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\begin{gathered}
\text { DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA } \\
+++++ \\
\text { ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD } \\
+++++ \\
\text { MEETING }
\end{gathered}
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IN THE MATTER OF:

Cavit Ozturk, t/a Café Divan
1834 Wisconsin Ave, NW : Show Cause
Retailer CR - ANC 2E : Hearing License No. 60603
Case \#18-CMP-00204
(Failed to Take Steps Necessary to Ensure Property is Free of Litter, Substantial Change in Operation Without Board Approval)

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

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

## PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
NICK ALBERTI, Member
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member
JAMES SHORT, Member
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

# CHRISTOPHER SOUSA, OAG INVESTIGATOR MARK BRASHEARS, ABRA CAVIT OZTURK, Licensee 

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

## PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

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WITNESS
Mark Brashears
Cavit Ozturk

DIRECT CROSS REDIR RECROSS BOARD
10
$29 \quad 37 \quad 51$20

41

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IDENTIFIED

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2:59 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We
are back on the record. Our next case is a Show Cause Hearing, Case No. 18-CMP-00204, Café Divan, License No. 60603.

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

MR. SOUSA: Christopher Sousa for the District of Columbia.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
Mr. Sousa. Yes, your name, sir?
MR. OZTURK: My name is Cavit Ozturk.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your last name?
MR. OZTURK: Ozturk, O-Z-T-U-R-K.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 0-Z?
MR. OZTURK: T-U-R-K.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: T-U-R-K. And
what's your relationship to the establishment?
MR. OZTURK: I'm the owner.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The owner.
There is a sign-in sheet, sir, if you haven't

Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc. Washington DC
signed in yet, please, sign-in.
MR. OZTURK: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there any preliminary matters in this case?

MR. SOUSA: Yes, there is a factual stipulation in this Show Cause Hearing.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. What is that?

MR. SOUSA: Do I provide some context for this factual stipulation?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure, please.
MR. SOUSA: Just basically two
charges: Failure to take legal steps to ensure the property is free of litter and the second charge is operation of a sidewalk café without the endorsement necessary.

And the stipulation is just two facts:
On August 20, 2018, Café Divan did not have the ABRA-issued endorsement for a sidewalk cafe. And on that date, an ABRA investigator observed tables and chairs for sidewalk café set up outside of the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So on August
18, that there was no ABRA endorsement for the sidewalk café and what else? And the chairs were -- that the sidewalk was being utilized that day? MR. SOUSA: Yes. The ABRA investigator observed tables and chairs set up for a sidewalk café outside of the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So we have -- oh, but there are two charges.

MR. SOUSA: The factual stipulation is only with regards to the sidewalk café.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Pardon?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So all right. So basically, the -- you are saying that the licensee is admitting to the violation. Are they just going to argue penalty? Is that what we are --

MR. SOUSA: That's my understanding.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What does that mean to you, sir, that you have agreed to the factual stipulation that on August 20, 2018, that you didn't have the endorsement for a sidewalk
café and that the investigator did observe that you had tables and chairs on the sidewalk. What does that -- why did you agree to that factual stipulation?

I'm not asking you to explain to me at this juncture your case. I'm just saying you and the Government told me that you have agreed to those facts. Are you agreeing that the facts -that's the facts and then you will just argue to say what penalty should occur? Is that what you are asking the Board to do?

MR. OZTURK: Well, I'm not sure there should be any penalty for that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, no, all right. So I guess what I'm trying to get, so you are going to argue then that you should not be penalized for what occurred on that day?

MR. OZTURK: That's correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So therefore, so $I$ guess what I'm saying, we don't really need any testimony on that specific issue.

MR. SOUSA: For that specific charge. specific charge.

MR. SOUSA: The purpose of the stipulation is to --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. So for that charge, you don't need to present any evidence. What you are going to do when you do your presentation of the case, you can argue with us to let us know what is it we should not fine you for that. So you don't need to, because you have already admitted that, yes, what they said is true, but then you can argue later on why is it that -- what type of penalty, if any, the Board should impose. Okay? All right.

All right. So does the Government then wish to make an opening statement on the issue, which is the trash issue?

MR. SOUSA: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. SOUSA: You will hear from
Investigator Mark Brashears about his visit to Café Divan on August 20, 2018. You will hear
about the litter and trash that he saw outside of the establishment. And the other research he conducted to see that some of that litter and trash had been outside of the establishment upwards of a year.

You will hear from Mark Brashears that he then issued the citation and that the establishment did not take reasonable steps to prevent the proliferation of litter outside of its premises.

And then we will rely on the stipulation as to the other charge, which is the operation of the sidewalk cafe without endorsement. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do you want to make an opening statement, sir, or --

MR. OZTURK: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you just wait until they present their case?

MR. OZTURK: No, I'll wait.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Does the Government have a witness they wish to
call?
MR. SOUSA: Yes, Investigator Mark Brashears.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, please, sir?

Whereupon,

## INVESTIGATOR MARK BRASHEARS

was called as a witness by Counsel for the Government, and having been first duly sworn, assumed the witness stand and was examined and testified as follows:

INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Thank you. Have a seat. Your witness, sir.
MR. SOUSA: Okay.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. SOUSA:
Q Mr. Brashears, where do you work?
A I work for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.

Q And what is your title?
A Supervisory Investigator.

Q And how long have you been with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration?

A Five and a half years.
Q Okay. If I hand you what is -- I'll ask to be marked as Exhibit 1, this is the case report.

MR. SOUSA: I trust that the Board already has copies of this, although I have copies myself.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board has copies.
(Whereupon, the abovereferred to document was marked as Government Exhibit No. 1 for identification.)

BY MR. SOUSA:
Q Are you familiar with what I'll ask -I'll have actually marked as Exhibit 1, Mr. Brashears?

A I am.
Q Okay. What is it?
A This is an investigative report that

I authored relevant to Café Divan for a violation that was observed on August 20, 2018.

Q Okay. And are the -- is this kind of report prepared in the ordinary scope of your business?

A It is.
Q Okay. And is it a regular part of your business to keep and maintain these records?

A It is.
Q And is this a true and accurate copy of the report you created on or shortly after August 20, 2018?

A Yes, sir.
Q All right. Were you on duty the morning of August 20, 2018?

A I was.
Q To what task were you assigned that day?

A To visit Café Divan.
Q Um-hum. And why were you assigned with that task?

A We had received a complaint
referencing trash around the confines of the establishment.

Q And what happened when you visited the cafe?

A I noted trash, weeds and overall disheveled appearance on the outside confines of the establishment.

Q And did you take pictures of those circumstances?

A Yes, sir, I did.
Q And were all those pictures attached to the case report that is going to be marked as Exhibit 1?

A They are.
Q Okay.
MR. SOUSA: And I'll ask the Board and the licensee to turn to what is marked as Exhibit 1 to this document.

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\begin{array}{ll} 
& \text { BY MR. SOUSA: } \\
\text { Q } & \text { Do you see that? } \\
\text { A } & \text { I do, sir. } \\
\text { Q } & \text { Is this a picture you took? }
\end{array}
$$

A It is.
Q What do you see?
A I see overgrown grass. I see what appears to be a fenced gate, cardboard boxes and on the other end a piece of what appears to be like lattice.

Q Mm-hmm. And do you see anything else in Exhibit 1?

A There is a chair. It appears to be broken and it is on top of some of the mechanical equipment for the establishment.

Q Um-hum. And so I'll ask you to turn to what is marked as Exhibit 2 to this document. Do you see that?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. And is this another picture you took while you were at Café Divan on that date?

A Yes, sir.
Q And all the pictures attached here are pictures that you took?

A That --
Q So I won't have to ask that question
each time.
A -- is correct.
Q What do you see in Exhibit 2?
A It's like, as $I$ said, it appears to be a broken chair, just kind of stacked with the equipment on the side of the building.

Q Okay. Do you see anything else in Exhibit 2?

A I see the outer edge of the sidewalk cafe.

Q Okay. I'll ask you to turn to the third attachment. What do you see?

A In Exhibit 3, I have indicated the chairs presence by circling it. You can see the sidewalk cafe in the background. In the foreground you can see a large piece of lattice.

Q And this is the same lattice work that you said you saw in the first attachment, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. I'll try to be as brief as possible. If you can turn to the fourth
attachment, what do you see in that attachment?
A That appears to be some type of -possibly an air conditioner filter or some type of filter for some of the mechanical equipment for the establishment.

Q And is it serving an operating function by being right there where it's at?

A No, sir. It appeared to either be stored or just discarded there.

Q Okay. I'll ask you to skip Attachment 5 , because it just repeats what we have already seen.

Do you see anything new in Attachment No. 6?

A Attachment No. 6, other than the trash cans being slightly ajar, there is what appears to be some type of fence gate with some type of material woven through it.

Q Does it appear to be in any sort operating function?

A No, sir. It appears to be discarded as well.

Q Okay. Can I ask you to turn to Attachment 7 and 8 and ask you what you see in those pictures?

A It appears to be either just trash or some type of recycling set outside of the establishment.

Q I'll skip over Attachments 9 and 10 to your report and also Attachment No. 11. Attachment 12 just depicts the sidewalk, that you have already heard about today, correct?

A Yes, sir. Just from the other end.
Q Okay. And the last thing I'll ask you about is what is marked as Attachment No. 22 to the case report? The second to last page of the packet that I handed you. Do you see that?

A Yes, sir, I do.
Q This is not a picture that you took on that -- on August 20, 2018, correct?

A No, sir, it's not.
Q What is it?
A This is a picture I downloaded from Google Earth.

Q And what does -- does it depict the licensed establishment?

A Yes, sir, it does.
Q On what date or on about what date?
A June 2017, according to what was listed on the Google Earth webpage.

Q Okay. And what do you see that is important in this picture from June 2017?

A Well, the piece of lattice work seems to be in the same place, almost a year later when I visited.
(Whereupon, the abovereferred to documents were marked as Government Exhibit

No. 1.1 through 1.8, 1.12,
1.22 for identification.)

BY MR. SOUSA:
Q And how many cases have you worked on with regards to failure to take reasonable steps to manage litter outside of a premises?

A It would be hard to say, sir. Quite a few.

Q Quite a few?
A Yes, sir.
Q More than 20?
A Probably.
Q And is this -- is the litter that you saw on August 20, 2018 in line with what you understand to be reasonable steps that an establishment could take to manage the outside of their premises?

A Yes.
Q Okay. It falls in line with what is reasonable or doesn't fall in line with what is reasonable?

A No, sir, it does not fall in line with what I would consider to be reasonable. At a distance it appeared that, you know, with the grass and things piled up, that the establishment could -- from that angle could be basically nonoperated.

MR. SOUSA: I have no more questions for the witness.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
questions you want to ask him, sir, based on his testimony?

MR. OZTURK: I just have explanation.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. All right. At this juncture, you can ask him questions.

MR. OZTURK: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have no questions to ask him about his testimony or any of the pictures here?

MR. OZTURK: Not to question, but I can explain the situation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm trying to figure out if in giving your explanation if you can do that in the form of a question to him. But I mean, I'll give you an opportunity, but I'm just trying to see if, at this juncture, you --

MR. OZTURK: The question? I don't have any questions to him.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any questions of the investigator by the Board? Yes, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon,

Investigator Brashears. An excellent report and the pictures detail the story.

How long has this existed to your knowledge? I see the date on your report, but how long has this existed?

THE WITNESS: Well, as I testified, sir, I visually observed it in August 2018, but in doing research and looking at social media and of course Google Earth, it appeared to have been in the same condition since the previous year.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And this question is did you get a chance to talk with the licensee before you wrote the violations or did you give him a chance to maybe correct this?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: What date approximately was that?

THE WITNESS: Well, I mean, we spoke of pretty much everything that $I$ documented in the report during my visit on the 20th of August 2018.

MEMBER SHORT: So I would take it by
the pictures in your report, your conversation fell on deaf ears or was -- there was no cooperation?

THE WITNESS: Well, 1 took the photos, documented everything from the outside. I went inside and got the owner and brought him outside and pointed out the various things.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Did he understand that he needed a permit to use public space to put those tables and chairs out in front of his establishment?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, he did.
MEMBER SHORT: That he had to pay a fee to do that and get it approved by the city?

THE WITNESS: Well, he obtained a DDOT permit for the sidewalk cafe.

MEMBER SHORT: Mm-hmm.
THE WITNESS: And as such, it was my understanding when I spoke with him that he believed that to be sufficient. And I had pointed out that he also needed the endorsement and basically needed to apply for the sidewalk
café with ABRA.
MEMBER SHORT: When was the first time you advised him he needed to have that on his license?

THE WITNESS: On the 20th of August when I visited the establishment, sir, of 2018.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And so even after you advised him of that, he still did not comply?

THE WITNESS: I couldn't say, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Are the table and chairs still out there now, to your knowledge, or are they removed?

THE WITNESS: I'm not sure if they are out there at the current time, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you very much for an excellent report, Mr. Investigator.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board Members? Mr.

Alberti?
MEMBER ALBERTI: So in Exhibit No. 7--
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: -- to your report, there is a bunch of boxes sitting out there.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Is that correct?
THE WITNESS: That's correct, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Can you tell whether he actually -- if he had a receptacle for recycling?

THE WITNESS: If you look in Exhibit 8 further along the wall --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Yeah.
THE WITNESS: -- I believe those were recycling.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Exhibit 9 you mean?
THE WITNESS: Well, you can see them all the way down in Exhibit 8, but then Exhibit 9 are trash cans, sir.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay, yes. All
right. So one of them was -- one of them says
trash only, if I look at Exhibit 10.
(Whereupon, the abovereferred to documents were marked as Government Exhibit No. 1.9 and 1.10 for identification.)

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: And they are both blue. Either one of them for recycling, do you know? In any event, he just has this recycling sitting out on this little stoop unsecured. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: And this walkway, is this public area? Is this a public walkway right there?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, it is.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Is this -where does this walkway run? What street is this along?

THE WITNESS: Well, let me look at that. So essentially, the establishment on the
end with the sidewalk café it basically comes to where two streets merge and the establishment is almost wedge-shaped. So as such, the establishment doesn't really have what we would consider an alley running behind it.

It's basically public streets coming off both sides. So that's where the trash, the recycling and all that are placed.

MEMBER ALBERTI: What side is this?
THE WITNESS: This is the back side, sir.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Which would be 34th Street? Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: I believe so. Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. But it's still -- nonetheless my observation is that he has got unsecured recycling sitting adjacent to the public walkway.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Public there. Thank you. I have no further questions. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: I have one follow-up. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Investigator Brashears, look at Exhibit, I think it is, 22 again. It is 22.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: It seems that there are -- and I would be remiss if I didn't point this out to this hearing, there is a fire escape going from the third -- second floor -- the third floor, second floor to the area coming down, I guess, that we are on 34th Street. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Now, I guess that would be Exhibit 8 or Exhibit 3, please, forgive me. At the bottom of the fire escape, the piece that is shoring at the very top and where the chair is resting on something, so if someone wanted to use that fire escape, they would have a hard time getting to it or getting out of there, wouldn't they, when they have this debris stored under it?

THE WITNESS: Correct, sir. The fire escape does appear to be designed to come down and sit on that platform where the chair is placed.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, if I could, I would like to ask you to, please, pass this on to the fire inspectors, please?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.
That's all I have, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any other questions by any other Board Members?

Do you have any questions of the investigator, based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

MR. OZTURK: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sousa? All right. Thank you, Mr. Brashears, for your testimony. You can step down.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
(Whereupon, the witness was excused.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the

Government have any other witnesses?
MR. SOUSA: Nope.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
Government rest?
MR. SOUSA: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. Thank you.

Mr. Ozturk, all right, you are basically -- you don't have any witnesses. You are the only one who is going to testify?

MR. OZTURK: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand, please? Whereupon,

## CAVIT OZTURK

was called as a witness for the Licensee, and having been first duly sworn, assumed the witness stand and was examined and testified as follows:

MR. OZTURK: I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat.
You can explain. So you can explain both issues and then -- well, you can explain both issues.

And after you are done explaining both issues, then the Government will close, will issue a closing statement and ask us what fine we should impose.

And then I'll give you an opportunity to issue a closing statement to say whether or not you should be fined for both violations. So but this time you don't have to ask us that. You can give your explanation. All right. Go ahead. DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: Okay. The first picture is the Exhibit 1.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Exhibit 1, okay. What about Exhibit 1?

THE WITNESS: Next to our building is the construction while it is going on next to our building. All this fence there belong to the construction, not belong to us. And it is, as you can see, all this grasses belong to the construction area, not to the -- our restaurant building. I just want to make clear on that, it wasn't from the restaurant.

You can look at it on the left side, all the roses and the flowers planted, $I$ did it. And just --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit are you? What exhibit?

THE WITNESS: That's Exhibit 1.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't see any --

MEMBER SHORT: Flowers here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you talking about the flowers that is to the left?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
right. I was looking at the right. So that's why I was confused.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: And I mean, all this grasses is nothing to do with me.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: It's nothing to do with
the restaurant.
The boxes there you see --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit are you now, sir?

THE WITNESS: -- I'm still Exhibit 1.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
THE WITNESS: And the boxes you can see on the right hand side next to the trash can. Our -- we have a trash service six times a week.

MEMBER SHORT: What are they?
THE WITNESS: They come around 10:00, 10:30 in that time of the day every day.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. He said he has a trash service six times a week.

THE WITNESS: That's correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.
THE WITNESS: And these boxes, I brought to -- that's before the inspection came, maybe picture is before, but at the same time, the inspector came also. So I put it there. I was going to mix up and put it in the box, but then the inspector come, I left it there.

So normally, you don't see any boxes in our trash area like that. It was a coincidence. It happened at that moment. So that's not our regular working situation. So I just wanted clear on that part.

And Exhibit 2nd is the chair.
Unfortunately, it was there. It's a mistake. I didn't put it myself. I guess one of the employees did it. But I should have moved it. I didn't give enough attention. I'm sorry for that.

The lattice, which is Exhibit 3, I did that purposefully. I bought that just to cover up the compressor for the refrigerator, which is on the right side. So when the people sit there outside, so they don't see the compressor there, I just make it look more pleasant for them to sitting there.

The truth is I didn't think about it I need a permit to doing that. I thought if it looks better, it would be more comfortable for the guests. That was only purpose for it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're talking about the white thing?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On Exhibit 3?
THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: And then Exhibit 4, there is a filter also this come from the construction next door. Somebody put it there. Again, I didn't even notice it until inspector pointed at it. So it has already been removed. There is nothing there.

And basically, that's all about the pictures.

And the sidewalk café, we have a permit for the sidewalk café. And I do pay lease for it. Every year we pay for it. It's approved by the ANC and the by the D.C. Government.

And when I look at my license, it says
it cover up to 99 people. Our restaurant occupy 70 people hardly. I thought it will cover another 10 people, because the sidewalk café we
have only 10 chairs. That's the purpose. I never thought I need extra extended license to cover the outside, because it says on the permit it's covered up to 99 people until inspector come.

Before him, we had at least 30 different inspector over the years, no one didn't mention it to me all these years. And I never think I was doing anything wrong with it. And he pointed at me, he said you need to cover this area, you have a sidewalk café and I did. I did come and I extended our license.

And all these pictures, by the way, inspector send us maybe about a month later. We got from mail and we were aware of when he send it to us. Before that, he didn't even mention to me, show me oh, you need to remove these boxes. You need to put this chair away. He never mentioned. He did, he said he took some pictures, $I$ said that's fine, but I didn't know exactly what was going on, what was wrong with it.

I thought there was nothing wrong besides the chair. That was the other part of it. And $I$ have the picture for you, I took it this morning. If I may?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Show it to Mr. Sousa first.

MR. SOUSA: No problem.
THE WITNESS: What does it look like, the area. And it has been like that so many months.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is the picture supposed to be? What is the picture? What are -- hold on. What are the pictures supposed to represent?

THE WITNESS: Picture of the same location and how it looks today.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when were these pictures taken?

THE WITNESS: This morning.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
representation you want to make, at this juncture?

THE WITNESS: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Sousa?
MR. SOUSA: Just some questions.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. SOUSA:
Q First, I'm interested who is doing the construction behind your establishment? I don't know and I'm just wondering.

A There is a builder, he was doing the work.

Q On behalf of the building owner?
A That's correct.
Q Okay.
A I own the building. I do.
Q Oh, you own the building?
A But I did, yeah. And I give it to the contractor and he was doing this job.

Q Okay. So you own the building and you contracted to do the construction behind your establishment?

A That's correct.
Q So when you said that the construction
work had nothing to do with you, that was a little bit wrong?

A But not except -- I mean, the -- what he was doing there, that was his responsibility.

Q And you testified that you put the cardboard boxes outside the establishment about 15 to 20 minutes before the inspector showed up?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. But then you also said that you were going to put the -- break the boxes down and put them in a container, but the inspector showed up before you can, right?

A That's correct.
Q So you put it out there for 15,20 minutes and then the inspector showed up?

A That's right.
Q But you still contend that you would have done it if the inspector didn't show up?

A I was. I was going to break it up and then the inspector come and I walk inside. They called me inside, there is an inspector here.

Q But when did the inspector come, 15,

20 minutes after you put the boxes out? That's what you testified to.

A I'm sorry. When I took the boxes out and I was doing that and they called me there is the inspector inside, then I left it, the box there, maybe 20 minutes. And when he left and we broke it and we put it in the boxes.

Q Okay. Just to clarify that. Thank you.

A Yes.
Q And you bought that lattice, that white lattice on purpose and leaned it against it railing on purpose?

A That's correct.
Q And you said you have -- you said you leased the space of the sidewalk cafe?

A That's correct, that's correct.
Q You are referring to the permit you received from DDOT?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. What did you do to educate yourself about the requirements of the DC

Alcoholic Beverages Code?
A Just reading the books.
Q What books?
A When I applied for a license, it was almost 18 years ago, there was from the -- my son brought the -- about the Alcohol Beverage License, how you can get/apply for it and there was a book, that's what I --

Q Have you done anything since to educate yourself about the requirements for the DC Code?

A No.
Q Okay. I mean, have you attended any training about the requirements of the DC Code?

A About the alcohol, no.
Q No?
A No.
Q Okay.
MR. SOUSA: That's all the questions
I have.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Yes. Mr. Ozturk?
THE WITNESS: Ozturk, yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Ozturk, okay.
Well, there are several things $I$ want to go over with you. Do you realize that there is a Cardboard Box Regulation in the city about how to dispose of cardboard boxes?
the witness: Well, we have a recycling container there.

MEMBER SHORT: I didn't ask you that. Are you aware there is a regulation, Fire Regulation and DPW Regulation that you can't put cardboard boxes. You have to fold them up and you have to tie them up when you put them outside. You can't leave them out there like that. Like were you aware of that?

THE WITNESS: That's what we do now, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You do that now. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: All right. Secondly,

I wanted to ask you about the lattice that you laid against the wall to -- was it secured to anything?

THE WITNESS: It was with wire I secured it, because otherwise wind would blow it away.

MEMBER SHORT: And become a tripping hazard.

THE WITNESS: Exactly.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And third, look at -- I want you to look at Exhibit No. 3.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Do people live upstairs over top of your business?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And so if they have to get out in an emergency and the front door is blocked, how do they get out of the building?

THE WITNESS: There is two different fire escape area.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, good, I'm glad you mentioned fire escape.
the witness: Yeah.
MEMBER SHORT: What is underneath the fire escape in Exhibit No. 3?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: What's under that fire escape? Look at Exhibit No. 3. What is under the fire escape? The one closest to us.

THE WITNESS: There is potting under the fire escape. There is metal bars which is the stairway landing on it. And basically, that's what it is.

MEMBER SHORT: So that chair wouldn't have anything to do with the fire escape?

THE WITNESS: Oh, it was. Chair was. It fell, yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Yeah, so luckily for you there was no incidents where somebody had to use that in the middle of the night or firemen had to use it during the day. They sometimes have to go to rescue people.

THE WITNESS: Absolutely.
MEMBER SHORT: And so somebody could
have sued you and you would have lost everything, correct?

THE WITNESS: That's true.
MEMBER SHORT: So you had to think about when the investigators come by and the inspectors come by and tell you different things, it might sound like a hassle to you, but --

THE WITNESS: No, no.
MEMBER SHORT: -- all these
regulations on the city laws and books are for a reason.

THE WITNESS: Absolutely.
MEMBER SHORT: And deaths happen and people say I'm sorry, I didn't know, but it's too late then. And then you get sued and you lose everything. So would you, please, keep that area around those fire escapes clear of anything of yours?

THE WITNESS: I do, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Because if the Fire inspectors come, they are not going to give you a warning. They are going to give you a ticket
right away. Believe me, I know a little bit about public safety to tell you, please, clear them away as soon as you can. Okay?

THE WITNESS: We already did, sir, months ago.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
THE WITNESS: It's nice and clear.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. All right. I hope so.

THE WITNESS: And I showed the pictures to you.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. All right.
THE WITNESS: You can see it on the pictures.

MEMBER SHORT: All right. Now, you know we have thousands of sidewalk cafes throughout the city. Everywhere you look now, everybody is getting endorsements. Endorsements on their ABRA Licenses to serve alcohol outside, because DDOT can't give you permission to serve alcohol or food or anything outside. They only give you permission to use the space.

Therefore, this Agency and this Board says and the law says you have to have an endorsement. You have to come here to this office. You have to say $I$ have got my permit from DDOT, now, I would like to have a sidewalk cafe to serve alcohol outside. And so can I have it put on my license, so $I$ don't get tickets and I don't cause a problem?

Did you have any idea that that law was on the books?

THE WITNESS: The truth is I didn't. I thought when we get the permission from them, that was it, that's what I thought. And I -about the alcohol situation, and I look at the license it says 99 people I am up to you can serve.

MEMBER SHORT: Let me ask you another question. You seem like a very reasonable person.

THE WITNESS: I am, I am.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, I'm a police officer and you run through a stop sign
that's on your block and you live in that block, how many years have you had your business?

THE WITNESS: 18 years.
MEMBER SHORT: So you run through that stop sign every day, but one day the cop stops you and says I'm giving you a ticket for running through that stop sign. And you say to me I do this all the time. I have been here all these years. Is that an excuse not to get a fine?

THE WITNESS: No, sir, definitely not.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So if you don't have your endorsement, as everybody else in the city is required to do, if you don't have your endorsement to have an outside café, what do you think the investigator is going to do?

THE WITNESS: Ticket you.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So your argument then is kind of moot, isn't it?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you.
Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's all I have. Thank you very much for being honest, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?
MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Ozturk, I'm just curious, what's the purpose of the construction?

THE WITNESS: We are putting a market there, a Turkish grocery market.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Separate from your restaurant?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Are you going to sell alcohol there?

THE WITNESS: No.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. You have owned this for 18 years. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: That's correct, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: And I'm just going to refresh your memory. Back in June of 2017, do you remember discussing with this Agency your sidewalk café?

THE WITNESS: (No audible answer.)
MEMBER ALBERTI: Our records show that you were issued a warning back on June 28th of 20 -- well, $I$ don't know when the warning came out.

But the date when the sidewalk café was observed was June 28, 2017.

So this isn't the first time. You may not remember, but in fact this is not the first time that someone has addressed the sidewalk café with you.

Would you like to respond to that?
THE WITNESS: Truth is I don't
remember, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: But you didn't -- do you remember taking care of anything back then?

THE WITNESS: No.
MEMBER ALBERTI: How long has your sidewalk café been there?

THE WITNESS: I don't know the exact date, but probably six years maybe.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Six years. Okay.
THE WITNESS: Or something like that.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any Board Members? Mr. Sousa, any
questions of him based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

MR. SOUSA: Mr. Alberti asked it for me, so no questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. You want to provide any clarification to the answers you just gave, sir? Do you want -- I'll give you an opportunity if you want to explain. I know that you were asked questions and you answered. Do you want to give an explanation to any of the answers that you just gave?

THE WITNESS: Well --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is not the time that you are going to tell us -- ask us what you want us -- to occur. I'm just saying that --

THE WITNESS: I understand.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- someone
asked you a question and you have been crossexamined and you just answered, but maybe you didn't get a chance to fully explain your answer. So I'm giving you that opportunity, if you want to.

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: Sir, I have been -- I am a hardworking person. This is a small family restaurant. And I'm working seven days at least I average 14 hours a day. I don't -- normally, I don't like to do anything trick you. I just state for what purpose, that's how I work and that's how I been living. And that's what I've been teaching my kids and my grandkids.

And unfortunately, it was a mistake. I guess I didn't come to ABRA to extend our license. I thought our license was good enough to cover the 10 chairs. Okay. I was wrong. And I should have come maybe here and stop this.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
THE WITNESS: Decide that there is not much to do.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right. So that's the -- I'm still going to give you an opportunity to tell me what you want us to do. But do you have anything else to say prior to giving you that opportunity?

THE WITNESS: No. I mean, if it is possible just disregard this penalty and --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying I'm going to -- we are not there yet.

THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm still going to give you an opportunity to say that. But you are still presenting your case. So I'm just saying do you have anything else you need to say or want to say?

THE WITNESS: No, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
(Whereupon, the witness was excused.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.
Sousa, do you wish to make a closing statement?
MR. SOUSA: Yes, briefly for the record. With regards to the charge on the sidewalk café, which is a violation of DC Code 25-762(b)(2), what matters for the Board is what happened on August 20, 2018. The licensee has admitted to the facts that constitute a violation of operation of a sidewalk café without an
endorsement.
As to his protestations that he didn't know any better, we have discussed, you have heard from him, that -- and you have heard from the Board that his investigative history shows that there was a warning issued to the licensee for this very same issue back in 2017.

So with that in the equation, the District will ask for a penalty of $\$ 1,500$, which is, obviously, within the statutory range and in line with the penalty discussed for the violations.

As to the charge regarding the reasonable steps to take care of just the litter outside the establishment, again, the District thanks the licensee for cleaning up outside the establishment and appreciates that. But what the Board is presented with is what happened on August 20th or what existed on August 20, 2018, the date that Investigator Brashears visited the establishment.

And on that date, as you saw in the
picture, there was litter littered outside of the establishment. A piece of lattice work was leaning against the railing for over a year. It's not as you saw in the exhibits in the case report. While it may be fastened to the railing by wire, it's leaning up against the railing and it's just sitting there. It doesn't even cover the entire thing that the licensee says it intends to cover. So that's one thing that is there.

Mr. Short and the licensee had a long conversation about the piece of trash that was just sitting on the fire escape, which posed as a public safety concern. And which the licensee admits should not have been there. The licensee admits that, I believe it was, an air filter was just stashed behind an air conditioner. The licensee admits that that should not have been there.

The cardboard boxes, I understand the licensee contends that either 15 or 20 minutes or right before the investigator showed up, he was
going to break up the boxes, but the fact of the matter is that when the inspector showed up, this was all right alongside of public right away. The sidewalk on 34th Street, NW. And the licensee has a responsibility to make sure that the environs, the immediate environs of his establishment is free from litter.

He doesn't have to take extraordinary steps to do that, but he has to take reasonable steps. And you heard from Investigator Brashears that, in his experience, his long experience with ABRA, the license just did not take the steps that were reasonable to ensure that litter was not outside his establishment.

So just based on the pictures and the testimony you heard, the District in consultation with the required statutory range and looking where the fines have been assessed in the past, asks for $\$ 650$ on that charge. Pretty straightforward.

Just if the District is going to have rules regulating the actions of licensed beverage
retailers and cafes, then these rules need to be enforced. And we believe that this is a sufficient penalty to enforce that. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Sousa. All right. This is your opportunity to make a closing statement and tell us what it is you -- what is it you want us to do.

MR. OZTURK: Thank you, Your Honor. Yes, nothing -- it wasn't everything was perfect that day unfortunately. And the inspector come, but we are trying to be perfect operation in that location.

And this is our first time in this kind of situation $I$ am in. It is -- most of the time it's nice and clear outside or inside of the restaurant, the building.

As I said before, some of the things unfortunately shouldn't be there, but it was there. And the lattice which is -- I did, I put it myself that purpose just to cover the compressor area, so people cannot see it when
they sitting in the sidewalk café. And I didn't know that was wrong, unfortunately, I understand today it was wrong.

This is -- and the rest of it is nice and clear right now. And we will keep it that way. And that's will be our/my promise.

And the license, we ordered the extended three months ago and that has already been taken care of.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what do you want us to do?

MR. OZTURK: If it is possible just waive the -- all this penalty. And then that's what I want you to do, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
That's it?
MR. OZTURK: Because $I$ think I don't deserve it to take license right away, at least without warning from the inspectors. I will take this as a warning and next time $I$ will be more careful.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do
the parties wish to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law or waive their right to do so?

MR. SOUSA: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What this means
is that do you want to write a legal brief or just do you want us to make a decision on what is presented today?

MR. OZTURK: Make the decision.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All
right.
As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and in accordance with DC Official Code Section 2-574(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. 18-CMP-00204, Café Divan, pursuant to DC Official Code Section 2-574(b)(4) of the Open Meetings Act and deliberating upon Case No. 18-CMP-00204, Café Divan, for the reasons cited in DC Official Code Section 2-574(b)(13) of the Open

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

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

> Ms. Wahabzadah?
> MEMBER WAHABZADAH: I agree.
> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Silverstein?
> MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
> MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?
> MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.
> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
> MEMBER CATO: I agree.
> CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson?
> I agree. As it appears that the motion has

I agree.
will recess these proceedings to hold a closed meeting in the $A B C$ Board conference room pursuant to Section 2-574(b) of the Open Meetings Act. We will issue a decision within 90 days. Thank you very much for your presentation today, sir. All right. Thank you.

MR. OZTURK: Thank you.
MR. SOUSA: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and in accordance with DC Official Code Section 2-574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, 1 move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on March 20, 2019 for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on the matters identified on the Board's Investigative, Legal and Licensing Agenda for March 20, 2019 as will be published in the DC Register on March 15, 2019.

> Is there a second?

MEMBER SHORT: Second.
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short and Mr. Silverstein have seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Wahabzadah?
MEMBER WAHABZADAH: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
Silverstein?

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?
MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?

MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?
MEMBER CATO: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson?
I agree.
As it appears that the motion has passed, $I$ hereby $I$ hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold this closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notice 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 DC Register in as timely a manner as practicable.

It is now 3:50 p.m. and we are adjourned for the day. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the Show Cause Hearing was concluded at 3:50 p.m.)


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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-13-19

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.

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