DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

:

Betty's Gojo Restaurant : and Lounge, LLC, : t/a Betty's Gojo :

7616 Georgia Avenue NW : Show Cause Retailer CR - ANC 4A : Hearing

License No. 102500 : Case #19-CMP-00097 :

:

(Operating After Hours, : Failed to Follow Security: Plan [Three Counts]) :

Wednesday
February 26, 2020

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 JENI HANSEN, Member BOBBY CATO, JR., Member RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member JAMES SHORT, JR., Member REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

KIBREEB EMBAYE, Applicant SELAM LEGESS, Interpreter for Applicant JOHN LUI, DC OAG INVESTIGATOR TAVRIL PROUT, DC ABRA, Witness

T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	3:06 p.m.
3	MR. ANDERSON: All right. We are back
4	on the record. Our next case is case number 19-
5	CMP-00097, Betty's Gojo, license number 102500.
6	Will the parties please approach and identify
7	themselves for the record please?
8	MR. LUI: Good afternoon, Board
9	Members. John Lui on behalf of the government.
10	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Lui, hold on one
11	minute, please. Let me, can you raise your right
12	hand please, ma'am? Do you faithfully, do you
13	swear or affirm that you will faithfully
14	translate these proceedings from English into
15	Tigrayan, and from Tigrayan into English?
16	MS. LEGESS: Yes, I do. Selam Legess,
17	Tigrayan interpreter.
18	MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Do it a
19	little bit slower.
20	MS. LEGESS: Tigrayan interpreter,
21	Selam Legess.
22	MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Well, I don't
23	think he caught your name. That's why I
24	MS. LEGESS: Selam Legess. S-E-L-A-M,
25	L-E-G-E-S-S.

1	(NOTE: UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL
2	OF THE DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS ARE MADE THROUGH
3	THE TRANSLATOR, SELAM LEGESS.)
4	MR. ANDERSON: Well, and so there's a
5	sign-in sheet, please, also we'd like everyone to
6	sign in. Can you please identify yourself for
7	the record, please?
8	MR. EMBAYE: Good afternoon. Kibreeb
9	Embaye.
10	MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon. Mr.
11	Lui? All right. Are there any preliminary case
12	matters in this case?
13	MR. LUI: It was raised to my
14	attention that the licensee is seeking
15	continuance.
16	(Pause.)
17	MR. ANDERSON: It's, what's going on,
18	sir?
19	MR. EMBAYE: What I would like to say
20	is that my lawyer is not ready to come today, and
21	if the hearing could be continued for another
22	day.
~ ~	
23	MR. ANDERSON: And who is your lawyer?
	MR. ANDERSON: And who is your lawyer? MR. EMBAYE: Bianco.

MR. EMBAYE: Bianco.

MR. ANDERSON: So why is Mr. Bianco not, why has, why hasn't your attorney wrote the agency to ask, to formally ask the agency, to inform the agency that they are not representing you, and that he's unavailable to be here today?

MR. EMBAYE: Because we have not told him.

MR. ANDERSON: All right. You're asking us to not, this hearing was scheduled for a significant period of time. We have had another, all right. All right. Let me start at the beginning. We had a protest hearing, and Mr. Bianco represented you.

We, since the protest hearing, we have had show cause hearing, and either you or your business partner has represented your establishment.

I think maybe, I think maybe a month ago, we had a show cause hearing that neither you or your business partner showed up, and so we had an ex parte hearing. All right.

I think a couple of weeks ago, we had another hearing, and you, Mr. Embaye, you represented yourself at the hearing. We did a,

we did a show cause hearing. You represented yourself. All right.

This hearing is scheduled today.

You're asking the Board to postpone the hearing because your lawyer is not available to attend this hearing, but you have also told me that you have not contacted the lawyer, so he doesn't know that he's representing you. I'm not sure how to take that.

I mean, if you told me you had retained an attorney, and the attorney had contacted the agency to say that he represents your establishment, and that he was not available to attend today, then the Board would consider that.

But I'm not sure how the Board, I'm not sure how to address the issue that the attorney, you have not even contacted the attorney to see whether or not, to see whether or not he wants to take your case. So what's the government's position?

MR. LUI: The government wants to put on the record that we object to the continuance.

There's been a lot of time for the alleged attorney to contact our office.

We have never been notified from Mr. Bianco or Ms. Bianco. I don't even know who it is that's representing the licensee at this point. The government has prepared. It's ready to move forward.

MR. ANDERSON: Any further comments you want to make before we make a ruling? I'm sorry?

MR. EMBAYE: Yes.

MR. ANDERSON: What's that?

MR. EMBAYE: So our, the Board, you know, set our lawyer as Mr. Bianco, and the last time, he did not come and represent us because I thought like I was going to, I was able to represent myself. And, but we were not ready. That's why.

MR. ANDERSON: This case was scheduled, this matter was scheduled for a status hearing December 12, 2019, and a show cause hearing for February 5, 2020.

So this matter was rescheduled to today, because we're supposed to have had this case a while back. The government have informed the Board that it's ready and able to move forward.

1	The government does not agree to a
2	continuance, and so based on, based on the
3	position of the government, the government states
4	that it is ready to move forward. We are going
5	to move forward with this hearing.
6	MR. EMBAYE: Okay. If that's, you're
7	ready, we'll
8	MR. ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Lui,
9	are there any, are there any other preliminary
10	matters at
11	MR. LUI: No, Mr. Chairperson.
12	MR. ANDERSON: Do you wish to make an
13	opening statement?
14	MR. LUI: Yes.
15	MR. ANDERSON: Move forward, please.
16	OPENING STATEMENT - GOVERNMENT
17	MR. LUI: Good afternoon, Board
18	Members. We are here in the show cause matter of
19	Betty's Gojo Restaurant & Lounge, LLC, trading as
20	Betty's Gojo, case number 19-CMP-00097.
21	The show cause notice issued in this
22	matter has three charges, first of which is the
23	licensee operated outside the approved hours
24	under the license, which is in violation of D.C.
25	Code Section 25-823(a)(7).

Second violation is a two-part, and it all falls under the failure to follow the establishment's security plan, which is in violation of D.C. Code Section 25-823(a)(6).

They violated their security plan in one of two ways. The first way is that they failed to employ MPD officers from the reimbursement detail program for the promoted event that evening that lasted after 1 a.m.

The establishment, the licensee also failed to ensure that security camera footage was maintained for 30 days.

The third charge being brought against the establishment is the failure to ensure the security footage is available within 48 hours upon request from an ABRA staff member, which is in violation of D.C. Code Section 25-403(e)(3)(G)(iii).

The evidence will show that the establishment licensee violated all of these charges, and the government will be calling one witness, Investigator Tavril Prout, to substantiate these charges.

MR. ANDERSON: Do you wish to make an opening statement, sir, or will you make an

1	opening statement once the government has
2	presented its case?
3	MR. EMBAYE: We would like to speak.
4	MR. ANDERSON: Now? No, I'm just
5	saying, you can do it either now or you could
6	wait until the government presents its case.
7	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, we would like to
8	give our opening statement after he finishes.
9	MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Fine. Call your
10	first witness. Who is your first witness?
11	MR. LUI: Investigator Tavril Prout.
12	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Prout, can you
13	raise your right hand, please?
14	MR. PROUT: Yes, sir.
15	MR. ANDERSON: Do you swear or affirm
16	to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?
17	MR. PROUT: I do, Chairman.
18	MR. ANDERSON: Have a seat. Your
19	witness, sir.
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION
21	MR. LUI: Could you please state and
22	spell your full name?
23	MR. PROUT: My first name is Tavril,
24	T-A-V-R-I-L. My last name is Prout, P-R-O-U-T,
25	and I am an investigator for the Alcoholic

Beverage Regulation Administration. 1 2 MR. LUI: How long have you been an 3 investigator with ABRA? MR. PROUT: I've been an investigator 4 5 for the Alcoholic Board for approximately one year in one month. 6 7 MR. LUI: What do you do as an 8 investigator? 9 MR. PROUT: As an investigator, I 10 conduct preliminary investigations in lieu of 11 Metropolitan Police Department criminal 12 investigations, as well as conduct regulatory 13 inspections of alcohol-serving establishments in the District of Columbia. 14 15 MR. LUI: What comprises of one of 16 your regulatory inspections? 17 MR. PROUT: We check the alcohol license to see whether or not the establishment 18 19 is serving within its sale of alcohol, as well as 20 within the confines of their operating hours. 21 We also check for the verification of 22 the certificate of occupancy to verify that the 23 establishment is operating in lieu of DCRA of 24 their acquired number of patrons that are able to

be in the establishment at any given time.

MR. LUI: Are you familiar with the 1 2 establishment Betty's Gojo? 3 MR. PROUT: Yes, sir. MR. LUI: How are you familiar with 4 this establishment? 5 MR. PROUT: I have responded to 6 7 numerous calls to service from Metropolitan 8 Police Department. 9 I have also conducted regularly, regular monitoring of the establishment during 10 11 the week while I am on duty, as well as conducted 12 regulatory inspections at the establishment as 13 well. 14 MR. LUI: Why are you conducting 15 regulatory, regular, regulatory inspections at 16 this establishment? 17 MR. PROUT: Regulatory inspections 18 were conducted in lieu of ABRA investigations 19 that were conducted while on duty, as well as 20 routine regulatory inspections that were assigned 21 to me by the agency. 22 MR. LUI: Why? 23 To make sure that the MR. PROUT: 24 establishment is operating in compliance of their 25 issued alcohol license.

Directing your attention to 1 MR. LUI: 2 last summer, did you conduct an investigation at 3 this establishment? MR. PROUT: Yes, a preliminary 4 5 investigation was conducted at Betty's Gojo, located at 7616 Georgia Avenue, on July 3rd. 6 The 7 regulatory inspection was conducted by my 8 previous fellow ABRA investigator, Andy De Los 9 Santos. 10 However, I was monitoring the 11 establishment, and I observed the establishment 12 operating after hours, at approximately 1:55 a.m. 13 MR. LUI: This was July 3rd. 14 year was this? 15 MR. PROUT: 2019. 16 MR. LUI: What happened that evening 17 that you were monitoring at 1:55 a.m.? I noticed an African-18 MR. PROUT: 19 American male with a red t-shirt and blue jeans lock the front door of the establishment. 20 21 then exits the establishment and heads southbound 22 on Georgia Avenue, towards the alley area of 23 Betty's Gojo, between the National Historically 24 Black College Museum and the PNC Bank location.

I then follow him in my D.C.

government Fleet, and he entered the rear of the establishment through the downstairs rear door.

Upon my observance at approximately 2:02 a.m., I observed approximately four African-American patrons knocking on the door, looking to gain entrance into the establishment. The four patrons were able to gain access to the establishment.

Minutes later, I saw a security officer that was identified by a security label on the back of his polo, open the first floor rear door, in which I asked him what was going on, and he stated that the establishment was in the process of closing up.

He was going out to his vehicle, and he was going to kick everybody out of the establishment. He then closes the door to the first floor rear door to the establishment.

I then contact Supervisory

Investigator John Fiorentine to notify him that
the establishment was possibly operating after
his Board-approved alcohol license, sorry, the
Board-approved alcohol sales for its alcohol
license, which was supposed to cease at 1:30 a.m.
on the night in question.

Then after that, Supervisory
Investigator John Fiorentine contacts
Metropolitan Police Department, and a police
cruiser is dispatched to assist with patrons
vacating from the establishment.

Minutes later, Mr. Embaye comes out, and I asked him, did he know that he was supposed to cease operating at 2 a.m. He stated that he did not know.

He stated that he believed that since it was the July 4th weekend, that he could operate until 3:00 in the morning.

I advised Mr. Embaye that he did not have a holiday extension, and that his alcohol sales are supposed to cease at approximately 1:30 a.m., and his operating hours were supposed to cease at 2:00 a.m.

This conversation was held at approximately 2:12 a.m. in the morning. Supervisory Investigator John Fiorentine and Andy De Los Santos entered the establishment at approximately 2:14 a.m., where the regulatory inspection was conducted.

They headed to the basement area of the establishment, and saw approximately 40

patrons in the establishment. 1 Supervisory 2 Investigator John Fiorentine asked Mr. Embaye 3 what was the status of the patrons exiting out of the establishment, and he said that he was in the 4 5 process of trying to remove everybody from the establishment. 6 7 At that time, that was approximately 8 2:16 a.m., approximately 16 minutes after the 9 Board-approved hours of operation. 10 MR. LUI: And what happened after, how 11 long were the patrons in the establishment? 12 MR. PROUT: The patrons were in the establishment approximately between 2:16 to 2:22, 13 14 so approximately 16 to 22 minutes after their 15 Board-approved operating hours. 16 MR. LUI: By 2:22, were there any 17 patrons left in the establishment? 18 MR. PROUT: I believe no. 19 MR. LUI: What happened after that? 20 MR. PROUT: I maintained my position 21 at the rear of the establishment. I saw patrons 22 exiting out of the establishment. 23 There was a male patron that was 24 smoking, and had a glass of beer in his hand, and 25 he was consuming alcohol outside of the rear of

the establishment while conducting my monitoring.

I also came into contact with the event promoter, Mr. Nana Frimpong, in which I asked Mr. Embaye for a copy of the contract that was held between Mr. Frimpong and Mr. Embaye for the promoter to be able to provide promoter services to the establishment per his voluntary agreement that's on file.

Mr. Embaye was not able to provide me that information. I then solicited Mr. Frimpong's driver's license, and he stated that he doesn't carry a driver's license, everyone in the District knows who he is based on his role as an event promoter for the District of Columbia, and he also stated that he knew and understood that he was wrong for operating past the 2:00 hour with the intent that he thought that the establishment had a holiday extension up until 3 a.m. on the night in question.

MR. LUI: Did you, in addition to the security officer that you saw outside, were there any other security officers?

MR. PROUT: No, there was only one security officer on duty the night of. Per the voluntary agreement that is on file with the

establishment, there was supposed to be a Metropolitan detail officer assigned to the establishment until, up until or after 1 a.m. for any special event that occurs at the establishment, and one was not on duty on the night of July 3rd, heading into the July 4th night, I mean, day.

MR. LUI: And to clarify, was there an event that would qualify as a promoted event that evening?

MR. PROUT: Yes. There was an event promoter that stated that he was there hosting an event, and he was under the impression that the establishment could operate until 3 a.m.

On Tuesdays, the establishment has a weekly Tuesday event called the Basement, in which a third party promoter throws a party each and every Tuesday night throughout the calendar year.

MR. LUI: Tell me more about the security cameras at the establishment.

MR. PROUT: The security cameras, to my knowledge, they were working, and they were operating. I requested from Mr. Embaye the footage from when the establishment opened until

the establishment closed at approximately 2:22 1 2 a.m. that morning, so from approximately 5 p.m., 3 July 3, 2019 through 2:22 a.m., July 4, 2019. 2:12 a.m., sorry. 4 I'm sorry. So --5 Could you, could you go back MR. LUI: and repeat that? 6 7 So I requested from MR. PROUT: Yes. 8 Mr. Embaye on July 3, 2019, at approximately 5:00 9 p.m., camera footage was requested from that time 10 up until July 4th at 2:12 a.m. on July 4th. 11 Mr. Embaye stated that he did not know 12 how to operate the cameras, however, he did have 13 a cameraman by the name of Patrick, in which he 14 referred to during the time of our initial discussion the night of, and he stated that he 15 16 was out of town on business, and that he would 17 return on approximately July 7, 2019. 18 Myself, Supervisory Investigator John 19 Fiorentine, and an ABRA, former ABRA 20 investigator, Andy De Los Santos, returned to the 21 establishment on July 7, 2019, and Mr. Embaye 22 stated to us that the, that he could not get in contact with his cameraman. 23 24 At that time, I requested an

additional 48 hours for the camera footage to be

provided to me. Mr. Embaye stated that he was 1 2 able to get in contact with his cameraman on or 3 by July 10th. On July 10th, I did go to the 4 5 establishment, and I was able to review the camera footage of the establishment for July 3, 6 7 2019 through July the 4th, 2019. 8 However, the camera footage was, there 9 was an error code in which I was not able to view 10 any footage from July 2nd of 2019 through July 11 5th of 2019, which is approximately 72 hours. 12 I was unable to view any type of 13 footage of patrons entering and exiting out of 14 the rear of the establishment, patrons on the 15 basement level of the establishment for July 3rd, 16 as well as the entering and exiting of ABRA and 17 Metropolitan Police Department officers on July 18 the 4th. 19 MR. LUI: Did you, on July 10, 2019, 20 you were able to access some footage. Were you 21 able, did you request to access additional 22 footage beyond that? 23 Yes. And the --MR. PROUT:

MR. LUI: What footage?

MR. PROUT:

I was, I asked for, I

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asked specifically for the footage from July 3rd through the 4th. That was the footage that I asked for, and that footage was not able to be provided due to error codes, in which pictures were taken of the error code that was shown on the camera's system, and there were, there was time before July 2nd, and times after July 5th in which I could see footage.

However, from July the 2nd, specifically, through July the 5th, 2019, I was unable to see any type of video footage from those dates and times, from 12 a.m. July 2nd through 12 a.m. July 5, 2019.

MR. LUI: Did you request to see footage in June 2019 or May 2019?

MR. PROUT: Yes.

MR. LUI: And were those accessible?

MR. PROUT: Yes.

MR. LUI: And just going back to July 3rd, you, did you, did you request to view the security footage that evening of the inspection?

MR. PROUT: Yes, I did, and Mr. Embaye stated that he was unable to retrieve the camera footage at that time due to his cameraman being out of town, or out of the country on vacation,

1	and he would return by, on or by July 7, 2019.
2	MR. LUI: And then you returned on
3	July 7th?
4	MR. PROUT: And the camera footage was
5	still not available at that time. However, the
6	cameraman was able to get back in town on or
7	before July 10th, and I was able to return to the
8	establishment per Mr. Embaye's phone call to my
9	D.C. government issued mobile phone.
LO	MR. LUI: I have no further questions
L1	for this witness.
L2	MR. ANDERSON: Do you have any
L3	questions you want to ask him, sir, based on
L 4	testimony that was just provided?
L5	MR. EMBAYE: I have answers.
L6	MR. ANDERSON: No, I'm saying do you
L7	have any questions that you want to ask him? Do
L8	you want to cross examine him based on the
L9	testimony he just gave?
20	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, I would like to ask
21	him.
22	MR. ANDERSON: Ask him questions,
23	please.
24	CROSS EXAMINATION
25	MR. EMBAYE: So regarding the camera,

when was the time that I was not cooperating with you, or wasn't I providing the, what you ask me, and I wasn't I trying to be helpful? Didn't I provide everything you asked me?

MR. PROUT: Mr. Embaye was cooperative

MR. PROUT: Mr. Embaye was cooperative in the questions in which I asked him, in which I initially requested video footage.

However, Mr. Embaye stated that he had lack of knowledge of the working, the inner workings of the camera system that was in his establishment on July 3, 2019.

He stated that his cameraman would be, return from vacation on July 7th of 2019.

Myself, Supervisory Investigator John Fiorentine, and former ABRA investigator, Andy De Los Santos returned to the establishment on July 7, 2019 to view the camera footage.

However, Mr. Embaye stated that his cameraman did not return from out of the country, and he will contact me when he did.

On or by July 7th, sorry, July 10, 2019, I received a phone call from Mr. Embaye stating to come to the establishment to be able to view the camera footage, and per my investigation and review of the camera footage

that was in the establishment, I was able to 1 2 retrieve camera footage from, dating from July 2, 3 2019 through July the 5th of 2019. MR. ANDERSON: Do you have any other 4 5 questions? MR. EMBAYE: I do have one more 6 7 So when you were testifying, you had 8 said that I did not give you the contract that I 9 had with the promoter, but didn't I give you the 10 contract? 11 MR. PROUT: You provided me the full 12 name and last name of the promoter, but I don't 13 recall a contract. 14 So I did give you the MR. EMBAYE: 15 paper contract, and I also showed you who the 16 person was. Am I supposed to do something more 17 than that? 18 MR. PROUT: If you showed me the 19 promoter, and if you did provide me the contract, 20 then you did what you were supposed to do, if you 21 actually did provide the contract. But due to my 22 recollection, I don't remember a physical 23 contract being showed to me at that time. 24 MR. EMBAYE: So how did you know he 25 was the promoter?

1	MR. PROUT: Through previous
2	interactions, I was verbally assaulted by that
3	promoter at a previous time and date.
4	MR. EMBAYE: If that might be when he
5	was just a client. How would you know that he
6	was a promoter if we don't introduce you, and if
7	we don't give you a contract?
8	MR. PROUT: Because he has identified
9	himself as a promoter while at the establishment,
10	while conducting regulatory inspections, and
11	while conducting investigations of ABRA, as well
12	as assisting Metropolitan Police Department with
13	ongoing investigations as well.
14	MR. EMBAYE: Okay. A second question.
15	So the camera, who showed it to you when you, did
16	you look at it yourself, or was it the cameraman
17	helped you?
18	MR. PROUT: I looked at it myself
19	because the cameraman was not available.
20	MR. EMBAYE: Can you repeat?
21	MR. PROUT: Yes.
22	MR. EMBAYE: The interpreter didn't
23	hear that.
24	MR. PROUT: I looked at the camera
25	system myself because the cameraman, Mr. Patrick,

that Mr. Embaye referred to on July 7th, was not 1 2 there physically on July 7th and July 10th when I 3 visited the establishment. MR. EMBAYE: So if you can do that, 4 5 if, and if the law allows you to the view camera yourself, then why didn't you look at the camera 6 7 yourself on the 3rd and the 7th? 8 MR. PROUT: There was --9 MR. EMBAYE: Then if the law allows 10 you, then why would you wait until the, why would 11 you have to wait for that person? 12 MR. PROUT: So I did need to wait on 13 the person. Mr. Embaye stated that he wasn't 14 able to gain access to the system. So I was able 15 to access it on July 10th. 16 Mr. Embaye never gave me permission 17 prior to July 10th to access or look at the 18 camera footage. There was some question of like 19 him knowing the password or username for the 20 camera system to access it previously. 21 So at some point in time, he got in 22 contact with the cameraman. On July 10th, when I

permission. But prior to July 10th, Mr. Embaye

returned to the establishment, I was able to

access the camera footage per Mr. Embaye's

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1	never offered me accessibility to the camera
2	system prior to July 10th.
3	MR. EMBAYE: Okay.
4	MR. ANDERSON: That's it?
5	MR. EMBAYE: I do not have any more
6	questions, but I have an answer.
7	MR. ANDERSON: Okay. When you present
8	your case, then you can provide your side. Any
9	questions for the witness based on the, any
10	questions? Do you have any follow-up questions?
11	MR. LUI: I don't, I just have a
12	procedural matter.
13	MR. ANDERSON: What's that, sir?
14	MR. LUI: That the Board take, I want
15	to take a minute for you to notice of the case
16	report and investigative report, and the
17	investigation of 19-CMP-00097.
18	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Prout, thank you
19	for your testimony. You can step down.
20	MR. PROUT: Yes. Thank you,
21	Chairperson.
22	MR. ANDERSON: Do you have any other
23	witnesses, Mr. Lui?
24	MR. LUI: No, Mr. Chairperson.
25	MR. ANDERSON: Does the government

1 rest? 2 MR. LUI: Yes. 3 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Embaye, 4 how do you present, how do you present to, how do 5 you plan to defend yourself? Are you going to testify or are you going to call witnesses? 6 7 MR. EMBAYE: I would give an answer, 8 but if I get more time, I would be able to bring 9 more witnesses that I have prepared, as I said earlier. 10 11 MR. ANDERSON: But there's no more 12 time, so therefore, today is the day to do it. 13 So let me know what you want to do. 14 MR. EMBAYE: Okay. I can answer. Ι 15 can do that. 16 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Can you 17 raise your right hand, please? Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the 18 19 truth? 20 MR. EMBAYE: Yes. 21 MR. ANDERSON: All right. I'm 22 listening, sir. Now, tell me, you said that you can provide answers, so I'm waiting for you to 23 24 hear what you have to say.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

MR. EMBAYE: First of all, I would like to thank all Your Honors for giving me a chance to answer. That on the day, on the 3rd, so on that day, on the 3rd, I stopped selling alcohol at 1:30 p.m. and by, a.m., sorry, and I had completely stopped everything, and I had two securities at that time, and I was trying to follow all the laws, and we completely stopped, but there were patrons who already have alcohol, and they were trying to finish that. And besides that, I was, we were trying to follow all of the laws.

So by 1:40, when the officer, the investigator comes, everybody was leaving by 1:40. People were already leaving.

But as he said, there were around 40 people in there, and the security was basically trying to push them out, and by then, it became 1:55 p.m., a.m., sorry.

Regarding the camera, at that date, the same date, I had offered him to try, but I didn't want to take the responsibility of trying to look at the camera, because it was a new system, and I didn't want to erase anything.

And I had called the cameraman at that

time, and I had also gave him the phone number so 1 he can call him. 2 3 So as he said, by 2:10, everybody was out of the establishment, and by 1:45, we were 4 5 not selling any alcohol except the ones they were holding, like it was already, they had it in 6 7 their hands. And as everybody knows, at that 8 time, we basically like pull it away from their 9 hand. So this is my answer. 10 EXAMINATION BY BOARD MEMBERS 11 MR. ANDERSON: Do you have any 12 questions for him, Mr. Lui? I have a question. 13 So what time was your closing time on that day? 14 This was, what, July 3rd? 15 MR. EMBAYE: So according to the law 16 that governs my license, I stopped selling by 17 1:30, and I turned on the lights, and by 2 a.m., 18 everybody is out of the establishment. MR. ANDERSON: Is a copy of his hours 19 20 in the report? 21 MR. LUI: Yes. 22 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. So what, the 23 July, this is July 3, 2019? Okay, so it was a

MR. EMBAYE: Yes, it was on Tuesday.

Tuesday.

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1	MR. ANDERSON: The hours are 2:00. So
2	
3	MR. EMBAYE: 1:30.
4	MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry? The
5	operation says from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. So if your,
6	if your hours were supposed to be, if you were
7	supposed to be locked at 2 a.m., you said
8	everybody was out by 2:10. That's what you just
9	said.
10	MR. EMBAYE: Yes. We start shutting
11	down at 1:30, but like we had a security and the
12	promoters, those are the ones who left at the
13	end, at 2:10, but all my customers were out of
14	there by 2 a.m.
15	MR. ANDERSON: I'm, I was listening to
16	your testimony, and you just testified that
17	everybody was out at 2:10, so
18	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, I meant like the
19	other people who are working there, the last
20	people.
21	MR. ANDERSON: As I said, I'm going by
22	your testimony. I took notes, and you said
23	everybody was out by 2:10, so therefore, that
24	2:10 is past 2:00. So, and, okay. And
25	MR. EMBAYE: Yes. Yes, everybody was

All of the clients, all of the customers 1 2 were out by 2, but the, because we have the 3 investigator and I was talking to him, and those sorts of people was there, and the people who 4 5 work there, those are the ones who left at the end, at 2:10. 6 7 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Does, go 8 ahead. Go ahead, Ms. Crockett. 9 MS. CROCKETT: Investigator Prout, 10 Investigator Prout has testified that 11 Investigator Fiorentine and Investigator De Los 12 Santos entered the establishment at 2:17 a.m. 13 You, then, escorted them into the basement at 14 2:17 a.m., where they observed approximately 40 15 patrons. 16 So were there 40 patrons when they 17 entered at 2:17 or patrons gone at 2:00, as you 18 stated? 19 MR. EMBAYE: So first of all, Mr. 20 Prout, he came at 1:55, not at 2:17. 21 MS. CROCKETT: I said Investigator 22 Fiorentine and Investigator De Los Santos, who 23 arrived at 2:17, and you escorted them to the 24 basement.

MR. EMBAYE: When I took them to the

1	basement, it was 1:55.
2	MS. CROCKETT: So are you challenging
3	the accuracy of the report? Have you read this
4	report, sir?
5	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, I did.
6	MS. CROCKETT: And you listened to Mr.
7	Prout's testimony, sir?
8	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, I did.
9	MS. CROCKETT: You had an opportunity
10	when Mr. Prout testified that he, and that
11	Investigators Fiorentine and De Los Santos
12	observed 40 patrons at 2:17, you had an
13	opportunity to say something about it then. Why
14	did you not raise it then?
15	MR. EMBAYE: I did not pay attention,
16	but I thought he said 1:55.
17	MS. CROCKETT: But you also have it
18	written in the report that says 2:17, at the
19	bottom of page 2.
20	(Off microphone comments.)
21	MS. CROCKETT: Can, yes, also can you
22	move the paper off the microphone?
23	MR. EMBAYE: We have the page from 3
23 24	MR. EMBAYE: We have the page from 3 to 6. Can I show it to you?

1 have a full copy? Can you show --2 MR. EMBAYE: Yes, right here it says 3 2:12, and this report was never given to us. This is the report that we have. 4 5 Okay. My next question MS. CROCKETT: involves the use of your back door. 6 So 7 Investigator Prout states that he watched your 8 security lock the front door, and then go around 9 to the back door. 10 He also observed individuals appear at 11 the back door to gain entry. Is it customary 12 that you utilize the back door of your 13 establishment for patrons to enter? 14 MR. EMBAYE: Yes, the only thing we do 15 is at 1:30, we close the door, and then what, 16 whoever we have left, we basically push them out. 17 And I have a question. 18 MS. CROCKETT: You have a question for 19 whom? 20 MR. ANDERSON: Hold on, Hold on, hold 21 on a minute. I, because of the, you're 22 representing yourself, but you can't speak, 23 ma'am. 24 He's the one that's under cross 25 examination. For all of the questions that are

being asked, Mr. Embaye is the one who needs to 1 2 respond. She should not be responding because 3 she's not, she's not under oath. He has not put her on to testify, so 4 5 Mr. Embaye is the only person who can speak or answer questions. Go ahead, Ms. Crockett. 6 7 MS. CROCKETT: So your patrons who 8 were in the basement, how did they enter? 9 MR. EMBAYE: The front door. 10 MS. CROCKETT: But you won't have them 11 exit out of the front door? 12 MR. EMBAYE: They use both doors to 13 get out. 14 MS. CROCKETT: But the door was You just stated that you have him lock 15 locked. 16 the door. 17 MR. EMBAYE: Yes. Yes. The reason we 18 lock the door is so people don't come in. So the 19 security go downstairs to push out the customers, 20 and then wait at the door to let them out. 21 MS. CROCKETT: Okay. I have no 22 further questions. 23 MR. ANDERSON: Any other questions by 24 any of the Board Members? Mr. Lui, do you have 25 any questions of the witness based on the

questions that were asked by the Board Members? 1 2 Mr. Embaye, do you, do you need to 3 make any statement to correct whatever was just asked of you? Do you have anything else you want 4 5 to say? MR. EMBAYE: That's it. I have 6 7 represented everything that I can. 8 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you. Do you wish 9 to make a closing argument, Mr. Lui? Oh, I'm 10 sorry. Yes. Yes, so do you need to make a 11 closing argument? Go ahead, please. 12 CLOSING STATEMENT - GOVERNMENT 13 MR. LUI: The government has provided sufficient evidence for the Board to find that 14 15 the licensee violated three charges, or violated 16 three laws, the first of which is the, is the 17 operating outside of approved hours. The Board issues these hours and 18 approves these hours, and for this establishment, 19 20 the hours of sales were up until 1:30 a.m. that 21 The hours of operation are until 2 a.m. day. 22 Investigator Prout testified that upon

establishment was still in operation, which is in

entry with the other investigators, the

direct violation of D.C. Code Section 25-

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24

823(a)(7), as they were still operating at that time, up until at least 2:22 a.m., is what Investigator Prout testified to.

We also heard Investigator Prout testifying about Investigator Fiorentine observing 40 patrons in the basement as well, also within the establishment, and out, and also outside of the hours of operation, the Board-approved hours of operation.

And Investigator Prout, as to this charge, also testified that there were no holiday extensions that evening. They could not operate until 3 a.m.

Now, as to the second charge, the establishment failed to follow the establishment's security plan, which is in violation of D.C. Code Section 25-823(a)(6), specifically the promoter in this case identified himself to Investigator Prout.

It was, and the promoter is also known to Investigator Prout. Therefore, there was a promoted event that evening in which the establishment was supposed to hire an MPD officer as a part of the RDO program, the reimbursable detail subsidy program, for any event that was to

go on after 1 a.m.

In this case, the licensee did not, which is in violation of their security plan.

And as to the last charge, Investigator Prout, on the evening of the incident, July 3rd, requested security footage.

And it was up to the establishment and the licensee to provide the security footage within 48 hours. Investigator Prout returned on July 7th. No access to the security footage.

That was even beyond the 48 hours.

There was a grace period built into that, because the establishment was allegedly cooperating with Investigator Prout.

Investigator Prout returned on July 10th. Yes, he was able to access the security footage, but there was only limited and missing footage of the requested time period in which Investigator Prout had requested.

This is in direct violation of D.C.

Code Section 25-403(e)3(G)(iii). The government has therefore met its burden by a preponderance of the evidence, and has proven the charges.

The government asks the Board to impose a fine, as provided under D.C. Code

1	Section 25-830. Thank you.
2	MR. ANDERSON: Do you have a closing,
3	any closing statements you want to make, sir?
4	MR. EMBAYE: Your Honor, I would like
5	to ask
6	MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
7	MR. EMBAYE: Oh, the interpreter would
8	like to ask clarification. They don't understand
9	the
10	Yes, I would like to give the closing.
11	MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
12	CLOSING STATEMENT - RESPONDENT
13	MR. EMBAYE: So I did hear the
14	government agreement, and, but I also know the
15	law, and I work following the law.
16	I stop selling them alcohol at 1:30.
17	I turned on the light, and I started forcing the
18	clients. Besides that, I don't know what else to
19	do.
20	MR. ANDERSON: That's it?
21	MR. EMBAYE: Yes, I'm done.
22	MR. ANDERSON: Okay. All right. The
23	record is now closed. If the parties wish to
24	file proposed findings of fact and conclusion of
25	law, always have the right to do that.

The meaning of that, sir, do you want 1 us to make the decision based on what was 2 3 presented today? MS. LEGESS: Can I, the interpreter, 4 ask for clarification? 5 MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry? 6 7 MS. LEGESS: Can I ask Your Honor to 8 I didn't understand what you say. repeat? 9 MR. ANDERSON: Does he rest? Does he want the Board to make a decision based on the 10 11 presentation that was made today? 12 MR. EMBAYE: I don't have any more. 13 MR. LUI: The government does. 14 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you. All right. 15 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia, in accordance 16 17 with D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b) of the 18 Open Meetings Act, I move that the ABC Board hold 19 a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on case number 19-CMP-20 21 00097, Betty's Gojo Restaurant, pursuant to D.C. 22 Official Code Section 2574(b)(4) of the Open 23 Meetings Act, and deliberating upon case number 24 19-CMP-00097, Betty's Gojo, for the reasons cited

in D.C. Official Code Section 2574(b)(13) of the

25

1	Open Meetings Act. Is there a second?
2	MR. SHORT: Second.
3	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Short has seconded
4	the motion. I will now take a roll call vote on
5	the motion put forth now that it's been seconded.
6	Ms. Wahabzadah?
7	MS. WAHABZADAH: I agree.
8	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
9	MR. SHORT: I agree.
10	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
11	MR. CATO: I agree.
12	MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?
13	MS. CROCKETT: I agree.
14	MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?
15	MS. HANSEN: I agree.
16	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson, I agree.
17	As it appears that the motion has passed, I
18	hereby give notice that the ABC Board will recess
19	these proceedings to hold a closed meeting in the
20	ABC Board conference room, pursuant to Section
21	2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act.
22	Thank you for your testimony, for your
23	presentation today. The Board will issue a
24	decision within the next 90 days. Thank you very
25	much.

1	As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
2	Beverage Control Board for the District of
3	Columbia, in accordance with D.C. Official Code
4	Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings, I move that
5	the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on March the
6	11th, 2020, for the purpose of seeking legal
7	advice from, on the matters identified on the
8	Board's legal licensing and investigative agenda
9	for March the 11th, 2020, as published in, on
10	February the 28th, 2020. Is there a second?
11	MS. CROCKETT: Second.
12	MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett has
13	seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
14	vote on the motion put forth, now that it has
15	been seconded. Ms. Wahabzadah?
16	MS. WAHABZADAH: I agree.
17	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
18	MR. SHORT: I agree.
19	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
20	MR. CATO: I agree.
21	MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?
22	MS. CROCKETT: I agree.
23	MR. ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?
24	MS. HANSEN: I agree.
25	MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson? I agree.

1 It has appeared that the motion has passed. Ι hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold 2 3 this closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings 4 Act. 5 Notice will also be posted on the ABC 6 Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on the 7 electronic calendar on ABRA's website, and published in the D.C. Register in as timely 8 9 manner as practical. It is 4:16 p.m., and we are 10 adjourned for the day. Thank you. 11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 12 went off the record at 4:16 p.m.) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Betty's Gojo

Before: DCABRA

Date: 02-26-20

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.

Court Reporter

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