

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

IN THE MATTER OF: :

Lemma Holdings, LLC, :

t/a Bliss :

2122 24th Place NE, : Fact

Event: Caribbean-American : Finding

Heritage Month Event : Hearing

Event Hours: 1:00 - 10:00 p.m. :

License No. 095711 :

Substantial Change #18-SC-00761: :

(2000 Attendees/45 Sec. Guards): :

(One-Day Substantial : :

Change Application) : :

Wednesday  
June 27, 2018

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  
NICK ALBERTI, Member  
ROBERT CATO, Member  
JAMES SHORT, Member  
DONALD ISAAC, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**HENOCK ANDARGIE, Licensee**

**ARTHUR GRIFFITH, Licensee**

**SHAWN TOWNSEND, ABRA Investigator**

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

2 2:35 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We  
4 are back on the record. Our next case is that we  
5 are having a Fact-Finding Hearing on Bliss  
6 regarding the one-day substantial change  
7 application. The event basically -- at least in  
8 our Fact-Finding is stating that it's the  
9 Caribbean-American Heritage Month Event. The  
10 date of the event was supposed to be June 30,  
11 2018. The hours are from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00  
12 p.m. They were asking for 2,000 attendees and 45  
13 security guards.

14 So can you, please, identify yourself  
15 for the record, please, both, yes.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: It's -- my name is  
17 Henock Andargie, H-E-N-O-C-K, Andargie, A-N-D-A-  
18 R-G-I-E. I'm representing Bliss. I'm the owner.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Andargie.

20 MR. ANDARGIE: Andargie.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Andargie. Yes?

22 MR. GRIFFITH: My name is Arthur

1 Griffith, that's A-R-T-H-U-R Griffith, G-R-I-F-  
2 F-I-T-H. I'm president of DC Carnival Experience  
3 and I'm putting on a festival at Bliss.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
5 I think I heard there is some change, so can you  
6 tell us what is the change and tell me first and  
7 foremost what -- I'm sorry, hold on a minute,  
8 please. Introduce yourself for the record,  
9 please.

10 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: ABRA

11 Investigator Shawn Townsend.

12 MR. GRIFFITH: Gee, I thought Mr.  
13 Brashears was here. Did -- are you -- did you  
14 just switch up on me in the sense that I -- you  
15 know, I'm trying to make a joke. So I apologize,  
16 Mr. Townsend. Go ahead. I'm sorry. Yeah,  
17 please, go ahead.

18 MR. ANDARGIE: So we initially were  
19 anticipating to do June 30th, but due to some  
20 logistical issues, we had to change the date to  
21 August 4th and we are going to have to amend the  
22 application in regards to that, as well as other

1 issues.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what else  
3 are you -- is it just -- so that's the only thing  
4 that you are changing, the date?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, that's the only  
6 thing that is changed, the date.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it's August  
8 4th and it's the same attendees and it's the  
9 same --

10 MR. ANDARGIE: Time.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- 2,000, same  
12 time from 1:00 to 10:00?

13 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what day of  
15 the week is this?

16 MR. ANDARGIE: This is a Saturday.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Saturday.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Saturday?

19 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
21 just tell us a little bit about the event. Tell  
22 us what is going on in this neighborhood and how

1 is it that you believe that bringing the  
2 attendance, I mean, 2,000 people in this  
3 neighborhood -- because I think it's going to be  
4 in the parking lot?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, in the parking  
6 lot.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the time  
8 line and how is this going to impact the overall  
9 of what is going on in the neighborhood?

10 MR. ANDARGIE: Okay. At that time,  
11 there is not significant traffic in that area  
12 during Saturday at that time of day. Our -- as  
13 far as like the -- did you want to have  
14 background information about the festival?

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: Okay. He can better  
17 describe it.

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Oh, okay, yeah. So I  
19 have been doing Caribbean events for the past 28  
20 years in DC and, you know, there is the --  
21 Congress passed the Caribbean-American Heritage  
22 Month, I guess, maybe around 10 years ago. And

1 since then, in the month of June, I have been  
2 doing an event or a series of events in June to  
3 commemorate Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

4 This particular event, we approached  
5 Bliss to do the event on their parking lot and,  
6 you know, which was agreeable on their part, but  
7 I have done outdoor festivals on Pennsylvania  
8 Avenue in the past and so I knew of the  
9 permitting process dealing with DCRA and all the  
10 different agencies that you need to get signed-  
11 off on.

12 I have had to present before the Task  
13 Force before as well, which I have done, so this  
14 festival is to celebrate the 28th Caribbean-  
15 American countries that are represented as part  
16 of that doctrine. And so we have, you know,  
17 reggae, calypso, zouk, you know, artists and some  
18 performing as well as food and craft vendors will  
19 be on-site as well.

20 There is -- Bliss will be the one who  
21 would provide the alcoholic beverages and then as  
22 well as the security on their side. We would

1 also be bringing security from our end as well.  
2 And then the police would also be providing  
3 security as well from that neighborhood, that  
4 precinct that serves that neighborhood.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you  
6 mean? What do you mean by the police who -- tell  
7 me about that.

8 MR. ANDARGIE: He meant -- I reached  
9 out to Brenda and got six SOD officers for that  
10 event, but now since everything is postponed, I  
11 had to -- I changed it to a separate -- the new  
12 date, so we are going to have officers working as  
13 we do for our club nights.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Sort of like an RDO?

16 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah, RDO, yes, sir.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: I'm not -- it's -- is  
18 there any other question you might have in terms  
19 of what -- the nature of the event or -- I mean,  
20 it's an event that is celebrated by people of  
21 Caribbean heritage, whether or not they are first  
22 generation, second generation or third generation

1 Caribbean/Americans.

2 And so we provide authentic music,  
3 food and the atmosphere to sort of recreate as if  
4 they were back in Trinidad where I was from or  
5 Barbados or any of the -- any one of the islands.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's not  
7 necessarily -- I'm from Jamaica, so I --

8 MR. GRIFFITH: Oh.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- can -- so  
10 I'm familiar. So it's not necessarily for -- I'm  
11 not familiar with it, but I'm just, as a matter  
12 of fact, putting on the record. But so it's not  
13 necessarily about the event. I think that it's  
14 more so -- and I might not necessarily have a  
15 problem with the time, but it's more so with the  
16 neighborhood and what is going on and how is this  
17 bringing 2,000 people in this neighborhood  
18 between that time line, how will that impact the  
19 residents?

20 Because these are residents who are  
21 always complaining to us about what is going on  
22 in that neighborhood. And so it's just a matter

1 of the Board is concerned how -- what impact this  
2 is going to have on the residents and what else  
3 is going on in the neighborhood. And that's one  
4 of the reasons why I asked what else is around  
5 that time period? Are there -- for example, what  
6 time does Bliss normally operate on a Saturday?

7 MR. ANDARGIE: Our normal operation  
8 times, we start at 9:00 p.m., our opening time,  
9 but usually most people don't come until about  
10 10:30 p.m.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

12 MR. ANDARGIE: So 10:30 p.m. until  
13 3:00 a.m. is our operating hours, our standard  
14 operating hours.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
16 what other establishment is close to you?

17 MR. ANDARGIE: In our vicinity?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

19 MR. ANDARGIE: There is -- as far as  
20 nightlife establishments there --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

22 MR. ANDARGIE: -- is Stadium. There

1 is Echostage and Power. They are all within our  
2 vicinity.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So although you  
4 are not here representing them --

5 MR. ANDARGIE: No, no.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- but what are  
7 their -- are you aware of their hours?

8 MR. ANDARGIE: Most of the nightlife  
9 establishments are open only during the  
10 nighttime. From my understanding, I don't think  
11 there is any daytime activities at any of those  
12 establishments on that said date.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Um-hum.

14 MR. ANDARGIE: To my knowledge, at  
15 least.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
17 Townsend, do you have any questions or anything  
18 that -- or other Board Members, do you have any  
19 questions you want to ask regarding this event?

20 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes, thank  
21 you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to -- most of my  
22 questions were related around community feedback

1 as well. As it relates to parking, on the  
2 application, I noticed you mentioned parking  
3 would be available in public parking lots in  
4 close proximity as well as valet services, so I  
5 guess two questions as it relates to that.

6 What parking lots specifically are you  
7 referring to? Like I know there is the -- where  
8 the Dunkin Donuts is and the Days Inn, that  
9 parking lot is public and there is self-parking  
10 there, but are there other parking lots in the  
11 area that you all will be using?

12 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes. So there is the  
13 parking directly across from Stadium, you know,  
14 the garage.

15 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: The U Street Parking  
17 that it uses.

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes.

19 MR. ANDARGIE: So it's going to be  
20 there, one of the parking lots is there. As well  
21 as the -- you know where the fire station  
22 association is? The fireman association?

1                   INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Their parking  
2 lot?

3                   MR. ANDARGIE: Their parking lot is in  
4 that -- is used as well for our nighttime  
5 activities. And then also there is the parking  
6 lot situated diagonally next to where the deli  
7 is.

8                   INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: The deli?  
9 Okay.

10                  MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah, and then -- yeah.

11                  INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And then --

12                  MR. ANDARGIE: I'm sorry. Okay. So  
13 then there is also the other parking lots that  
14 are being used in that area like Stadium, since  
15 they are not going to be open, and a lot of other  
16 venues won't be open during that time.

17                  INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Right.

18                  MR. ANDARGIE: Those parking lots are  
19 going to be utilized as well.

20                  INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. Got it.  
21 And then the valet services, where will those  
22 cars be? Is that traditional valet?

1 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, the traditional  
2 valet, yes.

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So those cars  
4 will be parked where?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Usually they park them  
6 in another garage that they separately use and  
7 they use that shuttle service sometimes as well,  
8 U Street Parking.

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

10 MR. ANDARGIE: As well as Tag.

11 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So there will  
12 be shuttle service?

13 MR. ANDARGIE: More than likely. They  
14 usually use a shuttle service for their valet  
15 parking.

16 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

17 MR. ANDARGIE: But I can't really  
18 speak on those valet companies.

19 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Because I know  
20 on regular nights --

21 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

22 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: -- they

1 actually -- the valet services set up in this  
2 space that we are talking about.

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah, exactly, yeah.

4 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So okay, okay.  
5 Looking at the diagram, will this be the same  
6 setup for the August date as well?

7 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, sir.

8 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So I'm  
9 assuming at the top of the -- do you have a copy  
10 of that?

11 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Could I see  
13 what diagram are we talking about, Mr. Townsend?  
14 Okay. All right. That's fine. We have it.

15 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So  
16 looking at the top of it --

17 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: -- the top of  
19 the diagram, I'm assuming that is going to be  
20 Adams Place, correct? That street.

21 MR. ANDARGIE: The top part, are you  
22 talking about -- yeah. No, that's 24th Place.

1 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: I'm sorry.  
2 24th Place.

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, sir.

4 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes, so that  
5 would be the front of Bliss?

6 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. And  
8 then to the right of that would be the entrance  
9 to the parking lot where the festival will take  
10 place?

11 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where?

13 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So the -- that  
14 first symbol right there, according to the key,  
15 would be a ticket booth?

16 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And then the  
19 blue box is the artist tent.

20 MR. ANDARGIE: Um-hum.

21 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And the orange  
22 box is the stage?

1 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

2 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So at what  
4 point -- what's the point of entry to the event?

5 MR. GRIFFITH: The point of entry is  
6 this.

7 MR. ANDARGIE: The white box.

8 MR. GRIFFITH: The white, yeah.

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So --

10 MR. GRIFFITH: So you come into this  
11 gate to come into the event.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So patrons  
13 will be entering the event behind the stage?

14 MR. GRIFFITH: But not -- yeah. The  
15 stage is -- this is 80 feet. So this -- because  
16 it's scale, it's a little bit difficult to show,  
17 but this is over to this side, so they will be  
18 coming in and coming out this way. The stage is  
19 actually just a portion of the width of this, of  
20 the property.

21 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

22 MR. GRIFFITH: So yeah. So this is

1 all backstage area here. This is the entrance.  
2 You know that big heavy gates that --

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Right there.

4 MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah. So we would  
5 have, what you call, bicycle barricades to create  
6 and, you know, control entry point here. And as  
7 you come in, you come into the event this way.

8 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So to  
9 the right of the orange, to the far right of the  
10 orange box?

11 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Is where the  
13 entry point will be?

14 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

15 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, if you are looking  
18 at this way, yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Right.

20 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, exactly.

21 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And then so  
22 what direction will the stage be?

1 MR. GRIFFITH: The stage will be  
2 facing toward Stadium.

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Towards the --  
4 okay.

5 MR. GRIFFITH: Towards Stadium.

6 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

7 MR. GRIFFITH: Towards Stadium so that  
8 it wouldn't be facing towards where the community  
9 is. It would be facing towards New York Avenue.

10 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. And  
11 then the hours of sales and the hours of the  
12 event are on the application?

13 MR. GRIFFITH: 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.

14 MR. ANDARGIE: Oh, it's 1:00. We did  
15 it because also we have the clean-up process as  
16 well, so we have it at 1:00 to 10:00, so we have  
17 the setup and then, you know, one hour to buffer  
18 potentially.

19 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So last  
20 call would be at what time?

21 MR. ANDARGIE: 9:00.

22 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: 9:00? Okay.

1 And who will be checking IDs?

2 MR. ANDARGIE: Our staff.

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Staff?

4 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

5 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: The number of  
6 security personnel you have listed is 45.

7 MR. ANDARGIE: Correct.

8 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Is that all --  
9 so that will be all in-house?

10 MR. ANDARGIE: No. So we have Falcon  
11 Security.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

13 MR. ANDARGIE: So we have them as an  
14 additional security provider for the event.

15 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And do you  
16 know how many -- is that -- so 45 security guards  
17 total including your in-house?

18 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

20 MR. ANDARGIE: Including the -- so the  
21 total security personnel is going to be 45.

22 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Gotcha.

1 MR. ANDARGIE: It will be a mix  
2 between the two.

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. And do  
4 you know, I guess, approximately, how many?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: I mean, since we did  
6 the staffing -- the staffing for this event was  
7 going to be 30/15. So 30 of our staff and 15 of  
8 the security company, but with the time change,  
9 of course, just making sure of availability,  
10 we're going to have to -- that might be  
11 different.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

13 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

14 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And then is  
15 three -- the three vendors, the three food  
16 vendors, will that be food trucks or --

17 MR. GRIFFITH: No, just regular --

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Local --

19 MR. GRIFFITH: -- local restaurants  
20 that can be created as one --

21 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

22 MR. GRIFFITH: -- is going to be

1 there. So is the local restaurants.

2 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. And  
3 that food will be available from 2:00 to 9:00?

4 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

5 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: I think that's  
6 all the questions I have. I'm sorry.

7 The cost of the tickets, how are you  
8 going to be selling tickets? That whole process.

9 MR. ANDARGIE: We are going to --

10 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, so tickets are  
11 \$30.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Um-hum.

13 MR. GRIFFITH: They are sold either  
14 online --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are talking  
16 to us.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Sorry. Yes, sorry.  
18 The tickets are \$30 advance sale. They are sold  
19 online through our ticket portal,  
20 eventnation.com, and also physical tickets are  
21 sold at certain Caribbean outlets like Crombie,  
22 Creed in DC, The Jerk Pit in Maryland, West

1 Indian Flavour in Baltimore where Caribbean  
2 people go to buy food essentially. Some of those  
3 outlets would be selling physical tickets to the  
4 event.

5 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And will there  
6 be -- if you all have a mechanism in place where  
7 you are capping it at the 2,000?

8 MR. GRIFFITH: Um-hum.

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Or --

10 MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah, well, I mean, we  
11 -- when we create an event like this, we will put  
12 a certain number of tickets online and a certain  
13 number of physical tickets in the community. And  
14 then we sort of monitor those numbers and we  
15 adjust accordingly.

16 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: And then once people  
18 come to the event, you scan as they come in a new  
19 wristband.

20 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

21 MR. GRIFFITH: So again, wristbands  
22 are numbered so we know how many wristbands we

1 have issued to the event. And we click in and  
2 out, because sometimes people leave, so you sort  
3 of click as they come in and you click as they go  
4 out, so you always have a good running total for  
5 what your capacity is, that you have met capacity  
6 or that you don't go over capacity.

7 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. And my  
8 final question, have you all had conversations  
9 with ANCs in the area or the neighboring  
10 businesses just to make sure that there aren't  
11 any other events going on in the area on this day  
12 around this time?

13 MR. ANDARGIE: No, I haven't. For the  
14 new date, no.

15 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. All  
16 right.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But did you  
18 check for that -- for the old date?

19 MR. ANDARGIE: I just looked at what  
20 other venues were open and what weren't and no  
21 one was open during that time period.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.

1 Short. I know Mr. Short has some questions  
2 regarding capacity.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Good afternoon,  
4 both of you.

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Good afternoon.

6 MR. GRIFFITH: Good afternoon.

7 MEMBER SHORT: And again, your name?  
8 Please forgive me, your name.

9 MR. GRIFFITH: Griffith, Arthur  
10 Griffith.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Griffin?

12 MR. GRIFFITH: Griffith, yes.

13 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Mr. Griffith,  
14 and you have been before the Mayor's --

15 MR. GRIFFITH: Task Force?

16 MEMBER SHORT: -- Task Force?

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, went and saw, yes.

18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, what's the  
19 size of the lot? The square footage?

20 MR. ANDARGIE: The square footage is  
21 roughly 15,000 square feet.

22 MEMBER SHORT: So when you put the

1 tents and your cooking and all that in there,  
2 what does that leave you with for people to stand  
3 in?

4 MR. ANDARGIE: The free space, I would  
5 imagine about 12,000 square feet after that.

6 MEMBER SHORT: So how did you measure  
7 out of that, how did you come up with the number  
8 2,000?

9 MR. ANDARGIE: I think when he -- yes,  
10 you can go.

11 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, well, it's more of  
12 an economic number in terms of --

13 MEMBER SHORT: Well, wait a minute.  
14 Okay.

15 MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah.

16 MEMBER SHORT: So let's stop right  
17 there, because now if we're talking about  
18 economics versus public safety, we have some  
19 issues.

20 MR. GRIFFITH: No, well, the -- it's--  
21 well, let's put it this way, it's because I have  
22 done an event on lot space before when it was a

1 different establishment, that's in the --

2 MEMBER SHORT: What year was that?

3 MR. GRIFFITH: -- that was early  
4 2000s. I think it was called Club 24 or  
5 something like that, back at that time.

6 MEMBER SHORT: You had the same setup?

7 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, the same. We had  
8 the same setup. We had the same setup.

9 MEMBER SHORT: How many tickets did  
10 you sell for that event?

11 MR. GRIFFITH: That one we sold around  
12 1,900 tickets for that event. We sold around  
13 1,900. And you know, there was no -- it was  
14 never crowded. There was no space issue, you  
15 know, with that number of people.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: Also, I would like to  
17 add we are going to also be using the indoor  
18 space as well, because it's going to be August,  
19 so it's going to be fairly warm outside, so there  
20 is going to be a cooled area inside the  
21 establishment.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That wasn't --

1 the establishment, so I'm glad --

2 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah, okay. I just  
3 wanted to reiterate --

4 MEMBER SHORT: What's your capacity  
5 inside?

6 MR. ANDARGIE: 1,095.

7 MEMBER SHORT: All right. And that  
8 makes a lot of --

9 MR. ANDARGIE: Then we have the  
10 restrooms in there as well, so --

11 MEMBER SHORT: -- difference. Okay.  
12 Now, let me ask you this. Your vendors that are  
13 going to be cooking, what are they going to be  
14 cooking with? What -- are they going to be using  
15 charcoal?

16 MR. GRIFFITH: Propane.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Propane?

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Propane.

19 MEMBER SHORT: What size are the  
20 tanks?

21 MR. GRIFFITH: It's the short tank.  
22 I'm not sure what size.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: I would suggest before  
2 all this, that you check with the DC Fire  
3 Department and let them know you are going to be  
4 cooking with propane --

5                   MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

6                   MEMBER SHORT: -- outside with those  
7 numbers of people.

8                   MR. GRIFFITH: Right, yes. I met with  
9 Lieutenant Hazel on that already and --

10                  MEMBER SHORT: So you talked to the  
11 Fire Department?

12                  MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah, yes.

13                  MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Good.

14                  MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

15                  MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You're checking  
16 all the boxes, it sounds good.

17                  MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah, yes.

18                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short is  
19 the public safety person and so therefore --

20                  MR. GRIFFITH: Oh, okay.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- he is going  
22 to ask public safety questions. And so since you

1 told him that you have contacted the Fire  
2 Department, because he normally sends you there,  
3 so I will say that that's a positive development.

4 MR. GRIFFITH: I've spoken with  
5 Lieutenant Hazel a few times, so he puts me  
6 through the paces.

7 MEMBER SHORT: I know him quite well.

8 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

9 MR. ANDARGIE: Each and every time,  
10 so --

11 MEMBER SHORT: I'll just say this to  
12 you. It sounds like you have checked all the  
13 boxes and I feel a lot more comfortable knowing  
14 that you can use the inside and the outside, but  
15 I didn't see 2,000 people inside that space.

16 MR. GRIFFITH: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry we  
17 didn't make that clear. It is an indoor/outdoor  
18 event, so people will be able to go inside.

19 MEMBER SHORT: On your next  
20 application, make sure you make that plain.

21 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, yes.

22 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: And also it would  
2 always help -- it's always helpful if -- for some  
3 Board Members, myself in particular, that you say  
4 we have contacted the Fire Department. I am glad  
5 you have RDO.

6                   Now, who is playing the music?

7                   MR. GRIFFITH: Well, DJs.

8                   MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

9                   MR. GRIFFITH: Local DJs provide the  
10 entertainment as well as we have -- there is a  
11 legendary reggae artist called Wayne Wonder, he  
12 is coming into town.

13                   MEMBER SHORT: That sounds good. Now,  
14 here is the reason why I'm getting around to  
15 this --

16                   MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

17                   MEMBER SHORT: -- what size are the  
18 speakers and how much noise would that create in  
19 that community?

20                   MR. GRIFFITH: That I'm not sure what  
21 it --

22                   MEMBER SHORT: Because if there are

1 any noise violations, you take a hit.

2 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

3 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

4 MR. ANDARGIE: I'm aware of that.

5 MR. GRIFFITH: Well, again, which is  
6 why because I've been there before is why we have  
7 the stage already the way it is.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

9 MR. GRIFFITH: That the speakers face  
10 towards New York Avenue and the commercial  
11 buildings that way and so it goes -- the music  
12 will -- the sound will travel, let's say,  
13 towards --

14 MR. ANDARGIE: Not a -- the sound is  
15 going to be situated so it's not going towards  
16 the residential community.

17 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes.

18 MR. ANDARGIE: It's situated towards  
19 the New York Avenue.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And you are  
21 going to regulate the noise so that we won't have  
22 this --

1 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

2 MEMBER SHORT: -- community rage  
3 saying you know that --

4 MR. ANDARGIE: Oh, yeah, I understand.

5 MEMBER SHORT: -- is pretty tight  
6 about things. So what -- you -- again, I heard  
7 the liquor -- your alcohol sales are going to  
8 stop at 9:00?

9 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: What time do they  
11 start?

12 MR. ANDARGIE: We are going to have  
13 setup by 1:00 p.m.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Um-hum.

15 MR. ANDARGIE: But more than likely  
16 people don't -- are not going to come until maybe  
17 about what time? We are asking until --

18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You're going to  
19 cutoff at 9:00?

20 MR. ANDARGIE: At 9:00. But more than  
21 likely, that period will be roughly about --  
22 between 3:00 to 9:00.

1 MR. GRIFFITH: Yeah, yes.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Do all the people  
3 checking IDs, will they be TIPS trained?

4 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, yes.

5 MEMBER SHORT: You're certain of that?

6 MR. ANDARGIE: It's my regular staff.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Okay. Mr.  
8 Chair, that's all the questions I have. Thank  
9 you very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other  
11 questions by any other Board Members?

12 MEMBER ISAAC: No questions.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Is  
14 the event 1:00 to 10:00 or 1:00 to 9:00?

15 MR. ANDARGIE: It's -- what I asked  
16 for was the buffer, so I said 1:00 to 10:00,  
17 because I know the event is supposed to run until  
18 9:00 p.m., but I need a buffer for breakdown and  
19 getting the crowd slowly out of the area.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
21 Yes, Mr. Townsend?

22 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: So that

1 evening, will you be open for regular operation  
2 as well?

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

4 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay.

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

6 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. So once  
7 the festival -- once the event ends, you will be  
8 under normal operations?

9 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah, yes.

10 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: And will there  
11 be any type of bottle service or anything like  
12 that on the -- in the parking lot?

13 MR. ANDARGIE: No, no.

14 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Okay. All  
15 right. Thanks.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
17 Well, hearing that there is no other concern, I  
18 make a motion that we grant the -- grant this  
19 event and I'll sign-off on it, but you need to  
20 change the date on the application.

21 So all those in favor?

22 MEMBER SHORT: I second the motion,

1 Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
3 Short has seconded the motion.

4 All those in favor?

5 ALL: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those opposed?  
7 Okay. So we -- I'll sign-off on the application  
8 with the -- I have the original application, but  
9 you need to change the date of the event to, you  
10 said, August 4th?

11 MR. GRIFFITH: August 4th.

12 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. That's--  
14 what day of the week is that? That's --

15 MR. ANDARGIE: Saturday.

16 MR. GRIFFITH: Saturday.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
18 right. That's actually --

19 MR. GRIFFITH: Jamaican independence  
20 weekend.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I was  
22 about to say that. I know the church service is

1 the 5th. All right. Okay.

2 All right. Good luck with your event.

3 MR. ANDARGIE: All right. Thank you.

4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But remember  
6 you need to change the application to change the  
7 date, please. So but you can go up, get the  
8 license once you change the date on the  
9 application.

10 MR. ANDARGIE: Okay. Got it.

11 MR. ANDARGIE: All right. Thank you,  
12 Board.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
14 Thanks.

15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
17 Have a good day.

18 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing  
19 was concluded at 3:01 p.m.)  
20  
21  
22

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In the matter of: Bliss

Before: DCABRA

Date: 06-27-18

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