 130:17
short 2:12 46:7,11
50:8,9,11,18 51:1
51:4,7,10,15,19
52:2,5 71:9 75:17
75:18,20 76:12,14
76:17 77:9,11,13
77:16,20 78:3,5,7
78:10,12,20 79:1
79:9,15,21 80:2,7
80:10,20 81:5,10
81:14,18,20 96:20
96:22 97:3,17,21
98:3,6,9,13 99:1,4
99:7,16 100:1,9
100:15 101:3
104:22 105:6,15
105:18 106:3,9,12
106:19,22 111:13
111:16,20,22
128:5 151:22
152:2,9,10 153:22 154:1
shortcuts 90:11
shots 126:14
shout 98:9
show 65:16 70:13 85:21 129:5
showing 5:4,5,6,11
shown 118:7 120:6
120:10 121:7,15 126:13 128:22 130:14
shows 43:3,11,13
43:15
sic 45:8 63:17
side 8:17 9:7 12:5
13:9,10 18:11
48:14,14,18,22
49:6,6 58:11,11
sides 9:19 10:2 11:3 13:7 70:10 145:17 150:18 151:2
sidetracked 146:18
sidewalk 35:19
36:3 56:2 59:2
60:4 89:2,7
sign $56: 12$
sign-off 111:17
signed 90:20 121:17
signs 55:20
Silver 124:12 138:21
Silverstein 2:13
58:19,21 59:1,7
59:10,13,16,21
60:3,7,10,14 63:1
152:1,3,7,8
153:15,16,20,21
simple 13:8 90:1
simply 58:6 126:19
single 96:13 119:1
sir 6:13,16 7:2 9:9
13:13 19:18 22:22
39:14 45:18 46:4 46:8 53:22 56:22
57:2,11 61:5 62:3
62:9,20 63:2 66:9
66:14 67:20 76:13
76:16 77:12 78:4
78:11,22 79:11

80:1,15 81:4,19
82:4,14,21 97:2
97:13,19,19 98:11
98:22 101:2,8,15
104:14 106:11,21
107:9 108:9 109:2
110:3 111:15
115:6 140:15
144:14 147:22
sit-down 102:6
sitting 90:7
situation 23:11
57:2 75:21
six $35: 10,1368: 10$
six-seven 103:22
Sixty-nine 108:15
skip 130:6
slate 85:13
slow 85:8
small 4:10 42:15
60:10 68:13 90:17 102:5
SMD 7:5
smell 90:6
smiling 79:8
smoking 133:8,12
smoothly 86:22
Social 85:20
Society 139:3
sold 143:22
sole 12:1
solely 28:19 85:6 100:22
solicitor's 93:12
somebody 88:12
someplace 99:10
sorry 10:14 12:16 14:13 15:4,9 16:8 16:14 17:12 29:20 36:10 40:17 46:6 50:14 53:7 56:10 61:2,8 146:17
sought 127:19
soul 83:17 103:2 104:8
Sounds 17:9
Southern 103:19
space 108:21 124:2

143:22
speak 15:15 29:6 31:11 89:17 130:8 138:16 141:4
special 28:12 134:3 135:6
specific 107:5 140:6
specifically 19:21 20:21 27:13 30:3 119:18 121:4 126:6
spent 65:1 141:17
spirit 137:10
spirits $35: 4$
spoke $70: 16,19$ 71:1
spot $88: 9,10,14$ 91:22 92:13
Spring 124:12 138:21
sprinklers 107:14
square 28:16 129:1
staffing 122:15
staircase 4:11
42:17 50:21 128:6
stairway 80:4
stand 46:21
standards 27:11
standing 108:17,22
start 18:13 149:18
started 101:16 148:20
starting 91:1
state $31: 12$
stated 33:8,10 34:4 34:8,14 47:10 103:10
statement 3:2,4 17:16 18:12,14,18 18:22 19:3 25:17 25:18,20,22 29:10 29:13,15,19,22 30:17 99:17 115:18 117:21 139:22 140:2,4,14 144:18 146:8,12 146:15,16 147:22
states 117:20
128:12 136:10
stations 91:22
status 70:9 116:21
127:14 137:18 150:18
statute 20:14
statutory 130:2
132:9,18
stay 92:15
steel 95:18 126:12
step 61:15 93:22
steps 51:7 93:21
Steve 14:21,22 15:8
15:15,17 16:14
sticker 50:13
sticking 149:12
Sticky 103:22
stiff 89:22 90:15
stipulations $63: 18$
stop 4:16, 17 38:8
43:10,11 121:13
stops $4: 17$ 43:12
store 3:16 42:1,3
storefront 137:4
stories 37:8
stranger 12:12
street 1:7,175:13
26:5 32:17 37:6
38:10 45:20 46:20
48:12,22 49:6,7
55:9 56:8 75:9
80:21,21 83:8
86:17,18,18,19
89:3 92:13,13
98:20 102:7 103:3
103:7,20 106:17
119:22 122:8
124:15 131:5
132:3,5,7,11,11
133:15 135:18
138:19 139:2
142:12
streetcar 38:8
strongly 129:19
structural 27:14
stuff 51:9 89:13
102:15 142:22

143:4,10 148:2,17
Subdistrict 128:18 132:6
subject 120:10 130:17 131:8,10 134:5
submitted 5:1
32:18,21 116:3,4
125:3 129:9 145:7
subsequently 126:1
substantial 125:8
substantive 18:7,8 27:5
Subtitle 27:13
success 102:12
successful 65:11
91:14 106:4
sufficient $28: 18$ 118:2
suggest 105:6 suitability 122:20 suitable 145:11
Suite 1:18
summaries 54:17
summer 20:3,10
22:20 23:7,9,9,20
24:3,5,13,16,18
25:8,10,12 28:10
33:9 34:7,15
35:10,12,15,22
36:2,9,11,13,17
37:11,17,22 38:2
42:18,19 47:10,14
47:19,20 48:5,8
48:22 50:22 56:3
59:3 60:4 63:13
63:16 74:7,8,10
75:8,10 76:18,20
77:1,6 89:5 94:8
94:10,11,20 109:6
109:11 122:12
135:22 136:1,6,9
136:21
Sunday 21:3,12 22:5,12,12,15 24:11 25:13 35:16
35:21 36:5,14,18

38:5
supposed 9:19 37:17 77:15 88:9 91:21 93:5 98:7
sure 9:5,13 13:5 42:20 71:5 79:9 86:21 87:2,3 91:9 91:11 92:19 120:2 146:6
surrounding 26:17
43:1,9 120:18 121:1 131:16
Sushi 36:16 71:20
sustain 28:13
sworn 31:6 62:18 82:18 115:4 116:14
System 127:12
T
t/a 1:6
table 51:8 67:19 70:21 133:16
tabulation 5:13 133:14
take 12:11 16:20 52:11 64:17 76:4 93:9 105:20 149:17 152:4 153:18
taken 5:4,9 93:22 121:3,8,11
takes 142:21
talk 105:8,8 115:18 121:22 123:10 125:10
talking 12:6 44:22 54:14 71:22 72:11 80:22 99:9
Taqueria 71:19 130:19
target 91:10
tavern 35:7 125:4 133:4,7
taverns 72:15,20
tax 93:21 133:3
taxation 94:3
Taylor 120:9
teaching 86:1
technical 17:22
115:15 137:9
tell 14:11 18:15 29:11 30:17 38:22 40:7 45:18 50:18 51:22 61:21 64:5 64:18 66:18 67:8 67:14,16 68:8 71:1 74:16 79:5 102:22 105:10 140:4,11 148:20 150:19
telling 109:13 140:6
tells 112:15
tenant 96:15
124:15 142:11
tenure 132:18
term 119:6 123:20 124:7
terms 89:8 102:14 140:21 144:4
testified 31:7 62:19 82:19 115:5 118:22
testify 10:4 11:16 17:2,5 61:21 62:11
testifying 12:2 14:20 63:3
testimony 17:7 18:8 52:18 53:1 61:14 62:5,9 64:8 65:21 82:8 116:14 147:6 149:11,17
testimony/eviden... 61:20
text 24:1
thank 39:16 52:5,5 58:12 60:14 61:14 61:16 81:21 82:8 96:17 101:4 145:15,17 152:22

## Thanksgiving

 91:19thing 23:8 65:6 112:11 147:15
things 12:12 65:10

68:13 70:19 71:5
74:17 75:14 100:3
100:7
think 9:16 12:9 14:9
14:10 16:12 21:3
39:22 40:18 41:2
44:3 57:21 71:19
80:3 91:7 92:3
100:14 109:5,7
111:10 118:19
119:16 123:11
143:18 147:7
thinking 77:5
third 89:20 95:6
100:22 118:12
125:18
Thirty-three 79:15
thought 139:7
threat 129:20
threats 57:8
three 12:7,10,12 28:7 33:17 35:4 37:1 44:11 81:6 89:2 134:17
Thursday 21:12
22:12,16 24:12
25:13 35:16,21
36:6,18 38:6
time 4:19 12:7
21:12,17,21 28:1
33:22 35:11 43:15
43:16 46:5 53:10
53:10,12 65:5
70:18 84:21 85:3
87:12 124:1
137:19 141:7
144:8 145:1
time-being 94:20
timely 154:12
times 15:22 19:6 59:4 81:6 86:4
Title 27:12
today $7: 12$ 18:15
19:1,4 94:13
116:15 118:22
128:5 137:8
145:18 146:3
toilet 90:7
told 13:9 29:21 70:9
105:12 112:20
144:1
tons 102:21
top 78:3 87:17
102:19 103:2
107:18
total 25:7 108:19
110:15 111:11
116:9 134:6
toy $91: 18$
trade 118:5 123:17
trading $32: 16$
training 69:15
transcriber 26:1 146:15
transcript 5:2
116:18 145:22
146:14 147:1
transmitted 13:2
trash 95:18 126:11 126:13,17 143:12
traveled 124:11
tried 63:10 141:10
trouble 106:10
true 27:1,2 117:7 117:16 123:4
truly 75:1
truth 119:16
truthfulness 121:19
try 8:1 91:8 102:10 102:10 131:22 150:19
trying 45:10 58:4
64:19 70:20 71:22
72:6,19 73:3,5
79:19 84:6 87:8,8
90:14 92:2,15
95:4 97:14,15 140:16
twenty- 107:12
twice 91:18
two 20:11 34:4 37:8 37:8 44:10,13
56:11,19 63:13,21
78:1,5 100:12
107:14,19,20,22

108:11 109:18
131:7 132:9
type 69:17,18 70:5
85:2 88:20
types 135:18
typical 73:15 74:15
typically 72:22 123:22
$\mathbf{U}$

U 92:13
U-Turn 56:12
Uh-hum 56:13
Uh-uh 17:12
ultimately 28:5
132:2
unable 19:5 37:16
37:18
unacceptable
34:17 129:7 136:3
uncertain 127:15
unclear 132:16
understand 12:20
16:16,17 58:4
98:13
understanding
70:18 73:4 76:22
93:5
undue 130:8
131:14 137:5
unfortunate 145:3 unfortunately 15:14
unhappiness 39:20
unhappy 151:4
Unified 33:15
union 141:19
unique 92:14
uniqueness 84:18
unisex 42:14
universal 129:5
University 119:21
unknown 116:12
unquote 130:19
unrelated 138:22
unresponsive
130:2
unsuccessful 8:2

28:6 132:2 144:21
unsuitable 123:1
137:19
up-to-date 93:18
upcoming 4:17 43:12
updated 14:15
upper 136:17
upscale 103:18 104:10
upstairs 77:21
use 81:3 93:21 95:3
96:14,16 100:21
100:21 133:3
usually 12:7 85:3

| $\mathbf{V}$ |
| :--- |
| vacant 137:3 |
| valid 93:14 |
| value 33:2 38:17 |
| values 26:18 27:22 |
| 28:5 29:5 131:22 |
| 137:21 |
| vary 59:18 |
| vast 133:16 |
| vehicular 33:4 |
| 129:8 |
| venture 116:21 |
| 117:9 |

Verification 127:12
vetted 135:9
viable 134:16
vibe 83:16
vicinity $4: 18$ 38:9
video 74:22
violate 117:14
violation 27:4
125:19 127:20
violations 63:6
121:5 122:11,17
122:21
Virginia 69:13 80:8 80:9
vision 102:4
visit $37: 15$
visited 33:5
voluntary $35: 13$
volunteered 86:18
vote 99:18 152:4 153:18
Voted 102:20,21
votes 103:4
W

W 1:19 2:10
wait 12:14,17 56:9
waiting $40: 10$
waive 146:3,4
147:8
walk 90:3,4
walked 57:9
walking 90:13
want 12:8 17:20
19:9,15 20:1,3,4,7
20:8,10,12,12,17
23:13,14 24:20
29:8 30:19 44:3
53:6 63:20 64:1,3
64:8,20 65:3 66:1
67:6,17 68:12
70:11 71:13 72:2
72:2 73:6,6 76:2,3
76:4,7 79:12,17
80:13 81:13 82:10
82:21 83:18,19
85:5 86:5 87:19
88:1,8,21 90:6
91:3,9,10,13,14
91:17 94:18,22
100:6,7,8,20
105:19 106:1,12
112:9 140:8,20,21
141:16,22 144:6
144:10 145:22
146:1 147:21
148:1,6,7,8,14
149:4 150:2,3
wanted 64:17 141:8
148:3,4
wanting 65:13
wants 17:18 18:19
143:20
Washington 1:18
Washingtonian
103:4
wasn't 47:16 64:12

71:5,6 77:5 94:4
Water 36:4
way $7: 148: 22$ 10:3
12:4 51:14 77:16
77:16,19,19
106:15 113:20
115:8 143:10
149:18,21
we'll 10:4,19 11:7
18:13 30:15,22
87:3,8 90:1 93:18
95:9
we're 6:3 7:17 8:7
8:21 12:6 19:4,10
22:5 24:17 47:2
47:18 63:5 84:4,6
85:1,4,11 86:8
87:3,14,18 89:16
91:9,20,21 92:1,2
92:9,11,14 95:2,3
95:4 97:14,15
103:17 112:19
113:12 121:22
140:16 141:15
142:2,15 143:6,13
144:12 150:8,16
we've 7:22 8:2
75:21 93:22 106:4
130:6 141:13
weapon 131:8
website 154:11
Wednesday 1:11 15:3 33:14
week 34:10 59:20 131:18 134:1
weekdays 59:10,13
weekend 138:20
weekends $21: 1$
34:11 59:14,20 131:19 134:2
weight $68: 12$
welcomed 86:3
well-defined 123:21
went 19:7 50:15 71:6 91:14,15 99:12 101:10,16 101:17 102:10

weren't 105:3
West 83:14 western 132:3 wide 124:19
wildland 115:12 willful 27:5 119:15 137:14
willfully 26:7,21
willing 24:17
Wilson 120:7
wine 35:3
wish 25:16 60:17 114:9 145:20
withdrawing 63:16 witness 3:6 9:1

11:22 12:17 17:11 30:22 31:14,17,21 32:4,9,14 38:20 39:2,8 41:5,9,12 41:19 44:6,10,21 45:12,16,21 46:2 46:17,20 47:12,15 47:22 48:6,11,15 48:17 49:2,9,14 49:18 50:1,5,8,10 50:17,20 51:3,6,8 51:13,18,22 52:3 55:19 57:1 59:5,8 59:11,15,18 60:1 60:5,9,12 61:8,16 61:17 82:9,10 83:1 88:2 97:2,12 97:19 98:1,5,8,11 98:20 99:3,5,11 99:22 100:8,14 101:2,9,13,15 103:1,14 104:7,21 105:13,17 106:2,8 106:11,18,21 107:7,9,12,17 108:2,7,9,12,15 108:17,19 109:2 109:11 110:7,10 110:18,22 111:7 112:10 113:1,3 115:8 134:13

139:10
witnesses 10:17,18 11:1,10,12,21 12:11 70:10
114:19
won 101:18 102:19
wondering 139:4 work 52:3 58:5 83:18 85:21 86:8 91:17 94:18,22 99:14 115:13 121:13 150:21
worked 63:8 66:8 99:6
worried 89:4
worry 16:21 147:16
worth 119:17
wouldn't 78:18 81:10,14,15 89:5 100:5,6,7 105:13 105:15 113:12,13
WPTC 91:18
write 146:1
written 9:3,14
130:5 146:7
wrong 35:21 109:16
Wydown 36:9 71:18

| $\mathbf{X}$ |
| :---: |
| $\mathbf{Y}$ |

yeah 25:2 51:13,13 72:17 78:10 79:4 80:10 81:12,16
year 91:18
years 63:9 68:10 69:15 79:15 84:12 85:7 86:10 117:13 121:4 132:21
young 91:10
youth 134:20

| $\mathbf{Z}$ |
| :---: |

zone 34:20 38:14 38:14 45:6 128:17 136:19
zones 4:19 43:16


| 20 43:17,22 84:12 | 131:18 132:10 | 69 99:11,12 108:19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 121:2 | 133:13,17 | 109:1,3,20 110:2 |
| $200131: 9$ | 30 24:4 25:8 37:22 | 110:5,6 112:22 |
| 2000 1:17 | 77:15 109:9 | 6C 1:7 2:19 3:12 |
| 20009 1:18 | $313: 7$ 84:12 | 5:13 7:5 26:3 |
| 2014 83:8 102:4 | 380 44:6 | 32:20,21 34:2 |
| 2018 33:18 | 383 37:4 44:6 45:3 | 41:14 125:21 |
| 2019 1:12 33:14,18 | 388 45:8 | 133:16 |
| 34:21 129:2 153:9 | 4 | 6C05 7:6 |
| 153:12,13 | $43: 16 \text { 42:3 48:21 }$ | 6th 126:20 |
| 23 27:12 | 121:8 122:10 | 7 |
| 23rd 16:15 | 4:53 154:14,16 | $73: 19$ 42:10 118:9 |
| 25 3:3 | 40 113:11 | 129:4 |
| 25-101 124:4 | 400 36:21 37:2 | 7:58 15:3,11 |
| 25-101(6) 118:13 | 44:17 45:2 46:22 | 700 38:10,12 |
| 25-301(A)(1) 122:16 | 47:3 120:1,5 | 130:14 131:4,13 |
| 25-301(A)(3)(a) | 400S 1:18 | 701 55:9 89:3 |
| 117:11 | 421 132:10 | 707 1:7 26:5 32:17 |
| 25-301(A)(5) 117:15 | 433:12,14,15,16,17 | 45:20 56:8 |
| 25-311 93:11 | 3:18,19,20,21 | 709 46:20 122:8 |
| 120:19 128:11 | 4:10,11,12,13,14 | 711 132:11 |
| 25-311(C) 127:7 | 4:15,16,17,18,19 | 7th 153:13 |
| 136:10 | 4:20 | 8 |
| 25-314(C) 125:5 | 45 11:5 152:21 |  |
| 25-344 128:1 | $450 \text { 120:9 }$ | $8 \text { 3:20 42:11 129:10 }$ 129:18 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 25-401 26:21 } \\ \text { 117:20 } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 49 95:16 126:8 } \\ & \text { 4th 129:2 } \end{aligned}$ | 8:00 35:16,17 36:1 |
| 25-401(C) 121:20 |  | 36:14 |
| 2574(b) 151:12,17 | 5 | 800 38:12 48:11 |
| 152:18 153:5 | $51: 12$ 3:17 42:5 | 806 119:22 |
| 2574(b)(13) 151:20 | 118:8 123:18,19 | 82 3:8 |
| 26 34:22 140:22 | 5:00 145:19 | 9 |
| 26th 33:18 | 50 97:6,13 99:8 |  |
| 28th 129:16 | 100:17 106:15 | 93:21 42:13 91:5 |
| 29th 15:3,11 | $\begin{aligned} & 113: 10,18 \\ & 533: 7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 121: 15 \text { 125:22 } \\ & 126: 3 \text { 127:12 } \end{aligned}$ |
| 3 | $583: 7$ | 92 3:8 |
| 3 3:15 27:12 39:9 | 59 111:6,11 113:2 | 9th 33:18 |
| 40:2,14 41:11 | 6 |  |
| 42:1 48:21 117:3 |  |  |
| 118:12 122:8 | $63: 18$ 38:14 42:7 |  |
| 3-in-12 134:22 | 128:22 |  |
| 3:00 21:2,11 22:4 | 6:00 35:22 36:10,11 |  |
| 22:14,17 24:14 | 6:30 38:13 |  |
| 25:15 28:9 34:6 | $6087: 7$ |  |
| 38:7 56:19 63:14 | 62 3:7 |  |
| 73:7,8 75:10 88:5 | $65 \text { 96:6,12 126:2,18 }$ |  |

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In the matter of: Brothers Burger Bar, LLC, t/a Aroma

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 06-05-19

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.

> Neae $\operatorname{lors} \rho$ ------------------Court Reporter

