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

| IN THE MATTER OF: | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| E and K, Inc. | $\vdots$ |
| t/a Champion Kitchen | $\vdots$ |
| 7730 Georgia Avenue NW | : Protest |
| Retailer CR - ANC 4A | $:$ Hearing |
| License No. 103055 | $\vdots$ |
| Case \#19-PRO-00051 | $:$ |
| (Application to Renew | $\vdots$ |
| the License) | $:$ |

> Wednesday
> October 2, 2019

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

## PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
RAIF ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
JAMES SHORT, Member
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

## ALSO PRESENT:

ANDREW KLINE, COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT SIDON YOHANNES, COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT EYOB WORKU, APPLICANT

DMITIRI CHEKALDIN
NAIMA JEFFERSON, PROTESTANT
PAULA EDWARDS, PROTESTANT
CARL BERGMAN, PROTESTANT
INVESTIGATOR JOVAN MILLER, DC ABRA
ANNETTE YOUNG, WITNESS FOR THE APPLICANT DAVID ANDREWS, WITNESS FOR THE APPLICANT

THURMAN BAKER, WITNESS FOR THE APPLICANT

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
4:42 p.m.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, we're back on the record. I apologize for the tardiness. Our next case is a protest hearing, Case No. 19-PRO-00051, Champion Kitchen, License No. 103055, an application to renew a license.

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

And there's also a sign-in sheet, so I would like everyone to sign in on the sign-in sheet.

So we'll start with the licensee. MS. YOHANNES: Sidon Yohannes, I'm here on behalf of the licensee as counsel. MR. KLINE: Andrew Kline from the Veritas Law Firm here on behalf of the licensee. MR. WORKU: Eyob Worku, I'm the owner of Champion Kitchen.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry; I didn't hear your last name, sir?

MR. WORKU: Eyob Worku. W-O-R-K-U.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Worku?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
sir. The protestant?
MS. JEFFERSON: Naima Jefferson, President, Shepherd Park Citizen's Association.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson.
MR. BERGMAN: Carl Bergman, Vice President, Shepherd Park Citizen's Association.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Bergman.
MS. EDWARDS: Paula Edwards, Treasurer of Shepherd Park Citizen's Association.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Edwards, good afternoon.

Good afternoon, everyone. We have a protest hearing this afternoon and prior to us starting the -- all right -- hold on.

Yes, good afternoon. Thanks for being here today. We have a protest hearing and it appears that $I$ always support settlements. Because that's one of the things I've always stated, this is your community, you can determine what does or does not work for your community. So are there any terms that the parties would like the board to memorialize so we can have an agreement that we can memorialize an order or that the parties have negotiated and they don't believe that it can be settled, so they want to
move forward with the hearing.
MS. JEFFERSON: We would like to move forward.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. It's my understanding some motions were filed, so on the board we'll rule on the motions prior to the hearing. So I guess are there any preliminary issues, and we can start off with the motions that were filed by the protestant.

MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson, I just admitted the motion to exclude witnesses from hearing testimony of other witnesses, or the applicant.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, this is a protest hearing and I'm not quite sure if in a protest hearing that's something that we do.

MS. YOHANNES: I'm happy to do a rule on witnesses.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
MS. YOHANNES: I'd be happy to do a rule on witnesses or to request a rule on witnesses.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: But before we even start the case we're going to do the preliminary arguments, so are you saying that you want us to
rule on witnesses prior to even doing preliminaries?

MS. YOHANNES: What I was saying was I submitted another motion so that when witnesses testify, other witnesses don't hear the testimony.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I wasn't aware of that. So you're saying there's a new motion that follows, a first motion?

MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so who are the witnesses? All right, as preliminary matters how many witnesses do we have from the applicant?

MS. YOHANNES: Three.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are the three witnesses from the applicant?

MS. YOHANNES: It will be Eyob Worku, Theodore Baker, and Annette -- oh, it's actually four, sorry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who are they?
MS. YOHANNES: David.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: David who?
MS. YOHANNES: It would be David Andrews and Annette Young.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: David Andrews. And who's the last -- I'm sorry; who's the --?

MS. YOHANNES: Annette Young.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Those are all the witnesses for the applicant. What about the protestant; who are the witnesses for the protestant?

MS. JEFFERSON: The designated representatives are also witnesses.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who are they?
MS. JEFFERSON: Myself, Naima Jefferson, President of Shepherd Park Citizen's Association; Carl Bergman, Vice President, Shepherd Park Citizen's Association; and Paula Edwards, Treasurer of the Shepherd Park Citizen's Association.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.
MS. JEFFERSON: One of the preliminary motions --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're just dealing with the witnesses. Who else are the witnesses?

MS. JEFFERSON: That's it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well -- yes, yes.

MS. YOHANNES: I also have not seen this motion that you're referring to.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I've not seen it so much. She's making an oral motion, which she can make an oral motion, so.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the motion
is that for other witnesses who can testify should not be here, but it's then since the protestant has identified Ms. Jefferson, Mr. Bergman and Ms. Edwards as designated representatives, meaning that they're not asking those witnesses to be excluded. So we're saying those witnesses will remain in the room. I'm asking.

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm asking that when the applicant calls their witness, that their other witnesses are not in the room.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But that's also applicable for your side, too.

MS. JEFFERSON: Well, we're designated representatives. We can't --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're calling three witnesses and the three witnesses that you're calling are designated
representatives. Therefore, all you're trying to do is to exclude the applicant's witnesses, but you're not excluding your witnesses. I'm not going to allow you to have three designated representatives for this case, because I think that -- so if we're going to rule on a motion, then --

MS. JEFFERSON: So I'll withdraw the motion.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. That's fine, motion withdrawn.

All right, what other motion do you have on the table that needs to be addressed?

Yes, I think you filed some other motion. What was the motion?

MS. JEFFERSON: There was a motion to dismiss because of the application.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is -- the motions were filed late. I have not necessarily -- some were and some weren't -- okay, so I have not necessarily seen. So I need to make the oral motion, the motion is I'll have arguments and the motions that were filed by you. Some of the motions, the protests -- I'm sorry, the licensee saw it in opposition. So I need both sides to
state what the motions are and the objection and the board will issue a ruling here whether or not we're going to agree with the motion.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So because we have that, we have not made a decision on the motion. We'll make a motion here today. So you can let us know; you can raise the motion -- so the first motion that you're raising now is which one?

MS. JEFFERSON: Is the motion to dismiss and our motion that we submitted we assert that the applicant filed and executed a knowingly false renewal application in violation of the District of Columbia Code 25-401C which renders him unfit for licensing. The basis of our argument is that on the form he verified it by affidavit and the number that it has on the form for the occupancy is 44, when in fact the real occupancy is 55 with a total of 89.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the gist of your motion is you're saying that the information that they provided the wrong numbers?

MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so the
board should dismiss because based on the numbers?

MS. JEFFERSON: Well, not based on the number because it was filed knowingly that it was false. He knew the number was not correct. The board had already ruled on this issue before about the change in --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what are the numbers, because $I$ don't know the facts? That's why I needed to flesh out -- I mean, tell me what the motion is. I'm going to have the licensee respond. I know that they filed a written response, but I'm going to ask them to tell us their response to this motion.

MS. JEFFERSON: Do you want me to just read what I wrote?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Whatever way it is. I mean, we have to make a ruling, so you can tell us the motion --

MS. JEFFERSON: I'll state the facts. In August of 2008 Veritas Law Firm on behalf of Champion Kitchen sent a letter to the board regarding an increase in occupancy in the establishment. In response to that August letter the Shepherd Park Citizen's Association sent a
letter to the board on November 5th of 2018 and noted several material facts; Champion Kitchen's own license and its accompanying landlord affidavit that was received by ABRA on May 17th, 2016 lists both a maximum number of seats 44 and a total occupancy load of 44 . This application was the basis for Champion Kitchen's current license, ABRA 103055 which was approved by the board in Order No. 2017-56 on February the 1st, 2017. The license and the settlement agreement of 44 seats is consistent with the certificate of occupancy that was issued in October of 2011 by DCRA. Champion Kitchen on its own volition after getting the ABRA license, applied for an increase in its certificate of occupancy and received approval from DCRA for an increase in that certificate of occupancy in or around June of 2017. That certificate of occupancy was 55 seats and a total occupancy of 89 . This was more than three months after the board approved the order granting the license and the settlement agreement. And we argue that Champion Kitchen waived its rights with regard to reconsideration from the board.

Mr. Eyob repeatedly requested from the

SPCA to amend our settlement agreement to increase the occupancy. The SPCA's rejection of Mr. Worku's request for an increase was memorialized in August 3rd, 2017 letter that was sent from the SPCA to Mr. Worku on behalf of Champion Kitchen. On November 7th of 2018 the board issued Order No. 2018-688 which affirmed the plain language of the settlement agreement which limits the premises to 44 persons and denies a substantial change. Despite the aforementioned board order, No. 2018-88, all of the other communication regarding the occupancy of the premises, Champion Kitchen made no effort whatsoever to amend its certificate of occupancy to be in line with what the board had approved. The SPCA requested the board take administrative notice that Champion Kitchen's renewal application which was filed on March 18th of 2019 and it was accepted March 30th of 2019, Question No. 6 on the renewal application asks the following: CFO capacity, Mr. Worku has 44 on there; Question No. 16 of the renewal application requires the applicant certify the following: I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information in this renewal application is true
and correct. I also certify that the above named applicant is the true and actual owner of the business. That certification was signed by Mr. Worku and notarized. Furthermore, on June 21st of 2017, the certificate of occupancy lists 55 seats for a fast food establishment, not a restaurant, and 89 occupancy. This far exceeds and is more than double of what ABRA approved, which was 44, and that's in the license and in the settlement agreement.

As of September 23rd, 2019 Champion Kitchen has been able to operate with an ABRA license for more than two years with discrepancies in its certificate of occupancy versus its license which we argue constitutes a substantial change despite the SPCA's prior noted objections and the board's order, and in its letter to the board. That was the letter that we sent you all. What we are arguing is that he had actual notice and knowledge of the discrepancy in occupancy given that the board order was a public document and was properly served to him and the SPCA's objections, which they still remain to this day. He failed to take action for more than two years to correct the discrepancy, thus the

SPCA alleges that he filed and executed a knowingly false renewal application in violation of District of Columbia code 25401C which talks about false statements. As a result, the SPCA also alleges that the renewal application contains materially false and incorrect information that renders it incomplete and renders the notice provided to the public invalid.

Under 500 of Title 23 it says the
board shall not accept as filed and shall not take any action upon any application that is not complete. Before a license is issued the board shall ensure that proper notice has been given to the public. Certificates of occupancy, as we all know, are there to protect the public safety and prevent overcrowding.

Although the Board's practice has been to permit applicants to re-placard their applications, in this instance the applicant had already been informed that they were not to increase the seats based on the board order in 2018, and that the substantial change was not only denied, but rejected. Yet Champion Kitchen kept the increased occupancy anyway. We argue
that this constitutes a pure and blatant disregard for the board's order and Champion Kitchen's intent to continue to violate the laws and regulations.

The relief that we're asking, not ordinarily, we would request that you would revoke Champion Kitchen's license. We believe that is highly likely that they will just reapply with a new occupancy with the 55 seats and 89, which is definitely not appropriate for our community, and he would also benefit from his regulatory arbitrage. We are not arguing that the board has the right to oversee what DCRA does, what we are arguing is that a false application was filed, and that falls within the purview of the board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes. First, regarding the certificate of occupancy, there is no dispute that we have the certificate of occupancy that states that we have 55 seats or are allowed to have 55 seats and 89 as the load. That's not in dispute. The current license that we have lists 44 seats and for the past two years the applicant has been in compliance, has complied with what's
been stated on the license, has complied with what the terms are in the settlement agreement. So what SPCA now is requesting from her motion, from her argument right now is that this board order, the applicant to go to DCRA, to go to a different agency, to amend its certificate of occupancy, that's outside the jurisdiction of the board, the board can't do that. Regarding the false renewal of the application, these claims, the claims that are being brought are regarding fitness for licensure and that's an issue that can be addressed during a protest hearing. So based on the arguments that you made, a motion to dismiss at this time or to dismiss the renewal application is not appropriate, and we're going to request that the board deny that motion. And additionally, I will add, if the issue regarding the false renewal of the application and the certificate of occupancy or the number that's listed on the renewal application regarding notice, there is no notice issue. SPCA has been aware that the certificate of occupancy, there's a discrepancy between the certificate of occupancy and what the license states. This is a normal situation, this happens
quite often where the board will plant limitations on the license. And it doesn't mean that the applicant will then be required to go back and change the $C$ of 0 , we will just abide by what the license says, which is 44 seats. So at this time we're going to request that the board deny protesting this motion.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So just verification. So has the licensee been abiding by its license with this ABC Board that requires 44 seats?

MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any comments you want to make?

MS. JEFFERSON: I blatantly object to that. I think she just said that the certificate of occupancy, the document speaks for itself, it's 55 seats. I think when -- if she wants to move this to the protest hearing, when you hear the board's agent, the investigator, he counted the number of seats. The board has been very clear that a substantial change includes a change in the number of seats. I don't understand and I disagree with what she's saying in terms of this difference between what DCRA has and what the

ABRA license has. However, he would be in consistent violation of having a substantial change all the time, because it doesn't comply with the license.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well --
MS. JEFFERSON: So the only way to render it is to change the certificate of occupancy or just revoke the license altogether. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, since I've been board chair, the certificate of occupancy and the ABRA license is not always consistent, because DCRA is an agency that determines what the occupancy is. The ABRA license, however, will never exceed the numbers in the certificate of occupancy. However, on several occasions the ABRA license through a settlement agreement can indeed have a lower number, and there's really no conflict. There's only a concern if the establishment is operating with the certificate of occupancy which is higher than the license that's provided to them by ABRA. Then for an investigator to go there, it's a violation. And so therefore we'll give them a notice of infraction stating that they're not complying with their license. There's really no
issue if there's a conflict between the two, as long as when our investigator goes there, the seating within the facility is consistent with the license that we provide to them.

MS. JEFFERSON: I think I just said it's not.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your motion is that the two documents can conflict. Okay, the two documents can conflict. Our license can never exceed the DCRA numbers; our license, however, can be a smaller number, and that's through either a board order or through a settlement agreement. So we've had many cases where there's a conflict and what the licensee comes back to us and they ask us to change it to say, "Oh, by the way, when I first applied for a license I asked for 44 . We went to DCRA and DCRA provides us 55." It's not contemplating our settlement agreement that we would have 55, so therefore we're asking the board to make a determination, the board will determine whether or not a substantial change, if it's not contemplated, some settlement agreement, contemplate a larger number. So --

MS. JEFFERSON: I was going to say my
argument was not to debate the certificate of occupancy, it was the application was knowingly false, period.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I disagree. I'm going to deny the motion. The reason I'm going to deny the motion, the document can conflict. I mean, your better argument then which is something that you can prove through, if it can be proved through testimony, they have violated their license in a sense that they consistently have not complied with their ABRA license as set up that they can have 44. Their certificate of occupancy can say 1,000 but as long as their, if their ABRA license is 44, until and unless they come back to ABRA and ask for a change, they have to comply with what our license said. So it's not a false statement because those two documents can always conflict. So for that reason I'm going to deny the motion. Because it's not a false statement, it's a matter of fact that those two documents can conflict, as long as they operate within the confines of their ABRA license, then they're fine. Even if they have a higher number from DCRA. So as I said before, the argument is that they have been
operating on a 55 seat, then that's something that can come under through testimony, and then the board can make a ruling on that. If we have the hearing, then we can decide that although their license, their certificate of occupancy says 55, that based on the testimony that's presented by the community, that 44 is the appropriate number for that facility based on evidence that's presented, then the board would issue an order saying 44. And they will forever have a conflict between the two documents because the board order or our license is the one that takes precedent over a certificate of occupancy from DCRA.

All right, it's my understanding there's another motion that was filed, which is --

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, there were several protests -- it was a --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me -before -- the board share anything -- the recommendation I'm making to the members of the board is that we deny the motion.

Is there a second?
MEMBER CROCKETT: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett has seconded the motion. All those in favor say aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The matter passes 5-0.

All right, go ahead.
MS. JEFFERSON: So the second motion was a motion to strike or any alternative to exclude testimony and evidence. The protest information form and the exhibit list that were submitted by Ms. Yohannes on September 26th, this is what it's in regards to. The aforementioned email stated please see the applicant's PIF, an exhibit form. Thank you, Sidon. I hope I'm not mispronouncing her name.

No information was provided in the text of the cover email to clarify who the name of the applicant was. In addition, in the subject of the email it had Champion Kitchen, but it has protest number 19-PRO-00052. Also, in that same email, the attached PIF referenced ABRA license No. 108015. Upon information and belief, that license is associated with Provost which is located on Rhode Island Avenue. In addition, the
same email included in attachment called Exhibit List, on the board's form whereby the case No. 19-PRO-0052 was listed as the case number. Upon information and belief, that is related for an application to renew the license for a Whole Foods market that's located on P Street. In addition, the PIF submitted by Ms. Yohannes only mentions that the SPCA is protesting based on peace, order and quiet, where as our protest letter Ms. Yohannes continues the opposition to the motion to dismiss, which you just denied, that that was, peace, order and quiet were the protest issues among other things. And I also listed the items in which we were protesting. Given the inaccuracies in listing the incorrect ABRA case number and the license number, uncertainty remains as to whether the nature of the protest listed was intended to apply to Provost, Whole Foods or Champion Kitchen and calls into question the entire pre-hearing submission as well as whether any of the evidence is relevant to this protest case.

As you know, we are all supposed to
submit seven days prior and disclose any documentary evidence. Because of the
discrepancies in case numbers and abatements in some of the descriptions of the witnesses, the SPCA cannot ascertain as whether some of the witnesses pertain to Provost, Whole Foods or Champion Kitchen. For example, it had Annette Young, employee of the business next door, will testify regarding the observations and operation. It lacks any information as to which business is next door to which ABRA licensee. They also have David Andrews, security personnel, will testify about the observations and the operation. It doesn't tell us which licensee he applies to; is it 108015 or is it 10355? Razelle, a nearby resident, it doesn't even have her last name. It doesn't even say where she lives, doesn't even give a street. And it fails to provide us with any information where we can ascertain which neighborhood she lives in, as well as whether we have enough information to sufficiently crossexamine the witness because it's just a first name. We should be afforded the opportunity through the Administrative Procedures Act to cross-examine and provide impeaching evidence; we can't do that when we don't have any information and there is these conflicting license numbers as
well as case numbers. While we are representatives for the SPCA, we are all unpaid volunteers. We have no formal law degrees and lack any prior experience in submitting evidence. This is our first time that we've done a full protest hearing before ABRA.

Ms. Yohannes, on the other hand, is a barred attorney in the District of Columbia, she has participated in several ABRA board proceedings and is a member of the law firm at Veritas that has additional attorneys such as Mr. Kline and support personnel. This is not a situation where someone can say this was a prefilled form because we are required to fill out the form to put what the case number is in the protest case. And we argue that they should be held to a higher standard as it relates to this type of information. We believe that the PIF, the exhibit list and the evidence that was proffered into submission by Ms. Yohannes on behalf of Champion Kitchen was highly prejudicial and it conflates the administrative record. Some of it is probably irrelevant it should be struck altogether, including the documentary evidence and the witnesses that were listed should be
excluded.
Moreover, if subsequent action is required by the SPCA related to the renewal application and license for Champion Kitchen, the SPCA would like the administrative record to be clear as to which protest case and which ABRA licensee, the contested case and all evidence refer to. And the alternative, should the board allow the applicant to resubmit the requisite forms, the SPCA requests that the board continue the protest hearing and order no other changes beyond correcting the case number and license number, be admitted and no additional testimony and evidence be permitted. Under reservation of rights we do not waive any arguments, protests, objections, evidence, and we reserve the right to raise any arguments for or against this ABRArelated application or action.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes, first regarding the case number; yes, $I$ acknowledged yesterday in an email that was an error that we made.

Regarding the protestant not knowing which applicant or which licensee that refers to; this is the only protest $I$ have with these
protestants, with this protestant. Champion Kitchen was clearly in the email, in the subject line. There is no prejudice. The applicant or SPCA received the PIF, they received the exhibits, they received the exhibit list, so no prejudice existed or exists. And I will also say that SPCA could have reached out if they needed additional information or if they need clarification as to which licensee or applicant that $I$ represent, and that was not done so. Regarding some of the information referred to in the PIF, the PIF requires that we list witnesses and a summary of their testimony. Some of the information that SPCA is requesting, the additional information they're requesting is not required. So what was provided is what was required. And again, if SPCA needed additional information, they could have requested it. So I'm going to ask that the motion be denied.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And
our status hearing, this is the information that was read to both sides; it says that you are required to complete and submit the protest information form here and the exhibit form seven days before the date of the hearing. These two
forms and accompanying documents need to be submitted to ABRA's legal division and to all opposing parties in this matter. Likewise, if we do not receive a copy of your PIF, your application or your protest, whichever side you're representing, may be subject to dismissal. Likewise, if we do not receive a copy of the exhibit form and the exhibits themselves, your exhibits may be excluded from the record upon a finding that the opposing party has not been prejudice or no good cause for failure to submit has been shown. Likewise, witnesses other than witness may also be subject to exclusion if not identified in the PIF.

Ms. Jefferson, did you receive the PIF and the documents seven days before the hearing? MS. JEFFERSON: I received it. I'm not sure if it was for this case or not. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you received the documents seven days before the hearing?

MS. JEFFERSON: I received a document. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You received a document before the hearing, all right. Those are the instructions that were given and they
were applied, so therefore I'm going to deny your motion. However, you can, your case-in-chief, you can make a motion to exclude based on the relevance, if it's not relevant to these proceedings, then you can raise a motion at that stage. But the only guidelines that I provided were the documents the witness has to be identified seven days, within seven days prior to. You admitted that you received the documents seven days. And so once -- if they intend to call witnesses or documents, you can raise a motion on relevancy and the board will make a determination, and that's based on the arguments that you made, whether or not the documents should be included or because it's not relevant to these proceedings. They admit it might have been sloppy on the side of the applicant's attorney to provide documents, but the guidelines is that they be provided to you seven days in advance, you have received them. So therefore, whether or not they'll be included or in the record based on relevancy, is still a motion that can be raised as the hearing proceeds.

Okay, so that's the ruling that I will make on that matter.

Are there any other motions to be made?

MS. JEFFERSON: The last one was to, an extension of time to keep the record open, should there be any evidence that we need to provide that's rebuttal to any witnesses that remained, or that the board requests?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Once this hearing is over, the record is closed. So therefore all documents and witnesses have to be included within this hearing. So the matter is closed at the end of this hearing and everything is taken under advisement, and the decision will be made if parties decide to do conclusions or facts, then you have a little bit more time. But also that no documents or witnesses unless they were disclosed seven days prior will be allowed. So that motion is also denied, okay?

All right, so next.
All right. This is the process that we're going to follow; the applicant will have an opening statement, followed by -- the protestant will have an opening statement. After that's concluded, the board will call its witness which is our investigator. The board will question its
investigator, we will ask questions of the investigator. And once the board has asked questions, then the applicant will have an opportunity to cross-examine the investigator, and then the protestant will have an opportunity to cross-examine the protestant -- I'm sorry, the board's witness.

Then the board will, if so they desire, will ask further questions and I'll decide whether or not I'll give you an opportunity to ask cross on cross, but it can't be any new -- if I allow each side to ask questions it will be on information that was asked based on -- or it can't be like I forgot to ask a question, and so therefore let me ask some other questions; it has to be based on questions that were asked.

Each side will have 90 minutes to present its case and we're going to hold to 90 minutes. Your 90 minutes starts after the board has presented its case, so the applicant will have 90 minutes, the protestant will have 90 minutes. Your 90 minutes, if you spend a lot of time cross-examining the protestant witness, that is coming from your time. So be mindful that if
your case-in-chief depends on cross-examination of their witness, so be it. But be mindful that you don't spend an hour cross-examining their witness, then you have no time left to present your case-in-chief.

I will try to be somewhat flexible with time in a sense that the folks are here and everyone wants to testify. I will try to be flexible to allow everyone to testify, but it's 5:23, we will be here until it's done, but I would hope that you're mindful of the time. The board will not, if there's repetitive or redundant testimony, I'm not going to allow that to occur, so please use your time appropriately to make sure that each witness who testified both sides that represent. I don't need repetitive or redundant testimony, so if that -- I will basically raise and state that we've heard that before, move on. Okay? So it's clear to both sides the expectation. As I said, we have 90 minutes, I'll try to be flexible and give you a little bit more time, but we'll try to get -it's 5:23 -- I guess we'll probably be here until maybe 10:00 or so. But if you need a break, let us know and the board might have to take a break
itself. I did get my coffee to make sure that you have my full, undivided attention before this hearing is closed.

All right, the board will therefore call its first witness. And our first witness is Mr. Jovan Miller. Can you please take the --

MS. YOHANNES: Mr. Chair?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I'm sorry.
MS. YOHANNES: Can we do opening statements?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I apologize. You know, I just told you what the procedures are and I violated the procedures myself, so maybe my coffee has taken impact yet.

So, I apologize. Go ahead, Ms.
Yohannes.
MS. YOHANNES: Mr. Chairman and members of the board, we are here on the protest for the renewal of Champion Kitchen's retailers class CR license. Today you'll hear testimony from the owner and operator of Champion Kitchen, Eyob Worku, and he'll testify and tell you that he's put in a lot of hard work, time and money. He's invested it into opening this business and operating this business. Not only that, he's
also done this in making changes to address the community's suggestions and concerns. What we have here is a small business, a hands-on operator who is present at this establishment nearly every day from open to close, an operator whose made every attempt to work with the community since its opening. While the protestant wants you to believe that there are issues regarding noise, that there are issues regarding trash and compliance, that just is not the case here. There specifically have not been any noise violations and that will be brought up during this hearing throughout. The evidence will show that the protest is driven by a couple of individuals who want control of the neighborhood. They want control of the businesses, they want to make sure that businesses are following not regulation, but their rules and without identifying what the issues are, without identifying how there's any negative impact and declare why.

So what's this case really about?
What are we doing here? What we're doing here is debating the discrepancy in SPCA's refusal or SPCA being upset about our request previously for
an increase in capacity. But I would like to just stress that this is not a substantial change application; we're here to renew the application, we're here to renew our license. We're here to maintain the capacity that the license states, it's what we've been in compliance with and we're going to continue to be in compliance with. What the license says, it's what the settlement agreement says. We understand we can't have over 44 patrons inside the establishment.

So the evidence will show that this establishment has had no negative impacts on peace, order and quiet and at the conclusion of this case, after you've heard testimony and you've heard all the evidence, we're going to ask that you approve renewal of the application with no restriction.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No restrictions, meaning?

MS. YOHANNES: No additional restrictions than what are applied.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: I was going to say good afternoon, but we're getting close to the evening, so.

Good evening, Chair Anderson and members of the board. My name is Naima Jefferson and I'm the President of the Shepherd Park Citizen's Association which will I refer to as the SPCA. Paula Edwards, Carl Bergman and I are here as designated representatives and officers and we will be -- at some point one of them will have to present me as a witness and vice versa. The SPCA has been an association under one name or another since 1917 and has consistently been the singular voice used to express the sentiment of our community. The SPCA's boundaries are in the D.C. comprehensive plans, Rock Creek East area, planning area, that encompassed the attractive, stable, low density, stable family residential neighborhoods of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, Walter Reed, and it includes both sides of Georgia Avenue. Our community is known for its park-like ambience, a sense of community, open space and family atmosphere. The major planning objective that the city has for our community is to conserve these traits, and this can be found in Exhibit 19 that I presented on the record. This is in the D.C. comprehensive
plan.
Champion Kitchen is located within our association's boundaries. The SPCA in good faith entered into a settlement agreement which was approved by this board in 2017. This can be found in some of the exhibits and we also included a legible copy because the copy that's attached was kind of fuzzy; that was then our Exhibit No. 7. We have followed that settlement agreement scrupulously. Unfortunately, the licensee has not. As we will spell out and you will hear from testimony and exhibits on the record and submitted into evidence, we are protesting on the following ground; that Champion Kitchen has had an adverse impact on peace, order and quiet, including noise. There's been litter as well as we've had some rowdiness in our community. It is not appropriate for our community, and our community has very unique characteristics because of its park-like ambiance and its closeness to the Montgomery County line. We sit right on the district line. Champion Kitchen has a poor record of compliance with ABRA's law and regulations and other D.C. laws and regulations which are outlined in our
settlement agreement. They have had an adverse impact on real property values, and they also have adversely impacted residential parking needs for vehicular and pedestrian safety. We also feel that Champion Kitchen doesn't even meet the standards of a restaurant as defined in the ABRA regulations. In our neighborhood where housing prices can exceed over a million dollars in a city with an affordable housing crisis that's evident in our Exhibit 61, Champion Kitchen has brought down the real property values in the community near the establishment on Alaska Avenue, where as other relatively affordable housing in the neighborhood -- which there is very few, on Fern Street -- which is closer going south on Georgia Avenue -- have increased even in the face of an affordable housing crisis. This document was presented as evidence in Exhibit 50.

Champion Kitchen is across the street from a church. They're located in close proximity to human service populations that serve very vulnerable populations, one of which you've heard is Casa Ruby, they've been in the news a lot. Across and down the street are two private schools that are associated with religious
institutions and they're located in an intersection that has high-crash volumes, so much so that that particular intersection is noted as a high-priority intersection with DDOT's Rock Creek East Livability Study, and I put that in Exhibit 52. Residential parking on the 1100 block of Kalmia has been adversely impacted, such that residents signed a DDOT petition that was supported by an ANC resolution to change the parking from two-hour to work order only residential, and there's also a handicap space to deter patrons for one of our senior members, so that she can have a parking space.

You will be presented evidence and testimony, as I said, of their violations. What we're requesting is that you deny the renewal application and revoke their current license. In the alternative, we request that the board may undergo an audit of their books, records quarterly and annual statements for adherence to the food sales requirements under ABRA laws and regulations. And enforce those regulations, reduce the establishment's operating hours so that the establishment closes at 11:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday and at midnight on Friday
and Saturday, including holidays. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is it, Sunday through Thursday 11:00, and what --?

MS. JEFFERSON: And midnight on Friday and Saturday, including holidays.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is it currently?

MS. JEFFERSON: It's on the license. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, I'll find out here.

MS. JEFFERSON: Those hours are similar to other establishments that have complied with ABRA laws and regulations that are on our board. The establishment decreased -we've already talked about the certificate of occupancy, but I'm just going to bring it up because it's an argument -- that they maintain their occupancy of 44 or less.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not an issue. Are you asking for 44 or are you asking for less than 44?

MS. JEFFERSON: 44.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because that's not an issue. The settlement agreement says 44, counsel stated that they intend to apply, so if
it's 44, if you agree to 44, there's no need for testimony on 44.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And we ask that you revoke their entertainment endorsement and restrict their night club activities or night club life activities and prohibit the use of cover charges.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're saying they have an entertainment endorsement and they also have a cover charge?

MS. JEFFERSON: Per our settlement agreement there's specific criteria in which they are allowed to have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're asking us to make amendment to the settlement agreement to --?

MS. JEFFERSON: Restrict the license.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
MS. JEFFERSON: Restrict the license.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So basically to make changes to the hours, to the entertainment endorsement and to the cover charge, which their settlement agreement allows currently?

MS. JEFFERSON: Under certain
circumstances.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'm just saying. So you --?

MS. JEFFERSON: I just want to make sure the record is clear.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I mean under the -- we're going to review the settlement agreement. So you're saying we should make the -- basically make a settlement agreement so there are no entertainment, no cover charge and change the hours?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I just want to be clear what you're asking for.

Okay.
One thing I'll just say because you're not an attorney; as the case progresses, if there are exhibits that you want, you need to make sure that you call the witness within the documents.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the documents are not going to be -- unless you have ABRA's records, but if they're new documents that you need to introduce, to move into the record, then you need to call a witness to have them
identify that, and then ask to move those documents into the records.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I know that counsel's aware of that. But since you stated earlier you were not an attorney, so I was just letting you know that.

All right. Okay, so we've had both the applicant and the protestant, opening statements. So now the board will call, will do its case-in-chief. Therefore, the board will call its first witness, Mr. Jovan Miller.

Mr. Miller, can you raise your right hand please?

Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And now you need to speak up so I can hear you.

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat please and pull the microphone close to you and please speak in the microphone.

All right, Mr. Miller, where are you currently employed?

MR. MILLER: I'm currently at ABRA, that's the Administrative Beverage Regulation Administration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your current position with ABRA?

MR. MILLER: Investigator.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long have you been working for ABRA?

MR. MILLER: Approximately five months.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Five months. Are you familiar with this protest proceeding? Are you familiar with this establishment, Champion Kitchen?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How are you familiar with this establishment?

MR. MILLER: I was assigned to the protest to monitor the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And did there come a time that you wrote a report?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you tell us -- can you go through your report and tell us what it is that you're able to ascertain
regarding this protest, please?
MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair, I just want to make a correction on Page 2. If you go down to the third short paragraph where it's talking, "On Thursday, August 22nd," if you go down to who it's representing it should be --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.
Okay. I'm sorry, yes.
MR. MILLER: It should be it's located at ANC-4. I just want to make that for the record.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what -- I see the paragraph, but I'm not sure --

MR. MILLER: Is there a representative, it should be located at the ANC4.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh. No, the document $I$ have is who is representing ANC-4A. I guess it was corrected. So you're saying it should say "represented" or "located"?

MR. MILLER: It's located -- SPCA is representing ANC-4, so it's separate.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, you're saying it should read that --

MR. MILLER: SPCA is its own entity,
is not included as representing ANC; it's just located in ANC.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so why don't we just take out that, just to say Naima Jefferson, President of the SPCA and just take off the rest. And put a period. You can make a reference -- all right. Go ahead.

MR. MILLER: All right.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So we'll make that correction. Go ahead, sir.

MR. MILLER: I myself, Javon Miller, was assigned to protest investigation of class CR renewal application for EMC, the corporation trading as Champion Kitchen located at 7730 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington D.C. The renewal application for Champion Kitchen, ABRA license no. 103055 was admitted by the owner, Eyob Worku -- I'm sorry if I mispronounced your name -- on Thursday, August 22nd, 2019 lead investigator Felicia Dantzler spoke telephonically to Naima Jefferson, President of SPCA. She stated during the last renewal period Champion Kitchen agreed to a settlement agreement; however, Champion Kitchen violated their commitments which are listed below; number one, having a occupancy
total capacity of 44 , operating as a restaurant. Also, as well Ms. Jefferson advised Investigator Miller that ANC-4 does not want the establishment operating until the early morning hours. Ms. Jefferson stated that ANC-4 wants the establishment's hours to be restricted to midnight seven days a week so that the community will not have impact on operation. She also stated nearby communities does not want to deal with patrons making noise or music emanating in the early morning hours. Ms. Jefferson stated that Champion Kitchen's consistent efforts to increase its occupancy while ignoring its own settlement agreement and wants to express the neighborhood, it shows that its committed to the bar, night club business model and it has no intentions in operating in a manner appropriate to its location and its ABRA license. Ms. Jefferson stated that Champion Kitchen's operating as a night club or tavern under disguise of a restaurant, which is not appropriate for the neighborhood because it's located 128 feet from the San Miguel School, 328 feet from Academia de la Recta Porta, a private Christian school, and New Dimensions Kingdom

Ministry, a church, 466 feet from Northminster Presbyterian Church, and two-tenths of a mile from Juanita Thornton. Ms. Jefferson also stated that there is limited parking at ANC surrounding Champion Kitchen in residential area. It has concerns that Champion Kitchen patron parking will limit residential parking. On Friday, August 16th, 2019 Investigator Miller contacted attorney, Andrew Kline, representing Champion Kitchen through email, requesting a statement on behalf of the applicant. On September 24th, 2019 Investigator Miller received a response from Sidon Yohannes -excuse me if I mispronounce your name -- an associate of Mr. Kline, stating that Champion Kitchen would send a written statement. On September 25th, 2019 a Champion Kitchen representative provided Investigator Miller, myself, with a written statement. The statement states Champion Kitchen filed a renewal application to renew its retail Class C tavern license. Champion Kitchen renewal, application was protested by Shepherd Park Citizen's Association (SPCA). Amongst other things SPCA states the following basis for, it's protestant
of the renewal application: peace, order and quiet, adverse effect on real property value, adverse impacts on residential parking and vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Champion Kitchen already has a settlement agreement with SPCA that was approved by the board on February 1st, 2017. Since the filing of the application the licensee has communicated with ANC through SM, the commissioner Stacy Lincoln and SPCA to address the past and present complaints regarding operation of the establishment. The operator has attended several meetings since the filing of the initial application and attempts to have a good relationship with the community. During these meetings the operator has discussed plans to address the ANC's concerns, including the plans for noise, parking, safety.

Most notable, on December 5th, 2018 licensees met with the SPCA president, other SPCA members, residents and Commissioner Lincoln to discuss concerns. The licensee took steps to address concerns by, one, making sure the clicker that is utilized to monitor occupancy; two, post new signs to remind patrons of exit -- three,
using social media websites and other means to advise and encourage patrons to use alternative transportation; and four, posting "No Loitering" signs. Furthermore, continue efforts to evaluate issues and address potential concerns of SPCA beginning June 7th, 2019 licensee volunteers sign up to receive RDO on Friday's and Saturday. Since then RDO has made no reports of any incidents or issues at the establishment.

The protestant issues were -- the renewal application is being protested by Shepherd Park Citizen's Association located at ANC, they submitted a letter to ABRA opposing Champion Kitchen renewal application on the grounds that the establishment will have adverse impact on peace, order and quiet, the effect of establishment on real property value, the effect of the establishment upon residential parking and vehicular and pedestrian safety, and settlement agreement violations.

On my findings Champion Kitchen is
located in a mixed use zone, MU-4 according to the zoning regulations. Mixed use zones provide for mixed use development and permit a broad range of commercial, institutional and multiple
dwelling units. Nearby establishments according to the Geographic Information Systems, Exhibit 2, as of April 3rd, 2019 there are five active ABC licensed establishments operating within 1,200 feet of Champion Kitchen.

The five alcoholic licensed establishments consist of two Class A retail licensed establishments, Beer, Wine and Spirits; and three Class C restaurant licensed establishments. There are no ABC licensed establishments with an endorsement within 1,200 feet of Champion Kitchen. All five licensed establishments have settlement agreements, and one establishment, Betty's Gojo, has an entertainment endorsement. According to the District of Columbia Geographic Information Systems, there are no schools, recreation centers, public libraries or daycare centers located 400 feet to the establishment, which is Exhibit 3. Inside of Champion Kitchen, the building exterior of Champion Kitchen is red brick building with an orange roof, a moderately small building. The establishment has two exterior windows on the East/Northeast side of the building, three exterior windows on the

Northwest side of the building. Champion Kitchen interior; the interior walls are decorated with off-white patterns, halfway down the wall with a brownish border. Beneath the walls to the left side of entering the establishment is a seating area and four tall-glass tables close to the middle walkway.

Champion Kitchen has applied for an entertainment endorsement, their proposed hours of entertainment would be Sunday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. As far as noise, during the monitoring of Champion Kitchen, no excessive noise from the establishment was noted. Their cuisine, Champion Kitchen is a restaurant offering upscale Ethiopian menu with a touch of American influence and specialty coffee. Their trash disposal is a trash company, DG Trash and Hauling. DG Trash and Hauling removes the trash approximately three times per week. It also located on the left of the building on Alaska Ave. NW, which is Exhibit 15.

I did have a chance to look at Champion Kitchen's certificate of occupancy which was approved for occupancy load of 55 seats and

89 patrons, which is Exhibit 16. Champion Kitchen license application, Exhibit 17, has approved seating for 44. Champion Kitchen consistently has seating of $\mathbf{8 7}$ seats during protest monitoring on our visits. Champion Kitchen did submit a request to increase occupancy, Exhibit 18, but has not been approved as of authoring of this report.

The effects of establishment's peace, order and quiet; ABRA investigators monitored Champion Kitchen on 17 occasions from August 17th, 2019 through September 24th, 2019. ABRA investigators did not hear excessive noise, investigators did not observe any issues with peace, order and quiet as it relates to Champion Kitchen. Investigators did not observe trash or crowds outside of the establishment. ABRA investigators did not observe any criminal activity.

The effects of establishment on residential parking needs, vehicular and pedestrian safety; there are no Metro subways in the vicinity of Champion Kitchen. I do want to note that they do have 13 Metro bus stops in the vicinity of Champion Kitchen, which is Exhibit
19. The bus stops serve Eastern Ave., Alaska Ave., Kalmia Rd., and Georgia Ave.

Champion Kitchen is located at 7730 Georgia Ave. NW, it has ten parking spots on site, which is Exhibit 20-22. The establishment is bounded by Alaska Ave. to the west and Georgia Ave. to the east.

The effect on establishments on real property values, ABRA personnel are not qualified to address the issue of real property values. Upon the record search, On Tuesday, August 27th, 2019, Investigator George Garcia and Investigator Miller contacted the Office of Unified Communication regarding the calls for service for 7730 Georgia Ave. NW, Investigator Miller asked and received the calls for 7730 Georgia Ave. NW from January 1st, 2018 through July 31st, 2019, which is Exhibit 29. Three out of the four calls for service were attached to Champion Kitchen; the calls of service did not result in ABRA violations. A complaint -- excuse me -- a review of the Noise Task Force Law for Fiscal Year 2019 is that there were no noise complaints involving Champion Kitchen. Regarding the settlement agreement, Champion Kitchen has a settlement
agreement, in particular the protestant states that the establishment occupancy load is over the agreed amount that it's in the settlement. Also, the protestant has concerns that Champion Kitchen is not operating as a restaurant. In the settlement agreement listed under "nature of other business" it states the establishment is a restaurant offering upscale Ethiopian menu with a touch of American influence and specialty coffee with an entertainment endorsement. The establishment has a capacity of 44 patrons. Champion Kitchen shall not promote or participate in pub crawls or outdoor events at the premise north promoting self of participant and the promotion of any advertising or social media as a lounge, bar and/or night club. Champion Kitchen shall not collect a cover charge at the door or entry, except in connection with charitable or political fundraising events. Champion Kitchen has an available seating capacity of 87 . There were no ABRA violations of the settlement agreement. Champion Kitchen's settlement agreement specifies occupancy load, not seating. ABRA investigators did find adequate amounts of food at the establishment and believe
that the establishment is functioning as a restaurant. Champion Kitchen does have an investigative history, Exhibit 31; under concerns of the SPCA list, Champion Kitchen has one violation of increased occupancy, Case No. 18-CMP-00239 on October 7th, 2018.

I would like to make a note. Today, October 2nd, 2019 ABRA was notified by a program manager of the Department of Health that Champion Kitchen was visited three times since June of 2019. During each visit the establishment owner was given orders to cease and desist the smoking of tobacco inside the establishment. There is also a fourth violation pending. To date the establishment has not come into compliance and DOH is looking into stronger corrective actions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are there exhibits attached to your report?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you
identify the exhibits that are attached to your report, please?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir. Exhibit 1 is a copy of the SPCA protest letter; Exhibit 2 is District of Columbia Geographic Information

Systems map of licensed establishments within 1,200 feet; Exhibit 3, District of Columbia Geographic Information Systems map of schools within 400 feet; Exhibit 4, exterior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 5, exterior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 6, exterior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 7, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 8, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 9, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 10, interior --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's go to 8. What's this I'm looking at in Exhibit 8?

MR. MILLER: Immediately to your left when you walk into Champion Kitchen is a cut-off sectional.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So what's $9 ?$

MR. MILLER: 9 is the DJ booth.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see a green -- I don't know what it is. I see in the middle of it --

MR. MILLER: I'm sorry; in front of it, it has a neon light in front of the DJ booth.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
what's the green -- at least the picture, what's the green object?

MR. MILLER: It's just lighting and the type of glass.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead.
MR. MILLER: Exhibit 10, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 11, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 12, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 13, interior photograph of Champion Kitchen; Exhibit 14, copy of ABRA license and highlighting is done to entertainment endorsement; Exhibit 15, photograph of trash can position; Exhibit 16, photograph of Champion Kitchen's certificate of occupancy; Exhibit 17, Champion Kitchen's license application; Exhibit 18, formal request to increase occupancy; Exhibit 19, photograph of Metro bus stops; Exhibit 20, photograph of Champion Kitchen parking lot; Exhibit 21, photograph of Champion Kitchen parking lot; Exhibit 22, photograph of Champion Kitchen parking lot; Exhibit 23, photograph of street parking; 24, street parking as well; as well as 25, 26 and 17 , all photographs of street parking; and 28, excuse me; Exhibit 29, Office of

Unified Communication calls for service; Exhibit 30, Champion Kitchen's settlement agreement; Exhibit 31, Champion Kitchen's investigative history.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Okay. Let's go back to Page 8 of your report.
MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how many times did you personally visit this establishment?

MR. MILLER: Seven times, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Seven times? So can you tell me the dates that you visited please?

MR. MILLER: I cannot give you all seven, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. But you're saying seven -- all right. How many observations were done?

MR. MILLER: Seventeen.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Seventeen. And you personally have done seven times. And so I don't understand, it says findings substantial change, ABRA violation observed.

Can you explain to me what is it that
you observed during your visit to this establishment?

MR. MILLER: So inside of Champion Kitchen they, at first $I$ thought it was a settlement agreement violation, but it was not to the language of the settlement agreement. But I did, when I did my research on the Champion Kitchens establishment, they have a listed 44 seating, for what they were approved by the Board. So every time I visited the establishment they were always above 44 seating.

So that was a substantial change violation at every visit. So until it was approved by the Board for a substantial change to have more than 44 seating, it's a substantial change violation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the reason why I'm asking you because you reported that, later on in your report, and that's why I'm confused, so you reported in your report on Page

## MEMBER CATO: Page 11.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What page?
MEMBER CATO: Page 11.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So

I don't understand Page 11 where you stated that the establishment has the capacity of 44 patrons. And then you wrote that Champion Kitchen has an available seating capacity of 87 . There were no ABRA violations of the settlement agreement. Champion's Kitchen settlement agreement specifies occupancy load, not seating.

So I don't understand how on one page you wrote during your observation that, at least on Page 8 it says that there are substantial change violation in all the observations. But in that other page you wrote there are no ABRA violations based on the settlement agreement.

So how are you stating on one page that there is a substantial change and then you're saying there's no settlement there?

MR. MILLER: So, as far as the settlement agreement goes, they're allowed to have 44 patrons, that's clear for the settlement agreement. Which they can have inside the establishment.

But as far as the ABRA goes for the license side, they can't have more than 44 seats. So when they came to you and they said, I brought to you this application, I want 44 seats, you
guys approved them for them, that's what we have to go off of.

So, any time they have more than 44 seats, that's a substantial change and separate from the settlement agreement.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's, go ahead, Ms. Crockett.

MEMBER CROCKETT: So, to be clear, when you visited, you observed no more than 44 persons present?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: Therefore, you were in agreement with the settlement agreement, which says they can have --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to turn your microphone on.

MEMBER CROCKETT: Sorry. So, you observed no more than 44 persons present, patrons.

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: So they were in agreement with the settlement agreement, which says the occupancy is $44 ?$

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: However, they were
in violation of the license because there were more than 44 chairs?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: You observed 87
chairs?
MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: And there were 87 chairs, which is a violation of ABRA's license, which says 44 seats?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: So, I understand. The settlement agreement identifies occupancy --

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: -- whereas the
license identifies seats.
MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER CROCKETT: So they violated one and not the other?

MR. MILLER: Yes, ma'am.
MEMBER CROCKETT: Thank you.
MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.
MEMBER SHORT: To help you out if I
can, Investigator Miller.
MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Occupancy means the number of people. Occupancy means, occupant load means the number of human beings allowed to be in that business.

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, if they had, how many seats again?

MR. MILLER: Eighty-seven.
MEMBER SHORT: Eighty-seven seats. You didn't think, well, you said that was a violation, right?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Did you notify the owner at that time there was a violation?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And when you came back again, the same violation where he hadn't removed the seats apparently?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Did you ask him to remove the seats?

MR. MILLER: As a ABRA Investigator I cannot tell him to move his seats, I can just ask him to come into compliance.

MEMBER SHORT: So he didn't come into
compliance?
MR. MILLER: No, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So how many different times did you go there and he did not come into compliance about those seats?

MR. MILLER: As far as seating, I went there inside three times. But two times out of those three he was there. I seen him.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So the report again, on page, this is at Page 12. Okay, no, that didn't do it. 11. 11, okay.

11 is violations. That's investigative history. But at any rate, 80 some seats were there, right?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And so, I'm looking at Page Number 8. That's where I want you to go. If you would please go to Page 8.

So it looks like 17 visits were made, correct?

MR. MILLER: I'm sorry?
MEMBER SHORT: Seventeen visits were made. Page 8.

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: And every time whoever
went there found the same violation?
MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: The same seating was there that was not permitted by ABRA?

MR. MILLER: I cannot say there was 87
exactly because I'm not sure if they counted them. But $I$ know there was over 44 seating.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So this, on 17 different occasions. And an investigator told him every time you have to get those extra seats out of there. Did he ever do that?

MR. MILLER: Sir, I cannot speak for other investigators on their conversations with the Applicant, but the only times I can speak on is the times $I$ was there.

MEMBER SHORT: And how many times did you ask him to put the proper amount of seats in?

MR. MILLER: I had a conversation twice.

MEMBER SHORT: How many visits did you make inside of the --

MR. MILLER: Three.
MEMBER SHORT: Were there 80 some seats there every time you went on all three visits?

MR. MILLER: Fairly over, I know it was fairly over about 50,60 seats. Just even just looking, not counting. It was more than 44.

MEMBER SHORT: So, your job as an investigator is to see that the public is safe, correct?

MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: So, if there were more than 44 seats there and he wasn't in compliance with ABRA law or his agreement, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: He was not in compliance with ABRA. But for as far as his settlement agreement, he was in compliance.

MEMBER SHORT: I think that's a conflict.

MR. MILLER: It's the verbiage in the settlement agreement, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, I'm not going to confuse you any further, but the bottom line is, did he ever come into compliance with the seating, ever?

MR. MILLER: No, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all
I have, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
questions by any of the Board Members?
All right. Ms. Yohannes, do you have any questions you want to ask?

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: Yes. So, to be clear, the reason you cited a substantial change, an alleged substantial change violation, is that you repeatedly observed 44 empty chairs, or more than 44 empty chairs, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: For the record, it doesn't have to be empty or filled, it just has to be more than 44 seats.

MS. YOHANNES: So, the reason that you cited it was because there were more than 44 seats?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. YOHANNES: Chairs?
MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. YOHANNES: Were those chairs occupied? Were there more than 44 people in the establishment at the time?

MR. MILLER: No, ma'am.
MS. YOHANNES: Can you tell me how empty seats have a negative effect on peace, order and quiet?

MR. MILLER: I cannot speak on that.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Regarding the establishment being a restaurant, isn't it true that the regulations define what a restaurant is?

MR. MILLER: Yes, ma'am.
MS. YOHANNES: And isn't it true that Champions is in compliance with the definition, fits the definition of what a restaurant is --

MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.
MS. YOHANNES: -- as defined?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. JEFFERSON: That the qualifications for a restaurant extend beyond matters that are listed in his report. Including the quarterly reports.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, she's asking him a question so if he can answer, he can answer. If he can't answer it, then he can state so.

MS. JEFFERSON: I just wanted to --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I'm going to overrule the objection.

MR. MILLER: I cannot answer.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Regarding, going
back to occupancy. To be clear, you never the Applicant to move the seats, did you?

MR. MILLER: I cannot tell the Applicant to move anything, I can just ask them to come into compliance.

MS. YOHANNES: So, you did not?
MR. MILLER: I can only ask him to come into compliance?

MS. YOHANNES: Did you or did you not ask and you did not, okay.

MR. MILLER: I just asked him to come into compliance, ma'am.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you. Did you know that he was represented by Counsel?

MR. MILLER: I did.
MS. YOHANNES: Did he indicate to you that he was discussing the matter with his attorneys?

MR. MILLER: He did.
MS. YOHANNES: Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson, do you have any questions to ask the Witness?

MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Miller, you mentioned that you've only been in --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you pull the microphone there.

MS. JEFFERSON: Sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, just speak into the microphone. Or you can pull the microphone closer to you. You can speak into --

MS. JEFFERSON: I'll try --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, not that one. That one --

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, this is the --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- with the light. Yes.

## CROSS EXAMINATION

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Miller. Your previous testimony was that you have only been with ABRA for five months, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. How many prior protest investigations have you performed on behalf of ABRA?

MR. MILLER: None.
MS. JEFFERSON: So this was your first?

MR. MILLER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You, earlier in your testimony, you made a correction and I just wanted to ask the Chair, Mr. Miller made some corrections and I'm wondering if this is going to come from my time, but there is some other corrections that $I$ would like to address so -CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're cross examining --

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It is from your time, but if you need to cross examine him based on his report, that's --

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- your prerogative.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you. So, you made the correction on Page 2, and I believe we all, you said that you were striking the part that says, who was representing ANC 4A, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That was the recommendation of the Chair to make it clear.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: At the recommendation, thank you. The, let's see, 5th paragraph, it starts with Ms. Jefferson advised Investigator Miller that ANC 4A does not want the establishment operating until the early hour, the early morning hours.

Your prior testimony was that $I$ was not representing the ANC 4A, so is that an error as well?

MR. MILLER: That is an error.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And then the next sentence says, Ms. Jefferson stated that ANC 4A wants the establishments hours to be restricted. Is that an error as well?

MR. MILLER: No, ma'am.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, on here you said that you spoke with myself on the phone. That was what your testimony was and that's what we report. Was anyone else on the phone?

MR. MILLER: Yes, ma'am.
MS. JEFFERSON: Who else was on the phone? Can you identify them?

MR. MILLER: I can't remember his name. It was a gentleman, $I$ can't remember names
off the top of my head.
MR. BERGMAN: Just skip it.
MS. JEFFERSON: Was Mr. Carl Bergman and Ms. Paula Edwards on the line?

MR. MILLER: Yes, ma'am.
MS. JEFFERSON: And is there, what is their rationale for them not being included in your report?

MR. MILLER: I was using you as the, because you were basically the spoke person for them so $I$ used you as the main person as focus. Because you were the most of the voice on the phone. They briefly had anything to say.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So is it an accurate assessment to say that since there were other persons on the phone that this doesn't encapsulate everything that was taken?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of your objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Compound question.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to rule, she's not an attorney so I'm going to overrule the objection. I mean, there is --

MR. MILLER: I cannot state that if it
was a error or not because even if they had said something, from the conversations on the phone, that you localized it, the points, and then they just reiterated the same thing.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So, you mentioned that you did not see a school. Did you walk around the neighborhood?

MR. MILLER: I did.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
MR. MILLER: And I stated that the geographic information system states that there was no schools.

MS. JEFFERSON: But did you happen to see a school?

MR. MILLER: I seen a school.
MS. JEFFERSON: And where was that school?

MR. MILLER: Fairly across the street.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I would like to present Exhibit 15.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 15 for identification.)

MS. JEFFERSON: Do $I$ hand it to him, is that what $I$ do?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you want to show him something about Exhibit 15, yes.

MS. JEFFERSON: Would you say this is a - -

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. Did it have, hold on, ma'am, I need to find it, Counsel needs to find what Exhibit 15 is. And so, can you, is your exhibits identified? Okay. Okay.

Hold on. Let me figure out which is your Exhibits.

MS. JEFFERSON: Let me give him Exhibits 14 and 15.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 14 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what exhibit are you --

MEMBER SHORT: Can we see which exhibit you're looking at? No, can you just hold it up?

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh. There's two of them that look like this.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't even know what Exhibit 15 is.

MEMBER WAHABZADAH: What was the number?

MS. JEFFERSON: 15.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me, Ms.
Yohannes, if you have --
(Off-mic comments.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. What Exhibit 15 do you have? Why don't you show her what has been identified as Exhibit 15.

MS. JEFFERSON: Well, I gave her my --
MS. YOHANNES: I have the same exhibit. No -- yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm sorry, so what's Exhibit 15? I'm not sure if I have the document in front of me, so --

All right. Are you in agreement what Exhibit 15 is?

MS. YOHANNES: I am, yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: I have it labeled.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have an extra copy?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, why don't you give me an extra copy then. You can give it to our General Counsel.

What exhibit are you on, 15 ?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, what's Exhibit 15? Can you have the Witness identify Exhibit 15?

MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to object on foundation and authenticity. I don't know, are you about to show it to --

MS. JEFFERSON: He's got it.
MS. YOHANNES: Does he have it?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is Exhibit 15? I mean, can you tell us what Exhibit 15 is?

MS. JEFFERSON: You want me to tell you what Exhibit 15 --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Hold on. All right, okay. What is Exhibit $15 ?$
MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 15 is map from bing.com that shows the school there.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's on the back here.

MS. JEFFERSON: It's on the back.
MS. YOHANNES: So, again, I'm going to object just because I don't know the investigator is going to authenticate this. I don't know what this is. I'm looking at it. She's saying it's a map, but I mean, I don't know what this is.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know what Exhibit 15 is. It doesn't make sense and I'm not quite sure, that's not --

But that's --
MS. JEFFERSON: I want it to be labeled properly. It's the school across the street from Champion Kitchen.

MS. YOHANNES: And I'll object on relevance as well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. I don't know where we're going so I'll just give her some leeway but I'm probably going, so -- All right, ask the question.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection.

MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned that you saw a school across the street, does that, the
picture in front of you appear an accurate assessment of how close the school may have been to the establishment?

MR. MILLER: I cannot --
MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, next question.
Have you read the settlement agreement?
MR. MILLER: I did.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. In Number 7 of the settlement agreement it states that Champion Kitchen agrees to strictly comply with all knowledge and regulations with the District of Columbia, Including the Alcoholic Beverage Administration, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Works and so on and so forth.

But on Page --
PARTICIPANT: Ma'am, he got notice today.

MS. JEFFERSON: Now today you received notice that there were violations from the Department of Health, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, would that mean --
PARTICIPANT: Don't worry about it.

MS. JEFFERSON: What were the violations?

MR. MILLER: Sorry. It didn't state the violations besides the smoking and tobacco.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Speak up a little.

MR. MILLER: It didn't state the violations besides stating the cease and desist for smoking of tobacco inside the establishment.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Did you see hookah while you were there?

MR. MILLER: I did.
MS. JEFFERSON: Did you see people smoking?

MR. MILLER: Not to memory.
MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry, Chair.
MR. BERGMAN: Sorry, sir.
MS. JEFFERSON: Article 7 also said, in the settlement agreement, we just read it, about violations of ABRA laws and regulations. So, your previous testimony was that there was no violation of the settlement agreement, which was on Page 11.

So would you say that that is still accurate?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Speculation. He just indicated that he doesn't know what violations there were with DOH --

MR. BERGMAN: But he made a conclusion

MS. YOHANNES: He's already answered that question previously.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I'm going to sustain the objection because the Witness testified that, he previously testified that he didn't know what the violations were so I don't see how he can connect the two based on that, so I'm going to sustain the object. So, move on please.

MS. JEFFERSON: I was referring to the part in Article 7 that said no violations of ABRA

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- laws and regulation.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But he said that he did not know the nature of the violation
though.
MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry, Chair, I wasn't clear.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what he had said, so therefore she objects so therefore you cannot ask him specifics if he has already stated that he doesn't know the nature of the violation.

So if he does not know the nature of the violation, he cannot state that there was a violation of the settlement agreement.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. My second question is, Article 7 also says that Champion Kitchen agrees to comply with all laws and regulations with the District of Columbia, including the Alcoholic Beverage Administration.

Your previous testimony was that they were in violation. Is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Can you --
MS. JEFFERSON: Due to the substantial change on Page 8.

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, if our agreement says that they should strictly comply, then is your statement correct that there were no
violations of the settlement agreement?
MR. MILLER: Can you tell me what part of the settlement agreement that was again?

MS. JEFFERSON: Number 7. In Number 7. It starts with, Champion Kitchen agrees to strictly comply with all laws and regulation.

MR. MILLER: What was the question one more time?

MS. JEFFERSON: The question was, that if the settlement agreement states that they are to strictly comply with all laws and regulations, including the Alcoholic Beverage Administration, however, your statement says that there were no violations of the settlement agreement, is that statement still correct? In light of what you put on Page 8.

MR. MILLER: I cannot answer that, I'd have to look back at their settlement agreement with more time.

MS. JEFFERSON: My next question is --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Into the microphone please. Into the microphone.

MS. JEFFERSON: You attached the protest letter to your report, was this everything with the protest report or were there
additional exhibits?
MR. MILLER: I would have to go back. I haven't seen it in a while.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. On Page 7 of your report you mention that, under cuisines, Champion Kitchen is a restaurant offering an upscale Ethiopian menu with a touch of American influence on specialty coffee. Is that your direct observation or is that a quotation?

MR. MILLER: That's a quotation.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You also talked about the bus stops on Page 19 of your report. Are you aware that there is a public hearing tonight with metro for proposed changes to the $\mathbf{S 2}$ and S9 bus?

MR. MILLER: I was not.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You also mentioned that Champion Kitchen has ten parking spots. However, we're talked about this 44 number quite often, is that sufficient to --

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- accommodate 44?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Let's move on here. And I sustained the objection, that's not his expertise.

MS. JEFFERSON: Do community members always call the ABRA hotline when there are issues?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MR. MILLER: I cannot answer that.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's move on.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, in here you mention, on August 27th, that you contacted Unified Communications. Is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I'm trying to find -- I would like to offer Exhibit 35 into evidence. This is from a Freedom of Information Act.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit No. 35 for identification.)

MS. JEFFERSON: You said that there were only --
(Off-mic comment.)
MS. JEFFERSON: I request to add this to the evidence. What is before you --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms. Jefferson, all right.

MS. JEFFERSON: This was my last
question.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. Well, this is our Witness and our Witness presented information to state that this, he requested information the District. This is the information that was provided to him.

If you want to provide additional, for whatever time period you need in your presentation, you can do that. But I'm not going to have you pull another document out to, the Board can only go with what's presented.

The testimony that I called, this is what was presented to me. If you want to provide on direct testimony something otherwise --

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- then so be it in the case in chief.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, can I ask my last question?

## CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can ask

 your last question.MS. JEFFERSON: Well actually, I have two questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You also need to keep, as I said before, time is better used on the direct examination questions rather than cross examination. But go ahead.

MS. JEFFERSON: When we spoke on the phone you asked me for information I had regarding 911 calls, is that correct?

MR. MILLER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: The document that I emailed you, did it have the same number of calls that you presented in your report?

MR. MILLER: It did not.
MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any questions by any Board Members?

All right, thank you, Mr. Miller, you can step down.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The time starts now in the same set. So each side will be timed with the presentation of their witnesses. And so, if you spend time cross examining your witness, then be mindful that that time will, it's coming from your time, okay?

So it's clear to both sides that whatever cross examination that you will utilize, that's coming from your 90 minutes, your presentation. Your witness, ma'am.

MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to call, sorry, I'm trying to determine if my witnesses need to leave. Court's indulgence.

I'm going to call Annette Young.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Young?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you raise your right hand please?

WHEREUPON,

## ANNETTE YOUNG

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

MS. YOUNG: I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat. It's your witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
MS. YOHANNES: Thank you. For the record, state your name?

MS. YOUNG: Excuse me, I'm a little nervous. My name is Annette Young.

MS. YOHANNES: Ms. Young, how do you know Champion Kitchen?

MS. YOUNG: I'm currently employed at 7731 Alaska Avenue. Our company is a non-profit, homeownership organization. And basically, we've been there since 2015, approximately.

So with that being said, I know Champion Kitchen, because I'm usually on the location 12 hours a day, approximately. So with that being said, I know Champion Kitchen because of the food and, basically, I know the owner.

MS. YOHANNES: So do you patronize Champion Kitchen often?

MS. YOUNG: I do. My colleagues, there's approximately 12 co-workers in our office. So we do patronize between the five days a week that we're there, maybe 20 times a week.

MS. YOHANNES: And can you tell me what are the hours that you're there working?

MS. YOUNG: We average from 8 o'clock a.m. to 8 o'clock p.m. We're a homeownership program. We have people come in for appointments throughout the course of the day. So what we provide is we're a non-profit organization for neighborhood stabilization, homeownership
revitalization in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

MS. YOHANNES: And to your knowledge, when you patronize Champion Kitchen, do you do so between those hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MS. YOUNG: Usually early evenings, we have during the afternoon on occasions, opened, we've gone there.

MS. YOHANNES: Is music being played?
MS. YOUNG: Not during business hours that really

MS. YOHANNES: Do you have any, have you observed, being in the area, have you observed any issues regarding violence?

MS. YOUNG: None whatsoever.
MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. JEFFERSON: Are you speaking of violence in the area or violence related to Champion Kitchen?

MS. YOHANNES: Violence related to Champion Kitchen?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the question if you can, ma'am.

MS. YOUNG: No, violence related to Champion Kitchen at all. Violence in the area, I can't say. Georgia Avenue is further down. I don't know. But if you're asking about Champion Kitchen, no.

MS. YOHANNES: And being that you're a nearby establishment, do you believe that Champion Kitchen has any negative impact on the area.

MS. YOUNG: None whatsoever, it's positive.

MS. YOHANNES: Any negative impact on your business?

MS. YOUNG: None whatsoever. On occasion, we'll sneak in. You're smiling, we have a lot of people coming in. So that's just sometimes during the day. He does allow us to on occasion. We try not to overdo it, but on occasion we do. It is a private bar though, so.

MS. YOHANNES: Because you're a non-profit organization?

MS. YOUNG: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: All right, no further questions.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you kindly.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness, ma'am.

## CROSS EXAMINATION

MS. JEFFERSON: Your previous testimony you said that Champion Kitchen is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.?

MS. YOUNG: No. I'm, the business, our staff, me and my colleagues are there.

MS. JEFFERSON: And how do you know the owner?

MS. YOUNG: I know him through, he's been next door. We've been there when he came. I'm, like, oh, you own the restaurant. What's going on with your restaurant?

MS. JEFFERSON: And is it your testimony that you are not there after 9:00 p.m.?

MS. YOUNG: No, it's not. We are there on occasion later than 9:00.

MS. JEFFERSON: After midnight?
MS. YOUNG: Certainly. I've been there past mid-night, because I've been at the establishment past midnight.

MS. JEFFERSON: No further questions.
MS. YOUNG: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --

MS. YOUNG: Sir?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, you are dismissed when I tell you you're dismissed.

MS. YOUNG: I apologize, Mr. Anderson.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Are there any questions by any Board members? I hear none. Ms. Young, thank you very much for your testimony. You can -

MS. YOUNG: I'm officially dismissed?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.
Thank you very much --
MS. YOUNG: Thank you kindly.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- for your testimony.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have another witness?

MS. YOHANNES: I do. I'm going to call David Andrews.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Andrews, can you raise your right hand, please. WHEREUPON,

## DAVID ANDREWS

was called as a witness by Counsel for the and, having been first duly sworn, assumed the witness
stand, was examined and testified as follows:
MR. ANDREWS: I do.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat here with me.

MS. YOHANNES: Can you tell me what your relationship is to Champion Kitchen?

MR. ANDREWS: I own the company that provides the security.

MS. YOHANNES: And what company is that?

MR. ANDREWS: Prestige Event Management .

MS. YOHANNES: And how long have you provided services to Champion Kitchen?

MR. ANDREWS: I believe February of 2018. And I also provided security for his establishment before that.

MS. YOHANNES: Can you tell me what type of services do you provide exactly, how many security personnel?

MR. ANDREWS: He sticks to industry standards, which is one security for every 50 to 70 customers. So we usually have two in there on our weekends, unless he gets crowded on weekdays,
from 10:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. on weekends. So one at the door searching, checking IDs, looking through bags, doing pat downs. It's only one level, so everyone's in line of sight. And the other guys are at the end of the venue. So they patrol back and forth.

MS. YOHANNES: And can you tell the Board a bit about your background and experience with providing security to establishments?

MR. ANDREWS: I've been doing security for over 30 years. I was doing it before the drinking age turned 21. I haven't worked myself in the past six years, but $I$ have run security for every major venue in the DMV.

My first contract was Republic Gardens right after Marc Barnes told him to buy Dream. I had Tabaq for seven years, Bistro La Bon, Bistro Bistro, Cities, SAX, Oye's, SEI, Stonefish, Pasha, several lounges now throughout DC. So I've been doing this for a long time.

MS. YOHANNES: So you said that there are two security personnel at the establishment. The security personnel in the front, can you tell us what he does?

MR. ANDREWS: He checks everyone's ID.

He lets one person in at a time, because there's a foyer before the main entrance. He stops them there, checks their ID.

If the ID is good, he does a pat down for the men from collar to ankle checking for weapons of course, and alcohol, and drugs, and smoking paraphernalia, any of that. Then if there's a female, he can't pat her down, so he takes a flashlight and looks through her bag, also searches the bags of the DJs or whoever else that come in with a bag. That's it. And, of course, makes sure no alcohol goes out.

MS. YOHANNES: And you said, to be clear, you provide services seven days a week?

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: So even on slow days you provide services?

MR. ANDREWS: Yes. Eyob's good about that, they want security there no matter what. They understand the value of that, even if it's just the presence.

MS. YOHANNES: So tell me more about that, and your relationship or your knowledge of Eyob and him as an operator.

MR. ANDREWS: He wants to go by the
book. He doesn't want any violations. He understands there are people trying to shut him down from the beginning. My security, at the end of each night, they patrol the small parking lot, walk all the way around it, make sure no one's loitering, playing their music too loud. So that's never an issue.

They have a police detail on the weekends now. But even before that, I provided a parking lot security who's out in the car to make sure that people didn't loiter and do the same thing.

So I live in the neighborhood. I'm just on the downtown Silver Spring side. I'm three blocks away, all right. So I know the neighborhood. I know the area. I walk there periodically, at least five, six times every two weeks. I have other clients on that strip as well. So I know the area.

MS. YOHANNES: And to your knowledge, has Champion Kitchen ever been an issue for your security personnel, in that they've said anything negative or

MR. ANDREWS: First of all, you can't hear the music outside. You just can't. There's
no way to hear the music outside. I think I may have had, in the entire time we've been there, one fight. And it wasn't even customers. It was homeless people, vagrants walking up and down the street harassing people if they tried to go in.

And my security ran them off. And they ended up fighting each other outside. There's never been a physical issue, or noise, or anything at Champion. He's one of my better clients like that.

And that's the way the building's built, you cannot hear the noise. Any noise complaints, I would ask for was a record produced by someone with a noise machine. Because you can't hear it.

MS. YOHANNES: No further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir?
MR. ANDREWS: Oh, I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I thought I made it clear that, sir, you cannot leave until 1 tell you you can leave, okay?

MR. ANDREWS: My apologies.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And all the witnesses, you cannot leave until I tell you you
can leave, okay.
MR. ANDREWS: My apologies.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness, Ms. Jefferson.

## CROSS EXAMINATION

MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned several other places where you worked.

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Were those night clubs?

MR. ANDREWS: Night clubs, restaurants, lounges, hotels.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. When you said that you worked at one of his prior establishments, which establishment was that?

MR. ANDREWS: Champions on the Silver Spring side.

MEMBER SHORT: Speak into the microphone. We can barely hear you.

MR. ANDREWS: Champions on the Silver Spring side of Georgia Avenue.

MS. JEFFERSON: And were you performing security on the night of, in or around December 13th when there was a stabbing there?

MR. ANDREWS: It wasn't a stabbing
there. The stabbing actually was from Betty's Gojo. I know that, because they came to me. And now they're my client as well. Because I had to get them straight.

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. I meant to say December of 2015, not 2018.

MR. ANDREWS: Oh. No.
MS. JEFFERSON: I would like to present into evidence Exhibit 3 which was a news article about a triple stabbing at a Georgia Avenue business that was Mr. Worku's prior establishment.

MS. YOHANNES: What exhibit is this?
MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 3.
MEMBER CROCKETT: Is this the client establishment or the previous

MEMBER CATO: No, I'm not sure how that's relevant.

MS. JEFFERSON: The previous, the one that he said that he worked at.

MR. ANDREWS: No, I never worked at either of the places. I provided the security. MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, provided the security.

MR. ANDREWS: Right.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Did you -
MS. YOHANNES: No, wait. Sorry, let me

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 3.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I mean, the, all right. Is there a question regarding Exhibit 3? Is there -

MS. JEFFERSON: Was he working security the night in question with the triple stabbing?

MR. ANDREWS: No, he was not. No, in 2015 he was not a client.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned checking IDs, going through purses, patting down people. Is that typical protocol of a fine dining restaurant, one that has

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- upscale cuisine?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Fine dining assumes facts that are not in evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr. Miller testified that it was a -

MS. YOHANNES: Fine dining?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That was, what

MS. YOHANNES: Oh, that's from, excuse me, offering upscale Ethiopian menu with a touch of American influence and

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. YOHANNES: And it's outside the scope of direct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain the objection. Let's move on. Remember, you're asking questions based on the questions that were asked by Counsel.

MR. ANDREWS: $I$ would say that it is a

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sorry, there are no questions on the table. If there's an objection, you don't answer the question until I tell you. Then you can answer the question. So either if you're testifying, and someone says an objection, then you stop until $I$ rule on the objection. Then I can instruct you with how you should proceed.

MS. JEFFERSON: How do you determine how many number of security personnel there should be?

MR. ANDREWS: By capacity.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can the parties please speak up, please?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I said the parties, so I need both parties to speak up. MS. JEFFERSON: By capacity?

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: So what determines whether you will need one or two? Is there a specific number?

MR. ANDREWS: Well, you always have one for the door.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
MR. ANDREWS: And generally, that person cannot leave the door. Because if someone comes in without being searched, he could walk out with alcohol. And I try to always have at least one person to back them up.

MS. JEFFERSON: Is that always?
MR. ANDREWS: No, not always.
MS. YOHANNES: Objection.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Overruled.
MR. ANDREWS: Like I said, the industry standard is one security for every 50 to 70 customers.

MS. JEFFERSON: Fifty to 70?
MR. ANDREWS: Correct, depending on the type of crowd.

MS. JEFFERSON: Depending on the type of crowd.

MR. ANDREWS: If there's no dance floor there, you know, it's not a rowdy crowd.

MS. JEFFERSON: So why do you, can you please share with us why you believe you need two if there's only 44?

MR. ANDREWS: Better be prepared for the worst.

MS. JEFFERSON: The worst.
MR. ANDREWS: Better to be prepared for the worst.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by any Board members?

MEMBER SHORT: I have one.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Good evening. So what is your name again, sir?

MR. ANDREWS: David.
MEMBER SHORT: David, last name?
MR. ANDREWS: Andrews.
MEMBER SHORT: David Andrews, okay. Mr. Andrews, what's the latest you've worked at this restaurant?

MR. ANDREWS: I have never worked there. I haven't been working myself except for the BET awards in the past six years. I just run the company.

MEMBER SHORT: What is the latest that your staff has worked there?

MR. ANDREWS: Three a.m.
MEMBER SHORT: Three a.m. Have you ever been there when someone was smoking a hookah pipe?

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: How often do they smoke hookah pipes there?

MR. ANDREWS: I have no idea. I've been in there, $I$ mean, when I go, I don't smoke hookah. When I go I may have a drink or have some food. And the food is good. But I don't
pay attention to who's smoking hookah, or how often, or even, mostly I've been in the office with him having a talk. I don't always sit out with the rest of the customers.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, you might not remember me, but $I$ used to work for the DC Fire Department as a fire inspector. In fact, I used to be at Marc Barnes' Republic Gardens when it first opened up quite a bit.

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: I was there the night when Mike Tyson had the birthday party there, but --

MR. ANDREWS: That was before my time. MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Not a problem. (Laughter.)

MR. ANDREWS: I got here literally, like, three months after he sold it to Burton Juan (phonetic). So I was never there when Marc Barnes was there.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So what we're trying to establish, this is a restaurant. And your people are there until $30^{\prime}$ clock in the morning.

MR. ANDREWS: Well, on weekends,

Friday, and Saturday. Sunday through Thursday it's until 2:00 a.m.

MEMBER SHORT: So you can get a meal at 3 o'clock in the morning or 2:30 in the morning?

MR. ANDREWS: Well, I think the kitchen closes, like, 30 minutes before then. Because usually, my employees usually order some food to take with them when they leave. So the people are still out there at that time.

MEMBER SHORT: And I guess someone's already asked you this question, but you named a lot of businesses. You mentioned Republic Gardens and few others.

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: Are those night clubs or restaurants?

MR. ANDREWS: Bistro Bistro is a restaurant, Bistro La Bon, next to Tabaq, was a restaurant. Tabaq had a tavern license, I believe. But they operated as a restaurant all the time. What else, the Beacon Hotel, the hotel and restaurant by there.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, how many restaurants do you go to that you get patted down
when you go in -
MR. ANDREWS: Anytime they have, well, for the restaurants, it depends if they're having an event or not. But anytime they want security, they want someone patted down.

MEMBER SHORT: What's the largest number of people that your company has helped this business with?

MR. ANDREWS: As far as patrons?
MEMBER SHORT: Yes.
MR. ANDREWS: I guess, outside of a concert, Ibiza, which was, I believe, 3,700 capacity.

MEMBER SHORT: You were talking about this particular business.

MR. ANDREWS: Oh, you mean how many customers have been in there?

MEMBER SHORT: What's the largest number of customers you've

MR. ANDREWS: I don't know.
MEMBER SHORT: Or your
MR. ANDREWS: I don't know.
MEMBER SHORT: Would you say 50, would you say 60?

MR. ANDREWS: I'd say 50.

MEMBER SHORT: Has it ever been any larger than 50?

MR. ANDREWS: I haven't done a count, so I can't say that.

MEMBER SHORT: Does anybody do the counting? Does your people at the door security, do they have a clicker so you know when you're over capacity?

MR. ANDREWS: Generally, the owners let them know when to shut it down.

MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me?
MR. ANDREWS: The owners let them know when to stop letting people in. Eyob was on the camera the whole time. So he sees the amount of people that are coming in.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, I understand that. But if you count them when they come in, like most restaurants or night clubs do --

MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: -- then you'll know -
MR. ANDREWS: He had not gone over capacity.

MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me?
MR. ANDREWS: He has not gone over capacity. The security has counters.

MEMBER SHORT: So you said 50. Is that over capacity for him?

MR. ANDREWS: That's coming and going. At one time, all at one time is probably less than that. But coming and going throughout the night, I'm sure it's more than 50.

MEMBER SHORT: That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any of the Board members?

Ms. Jefferson, do you have any questions to ask the Witness based on the questions that were asked by the Board? REDIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. JEFFERSON: Are you aware that Champion Kitchen was secured?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: He provided security.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained.
There were no questions asked by the Board about the security. Remember, you're asking questions based on the questions that were asked by the Board members. This is not an opportunity to have a second bite of the apple.

MS. JEFFERSON: No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any questions based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

MS. YOHANNES: No questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Thank you, Mr. Andrews, for your testimony. You can step down. Thank you.

Do you have another witness?
MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to call Eyob Worku.

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

## EYOB WORKU

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

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have a seat. It sounds like you might have a soft voice. So, make sure that you speak into the microphone, so we can all hear you.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
MS. YOHANNES: Mr. Worku, tell me about your connection to this application.

MR. WORKU: I'm the owner of Champion

Kitchen.
MS. YOHANNES: And tell me about Champion Kitchen. What type of establishment is it?

MR. WORKU: It's American-Ethiopian restaurant. It's food. Just like restaurant, we serve American and Ethiopian food.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. What type of food do you serve? Or what kind of food? Give me some entrees.

MR. WORKU: We have burger, wings, french fries, injera. There's a lot.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear you, sir. I don't understand what you're saying. So, speak slower or louder, so I can hear you, sir, pleas.

MR. WORKU: Okay. We serve different kind of food. Like, say the burger, wings, french fries, and Ethiopian food too.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Injera.
MS. YOHANNES: May I approach the witness?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure.
MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to show you
what's been marked as Exhibit 20. Can you tell me what that is?

MR. WORKU: That's a Champion menu. That's chicken wing, and sambusa, and a burger.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit 20 for identification.)

BY MS. YOHANNES:
MS. YOHANNES: And is that a menu that you have available to patrons throughout the evening?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Throughout your time of operation?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: When does your kitchen close?

MR. WORKU: Thirty minute or 15 minute to closing the whole time. Sometimes they do it until closing. They will, everybody stay there. We're going to close it up together.

MS. YOHANNES: How long have you operated Champion Kitchen?

MR. WORKU: Two and a half year.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long?

MR. WORKU: Two and a half years. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MS. YOHANNES: And when you opened Champions what was your intention? What was your concept at the time?

MR. WORKU: When I look at the place is, we'd have little bit of space, you know, parking lot, maybe ten as close to 11 parking space. Then I try to bring that down around to, starting from 12 o'clock to closing time was --

When I was opening the restaurant we tried to open for five or six months, starting for 2 o'clock to closing. But no one's open the door until 5:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. But we're struggling for to keep the business to daytime too. But after that we're starting open at 4 o'clock to still closing.

MS. YOHANNES: So, currently what hours does your license allow you to have?

MR. WORKU: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Thursday to Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 2 o'clock.

MS. YOHANNES: And to be clear, I think you just stated. But your current hours that you're actually operating are Sunday to

Thursday 4:00 p.m. 2:00 a.m.?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: And Friday and Saturday
4:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.?

MR. WORKU: Yes. But we stop liquor before hour, before closing.

MS. YOHANNES: As the owner of Champion Kitchen how often are you at the establishment?

MR. WORKU: Seven days a week.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. And when, and is that open to close?

MR. WORKU: Yes. Open to close.
MS. YOHANNES: When you're not there who's in charge? Who's the manager?

MR. WORKU: I have two employees that have ABC manager license.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Most of the time $I$ be there.

MS. YOHANNES: So, can you describe the premises for me, the area, interior of the establishment?

MR. WORKU: Champion Kitchen was established on 2,500 square feet. As, we have
nice wide, nice view window. Has nice porch. Well, everything is, when I look at, this like owner, is good restaurant. Well --

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. And I would like to show you what's been marked as Exhibit 2. I'm going to actually show you a couple of exhibits. What's been marked as Exhibit 2, Exhibit 17, and Exhibit 18. Look through all of them.

Starting with Exhibit 2, tell me what that is. Can you explain? And you can actually take a look at all of them. And identify which ones your looking at when you answer the question. So, explain to the Board, you know, as you walk inside your premises, what's there?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were marked as Applicant Exhibits 2, 17, and 18 for identification.)

MR. WORKU: When you walk --
MS. YOHANNES: What is that actually?
MR. WORKU: This one for the seat, when you're getting on the restaurant, on the left side of the premises. That's the bar. And that are chairs on the other side, on the left side.

MS. YOHANNES: And you're looking at

Exhibit 2?
MR. WORKU: Yes. This one is the middle of the restaurant.

MS. YOHANNES: And Exhibit 17?
MR. WORKU: Yes. This one is, Exhibit 17 is same thing, is the middle of the restaurant, and the right side of the bar.

MS. YOHANNES: And that's what your premises, that's how your establishment looks now, right?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to also show you what's been marked as Exhibit 23. I'm going to move all these exhibits in at the end.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's that?
MS. YOHANNES: 23. Can you tell me what that is?

MR. WORKU: That, before we change the chair this, the middle of the sofa. But because of the committee goes in to, $I$ have to put the tables on the middle. Then $I$ change it to, this the previous picture before we change it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I don't think I have 23. You got 23?

MS. JEFFERSON: Object. It wasn't 23?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. MS. JEFFERSON: I don't think that one is 23.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's Exhibit 23?

MS. JEFFERSON: Are you speaking of my exhibit?

MS. YOHANNES: No. I'm speaking of my exhibit.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's Exhibit 23?

MS. YOHANNES: Board's indulgence. It's supposed to say, I thought my post, maybe my post doesn't. Well, I've showed it to the witness. Can I show it to SPCA? It's supposed to be a old sofa.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can show it to the witness. But there's, I don't have Exhibit 23. So, I'm going to scratch Exhibit 23. So, I'm not going to allow it to be moved into evidence if it wasn't disclosed. But you can -MS. JEFFERSON: It's on here. I looked at it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I don't have 23. But so, go ahead.

MS. YOHANNES: So, when was that? Can you just explain to the Board? I think you did. But explain more of when the establishment looked like that, and the changes.

MR. WORKU: I think this, I don't exactly, for November last year, you know. After November we meet with SPCA members. And they complained about for the place.

And I have to put in those round tables on the middle. That I share their concern that I'm moving to this couch. And I put it up for a lot of high top chairs for the middle.
(Off-mic comments)
MS. YOHANNES: And you referred to a meeting in November. Can you explain more about what this meeting in November was about, and who it was with?

MR. WORKU: Yes. Five of them from the SPCA. I think Mark? I forget their name. They were there because of the, how we were working with the committee. What they have issue about Champion Kitchen for serving the public.

Whatever they have then, you know, to sort of just work with the community. I invited them to, with my lawyer, to sit down and talk,
you know, for what the issue they have.
That's when say, you know, the only thing they have now is, I did the noise. I did whatever they said. And I did it. I just told the soundproof thingy.

Then the meeting they say is, now to change the meter. When you get in you see couch in the middle. That no looks good for night restaurant. I said I accept that one. And I change it to high top chairs. I move the sofa. I move it out.

MS. YOHANNES: So, let's go back to the, your actual license, and what you have for your license. Do you have entertainment?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I do.
MS. YOHANNES: What type of
entertainment do you have?
MR. WORKU: DJ.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Do you have live bands?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Do you have cover charges?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. So, you don't
have these endorsements? And you've never had, you never actually charge people, do you?

MR. WORKU: No. Because of that I sign the settlement agreement, they give me on some corners. But outside of that we know that much, you know, for to -- And they were signing the settlement agreement, you know.

That's the first time when visiting my restaurant that I can't advertise my businesses on social media. No cover charge, 44 peoples, and that, to say, they're putting me in some places. I cannot do anything. I have to follow the settlement agreement.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Tell me about what, have you done anything to mitigate any noise concerns, because you have entertainment?

MR. WORKU: Yes. When I was open it

MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. JEFFERSON: Where's the noise that she's referring to?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule you on the objection. She asked a
general question. Have you done anything to mitigate? And please answer. And on cross examination you can ask questions regarding that. Go ahead and answer, please.

MR. WORKU: Yes. Across the street his name's James, you know. That's one of the reason I don't. They're living to, I working with him just like, it's not only as a committee member. But like it's my big brothers, you know.

He told me that whenever he heard it, you know, he text me. We got to solve this problem for the noises. But I address for find out for the panels to soundproof thing. It cost me almost $\$ 20,000$ something thousand dollars to put it for the sound, turn the sound down.

Then the other thing, I put in mixers, you know, mixer for turn the volume up within my office. And the only person, I'm going to control the volume. That way we solve the problem. After that I never heard anything more for the noise.

MS. YOHANNES: Well, I am going to show you what's been marked as Exhibit, I'm going to show you if your exhibits have been marked, Exhibit 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. Can you take a look at
those as a whole? And can you tell me what that is?

MR. WORKU: Yes. That's soundproof interior, interior panels. The one, is help me for to, the soundproofing.

MS. YOHANNES: And when did you install this?

MR. WORKU: December 17, I think '15 or something. That I don't remember.

MS. YOHANNES: 2000? I'm sorry?
MR. WORKU: 2000 I think '17.
MS. YOHANNES: '17?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. And can you say again why you installed this?

MR. WORKU: Because of, I heard, you know, for, it's not that much thinking about it, you know. For I had to, one of them my neighbor next door, closer to my restaurant, he complain about noises.

Then I was talking to him, how can we get it solved? I told him, you know, I'm going to put in, you know, the soundproof. There's an apartment. I did that one then. I go back to him. He say, after that we solve the problems.

MS. YOHANNES: Who is this neighbor that you're referring to?

MR. WORKU: James.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I never know his last name.

MS. YOHANNES: And did James have your contact information, your telephone number?

MR. WORKU: Yes, he did. He used to, like that day he text me. Whenever he heard it he text me for it.

MS. YOHANNES: So, you did this in result of that?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: So you can help --
MR. WORKU: Because I want to work with the committee without, so maybe I can survive. I have a ten years lease. The rent's expensive. So, $I$ have to survive on top of this.

I'm not working for a million or anything. But I want to just, you know, feed my kids. I want to work hard seven days a week for two and a half years.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. I'm also going to show you what's been marked as Exhibit 1.

MR. WORKU: That's the one we --
MS. YOHANNES: Hold on. Hold on. Let me ask the question.

MR. WORKU: Sorry.
MS. YOHANNES: Can you tell me what that is? And tell me what that is. Do you recognize the document?

MR. WORKU: That's the one, we use the banner to help for us out the soundproof.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were marked as Applicant Exhibits 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 for identification.)

MS. YOHANNES: And you got that from the sound engineer, or the sound technician?

MR. WORKU: Yes. He working for, he got up everything by himself, you know, he's doing. And we search this one. It's going to cost a lot. That's why because of --

MS. YOHANNES: And that's where the document came from?

MR. WORKU: Yes. That, the document.
MS. YOHANNES: So, after you installed the wall, the sound mitigation, the panels, did you receive any other noise complaints?

MR. WORKU: No.

MS. YOHANNES: Have you been contacted by SPCA regarding noise, or anything else in the past year?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: So, tell me about parking. Do you have parking for your patrons?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I do.
MS. YOHANNES: Where's the parking?
MR. WORKU: Twelve parking. And on Georgia side with the parking, our closest three shopping center parking. And we have a sign to our parking's limited. We recommend our customers to use other transportation.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. I want to go back and talk more about your relationship with the community. Can you, tell the Board, you know, how long you've been in communication with the community Boards, SPCA and ANC.

MR. WORKU: Before I was opening the place me and Jackson, we do somehow everything that was the committee, the SPCA. And until now I like, you know, we communicate with them.

MS. YOHANNES: And --
MR. WORKU: And we, whenever they have posted, still, whenever they break it I'll do it.

Whatever, because the committee they say, you know, we have to put in flower and road signs, you know, for -- Yes, I did.

And we have to put in sign, because of visible there. The pedestrian they bothering, you know, who are live there, I think. And they don't want to just, you know, put in the middle. They want it just, you know, high top --

They didn't want to see couch in the middle. And they want to just put in like restaurant, and put in tables. I did. And the sound complaints I did that.

Whatever they comes from the committee I want to just work with them. That's the main thing, you know, for -- Still, why I'm here, you know, for, because of, whatever they have complaint, I want to just work with the committee.

Because I have ten years lease. I cannot walk out from that place. I spent a lot of money for to build it with nothing to something, you know, for the -- When you see it, the place, you know, for used to, they know how the place was. That I change it.

But still, I'm happy to work with the
committee. And the part of the committee where I know this. For ten years I be there, you know, I'm going to be there, you know, I have to finish my lease.

MS. YOHANNES: So --
MR. WORKU: That's the thing, you know, there's a committee for -- I working with Stacey Lincoln. Is close to me. When we have issue he let me know just, you know, whatever. I'm going to, I'm happy to work with the committee whenever they ---

MS. YOHANNES: You know Stacey
Lincoln?
MR. WORKU: Yes. Mr. Lincoln is here. MS. YOHANNES: And he's from, where's he from?

MR. WORKU: Shepherd Park. He's a commissioner.

MS. YOHANNES: All right. And did the ANC protest?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: The ANC?
MR. WORKU: No. The ANC, no protest.
MS. YOHANNES: The SPCA?
MR. WORKU: The SPCA.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. I want to go back to the November meeting that you referred to, and show you what's been marked as Exhibit 12. Sorry, Exhibit 13 and 14, as well as Exhibit 19. So, 13, 14, and 19.

Can you tell me what that is? What are you looking at in terms of those exhibits as a whole? Just tell me the exhibit number as you're looking at it.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were marked as Applicant Exhibits 13, 14, and 19 for identification.)

MR. WORKU: This one is the front door, the one we put in, you know, for every, customers when they leave, they have to, they don't want speaker on loud, because it don't bother our customers -- the neighborhood. And no -- signs on the front, one side. That's for the one we searched, it was critical.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. And this was done out of the request of the SPCA during that meeting?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Exhibit 12, can you take a look at this? Can you tell me what
that is?
MR. WORKU: The parking lot of Champion Kitchen. And the sign, the big sign used to at this side. That side is what there, because it was expensive to change it, that sign. And the SPCA, they complain after, take them out that sign. This I did. I take them out, because they complain.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked as Applicant Exhibit 12 for identification.)

MS. YOHANNES: So, you meant to address concerns. One of the concerns was the sign, any sign? And you took that down, right?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I did. Whenever they have concern I did.

MS. YOHANNES: How much did that cost you to take down that sign?

MR. WORKU: It's \$1,000 dollar.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: It's big sign.
MS. YOHANNES: Right. So, we just heard from your security personnel, or the owner of the business. Can you tell me if you have, do you have any other security?

MR. WORKU: You mean with RDO? Yes. I have RDO, two RDO Friday and Saturday, starting from 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: They start, you know, be at, they watching on the neighbor side. There's no one on Georgia side. The only thing they going on, you know, the back side, because of -MS. YOHANNES: Have --

MR. WORKU: Because they were do a lot out there, they were.

MS. YOHANNES: So, you have two RDO? MR. WORKU: Yes.

MS. YOHANNES: And you have two security personnel?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: For 44 --
MR. WORKU: Forty-four --
MS. YOHANNES: Okay, for 44 patrons?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: And why?
MR. WORKU: I say because, you know, for if I'm working well with thems, how wide our place is, one day maybe they going to increase my occupancy too.

Because I cannot survive with, you know, 44 people plus, because that place 2,500 square feet how big. That's why I asked them, you know, for, if you can go for it.

If not, we may have to work more on that one. Because I don't want to just, you know, anything going on between, you know, me and the committee.

MS. YOHANNES: So the, prior to getting the RDO did the SPCA raise concerns to you that led you to that?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: What concerns did they raise?

MR. WORKU: They said, you know, before they have noises on the back side. They say that whatever, they say they know if they have the noise on the back side, when the peoples, they leave.

I said, okay, well, what afternoon?
Then the solution is going to be for, we're going to put, we're going to add on another security for it outside for two RDO post officers.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Have you received a noise violation?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: And ever? You've never received a noise violation?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: And in the past year and a half you've never received any additional noise complaints?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: After you installed the sound, the walls?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Have you received any violations for a fight?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Have you received a violation for patron behavior?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Have you received a violation for selling to a minor?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. So, even though you've had all these communications with the neighborhood and the community, are you still willing to meet with them, to cooperate with them?

MR. WORKU: Of course.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. I also, just going back to your RDO, I want to show you what's been marked as Exhibit 16. Can you tell me what that is?

MR. WORKU: That are, the one $I$, the RDO officers are the one we send in.

MS. YOHANNES: And when did you start receiving RDO?

MR. WORKU: Close to four month now.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Yes. I think it's getting close to four months.

MS. YOHANNES: As an operator have you attended any trainings? Or have you done anything to increase your education?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I have. I have test work when I was opening. And the past two months I think three day. And I missed the last one last April for shooting --

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Regarding your occupancy, since there's been a lot of talk about that, to be clear, what does your agreement say about how many patrons you can have in the establishment?

MR. WORKU: Forty-four.
MS. YOHANNES: And are you contesting that you can have, you can only have 44 patrons? Do you know that you can only have 44 patrons?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I do.
MS. YOHANNES: All right. Even though your occupancy, your certificate of occupancy says that you can have more?

MR. WORKU: Yes. But I have to go back ABRA to increase my occupancy. Because when I asked I didn't know that one. When I asked to the investigator you have to get a paper from the SPCA, from the committee.

Then I asked them, you know, can you give me, you know, approval for to increase my occupancy they say deny me. That, I tried. But that the real issue if, for that accommodating, and will accept it.

I'm going to finish it. There's time enough for the settlement document to happen, you know, for, I have to work on it for 44. But it's no worse for me. But $I$ have to --

MS. YOHANNES: To comply. Okay. And I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness,

Ms. Jefferson.
MS. JEFFERSON: Paula Edwards is going to --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
MS. EDWARDS: Paula Edwards.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Edwards.
MS. EDWARDS: Hi, Mr. Worku. How are you?

MR. WORKU: Fine.
CROSS EXAMINATION
MS. EDWARDS: Your Counsel asked you about your original vision for Champion Kitchen and, you know, how it originally was visualized. Do you remember your restaurant business plan that you presented to the SPCA in 2016?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I do.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I'm going to, this is Exhibit 4, your Exhibit 4. On the last page you have a setup of how the restaurant was going to look. Do you recognize that?

MR. WORKU: Yes. And on the plan?
MS. EDWARDS: Right. The floor plan.
MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. EDWARDS: Does your current floor plan look anything like this?

MR. WORKU: Yes. Everything like this.

MS. EDWARDS: It is?
MR. WORKU: But is --
MS. EDWARDS: Is the tables in the center?

MR. WORKU: The table is not that, the way the architect is show where is going to be table. It's not that she say, you know, the table exactly sitting like this one in the picture. That table was going to be around that is the main thing in the show room.

The architect, we ask her to say where is going to be the chair? It's not the way seated like the pictures. But the only thing she mentioned, chairs going to be around here. That's the way for the floor plan.

MS. EDWARDS: Our Exhibit 11, their Exhibit 11 shows the floor plan now. Is that similar in any way to that setup with the chair, with the couches on the side on this end?

MR. WORKU: Yes, this end. But what I'm saying is, when you see on the picture, because she said, well, we don't are supposed to do, put a chair in like the picture.

But this places is going to be, you know, chairs. That's why the markings, you know, for we put it on the side plan. This side is going to be chairs. How we set it up is before we set it up. Now after we set it up, the chair, the picture is going to be like this.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. But did the SPCA know that when you presented that --

MR. WORKU: We explain.
MS. EDWARDS: -- to them.
MR. WORKU: We explain our occupancy's going to be 89. We working on it, our plan. That's why we because we know it's going to be 89 when we finish up for inspection it's going to be 89.

MS. EDWARDS: So what --
MR. WORKU: That we show you our plan. That's how we, close to work with the committee. MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Then why did you agree to 44 in the settlement?

MR. WORKU: The previous one in here are 44. By that time the one that's, you know, the only thing that happened on his occupancy, it takes time to get my occupancy.

To finish it I have to inspect fire,
every inspection, house. That takes me for, I didn't open for 12,13 months. And that means, you know, cost me \$60,000 dollars rent was out before we opened the place.

That we're working way to hard, you know, to open the place, you know, to make a little bit to pay rent. This is why I want to, what I'm saying, 100 times, I'm not working with, against the committee. I'd like to work with the committee.

But the committee, they have to understand me. They don't give me, it's wrong way. They all look me for wrong way, to take advantage with the public to make money and run. I'm not that kind of person. I'm, whatever we needed, I'm telling you 100 times the same thing I said, I want to work with the committee.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Because that's a way we, I told you, I trust you. I didn't know. This is the first time we're talking for my business. That's done by mistake. We don't write any note for, now we apply 44.

But when I get my occupancy I'm going to change it, this one. I have to write it on
the paper that I am thinking. But I'm not think that way.

I do it, you know, for, they going to give me, if I didn't write it still they're going to give me, they don't, you know, what, because they didn't say anything. That's why, you know, for, I say ---

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I'm sorry. I don't mean to interrupt you.

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. EDWARDS: But did you have Counsel at the time that you entered into the settlement agreement?

MR. WORKU: Yes. You know --
MS. EDWARDS: It had to be written to this, and then included in the settlement agreement?

MR. WORKU: YES. That's why, you know, that's why I didn't know for this thing. But you guys, you knows, you know, the word. It's going to be 89.

When I finish my renovations, going to be 89. That's why I was giving to you the plan, the floor plan. Everything is going to be on 89.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. But that was
never reduced to writing? Is that correct?
MR. WORKU: No, never.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you. On Page 4 of the business plan you have your original hours. And those were I believe from 8:00 a.m., no, Yes, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. And are those your hours now?

MR. WORKU: Can $I$ see my, that's not

MS. EDWARDS: Well, we know you don't close at 10:00 p.m.

MR. WORKU: No, no, no. That's not our plan, this one. 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., no.

MS. EDWARDS: This is not? It says the restaurant will be open seven days a week with hours as follows --

MR. WORKU: No. I do not plan for 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Well he put, he did change the hours, and said --

MR. WORKU: No, I didn't. The first time when I came I say 9:00 a.m. until closing. I didn't say, you know, for, by 10 o'clock.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. And that's not in the, $I$ mean, we agree that the settlement
agreement --
MR. WORKU: I don't know where you get
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. EDWARDS: -- in the settlement
agreement. And it --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Miss, can you
sit closer to the microphone?
MS. EDWARDS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Thanks.
MS. EDWARDS: So, your personnel. Do
you have a chef now --
MR. WORKU: Yes, I --
MS. EDWARDS: -- in your restaurant?
Okay. Do you have line cooks?
MR. WORKU: Yes, I do.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. How many line
cooks do you have?
MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. EDWARDS: No. That's in the business plan.

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay then.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the
nature of the objection?
MS. YOHANNES: She's getting to, she's asking questions that outside the scope of direct.

MS. EDWARDS: I'm asking based on Page 21 of the business plan.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, all right. Hold up. Hold up. Remember, when we do cross examination, that cross examination has to be based on questions that were asked by, on direct. Or questions that could lead. And I don't recall there was any question regarding business plan.

MS. EDWARDS: She asked about his vision, his original vision of the business. That was specifically asked. She said, what was your original vision of the business, Mr. Worku? And this is what he presented to us as his original vision of the business.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
But, all right. But $I$ don't know where you're going regards, I mean, I'll give you some, I'm going to overrule the objection. So, you can ask the question.

But I'm going to give you some, I'll give you some leeway. But I'm not quite sure
where you're going, and why you're going, and what's in that that's relevant to where we are today.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Well, this is on Page 21. I am 6.3, the personnel plan. And this is your personnel plan for your restaurant? Is that correct? That was your original vision of the business that you presented to the SPCA?

MR. WORKU: How do I know this --
MS. EDWARDS: This is from --
MR. WORKU: -- business plan still my way?

MS. EDWARDS: It's listed as your business plan. That's what we received. And that's what we have as our documentation. Are you saying this is not your business plan? It says, Champion Kitchen Restaurant Business Plan, August 2016.

MS. YOHANNES: Objection. I think he's answered the question. He said, I don't know.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. He said he doesn't know. Okay, fine.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. EDWARDS: All right. And those
are my only questions about this. You mentioned parking. Where do you park, Mr. Worku? Where do you park your car, Mr. Worku?

MR. WORKU: I park it on my, this for to convenience for our customers. Our employees, we park at all the meters. We have meters on the side.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Do you ever park in the residential parking at Shepherd Park?

MR. WORKU: Sometimes maybe I park on, next to maybe my house.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Because if I park there, that's, I want to just, you know, nobody's going to park on her parking lot. And when they leave I don't want to just, nobody's going to bother about area.

That's why I park my car in closing up the place. No one's going to go to there to parking. That's why I park my car right there. I want to just, you know, park that places.

Nobody walking to, on that doors, that main street. I took that space before someone's going to took it, you know, for -- It used to be residential.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: After, you know, some days, you know, changing the mirrors.

MS. EDWARDS: Exactly. Do your employees ever park, use residential parking, do you know?

MR. WORKU: No. That's, they're parking on the meters.

MS. EDWARDS: They only park on --
MR. WORKU: On the meter sides.
MS. EDWARDS: You're sure?
MR. WORKU: That, they leave, you know, we got to leave for, our space for customers.

MS. EDWARDS: You said previously that you can't survive with 44 people. In your testimony you said, we can't make it. We can't survive with 44 people.

MR. WORKU: That --
MS. EDWARDS: That's what you said.
MR. WORKU: Yes. I said, you know, it was, was harder to survive. I didn't say we can't. It's hard, you know, for to survive. Because the place, we build it, you knows the place. Did you eat there, in Champion?

MS. EDWARDS: I have.
MR. WORKU: Yes. That's how we look. And how big our place is for. And how we build it, that's the way, I mean, I'm asking you for when I, when my business plan, when I say, you know, when I look at the place it's going to be like this. But now it's 44.

It's putting me for five years for going 44. I say, that's certain. But I say, you know, for as a community member to support community, I'm asking, you know, for if you can. That's on your hand.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Because I have sign --
MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I sign in the settlement agreement. Because of that, I'm on your hand.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: If you want to say, okay, it's not --

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I accept it.
MS. EDWARDS: You're using my time right now. So, if you don't get an increase to your occupancy, is it your testimony that you --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to, that's not --

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. All right.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. EDWARDS: Hold on.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. It's my understanding that we're, this hearing, that there's agreement that there is 44.

MS. EDWARDS: Right. Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, as I stated, there should be no question regarding --

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- any numbers more than 44. Because there is no question before the Board to increase the occupancy --

MS. EDWARDS: That's okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- to change the license to more than 44 . So, let's move on from there.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Move on. You list, you said that you had no violations as far as noise, as far as violence, as far as other things. Do you have any violations that you didn't disclose?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I have.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. And --
MR. WORKU: A violation.
MS. EDWARDS: What types of violations do you have?

MR. WORKU: Maximum capacity.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Over capacity?
MR. WORKU: That's exactly -- before -- when I get my occupancy 89 I told that's enough. But when I got 89 occupancy that means I'm doing, you know, 89. When the investigator, what he said, you know, for you have to go back to ABRA, change it, then ABRA, the license to hold 89.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I told him, I have 89 occupancy. No, no. you have to be working on that one. You have to go back to ABRA, changing that whole increasing of the occupancy on the license. That's why I bring you, you know, the paper that you sign, hoping to, because that's a violation.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: But it's not purposely.
MS. EDWARDS: Have you received other
types of violations?
MR. WORKU: For the quarterly reports.
MS. EDWARDS: Right. Okay.
MR. WORKU: That's misunderstanding for my accountant with our, they have to supply to Department to submit it.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: By mistake we submitted two times for one places.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: And that way, you know, we sort it now, after, you know, for year this was issue. Over years, you know, we didn't have, when we opened the business, you know, first time we got --

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: -- issues, you know. Now we solve it. Why we here, you know, for, just, you know --

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I don't understand, you know - -

MS. EDWARDS: Right. I just --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, I'm going to, ma'am, you asked an open ended
question.
MS. EDWARDS: It was a question -CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Allow him to answer.

MS. EDWARDS: A question, you're right.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you want a shorter answer --

MS. EDWARDS: Ask a closed --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- ask a more direct question.

MS. EDWARDS: You're asking --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you can't cut him off, and have him --

MS. EDWARDS: You're right.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- responding.
MS. EDWARDS: I understand. Keep going.

MR. WORKU: That's the thinking for, when I was opening this, you know, purpose, there is no purposely $I$ did wrong something, you know. By mistake I didn't know one times or two times but $I$ sold that product.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: Whenever it comes now, for
year and a half there is no violation. There is no fine. There is no sound by anything, anything. Our investigator was 17 times, you know, on 40 days. He didn't find anything.

That means he going to tell you how my business running. That's my testimony too, you know. I don't know when he's going to be, when $I$ sold, you know, for that report, that's the main thing, you know, we told you.

Because I had, you know, complaint on noises. I'm checking outside, you know, four, five times every night. But $I$ never heard any noises. But I have, you know, complaint I'm noisy. What I do?

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I put in all the mixers. I get the boys whenever I can, you know, no one's going to touch it, the volume. Still, when I write it, you know, the complaint is the noise.

That's why, you know, for what I'm hearing, $I$ want to just work with the committee. Whatever you show me on issue, I'm going to work with them to change it up. But if you want to just, you know, remove my license, that's --

MS. EDWARDS: That's not responsive to
my question. One other, you said you haven't had any violations in a year and a half?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. EDWARDS: Does that include other departments of the Government, of the DC Government?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All right.

MS. EDWARDS: That's all I have. Anybody else have anything? Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by the Board Members? All right, Mr. Short.

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Worku, how are you, sir?

MR. WORKU: I'm all right, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Great. I'm looking at your investigative district, and there's seven different charges, starting July 4th, 1917, operating afterhours.

September the 23rd, '17, you had a case where you failed to keep books and records for three years. And you were fined \$1,000 dollars. Is that correct?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: And February 1st, 2018, no, that's the same one. Okay. It would have been May 1st 2018, you got another ticket and fine for failure to file your quarterly statements. Is that correct?

MR. WORKU: Yes. That's --
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. October 7th, 2018, Case number 18-CMP-00239. You were charged with increased occupancy, which is the primary charge. In Charge 1 you failed to follow the settlement agreement.

The Board referred the case to OAG to show cause. The Board scheduled a hearing. The Board held a status hearing. The Board accepted an OIC, which is a, you made an agreement with the Government to pay a fine, rather than go any further, correct?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: And that fine was for \$2,500 dollars. Is that correct?

MR. WORKU: I think so.
MEMBER SHORT: Yes, sir. This is --
MR. WORKU: Yes, is that.
MEMBER SHORT: All right. And then,

11/1/18 Case number 18-CIT-00658. Again, you were charged with fail to file quarterly statements. Is that correct?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: You paid a $\$ 600$ dollar fine?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: 12/21/18, Case number 19-CIT-0002. No ABC manager. And you had to pay a \$500 dollar fine?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: There was some testimony today also about the Health Department. What were the issues with you and the Health Department at your business?

MR. WORKU: The Health Department issue was a hookah.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I'm looking at, these aren't marked. But these were exhibits that were, $I$ don't know if $I$ can ask him to look at these.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He may remember that.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Not a problem.
MR. WORKU: Can I explain for about
the fine for the after hour, the one, the first time, the after hour?

MEMBER SHORT: I'm finished with that. I'm not going to beat a dead horse. You admit to that. And so --

MR. WORKU: Yes, but maybe that --
MEMBER SHORT: Thanks for being
honest. Now --
MR. WORKU: Yes. Afterhours not afterhour, because --

MEMBER SHORT: Yes, I understand.
That's, no question right now.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's no question presented, sir. If your attorney wants to follow up on that, that's up to her. But --

MEMBER SHORT: Now --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let's move on.
MEMBER SHORT: Also, the investigator said he, or ABRA came to your place starting in Tuesday, 9/24/19, 9/23, 9/20, 9/19, 9/16, 9/12, 9/7, 9/6, 9/5, 8/30/2019, 8/26, 8/28, 8/24, 8/22, 8/20, 8/18, and 8/17. And every time they came you were in violation of having too many seats. Did, I mean, were they trying to work with you by not writing you tickets? Or did they, did you,
did they ask you to remove the seats, the extra seats?

MR. WORKU: No. They said, I told them, you know, when I was applying for the 89 occupancy, how to put the chairs, you know, to the DCRA. They have to see the chair before approve me the occupancy.

If I want to have to move it, I'm going to move. But nobody sitted in one. The place too big. It looks ugly when I move the chair. That the purpose, you know, I leave it there. I said, if $I$ have to move it $I$ can do it, you know, for, 1 told them right now this --

MEMBER SHORT: When's the last time you were in your business? Were you there today?

MR. WORKU: Yes, I did.
MEMBER SHORT: Are those extra seats still there? Are they there right now?

MR. WORKU: The chairs?
MEMBER SHORT: More than 44 seats?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: How many seats in there right now?

MR. WORKU: It's no 87. It's close to 55 or 60 chairs.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, let me ask you a question. Do you plan on coming into compliance any time soon?

MR. WORKU: That, when I go back to, that's a main issue, I'm going to move the rest of the chairs, you know, for, that's not --

MEMBER SHORT: Well, if an
investigator comes there tomorrow you'll have everything straightened out?

MR. WORKU: Of course I do.
MEMBER SHORT: That, you're committing to that?

MR. WORKU: Yes. I did, Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
MR. WORKU: I'm going to move it tonight. When I leave from here. That's why, you know, for whatever I'm asking, you know, for, I'd like to work with the committee. That's the main thing issue. I'm going to move it.

MEMBER SHORT: Well, I'd like, I think you for your cooperation. And I'd just really like to say this to you. I don't want to see anybody not have a business, and trying like you're trying.

MR. WORKU: Okay.

MEMBER SHORT: But by the same token, the law is the law.

MR. WORKU: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: And if the
investigators came there 17 times, and cited you, but they didn't write you up, 17 times to move those seats. And you hadn't moved them yet.

MR. WORKU: No. He said he wasn't, two times when $I$ was meeting him. But he didn't say move the chairs. But I explained, there's no more than 44 peoples, 44 chairs.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. I'm not going --
MR. WORKU: He didn't --
MEMBER SHORT: Okay.
MR. WORKU: -- force me to move it or

MEMBER SHORT: Please forgive me. Please forgive me.

MR. WORKU: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: I've had enough time.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any Board Members? Any questions, Ms. Jefferson? I'm sorry, Ms. Edwards?

MS. EDWARDS: No.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No? You have no questions? All right.
(Off-mic comments.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Do you have any questions now?

MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Based on the questions that were asked by the Board? REDIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: Yes, I do. Thank you. First I want to talk about your violation, you alleged violations, and some of your violations. Can you explain, or clarify what happened with the afterhours violation?

MR. WORKU: The after hour violation is misunderstanding, the investigator and me. The, we serve, we stop serving alcohol 1 or 2 o'clock.

But they can finish it, whatever they have on their hand. They can finish it until 3 o'clock. One hour before we stop serving. But they can finish it, whatever they have on their hand.

When he get in, he look at it, everybody have a drink. I explain. Because of
our license that mean nobody's going to have it, you know, 1 o'clock. That means we have to close it up one hour early.

It's not that meant, you know, for the, the license says we stop serving before one hours, before we're closing. That's the case.

You know, after we find a ticket after, $I$ got in on my lawyers. The explained to them. The next time same things happen we solve it. I didn't get any fine.

MS. YOHANNES: So, in this case though, was he, you were never operating after 2:00 a.m. or after 3:00 a.m.?

MR. WORKU: Never. I want to go home.
MS. YOHANNES: And did you actually get a violation? The OAG, Yes or no?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: So, the OAG declined to prosecute, because of the understanding that we had with the OAG, with ABRA?

MR. WORKU: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Was an answer given? I don't think $I$ heard an answer.

MS. YOHANNES: I believe he said --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I didn't hear
an answer.
MS. YOHANNES: Oh, sorry. Go ahead.
MR. WORKU: I said, no.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. YOHANNES: Regarding the quarterly
statements, can you explain what happened?
MR. WORKU: I forgot her name for, I call it ABRA, or here. That's, my accountant, when he submitted, it used to working on ABRA and some things, you know, for when, that's the case, you know, misunderstanding.

He sent me it on the wrong department. Because of that, he did it two times. Then, you know, I called her. She told me because of that kind of situation is going to be on violation. But I submitted. Then we solve that problems for now. Everything's going smoothly.

MS. YOHANNES: Regarding the ABRA investigator that came to do the protest report, he has cited 17 times substantial change violation in the report, right?

MR. WORKU: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Any of those 17 times, did any of the ABRA investigators actually tell you to move these seats?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Did you ever receive a violation --

MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.
MR. WORKU: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection? He answered a question. I'm sorry.

MS. JEFFERSON: That's outside the scope of ABA's responsibility.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule. I'm overruling the objection. He answered the question. Let's move on.

MS. YOHANNES: One more question. Did you ever receive an order from $\operatorname{DOH}$ saying that you were in violation?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for your testimony, sir. You can step down.

MR. WORKU: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any other witnesses?

MS. YOHANNES: Yes, I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's the other
witness?
MS. YOHANNES: My last witness is going to be Thurman Baker.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's his
name? I'm sorry, who?
MS. YOHANNES: Thurman Baker.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The first name.
I still haven't heard the first name.
MS. YOHANNES: Thurman Baker.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thurman Baker.
Sir, you can't take any documents with you, sir. You can only take documents that the lawyers give to you. So, if you have any documents you have to leave them --

MR. BAKER: Sir, I wrote my testimony

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir. You can't do that, sir.

MR. BAKER: Then, I'll do my very best to remember.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can only look at documents that are in evidence, that your lawyer -- But you can't take your own documents up there, sir.

MR. BAKER: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please stand. Raise your right hand, please. WHEREUPON,

## THURMAN BAKER

was called for examination by Counsel for the Applicant and, having first been duly sworn, assumed the witness stand, was examined and testified as follows.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Have a seat, sir. Please pull the microphone in front of you.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: Can you state your name for the record?

MR. BAKER: Sure. My name is Thurman Baker .

MS. YOHANNES: Tell us how you know the operator, Eyob, and Champion Kitchen?

MR. BAKER: Well, I met Eyob I think about five years ago. I am a resident of the community. I've lived in D.C. for 30 years. I've lived in this community for 20 years. And I also own a business. And I work in the community.

So, I'm very proud of the fact that I
live about nine or ten blocks away from Champions. And I work about two blocks from Champions.

I met him five years ago, because within that area that I work there is not a lot of great places to eat, and to, there. And so, he had a restaurant I believe about five years ago. And it was on Maryland. It was in Maryland.

And I became much closer acquainted with, more closely acquainted with Mr. Worku, because I'm actually an attorney. And I represent small businesses on corporate matters. And he came to me because he had an issue dealing with his business.

I think he mentioned that, that he had made a huge investment in it. And had not had a chance to open it up. And asked me to help him out. I, at that point I could not do it, because the next day $I$ was going out of the country.

But when I came back I was very happy to know that he was back. But he's struggling based on, you know, a few things. One, making a big investment where he did.

I was very happy with the fact that he
moved his business into D.C. Very happy that he renovated what in my view was a longstanding eyesore in the community. And since then, as a person I just patronize his business on a regular basis.

MS. YOHANNES: So, being that you patronize the establishment on a regular basis, can you tell me, with your experience and observations there, what have you observed? Like, what's the place like?

MR. BAKER: You know, I love the place. The place is a place where I can go after work for, you know, and meet friends that are in the neighborhood. I can bring my clients there.

It's a place where you can have, you know, great food. I love his food. I love his chicken wings there. And it's a place where, you know, you can watch games, sports. And really just enjoy yourself.

So, for me it's a part of my business. It's also a part of my social life, right. So, I have family members. I'm, you know, married, you know. And we will go there quite a bit. And we will have other families or couples join us there.

I am a, you know, proud graduate of Howard University many years ago. But, you know, literally, you know, I celebrate my, you know, I've celebrated my birthday, my friends' birthdays there.

And literally three or four weeks ago we had sort of a very small group of my classmates from Howard Law, many of whom are, you know, as old as I. And we have, we've had a wonderful time there. And I've had zero complaints with it. So --

MS. YOHANNES: So, adding to that, or asking about that, while there have you observed any fights?

MR. BAKER: Absolutely not.
MS. YOHANNES: Any illegal behavior?
MR. BAKER: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Tell me about the music. Is there music playing when you're there?

MR. BAKER: On occasion there is music.

MS. YOHANNES: And how loud is the music?

MR. BAKER: Inside the place it's loud enough where you can enjoy it.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MR. BAKER: Outside of the place, and I do want to, I just want to stress this. Outside of the place, you know, I have no concerns that I've heard with regards to the sound.

MS. YOHANNES: And you live in the area as well, right?

MR. BAKER: Correct.
MS. YOHANNES: Have, tell me about the efforts, or tell me about Eyob as an operator?

MR. BAKER: Well, I think he runs, he's a very responsible operator. He's a person who knows his patrons well. And he manages the place very responsibly.

You know, I'll tell you, I've never seen an instance where there's been, you know, any indication of, you know, just unruliness that's there.

And with regards to his approach, and also his wife's approach -- extremely friendly to the clientele that's there. And so forth.

MS. YOHANNES: Tell me about the clientele.

MR. BAKER: The clientele, well, you
know, you tend to have people that are probably mid-20s, and going up to about I would say 40, right. And then you'll have occasional, some people that are a bit older, like myself. They're be there as well.

And can I say also, in terms of the clientele, you know, these are people that behave very well, dress, you know, where I think it is very appropriate, you know, for that place. A younger sort of professional, in my view a younger professional crowd of people.

But more importantly, it's a very diverse crowd. And diverse in the sense that, you know, you, on any given time you will see people from different ethnicities across that board that are there, and interacting very well, and very responsibly.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Do you have any experience or knowledge at all of Eyob's interactions with the community?

MR. BAKER: Absolutely. Well, I shouldn't say that. But I will say I do, the answer is yes as it relates to things that I've been a part of.

MS. YOHANNES: As it relates to, tell
me about that as it relates to Champions.
MR. BAKER: Sure. I think probably about a year, year and a half ago it came to my attention that there were concerns within the community about Champions. And because my experience with Champions has been a very positive one, $I$ became very concerned.

In a prior life, I'm just saying that I was actually very involved with some of the communities in D.C. There was, from 2001 to 2009 there was an entity called the National Capital Revitalization Corporation, which managed a lot of development in D.C.

I was the former CEO of it, and then actually former president of it. I raise that because I'm very sensitive to the fact of community engagement.

And I would just say up front, I, with regards to the members of the community here, you know, I applaud what they're doing, you know. And if there are issues with, problems in business I am very much onboard with that.

My concern is, that's not the business. There are a number of businesses that are on the northern Georgia Avenue corridor that,
to be very up front, I think that there are concerns of problems that are there. I don't want to sugarcoat that.

But what I will say wholeheartedly, is that that is not the business that you need to be focused with. And I will say that based on my interactions I feel that some of those businesses are businesses that are either owned or may have, you know, a clientele that are East African, of East African descent.

And with respect to those businesses that are troublesome, $I$ understand the need to sort of hold them accountable. But I think that that dragnet has been unfairly spread wide enough to capture Champions and Mr. Worku.

And I think that that's a very problematic thing. Because there are some very clear, subtle, but very important distinctions between the clientele that goes to Champions, versus the clientele that you will see coming out of other establishments that may be problematic.

And my concern is, $I$ do not think that the community appreciates that there is a differential that's there. That there is a difference.

And so, when you have people that are coming out of four or so other establishments within a three block radius of Champions, it may be hard to figure out, is this person causing a problem coming from Champions? Or any of the other three or four?

I'll just say, from my perspective, you know, the people that are there, I have no problems from a security standpoint, or how they interact when they leave there.

MS. YOHANNES: Thank you. Have you been present, or have you had, have you been present during Eyob's communications with SPCA regarding issues, or meetings about the establishment?

MR. BAKER: I will say that $I$ do not know how many meetings or interactions he's had. I've had I think one very meaningful one. When I -- Go ahead.

MS. YOHANNES: No. Well, when was that? I wanted to know the time.

MR. BAKER: I think it was maybe about a year ago from this time.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. BAKER: So, when I found out that
there was neighborhood concerns, just given my past I wanted to make sure that Eyob was able to put his best foot forward, in terms of just trying to figure out what were those concerns. Let's just put those on the table. And again, figure out a way to sort of bridge those concerns, and see what you could do.

And before I did that, I spoke with Eyob. And I said, look, I absolutely do not want to get involved in something that you're not committed to. Because I live in this community. And I'm concerned about that.

And he gave me assurances. He said he would be very reasonable. I don't know the number. So, we met with I think four, three or four people at Champions. And again, I'm guessing it was about a year ago. I don't have an exact date.

But we talked. And I thought it was a very productive one. And there was a list of concerns that was put on the table. When we left I talked with Eyob. And I said, you really need to do your very best to try to work with the community.

And I think we went through, and
again, $I$ haven't looked at all of those points. But I think that there were perhaps one or maybe two points that you were not able to do.

The other points you were able to do. And I think those two points were probably, you know, opening up for like Sunday brunch, or maybe a weekend brunch, or something along those lines.

But in terms of the others, getting chairs and tables. I know you were able to get that very quickly. To add on security into the process. And some other things. So, I felt that that went very well, from my perspective.

MS. YOHANNES: Tell me, so, do you believe that Eyob's establishment is having, and I know you've said this already, but, I mean, any, are there any negative impacts at all, that his establishment is having on the community, that you can think of?

MR. BAKER: You know, $I$ can't.
Because when I, you know, I can speak directly to the, probably safety that's in there, from my, you know, numerous times that I'm there.

When I heard about the sound issue I became very sensitive. I referred your business to be, you know, to go away. So, I actually made
it a point, whenever I'm there to actually listen to the sound when I'm in the parking lot, or to walk around.

And from my perspective the times that I've been there, and that has ranged into the evening, I have not heard sound that was so loud that it would be, you know, beyond sort of, you know, a very short distance, you know, that's there.

MS. YOHANNES: And I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Hold on then. All right. Where are we on time in this docket?
(Off-mic comment.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. So, Yes. How much time has it -- how much time has the applicant utilized?

MEMBER CATO: Sixty-two minutes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how much time has the protestant utilized?

MEMBER CATO: Thirty-five minutes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Okay. All right. So, out of the 90 minutes the protestant has utilized 32 minutes. And you
haven't called your case in chief.
MEMBER CATO: Thirty-five.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I'm sorry? MEMBER CATO: Thirty-five.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thirty-five. So, I just want you to be aware of it, of the time. Who's going to cross examine the witness? Go ahead, Ms. Jefferson.

CROSS EXAMINATION
MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned that you live in the neighborhood. Do you mind telling us the name of the street and the 100 block you live in?

MR. BAKER: I would prefer not. But I will say it's in Colonial Village.

MR. NADEAU: So, you're on the west side of 16 th, correct?

MR. BAKER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: And is that anywhere near Champion Kitchen?

MR. BAKER: It's approximately ten blocks, nine to ten blocks.

MS. JEFFERSON: How many miles is that?

MR. BAKER: I have no idea.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You mentioned that there, that you thought he made a big investment. Are you aware how much Douglas Development invested to meet the target there?

MR. BAKER: No. No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Are you a member of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection, relevance. (Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, yeah, why is that relevant?

MS. JEFFERSON: Well, it's relevant in establishing how many meetings to understand the community needs. It's essentially with the community.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, okay. All right. You can answer the question. MS. JEFFERSON: Have you ever been to a community meeting of the Shepard Park Citizens Association?

MR. BAKER: I think once, yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Once, okay. And do you think that one is sufficient to understand how a community may feel about a particular establishment?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: It's outside the scope of direct. He's not testifying regarding how SPCA feels. He's giving his own testimony.

MS. JEFFERSON: That wasn't the question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain the objection. Let's move on.

MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned that you attended a meeting with Mr. Worku and members of the SPCA. What was the purpose of you being there?

MR. BAKER: The purpose of the meeting or purpose of me being there?

MS. JEFFERSON: The purpose of you being there.

MR. BAKER: I am a supporter of Champions while we are doing this. And I was concerned that there were going to be questions about how he conducts his business. And I wanted to hear it.

MS. JEFFERSON: So you mentioned that you're an attorney.

MR. BAKER: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: When you offered Mr. Worku advice, was that legal advice?

MR. BAKER: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You mentioned three or four other establishments. How close are they to Champion Kitchen?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Actually, I withdraw the objection.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the question, sir, if you can answer the question. MR. BAKER: Sure. There's one that's across the street from it. I believe it's called Zeke's, I don't know. There is, Gojo's, there is Nile, which is a block away. Gojo's is a block, I believe, south, a half of block south. And then there is another establishment which is about a half a block north of Eastern Avenue. I don't know the name of it.

MS. JEFFERSON: Is that in Maryland?
MR. BAKER: Correct.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So you
mentioned Gojo's. Are you referring to Betty's Gojo?

MR. BAKER: Correct, yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Betty's Gojo. And so when you said relatively speaking, that you thought Champion Kitchen was better managed and had fewer issues than other establishments, what other establishment were you referring to?

MR. BAKER: You said fewer, I don't think I've said that he had fewer than anyone else. But I may have inferred that when I, I very well may have inferred that by saying that there have been troublesome businesses there. So maybe that's a fair inference.

MS. JEFFERSON: And were those troublesome businesses the same three or four -

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of your objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Relevance, can we talk about Champion Kitchen.

MS. YOHANNES: I'll sustain the objection. Go ahead.

MS. EDWARDS: Paula Edwards. I have a question.

MR. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.
MS. EDWARDS: You referred -
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She has let her
-- but I'm not going to have you guys tag team the Witness, so one person can ask the questions.

MS. JEFFERSON: You mentioned an East African business. Which business were you referring to?

MR. BAKER: I'm sorry?
MS. JEFFERSON: When you were naming and talking about the restaurants and the other establishments, you mentioned an East African one. Which one was --

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Can we talk about Champion Kitchen?

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm trying to establish that there's an over-concentration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. He spent a significant period of time talking about the East African, so that's open for cross examination.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the question, sir, if you can.

MR. BAKER: I'm sorry?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Answer the question if you can, sir -

MR. BAKER: Which other East African, I think Gojo's, Betty Gojo's.

MS. JEFFERSON: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by the Board members? Yes, Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Yes, sir.
MEMBER SHORT: Your testimony's been quite compelling. And thank you for taking the time to be here today, that's fine. And thank you for your commitment to the community.

MR. BAKER: Thank you.
MEMBER SHORT: I know of some of your work. I used to be at the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization.

MR. BAKER: God bless --
MEMBER SHORT: But let's, how can you help this situation if you've been here, and I know you heard a lot of the testimony --

MR. BAKER: Yes.
MEMBER SHORT: -- 17 times. He has not removed those chairs. Until he gets permission from ABA to go up on those chairs he can't do that. Are you going to try to help him with that?

MR. BAKER: Sir, I would say this, and I'd say the same, this will be the same exact statement that I said with the members of Shepherd Park Association when I first met them.

I will stand, my support of him is conditional. If I felt that he posed a threat, that his business posed a threat, I would not be here. And I would not support him on a going forward basis. It's for that reason I will absolutely do what I can do, and I'm happy to do it, I'm not a hired gun here to do this.

MEMBER SHORT: No, I understand.
MR. BAKER: But because of this, and because of a few other things, I absolutely would love and embrace an opportunity to try to bridge it. I would say that I have, I will say that I personally have reached out and have asked, can we meet again? Can we talk?

Because I want him to succeed. I want
this establishment to be in my neighborhood. And I want to support him. I realize that there are some differences, perhaps, meaning in terms of how communication takes place in a very welcoming culture.

## MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

MR. BAKER: But I'd be happy to -
MEMBER SHORT: I thank you very much for your testimony. Again, it's been quite compelling. And maybe he does need to talk with you, because he's already made a commitment that he's going to have those chairs removed tomorrow. So -

MR. BAKER: Okay.
MEMBER SHORT: -- I hope he does that.
MR. BAKER: I'll help him move.
MEMBER SHORT: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board members?

Ms. Jefferson, any questions of the witness based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. JEFFERSON: You're aware that the Shepherd Park Citizen's Association is protesting
today, correct.
MR. BAKER: Correct, ma'am.
MS. JEFFERSON: So you also are aware, from the conversation that we had, that we multiple conversations with Mr. Worku. I think you heard Board Member Short mention the 17 violations.

MR. BAKER: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Can you please share with us why you think Mr. Worku would listen to you?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Speculation.
MR. BAKER: I'm happy to answer.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sustained. Let's move on.

MS. JEFFERSON: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions based on the questions that were asked by the Board?

MS. YOHANNES: I have to ask just one.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't have to ask.
(Laughter.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't have to ask any questions but go ahead. RECROSS EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: Are you aware of any substantial change violation regarding the chairs as being an actual violation regarding how many chairs he has in his establishment?

MS. JEFFERSON: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. JEFFERSON: He's not the regulatory authority to make that determination.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, he's the

MS. YOHANNES: I can rephrase.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, rephrase the question. I mean, he's a licensee. I would hope that he's aware of violations.

MS. YOHANNES: He's not --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I'm sorry.
All right.
MS. YOHANNES: Do you have knowledge

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going, all
right. I'm going to overrule the objection. I apologize. No, I'm sorry. I'm going to sustain the objection or either rephrase the question or ask something else. I apologize.

MS. YOHANNES: Do you have any knowledge of the Board issuing an order finding that the licensee is in violation for having too many chairs in his establishment?

MR. BAKER: I'm sorry, I just don't know. I'm not aware, to answer your question.

MS. YOHANNES: That's fine. Thank you.

MR. BAKER: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions?

MS. YOHANNES: No questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir, for your testimony. You can step down.

MR. BAKER: Thank you very much, appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any other witnesses?

MS. YOHANNES: I do not. I would, at this time, like to move that my objections, or I'm sorry, my exhibits are admitted.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibits do you want to move into evidence?

MS. YOHANNES: All right. Exhibit Number 1.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, let me find that one.

MS. YOHANNES: Are you ready?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Do you have any objection to Exhibit Number 1, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: I --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, no, maybe so?

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. I was trying to get to what the list was. No.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit No. 1.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What other exhibits?

MS. YOHANNES: Exhibit Number 20.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any objection to Exhibit No. 20, Ms. Jefferson? So moved?
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit No. 20.)

MS. YOHANNES: Exhibit Numbers 17 and 18.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Numbers 17 and 18, any objection to Exhibits 17 and 18, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: No objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit Nos. 17 and 18.)

MS. YOHANNES: Exhibit, sorry, Exhibit 16 and Exhibit 19.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Exhibit 16 and 19, do you have any objection to Exhibits 16 and 19, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit Nos. 16 and 19.)

MS. YOUNG: Exhibits 12 to 14.
MS. JEFFERSON: Did she present it to
the --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit, hold on, what exhibits? Let me find 12 , what's exhibit --

MS. YOHANNES: Any sign of the --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, they were testimony exhibits, 12, well, $I$ know they were, 13, I know they were testimony exhibits, 13, 14. What's Exhibit 12?

MS. YOHANNES: The actual
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, the signage. There was testimony on those exhibits. Do you have any objection?

MS. JEFFERSON: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So Exhibits 12 through 14 is on the record.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibits Nos. 12, 13, and 14.)

MS. YOHANNES: Also Exhibit 2.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any objection to Exhibit 2?

MS. JEFFERSON: No.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to
document was received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit No. 2.)

MS. YOHANNES: Exhibits 4, 5, and 7.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any objection to Exhibits 4, 5, and 7?

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry, I don't recall those being

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we have testimony on Exhibits 4, 5, and 7.

All right, so moved.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to documents were received into evidence as Applicant Exhibit Nos. 4, 5, and 7.)

MS. YOHANNES: And that is all for direct.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So those are the documents that will be moved into evidence. All right. So you rest.

MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We're going to take, how many witnesses do you have?

MS. JEFFERSON: Just three.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The three witnesses? And how much time do they have?

I'm sorry?
MEMBER CROCKETT: Forty-eight.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Forty-eight minutes to present your case. We're going to take a 15-minute break.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 8:11 p.m. and resumed at 8:31 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, we're back on the record. Who's the first witness?

MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Bergman.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bergman, all right. Mr. Bergman, can you raise your right hand, please?

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

MR. BERGMAN: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
thank you. Your witness.
MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Bergman? Good evening, how are you?

MR. BERGMAN: Good evening.
MS. JEFFERSON: Can you tell me, how long have you lived in the community?

MR. BERGMAN: I've lived in the District for 53 years, of which 35 have been in Shepherd Park.

MS. JEFFERSON: And what has been you involvement with the community?

MR. BERGMAN: I have been involved in the community since about the time we moved in, in '84. And I was on the Board of Neighbors, Inc. and was treasurer of Neighbors, Inc. and also on the Board.

I have been a member of the Board of Shepherd Park Citizens Association for about five years, starting with being treasurer, then a member of the Board, and now vice president.

I also was the community representative for what's called the LSAT, which is the Local School Advancement Team, which is an advisory body to the local school principal. I did that for three years. Previously, I did four years with the School Without Walls in a similar position.
I've also been active at Tifereth

Israel Congregation for 40 years, and I've held a variety of positions in the congregation which is a part of Shepherd Park.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. What has been the extent of your interactions with the Applicant?

MR. BERGMAN: The extent of my experience has been simply this. I know him from the times he has come before SPCA, either our Board or our community meetings.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And how would you describe the part of the community near his establishment?

MR. BERGMAN: The area around Georgia, Alaska, and Kalmia, Georgia is a commercial street that's quite wide that feeds into Montgomery County, Silver Spring, Montgomery County.

Kalmia is basically a residential street, as is Alaska. Though there is a new Target right at the corner of Alaska, and Kalmia, and Georgia. It's a very, as with most of Shepherd Park, it's a quiet residential area, one of single-family homes that were developed from the 1920s on.

MS. JEFFERSON: So you mentioned that it's a quiet neighborhood. Are the home prices there relatively inexpensive or expensive?

MR. BERGMAN: Well --
MS. YOHANNES: Objection?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Is he testifying as an expert right now?

MS. JEFFERSON: No. I'm asking him as a member of the community as far as --

MR. BERGMAN: Well I also have a prior

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, hold on. Sir, sir, hold on.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes, sir. I'm sorry.
MS. JEFFERSON: His knowledge as a long-standing member of the community.

MS. YOHANNES: So could you repeat the question? I still want to, I still raise the objections. I don't think that he's qualified to answer. But -

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you repeat the question, ma'am?

MS. JEFFERSON: I don't even remember
the question. I'll -
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, rephrase it. I'm not going to sustain the objection. So I'm going to overrule the objection. So if he remembers the question, he can answer. That would be a whole lot -

MR. BERGMAN: Well, basically, Shepherd Park, real estate prices and assessments are very relative. I happen to have been a deputy auditor for the District of Columbia for a number of years. And I was involved with a number of assessment issues in the city, both there and on the City Council staff. So I do have some knowledge of assessments.

But basically, as most people know, west of the Park is much more expensive than Shepherd Park. Shepherd Park is more expensive than other neighborhoods of single-family detached dwellings.

MS. JEFFERSON: Are there very many condos in Shepherd Park?

MR. BERGMAN: There are a few.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You gave me a declaration. Is this your declaration, Exhibit 21?

MS. YOHANNES: Objection, he's testifying.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know, it's an exhibit, so I'm going to overrule the objection. So I don't know. She can show him his declaration.

MS. JEFFERSON: Is this your declaration and exhibit?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what, all right, what exhibit is that you're showing him?

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 21.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Have you read the settlement agreement?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You provided some pictures in --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you a question. I'm sorry to interrupt you. Are you planning to introduce his declaration into evidence?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, you need to ask him questions about it, because I'm not
going to -- the reason why I asked you is because you're asking about settlement agreements. You're not asking him about a declaration.

I'm just saying to you that if you don't ask him questions about his declaration, I'm not going to allow you to put a statement in the record later on.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: So in the settlement agreement is there any language that restricts how Champion Kitchen can promote itself?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes. Champion, for example, can't use social

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, I can't hear you. You're not

MR. BERGMAN: Yes. As I understand the settlement agreement, Champion, for example, they can't charge cover charges, they have to adhere to certain capacity. They can't use social media, particularly, to promote themselves. There are a number of issues in the settlement agreement that go to, broadly speaking, what you might call promotion.

MS. JEFFERSON: Can you tell me, the
picture at the bottom of Page 2, where you got this picture from?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes. I went on to Champion's website, and that is a screen shot of what they have. It's one of three images that they post on their website. And I took this one, because I thought it was important.

MS. JEFFERSON: And can you read what the big, bold print says?

MR. BERGMAN: It says we Champion bar.
MS. JEFFERSON: Is Champion Kitchen a bar?

MR. BERGMAN: I can't say one way or another.

MS. JEFFERSON: Is there any language in the settlement agreement that talks about using the word bar?

MR. BERGMAN: They're not allowed to.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. You have some other pictures in here on the bottom of Page 4.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Is there any food in that picture?

MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Are there any napkins
in the picture?
MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Are there any utensils in the picture?

MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Are there any glasses?
MS. YOHANNES: Objection. What's the relevance here?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm trying to find the exhibit myself. So, I mean, it's her witness, her direct testimony. So, I mean, you can go ahead, ma'am, and ask the question.

MS. YOHANNES: But does she plan to enter this entire declaration with these exhibits attached

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: -- into evidence?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm trying to find the declaration. Because I have my exhibits, Number 21, right?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, I have not looked through the documents -

MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to object to the entire declaration as a whole being admitted
into evidence. I mean, this is all, if he's going to testify, he's here now. He can testify. If you're going to talk about specific exhibits or pictures within the exhibit -

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the exhibit? This is Exhibit what?

MS. JEFFERSON: Twenty-one.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I think I have, $I$ forget, $I$ have this - all right. Let's hold on one minute, please.

All right, go ahead. So, all right, where were we now? I have that. So this is his declaration, and so you're going through his declaration. All right, go ahead.

MS. YOHANNES: Can I get a ruling on my objection?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: So my objection is one is the declaration. He's testifying now, you know, a statement made out of this hearing be introduced.

The second thing is, you know, there are pictures within here that she's referring to, however, there's also, I mean, there are
statements within here as well describing what the pictures are. And I would object to that as well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, they're documented not being introduced into evidence at the moment.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He's testifying to the documents. So let's see where it is. And if there are, you have an opportunity to cross examine on what's here. So I don't have a problem. This is the Witness' declaration, and she's asking him questions about his declaration. So they objection is overruled. Go ahead.

MS. JEFFERSON: You heard today about Department of Health violations that the ABA investigator mentioned. Are you aware of any?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And how did you become aware of them?

MR. BERGMAN: I became aware of them by looking for, well, let me rephrase. The settlement agreement requires that Champion Kitchen obey city laws. And it specifically mentioned ABRA's and DCID -- DCRD and Department
of Health.
So I looked at Department of Health, and I found three violations that if one, I heard the inspector say there are now four.

MS. JEFFERSON: I am presenting Exhibit 22. Are these the reports that you're mentioning?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And can you turn to the first report? What's the date?

MR. BERGMAN: The date on the first report, June 30th.

MS. YOHANNES: Can he -
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Stop, all right
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr. Bergman.

What I'm going to ask you to do, Ms. Jefferson, I need you to step away. Because you're having a conversation with him. When I said have a conversation, I mean you're asking him questions.

Sir, Mr. Bergman, you're speaking to us. You are being recorded.

MR. BERGMAN: I apologize if I've done anything but that, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. You have not done anything inappropriate. The reason I asked her to step away, because if she's not close to you, then you'll talk to us rather than have a conversation with her.

MR. BERGMAN: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But that's why I'm asking to create some distance, so therefore, you will speak to us rather than her so we can hear what you're saying.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I want to hear what you're saying. All right. So what's the question left then? That's the Exhibit 22?

MS. JEFFERSON: I asked the date, and he just stated the date. Can you look on the back page at the bottom? It's the very bottom. Are there any notes down at the bottom?

MR. BERGMAN: It says Inspector comments, establishment is hereby ordered to cease and desist -

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bergman, speak into the microphone please.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. BERGMAN: I'm sorry. Is that better?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
MR. BERGMAN: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
MR. BERGMAN: I never have that trouble at home.

The establishment is hereby ordered to cease and desist the smoking tobacco. The establishment does not have a smoking exemption for the smoking of tobacco. And then it says who to contact for an exemption.

MS. JEFFERSON: Can you tell me the date of the second one?

MR. BERGMAN: The second one is July 24th of this year.

MS. JEFFERSON: And what does it say at the bottom?

MR. BERGMAN: Inspector comments, the establishment is hereby ordered to cease and desist the smoking tobacco. The establishment does not have a smoking exemption for the smoking of tobacco. Then it says who to contact.

MS. JEFFERSON: Does it have a
timeframe in which this alleged violation needs to be addressed?

MR. BERGMAN: Not in this language, no.

MS. JEFFERSON: What about the next one. What is the date of that?

MR. BERGMAN: August 13th, this year.
MS. JEFFERSON: And can you look on the back

MR. BERGMAN: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- and read that?
MR. BERGMAN: Inspector comments, correct cited violations within 14 calendar days. This establishment is hereby issued to cease and desist smoking within the establishment. This serves as the cease and desist order for Champion Kitchen for smoking within establishment. Further remedies will be implemented.

And in addition, Champion Restaurant we refer Tobacco Control Program at DC Health. Observed customers smoking what commonly known Hookah. Hookah supplies observed in a room at the backside of the establishment.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. Mr.

Bergman, you mentioned you worked for the DC auditor.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Is tobacco taxed?
MS. YOHANNES: Objection?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: It's irrelevant.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the relevance in there?

MS. JEFFERSON: The relevance is whether he's adhering to all laws and regulations?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to sustain the objection.

MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Bergman, were you at the meeting, the community meeting where the community voted to protest the license?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And would you say that it was less than five people there?

MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Would you say, from that meeting, that there were only a few people who protested or voted to protest against

Champion Kitchen?
MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Have you heard complaints in your capacity as a member of this community, or on the Board of the SPCA, about Champion Kitchen?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And what is the nature of those complaints?

MR. BERGMAN: I've heard several over time, noise, about behavior outside of the restaurant, as well as people who've gone there. But $I$ have no direct knowledge.

MS. JEFFERSON: No questions at this time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your witness.
MS. JEFFERSON: My witness?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, her.
MS. JEFFERSON: Oh.
MS. YOHANNES: So I want to go back to the violations that you referred to. Do you make your own determination as to what violations Champion Kitchen --

MR. BERGMAN: No.
MS. YOHANNES: -- had right in the
settlement agreement, or were there actual settlement agreement violations?

MR. BERGMAN: I'm sorry. There are a couple of questions there. Could you break them up?

MS. YOHANNES: Sure, I'll break it down. Was there a settlement agreement violation that the Board made against Champion Kitchen?

MR. BERGMAN: Was there a settlement agreement violation that the Board made?

MS. YOHANNES: Right, that the Board made.

MR. BERGMAN: The Board having endorsed the settlement agreement, is that what you're saying?

MS. YOHANNES: No. You referred to a settlement agreement violation by Champion Kitchen.

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: They were in violation of their settlement agreement, right?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Did the Board make a determination that they were in violation of the settlement agreement?

MR. BERGMAN: Not that $I$ know of.
MS. YOHANNES: So how did you come to that determination?

MS. JEFFERSON: Objection, which Board is she referring to?

MS. YOHANNES: The Board we're in front of.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Rephrase the question, Ms. Yohannes.

MS. YOHANNES: Did the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Board make a determination that Champion Kitchen was in violation of the settlement agreement?

MR. BERGMAN: Not that $I$ know of.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. So you mentioned that you heard complaints previously from residents. Is that correct?

MR. BERGMAN: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Can you tell me when was the last time you heard a complaint about Champion Kitchen that was not from Ms. Jefferson?

MR. BERGMAN: Probably within the last two weeks.

MS. YOHANNES: Who was the complaint from?

MR. BERGMAN: Rich Holzanger and Sarah Green.

MS. YOHANNES: And what was the complaint regarding?

MR. BERGMAN: Their complaint was regarding the nature of the operation.

MS. YOHANNES: Have you
MR. BERGMAN: You'd have to ask them if, ma'am, $I$ can't speak for them.

MS. YOHANNES: Sure. Thank you. Where there any noise complaints that were made to you in the last year or that you heard of in the last year?

MR. BERGMAN: In the last year, I'd have to search my memory, yes.

MS. YOHANNES: Yes? And what were the noise complaints?

MR. BERGMAN: The noise complaints were there was noise outside of the - -

MS. YOHANNES: What type of noise?
MR. BERGMAN: Music.
MS. YOHANNES: Who made the noise complaints.

MR. BERGMAN: In the last year, I couldn't tell you specifically who.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. But you have no direct knowledge

MR. BERGMAN: I don't pretend to.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by the Board members? Yes, Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Bergman, I bring your attention to testimony that was given earlier by the Applicant in which I asked him, on October 7th, 2018, Case Number 18-CMP-00239, where the Applicant was charged with increased occupancy, failed to follow settlement agreement, and he was fined \$2,500. So your testimony a moment ago him violating settlement agreements might not have been on your -

MR. BERGMAN: Thank you.
MEMBER SHORT: Do you remember that testimony?

MR. BERGMAN: Thank you for refreshing my memory. I didn't want to say the settlement agreement if I didn't have the decision of the Board directly in front of me.

MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions by any other Board members?

Any questions, ma'am, based on the questions asked by Mr. Short?

MS. JEFFERSON: No, no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Not you, it's

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, I would like to -
MEMBER SHORT: It's Ms. Yohannes' turn.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes's turn. I will let you know when it's your turn.

MS. YOHANNES: No questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions based on the questions that were asked by Mr. Short, no, by the questions asked by Mr. Short? No, no?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, Mr. Bergman, thank you very much for your testimony. Sir, you can step down.

Who is our next witness?
MS. JEFFERSON: Ms. Paula Edwards. Can't take papers in this one.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Edwards,
can you raise your right hand, please? WHEREUPON,

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

MS. EDWARDS: I do.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.
Make sure you speak into the microphone when you speak, ma'am.

Your witness, Ms. Jefferson.
MS. JEFFERSON: Ms. Edwards, how long have you lived in the community?

MS. EDWARDS: My family moved to Shepherd Park in 1963, so that's 56 years.

MS. JEFFERSON: And have you lived in the community for the vast majority of your life?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: So would you say that you are very familiar with the character of the community?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Would you describe the community as being different from lower Silver Spring, which is just across the District line?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, they call it the suburbs in the city.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And why do they call it the suburbs in the city?

MS. EDWARDS: Because it has a lot of single-family homes, nice lawns, nice lots, quiet.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Is it the type of neighborhood, based on your tenure, that you think would like to have nightclubs or taverns?

MS. EDWARDS: Not really, no.
MS. JEFFERSON: And have there been nightclubs and taverns.

MS. EDWARDS: Oh, yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And are they still, are any of those nightclubs and taverns, that you know of from perhaps 20 years ago, still open today?

MS. EDWARDS: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And have there been challenges with establishments in Montgomery County coming to -

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- the District of Columbia?

MS. YOHANNES: I am just going to object to this line of questioning. I don't know where we're going, what the relevance is to Champion.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll give her, I'm going to overrule the objection. But I'll give her some leeway. Remember, time is of the essence.

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. We only have one more.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we need to ask questions that are on point. So I'll give you some leeway. I'm not sure where you're going with this question. So go ahead.

MS. JEFFERSON: And I will ask you this. Have you been in any meetings with Champion Kitchen?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And in those meetings, did Champion Kitchen represent itself as a family restaurant?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And there were pictures that the investigator, here in his report, gave on Exhibit 8. Have you ever been in
a family restaurant that looks like that?
MS. EDWARDS: Rarely.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. What about one in our community?

MS. EDWARDS: Never.
MS. JEFFERSON: Is there a family restaurant in our community?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, there are several.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And have you ever eaten at Champion Kitchen?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. When you were there, were other people eating?

MS. EDWARDS: Ulm -
MS. JEFFERSON: Other patrons, not with your party.

MS. EDWARDS: I don't think so. I can't remember. There weren't many people there when I was there.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Did you participate in any of the negotiations with Champion Kitchen relating to the settlement agreement?

MS. EDWARDS: The only thing I did participate in was the

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. EDWARDS: All right. No, I'm sorry.

MS. YOHANNES: I just don't want to get into any settlement discussions or negotiations.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think she said no. She answered -

MS. YOHANNES: I think she was okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: She said no.
MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: Have you ever been at Champion Kitchen after midnight?

MS. EDWARDS: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Have you ever been near Champion Kitchen after midnight?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: And how would you describe the activity surrounding the establishment?

MS. EDWARDS: When I was there, there were a few people standing outside. And they were talking. They were talking somewhat loudly, but not terribly loudly, no.

MS. JEFFERSON: So would you describe it as they were standing there, or would you describe it as they were loitering?

MS. EDWARDS: They were
MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: I believe it's been asked and answered. She described what the individuals were doing out there. And now you're asking her to make a legal determination as to whether it's classified or whether it's considered --

MS. JEFFERSON: In her opinion.
MS. YOHANNES: -- loitering.
MS. JEFFERSON: I'll rephrase it. In your opinion, did you believe they were just standing there, or did you believe they were loitering?

MS. EDWARDS: They were standing there talking.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And have you heard of any complaints, beyond from myself, about Champion Kitchen?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, I have.

MS. JEFFERSON: And what were the nature of those complaints?

MS. EDWARDS: There were some people who complained about littering and people coming out of the club late at night.

MS. JEFFERSON: Have you attended any ANC meetings where the topic of Champion Kitchen arose?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, I did.
MS. JEFFERSON: And what action did the ANC take?

MS. EDWARDS: The ANC did not take any action, because the motion to protest was tabled.

MS. JEFFERSON: Did the ANC ever submit a resolution about Champion Kitchen prior to the protest to the Board?

MS. EDWARDS: I was told that they did. But $I$ do not have direct knowledge of that. MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And I understand that there were some quarterly reports obtained from the Champion Kitchen. Is that correct?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, there were FOIA requests. We obtained quarterly reports of 2018 and 2019.

MS. JEFFERSON: And did you look at those reports?

MS. EDWARDS: I did.
MS. JEFFERSON: And my understanding is Champion Kitchen got their license in 2017. Were there any 2017 reports?

MS. EDWARDS: I received no 2017 reports. And I was told, I received an email from the FOIA office saying that she did not have any 2017 reports to send me.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. So in the 2018 and 2019 reports, were there any general observations that you had when you looked at them?

MS. EDWARDS: The numbers seemed inconsistent. At first they were consistent, and then they started jumping around. So the percentages, the only thing we have access to, because the reports are redacted, we have them, but we do have access to the percentage of alcohol sales versus the percentage of food sales and the percentage of cost of food versus the percentage of alcohol. And the numbers at first were consistent, right around 57 , 42 , or so.

MS. JEFFERSON: Which --

MS. EDWARDS: That was the first and second quarter of 2018.

MS. JEFFERSON: Which number was 57, and which number was 42 ?

MS. EDWARDS: I think they had, 57's the food, and 42 is the alcohol.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
MS. EDWARDS: And that first and second quarter report's in 2018. And then in the third quarter they had, I think, 65 percent food and 35 percent alcohol. But the food sales were, yes, and the food sales were about 60 percent, the food costs were about 60 percent. And the alcohol costs would have been 35 percent, which seemed a little odd.

And then in the fourth quarter, $I$ think it went to, I can't remember. I would have to look at the fourth quarter. And I remember the fourth quarter was 9:01:45.

Then the first quarter of 2019 was 75 percent alcohol and 25 percent food. And we did not receive the second quarter 2019 report. I don't know if it was submitted or whatnot -- that FOIA request did not give us that report.

MS. JEFFERSON: And you mentioned it
seemed a bit varied. What is the basis of that statement?

MS. EDWARDS: Well pretty much -
MS. YOHANNES: I object here.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the
nature of the objection?
MS. YOHANNES: What is the relevance here? What's the relevance?

MS. JEFFERSON: The relevance is whether Champion Kitchen is really a restaurant?

MS. YOHANNES: I think a determination has already been made by ABA.

MS. JEFFERSON: I think we're debating

MS. YOHANNES: That's not what we're, it's not what we're here for. We're not here at this protest hearing to make that determination.

MS. JEFFERSON: That's in our settlement agreement, the nature of the business.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to overrule the objection. But again, I'm not sure the point that's being made, but go ahead.

MS. EDWARDS: In my experience, I'm a CPA, and my experience with restaurant accounting is that pretty much these ratios are pretty
consistent. And I submitted into evidence the alcohol, the industry standards, the industry benchmarks for most restaurants of this size.

And so for the percentages to jump around so much is somewhat concerning, well, not concerning, but it's a little, it's something that makes you look at things a little bit closer, multiple things a little more closely.

MS. JEFFERSON: And you said you submitted it into evidence. Is that Exhibit 20?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, in Exhibit 20.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. I would like to submit exhibit 20 into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, let me find Exhibit 20 first. It's, okay, so we're MS. JEFFERSON: Her declaration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Am I looking at the same Exhibit 20, it has, what, Georgia Avenue Spirit and Wine. Is that

MS. Jefferson: No. I don't -
MS. EDWARDS: It's Exhibit 20, and it's divided into four parts. PE2 is the part that has the industry standards.

MS. JEFFERSON: Chair, I'm not sure which, these numbers are exhibits, but I'm not
sure which is
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is the exhibit?

MS. EDWARDS: It's Exhibit 20.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is Exhibit 20?

MS. JEFFERSON: The Exhibit is Paula's declaration that has several exhibits attached.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do it's a declaration?

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm just admitting it into evidence. I'm not asking her any questions about it. I just

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Whose declaration is it?

MS. JEFFERSON: It's hers.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you want to move a document into evidence, it has to be introduced. And we need to have, it has be identified, and we need to have testimony again on the document.

I'm not going to introduce a document into the record, say a declaration, and that we have not had any testimony. I don't know what it is. I'm unable to look at the document at the
moment. But I'm just saying that, just as a general matter, we have to have testimony on the document. A witness has to identify it. We have to have specific testimony on the document.

And once we have that, then you can make a motion to move it into evidence. I will ask the other side whether or not they object to it, as we did before. And whether or not there are objections or not, then I'll make a ruling whether or not I'll allow the document in.

But I'm just saying, as a general matter, you need to have testimony on the document, have the person go through the document and what it is, and then you can try to move it into evidence.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. And thank you for helping me with that. I appreciate that, Chair.

Exhibit 20, is this your declaration?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I have to
find the -- I still can't find the declaration.
You can go ahead. I'm looking for the document, but go ahead.

MS. JEFFERSON: And what is attached to that declaration?

MS. EDWARDS: My documents, the quarterly reports are attached, the industry standards for small restaurants are attached, some violations for Champion Kitchen are attached. And the invoices that were taken by ABA investigators relating to Champion Kitchen are attached, the settlement agreement, pictures from the website of Champion Kitchen are attached.

MS. JEFFERSON: And so in total, would you agree that it is over 83 pages with your declaration and exhibits?

MS. EDWARDS: It is.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
MS. YOHANNES: Mr. Chairman, would you like my exhibits?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
MS. YOHANNES: Would you like my exhibits?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is a declaration of Paula Edwards.

MS. EDWARDS: It is.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What Exhibit did you say it is?

MS. JEFFERSON: Twenty.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. There is more than one Exhibit 20 in the package that I'm looking at. But I have located it. Yes, what

MS. YOHANNES: I think she's moving for this. Are you -

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: You moved, and I didn't want to object yet.

MS. JEFFERSON: On what basis?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. All right. I have the document. So what's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Ms. Edwards is testifying right now. And I know, and she's trying to submit, I'm sorry, Ms. Jefferson is trying to submit a statement, you know, out of this Board room. And you've got as evidence with what, 30, I don't know how many exhibits are attached to this.

And the exhibits are not even - these are separate exhibits that have not been identified and not been, there's no foundation for each of these separate exhibits. I don't know what this is.

MS. JEFFERSON: She just identified it.

MS. YOHANNES: She identified every --
MS. JEFFERSON: I just asked her to identify the exhibits, and she did.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
That was not done though. There's a lot of documents here, and I have not, I don't know what. So we need to go through, we would need to go through Exhibit 20. Because I found Exhibit 20. And how many pages is Exhibit 20?

MS. JEFFERSON: Eighty-three pages.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, if there are 83 pages, she has not gone through the pages to identify the documents. So if you're trying to introduce them into evidence, then we need to go through. Because of the period that was in Exhibit 20, that there's sub-exhibits, is that correct?

MS. EDWARDS: That is.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So then you would have to go through all of the sub-exhibits in the document before I'm going to allow it in evidence.

MS. JEFFERSON: Ms. Edwards, can you
go through your exhibits? What is the -
MS. EDWARDS: The first attachment is the first quarter report. We had the first quarter of 2018 report for Champion Kitchen. The second, on the backside of that, is the second quarter report, 2018, Champion Kitchen, third quarter, 2018, Champion Kitchen, fourth quarter, 2019, Champion Kitchen, first quarter, 2019, Champion Kitchen.

The restaurant benchmarks from bloombergintelligence.com, which show the benchmarks for small and medium size restaurants - -

MS. YOHANNES: I'm sorry, we're going too fast.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay, sorry.
MS. YOHANNES: And if we're, if it has this exhibit, are we treating this as separate exhibits right now? Because I do want to -- do you want me to comment on each one individually, object on each, object on them as a whole?

Because my objection, first of all, is it a whole? But if you are, you know, if you want me to object on each individual one, and you want to separate them, you're inclined to do so.

Then I'd like to object on each individual one. Because still with the first one or, I guess, Exhibit PE1, there's no foundation for this. It hasn't been, I mean, you're trying to lay a foundation, but it hasn't been authenticated. I don't know where this came from. I mean, it's not clear. It's not clear to me. Is it clear to the Board?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I would not have an issue with PE1. Because it's on ABRA's letterhead. It's an email from ABA. So these are, it's an email that was provided by ABA. So this is an ABA document.

MS. YOHANNES: Who was notified at QuickBase? I guess I can, okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: Chair Anderson, the SPCA has no direct access until we protest to get the quarterly reports. That's in the ABA regulations.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, the document appears to be, I'm not sure how, so --

MS. YOHANNES: I can ask -
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't we -
MS. YOHANNES: -- because I don't know who notified QuickBase.com.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So let's go through the documents before the documents are allowed to move into evidence. Then we can go through the documents.

I also want to remind you, Ms. Jefferson, that your time is limited. How many more witnesses do you have?

MS. JEFFERSON: Just me.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just you. I just want to let you know that right now you have ten minutes. However, I'll give you some leeway. So I'm not going to cut your time off if I say you only have ten minutes, and therefore - but I want to let you know. I just want to let you know the time. I will however, give you an opportunity to testify.

All right. So let's go through this document or the series of documents. So the first document that the Witness testified, this is supposed to be the ABA, the quarterly report for Champion Kitchen.

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MS. EDWARDS: This is what we received from the FOIA request.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

Okay.
MS. EDWARDS: And so, those five documents that $I$ just described.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. EDWARDS: The second documents are the restaurant benchmarks from
bloombergintelligence.com and from bakertilly.com, which are two restaurant benchmark -- other two accounting firms that do restaurant accounting and they do benchmarks.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And why is this relevant to --

MS. EDWARDS: It's relevant to show the industry standards, as far as alcohol and food sales are concerned, and the relative cost.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, go ahead. I'm not saying I'm -- she's testifying about the documents. Go ahead.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I believe the rest of -- well, the exhibit PE3 has already been presented, so $I$ won't belabor that. The settlement agreement is included in that and the violations are included in that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're saying that the rest of the documents are --

MS. EDWARDS: I think the rest of the documents have --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- all of this are ABRA's.

MS. EDWARDS: Right, they're all ABRA, except for the pictures. The pictures are ours, but most of the documents are ABRA documents that we received through FOIA.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what are the pictures?

MS. EDWARDS: The pictures are from the website, from the Facebook page of Champion Kitchen.

And they're all from the Champion Kitchen. The Facebook page, our website -- and they have a website.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, go ahead. All right, so -- all right. So, you're trying to move these documents into evidence at this juncture?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objections?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you
object to?
MS. YOHANNES: So, I will object to the first -- to her declaration. That declaration page. The first page.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of that objection for the first page?

MS. YOHANNES: Because this is a signed statement by the witness where the witness is already -- she's already taken an oath right now, she's testifying. We don't need an out-of-court or out-of-hearing statement. We don't need a hearsay statement. She's speaking. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you can cross-examine her. It's her statement she's testifying, so you can cross-examine her on her statement.

If she was not here testifying, then I would agree with you. But she's here, so you can -- it's her document, so you can cross-examine her on her -- all right, this is what $I$ will do. I'm going to defer a ruling on the documents until you have had an opportunity to cross-examine the witness. And once you have cross-examined the witness, then we -- and you can cross-examine her about the documents -- then
you can renew your objection to the document and I'll make a ruling.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay, thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. YOHANNES: No further questions of
Ms. Edwards.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
It's your opportunity to cross-examine the witness.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. So, I'll start and refer to Exhibit -- and I guess this is PE4. Where is this exhibit from?

MS. EDWARDS: Hold on. Wait a minute.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Which is PE4? Let me make sure I'm looking at the same document. Can I see PE4.

MS. YOHANNES: I feel like I'm about to lay the foundation for her own exhibits.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I want to make sure I'm following you along. That's what I'm saying. Yeah.

MS. YOHANNES: PE4 is the last --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Show me the document please, for me to make sure that --

MS. YOHANNES: May I --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure, you can. So $I$ just want to make sure I'm looking at the same document at the same time.
(Off-microphone comments.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: PE4? That's under Exhibit 20?

MS. EDWARDS: Mm-hmm.
MS. YOHANNES: Yeah.
PARTICIPANT: I think I see it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I have to look at it.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 20 for identification.)

MS. YOHANNES: Okay, I'm going to withdraw my question, because I don't -- I'm going to withdraw my question on that --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. YOHANNES: And in terms of -we're doing to break these down. I have no objection to any of the, $I$ guess -- PE3 is the only one I have an objection to.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Which one is that?
showed you. PE4, sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, I saw PE3.

MS. YOHANNES: All I have heard is that these are pictures. I don't know -- there hasn't been foundation that's been laid on this. It hasn't been authenticated. I don't know where it came from.

MS. EDWARDS: She mentioned it when I asked her was she whispering --

MS. YOHANNES: I think my objection --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. YOHANNES: -- the Chair answer, make a ruling.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, you object to PE4. What's PE4?

MS. YOHANNES: I think that's my objection. We don't know what it is. There's been no foundation, it hasn't been authenticated. Where did this come from?

And I'm not asking that so that the witness can answer; I'm saying her opportunity to answer is already -- I mean, she tried to show her this. So I don't know what this is.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm looking at

PE4 and I have no idea what it is. And so therefore, I'm not going to -- the objection is sustained. I don't know what PE4 is.

I see it says SAG Tysons, Virginia, Rick S., Baltimore, Maryland. I don't know what it is. So, if that's the only document that you have an objection to, then $I$ will move Protestant Exhibit 20 into the record with the exception of sub-Exhibit PE4.

And in the future, Ms. Jefferson, whoever is labeling, the way the documents are labeled is confusing. And so I know that you have a major exhibit, but then within it you have several sub-exhibits. And so it's hard to identify, because even in the document $I$ see you have Exhibit 8 within Exhibit 20.

But anyway, so we'll move Exhibit 20 of Protestant exhibits into evidence with the exception of PE4 of that exhibit.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 20.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any other questions for the witness?

MS. YOHANNES: I have no questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any questions by the Board of the witness?

Ms. Edwards, thank you very much for your testimony. You can step down.

Your time, Ms. Jefferson, is probably almost exhausted. But because you are the last witness, we'll give you an opportunity to testify. But please be mindful of the time.

So, I was told you have three minutes.
However, I'm not going to limit you to three minutes. However, $I$ want you to be mindful of the time since you have exceeded 87 of your allotted 90 minutes. Okay? All right. All right, well who's questioning you?

MS. EDWARDS: Paula Edwards.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All right. Ms. Edwards, who's your next witness?

MS. EDWARDS: I think this is to Ms. Jefferson. Ms. Jefferson is our next witness.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Edwards, who is your next witness?

MS. EDWARDS: Ms. Jefferson is our next witness.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson's your next witness.

MS. EDWARDS: Yes, she is.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson, can you raise your right hand, please. WHEREUPON,

## NAIMA JEFFERSON

was called for examination by Counsel for the Applicant and, having first been duly sworn, assumed the witness stand, was examined and testified as follows.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Ms.
Edwards, I'm not picking on you, but remember this is being transcribed, and so therefore I need to identify what is going on. So, therefore, you have to identify -- you have to call a witness. And so therefore, if someone reads the transcript, they will know what it occurring.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay?
MS. EDWARDS: Mm-hmm. Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Your witness, ma'am.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
MS. EDWARDS: What is your role on the SPCA board, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: I am currently in my second term as President. And prior to that, I was the Chair of the Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee, which dealt with, among other things, alcohol licensing.

MEMBER SHORT: Speak into the mike, please.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Pull the microphone closer to you, please. MS. JEFFERSON: Is this better? CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. MEMBER SHORT: Yes.

MS. EDWARDS: Does she need to repeat that answer?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think she's fine. We just want to let you know that we need to hear her.

MS. EDWARDS: Of course. Before -well, let's see. You already answered that. Have you met with Mr. Worku?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. I initially met with Mr. Worku when he came into our community and when he applied for his licensing. At the time, Ed Atkins, who is a Board member with the Chair of the Planning and Zoning and Economic

Development Committee, and we met with him when the interior structure of the premises was being gutted, as well as during several community meetings and mediations in regards to the settlement agreement.

Subsequently, we've met afterwards several times on numerous occasions, relating to issues in the community and his desire to increase occupancy.

MS. EDWARDS: Have you ever seen
litter surround Champion Kitchen?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. And I took some photos.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. And those are Exhibits 24, 26, 25 and 27. Is that correct?

MS. JEFFERSON: That's correct.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you're going -- and you're not an attorney, so that's the only reason I'm doing that. So therefore, if you want to introduce, then you need to take the documents out, have her identify and describe what these exhibits are, please.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I show you
Exhibit 24. Is this one of the examples?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ask her to
describe -- to identify -- for her to identify what is Exhibit 24.

MS. EDWARDS: Can you identify Exhibit $24 ?$

MS. JEFFERSON: So, this is Champion Kitchen and this shows litter all in front of the establishment. This is the mirror of my van. I was driving down the street and pulled over and took the photo. So that's what that is.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 24 for identification.)

MS. EDWARDS: And I show you Exhibit 25.

MS. JEFFERSON: So 25 are don't litter signs that are from the DC government. I got these from our Ward 4 MOCR. They're all along Kalmia, as well as there's one right at the corner, in front of Champion Kitchen in the public space in the planter, because the litter was just getting out of control.

We also put them further down on Georgia Avenue, near another licensee which is irrelevant to this matter.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to
document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 25 for identification.)

MS. EDWARDS: And this is Exhibit 26.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, Exhibit 26 was taken the next morning when -- the night before Ms. Edwards and I had gone to Ohev Shalom, which is the orthodox synagogue in our community.

And we got in sometime after -- almost 10 o'clock. We had stayed there for services, as well as stayed there eating. But they only had like little snacks. And so, when $I$ got home. Ms. Edwards dropped me off. I was hungry.

And my husband walked to Taco Bell. When I arrived home that night, which was around 10 o'clock, Target was closed and there was no trash. This was the next morning in front of my house. That's my minivan.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 26 for identification.)

MS. EDWARDS: And Exhibit 27.
MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 27 was taken -- that's Champion Kitchen with the orange roof. It shows the newspaper stand knocked over. It shows cans, empty bottles, and other litter and
trash strewn up on Georgia Avenue.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 27 for identification.)

MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. Metro is proposing changes to the S9, S2 and S4 bus routes. And have any neighbors -- I'm sorry, I withdraw that question. Have any neighbors submitted declarations about the problems with Champion?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. Sarah Green and Rich Holzanger sent me declarations, as well as Rich sent -- Sarah Green's declaration had a receipt from her meal that she had at Champion Kitchen.

And Rich Holzanger emailed me his. Neither one could attend. He had some photos and he actually had a video, which I brought the video. Ms. -- I can't remember her name -- she queued the system for me to queue it up. But I have to go over there to do it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. What --

MS. EDWARDS: There's a video that --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Has this video
been disclosed?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, it was disclosed.
MS. YOHANNES: Are we -- yeah.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The video was disclosed seven days prior to the hearing?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: Which video are you referring to? What's the exhibit number?

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit number -- is that 57?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What exhibit is this?

MS. JEFFERSON: I would have to see the exhibit list to tell me --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Before we -- I need to find out whether or not -- before we're going to look at a video, I need to know that the video was disclosed.

MS. YOHANNES: If she can -- videos were disclosed. I'm just trying to determine which exhibit you're referring to, because I say which video. I don't know which video.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what exhibit is this that we're looking at?

MS. JEFFERSON: Which one? The photos
are exhibits -- first of all, the declarations they're bringing is 28, the declaration of Rich Holzanger.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right, $I$ can't have you -- all right, we're not going to have any testimony -- what's the declaration of Sarah Green? What number is that?

MS. EDWARDS: That is number 28.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, we're not going to have -- Sarah Green is not here.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. She couldn't come.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sarah Green is not here. The licensee cannot cross-examine a document that a witness is not here. So, that's not -- that will not be allowed into evidence. So, the 28 will not be -- because you can't testify on a declaration for someone who is not here, who cannot be cross-examined. What's the other one?

MS. EDWARDS: Number 53 is the video. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, number 53. So is number 53 the video that would be - -

MS. JEFFERSON: No. No. We're in the 30s. It's in the front.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What video are we supposed to look at now?

MS. JEFFERSON: Since he's not here, I can't -- you told me that -- he's not here to be cross-examined about it. So --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you don't know anything about his video?

MS. JEFFERSON: I just know he sent it to me to submit.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, no.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, we're not going to view whatever video is queued up. Is there another document?

MS. EDWARDS: There's a video of the neon Champion Kitchen sign.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why is that relevant since we've had testimony? Unless you are refuting that the sign was taken down.

MS. JEFFERSON: So, that was in our notice of cure that's in evidence. It's one of our exhibits. We submitted a notice to cure to

Champion Kitchen. It was also attached, as it related to Champion Kitchen wanting to have more occupancy when we intervened before the Board.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm just saying, I thought we had testimony and one of the things that -- one of the exhibits that was submitted by the licensee was that there was the sign and it was taken down.

MS. JEFFERSON: This is a different sign.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, what exhibit is that, ma'am?

MS. JEFFERSON: That's number 43.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, number 43.
All right, so do we have that video?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
PARTICIPANT: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, is this dated September 14, 1974?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. It says video of view on Champion Kitchen outdoor signage on 9/14/1974 at 11 --

MS. JEFFERSON: That's my birthday.
I'm sorry, it should have been 2019.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: It was on my birthday.

I apologize.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so the date is --

MS. JEFFERSON: So, now everybody knows how old I am.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so the information -- as I stated to counsel earlier when you raised the objection, it was -- so, this is sloppily identified. $I$ just trying to be even on both sides.

But like I said, I said that to counsel earlier on the other side, when someone of the exhibits were improperly identified and you raised an objection. So, this is a video that we're -- I'm sorry, this video was taken when, 1 guess?

MS. JEFFERSON: This was September 14, 2019. This is the sign. If you see, it's flashing different colors.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: That sign, we put it in our notice to cure. You actually have to have a permit and it's illegal in the District of Columbia to have a flashing sign like that.

We'd already notified the applicant
about that in that 2008 notice to cure. Nothing has changed.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.
MS. JEFFERSON: Still flashing, no permit for that. And you actually can't have that. So, if you would take administrative notice of the regulations under the building code. It's also in our settlement agreement it talks about the sign.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is it that your settlement agreement states? You said it's in your settlement agreement. So, what does it - -

MS. JEFFERSON: I don't -- I could read it for you if $I$ had it in front of me. If you pull number 7, there's a clear copy.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, let's move on.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other questions? Any other exhibits?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes. Did you check with DC Unified Communications to see if any calls had been made for a noise violation?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, I did. I did a

FOIA request.
MS. EDWARDS: And that is Exhibit 35?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. Exhibit 35 are calls for service. They're requesting calls for service, not noise violations.

MS. EDWARDS: I'm sorry, calls for service.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you --
MS. EDWARDS: I'm showing you Exhibit
35. Is this the --

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. And the information that's redacted is related to, I think, the licensee. This was the information that was given. If you -- this is the letter. I just redacted my address but it has the zip code.

And this was the information that was given. It has the address of the premises, it has the dates, starting in January of 2018, which my request asks for January 1, 2018 to May 14, 2019.

It has the date, the time, and what was explained to me from DC Unified Communications, was when they do the 2-5 brief for $N 2$ that is on there, that that means that they are redacting who made the call for service
for privacy reasons.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Also, did the SPCA send a letter to the applicant to cure -- a notice to cure?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. I just testified about that.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay, and that's Exhibit 92.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Remember, you're not having a conversation with the witness.

MS. EDWARDS: I'm sorry, you're right. You're right.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're asking questions for us to hear.

MS. EDWARDS: You're right. Okay.
MS. YOHANNES: I'm sorry, are you referring to an exhibit. I didn't hear that.

MS. EDWARDS: No, I'm sorry. Withdrawn.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
MS. EDWARDS: Oh, have you ever seen rowdy patrons in the neighborhood?

MS. JEFFERSON: Several times. In fact, they wake me up quite often. I live in the
first house on Kalmia. So, when you see pictures of Champion Kitchen, it's like a peninsula kind of squared lot. It's a strange intersection.

And I am the first residential house next to the brick wall that separates the commercial lot where Morris Miller and Target is.

And I have seen many a patron drunk and intoxicated, and in fact, $I$ think it was either in the summer or the spring, I actually walked outside and stood there and just videotaped them while they were drunk and falling over. And then, they started walking back towards the establishment. Also, I believe it was in either 2017 or 2018, I sent an email to Commissioner Lincoln and Mark Patterson, who is on the Board of the SPCA, about some rowdy patrons who decided to make a music video in front of my house, kind of like Luke Skywalker with the giant rating on top of the vehicle.

And I said some expletives to them because it woke me up out of my sleep.

MS. EDWARDS: And is that Exhibit 46?
Is that the email that you sent to let them know about this --

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, Exhibit 46 is the
email that I sent to Mark Patterson and Commissioner Stacey Lincoln, who is our Single Member District Commissioner.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 46 for identification.)

MR. JEFFERSON: I also copied Ed Atkins, who was the Planning, Building and Economic Development Committee Chair at the time that I just mentioned, and John Goodloe, who lives in the first residential house next to the Church on Alaska Avenue.

MS. EDWARDS: I'd like to move that Exhibit 46 be moved into evidence.

MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to object.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why are you objecting?

MS. YOHANNES: It's more prejudicial than it is relevant. She's here today, she just gave testimony on it. There are comments in here that are prejudicial and I can't address them, or I can't really -- I can't discern the factual nature of this. And I think she's already testified. And I think she's testified as to what the document says. So, we don't need the
document.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I mean, this is an email that was sent by the witness. She's testifying about an email that she sent. Yeah, $I$ don't see any reason why -- she testified about the email.

I see no reason why $I$ would not -- I'm going to overrule the objection.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 46.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, this is an objection that --

MS. EDWARDS: So, this is moved into evidence.

MS. JEFFERSON: And I also made a video of patrons that were intoxicated. They were stumbling around, they were smoking weed, it was enough to wake me up.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I'm -- I mean, right now I'll move Exhibit 46 of Protestant exhibit into evidence, because it's an email by the witness, who she's testifying that she sent an email regarding Champion Kitchen and
she's -- this is documenting what she just testified to. So I see no reason why the document cannot be part of the record.

MS. EDWARDS: Did you take a video of this behavior?

MS. JEFFERSON: I did.
MS. EDWARDS: Okay. And that is Exhibit 53.

MS. JEFFERSON: That is what I submitted in Exhibit 53.

MS. EDWARDS: And is this the video that you took?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. It's three women and a man. I had to turn it so you could -- I'm sorry, it's sideways. That's my van again. That's the church. And they were out there smoking weed, being loud, stumbling around.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 53 for identification.)

MS. JEFFERSON: This is a quiet residential neighborhood. Most folks that live in our neighborhood are sleep. They're not out in the street standing out there smoking weed.

MS. EDWARDS: And I'd like to move
that Exhibit 53 be accepted into evidence.
MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to object as to, I mean, the relevance of that. I can't even see what's going on in that video, where these people are, how it relates specifically to Champion.

MS. JEFFERSON: There's no other establishment open over there.

MS. YOHANNES: Your video doesn't -- I don't see that in the video. There are other establishments. You already indicated that in your testimony and indicated that previously --

MS. JEFFERSON: I did not state that
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. YOHANNES: There are not --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Jefferson, this is not for you to respond.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's for Ms. Edwards to respond.

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. My bad.
MS. EDWARDS: I do not believe that Ms. Jefferson referenced any other establishments that were open at that time of night in that neighborhood across the street from her house.

The only place that --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't hear you, Ms. --

MS. EDWARDS: The only place that is located across the street from her house is Champion Kitchen.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're objecting to the video why?

MS. YOHANNES: Yeah, I can't see what's in the video, $I$ don't know what it is, $I$ don't know how it relates to Champion.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm going to sustain the objection. I can't picture where it is. I don't know, it was not -- I don't know where this was taken because it could be out of context. So, I'm not going to admit this --

MS. EDWARDS: Was there another video you took?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MS. EDWARDS: That's Exhibit 34.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 34 for identification.)

MS. YOHANNES: So, at this time -- I'm sorry, can $I$ just make a request and ask where we
are on time? $I$ am going to have -- I have to recall a witness based on testimony that was just given. So --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How much more time do you need?

MS. EDWARDS: Five minutes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. EDWARDS: Is this the second video that you took of the -- people?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. But that's the church, Northminster, over there, and that's Champion Kitchen. That's Kalmia Road that's right there in front and they're walking back towards the establishment. You can see the flashing lights.

That's from Zeke Café across the street and they're walking back through the neighborhood being very loud, talking, being rowdy.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay, I'd like to move Exhibit 34 into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any questions regarding Exhibit $34 ?$

MS. YOHANNES: I object for very similar grounds or the same grounds. I don't see
how that's relevant in that there are people out there, we don't know where they're going, we don't know when this was taken. I don't know how this relates specifically to Champion.

MS. EDWARDS: When was this taken?
MS. YOHANNES: There's an objection right now.

MS. EDWARDS: There's an objection. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I mean --
MS. EDWARDS: She asked when it was taken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who took the video?

MS. JEFFERSON: I took the video.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll allow the document. So, this is exhibit what? What exhibit is this again? I'm sorry.

MS. EDWARDS: This is Exhibit 34.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I'll allow Exhibit 34.

MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.
MS. YOHANNES: I don't think that's Exhibit 34.

MS. EDWARDS: It's marked 34 --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not Exhibit 34.

MS. EDWARDS: It's an MPD. It's on --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm sorry. What exhibit was this video? It's not 34 . At least it's not -- 34 is the ABRA noise complaint log.

MS. EDWARDS: I'm sorry, it's Exhibit 54. I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Fifty what?
MS. EDWARDS: Fifty-four. Five-four.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So, we'll -- I'll correct the record so we'll allow Exhibit --

MS. EDWARDS: Five-four.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- 54, which was -- it was taken by Ms. Jefferson on May 30, 2019 at 2:27 a.m. Any other questions?

MS. EDWARDS: Let me see. Oh, did you speak with a realtor about the property at 7723 Alaska Avenue?

MS. JEFFERSON: I did. I spoke to the listing agent.

MS. EDWARDS: And what were his comments to you --

MS. JEFFERSON: The question was -there were lots of questions from people in the community as to why those condo units by the condo building in and of itself, had been vacant for so long, even though it had been newly renovated. The price point is relatively low for our community --

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
MS. JEFFERSON: -- in terms of new housing.

MS. YOHANNES: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the nature of the objection?

MS. YOHANNES: Relevance. We're talking about a condo building that's --

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm talking about real estate.

MS. YOHANNES: I don't know how this is relevant. And if you're talking about real estate, then there's no expert here to testify. She's testifying on behalf of an expert. That's hearsay. I can't cross this expert, if that's what the intention is here.

MS. EDWARDS: One of the issues in the ABRA licensing process $I$ believe is the effect of
the licensee on property values.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But how -- what expertise does Ms. Jefferson have to testify on that?

MS. EDWARDS: Ms. Jefferson is in the financial --

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm in financial services and my family is developers. So, I think I have expertise to talk about land values.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That was not presented. I mean, that was not -- I'm going to - -

MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sharing my conversation that I had with the realtor and the data that the realtor provided me.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll accept it for whatever it's worth. So, all right. So, what is it that --

MS. JEFFERSON: So, the realtor -- I had the conversation with the realtor as to why the property was sitting there so long. As was stated before, Mr. Bergman had mentioned there's very few condo buildings in our community. It's mostly single-family homes and there's a few semi-detached. My home is one of the smaller
homes in the neighborhood.
And it was very surprising because a lot of people want to move into the neighborhood for Shepherd Elementary, and to get into the Deal/Wilson pipeline. And so, people just couldn't understand why no one was moving in there.

So, I reached out to the listing agent and our conversation comprised of why there wasn't interest. And some of the interest was attributed to the surrounding area and how some of the potential buyers when they came to see, saw a nightclub out the north side of their windows, because the building faces west on Alaska.

And so, I asked him. I said, well, how does that compare to the property --

MS. YOHANNES: I'm going to object --
MS. JEFFERSON: -- on Fern.
MS. YOHANNES: -- this is going so
far. And $I$ have no -- I don't even know who she's talking about in terms of her --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm taking it for whatever it's worth.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's -- so -MS. JEFFERSON: I'll finish up. I asked him how that compared to -- there's a new condo building at 1101 Fern Street. It's at the corner of Fern and Georgia Avenue, right across from Walter Reed.

Those condos went really fast, and in fact the prices bid up, whereas the condos at 7723, they stayed on the market a very long time, and in fact he had to do price declines to get people to purchase them.

Most of them are one-bedrooms and very few two-bedroom, in both buildings. So, they're comparable and he provided me with data to support that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any other questions?

MS. EDWARDS: I have no other questions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Yohannes?
MS. YOHANNES: Yes, $I$ have questions. CROSS - EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: So, I just want to be clear. Is it your testimony that the flashing sign that you referred to, that that is still
flashing at this moment? Or that it's still flashing as of the last time you --

MS. JEFFERSON: It was flashing as of September 14, 2019 when I took the video. I can't say what it's doing now. I'm here.

MS. YOHANNES: And that's your testimony.

MS. JEFFERSON: That is my testimony.
MS. YOHANNES: So, regarding the condo building that you were just referring to, were they vacant before -- was it vacant before Champion came in?

MS. JEFFERSON: They had been renovated. So, it used to be an apartment building and the owner decided to make them a condo building. So, they were listed for sale and had been listed and been on the market for at least more than two, maybe three, months.

MS. YOHANNES: At that time. So, it was vacant.

MS. JEFFERSON: It was vacant when?
MS. YOHANNES: Before Champion.
MS. JEFFERSON: Before Champion? Yes, because they did a BZA application to change it because they had to add -- I think they wanted to
add another unit and the zoning required like some adjustments with parking, or whatever BZA does. And that's a public document and a public record.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions by any of Board members? Hearing none, Ms. Jefferson, thank you for your testimony.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can step down. Does the Protestant rest, being that you have no other witnesses?

MS. JEFFERSON: No other witnesses. Thank you. Thank you for your time and your patience. We really appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: My goal is to work with the community. If the community decides that they want to protest an establishment, then I will give them the time that it's due to give them time to be here. And so, that's my motto. I try.

> I said that we have some time
limitations, but I will not cut you off. I'll give you some flexibility on the time. So,
you're rested, right? Are there any additional documents that you need to move into evidence?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what are the documents that you're trying to move into evidence?

MS. JEFFERSON: Number 4, which was the restaurant business plan.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 4 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objection to Exhibit 4?

MS. YOHANNES: I don't think that was ever really authenticated. I think there are parts in there that the -- I think Eyob said he did not know what that was -- what that document was. I don't think it was ever authenticated.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You had an opportunity -- you had an opportunity to cross-examine. So, we had testimony and an opportunity to cross-examine to get on the -- to authenticate from your client, so I'm going to allow Exhibit 4.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to
document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 4.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What other exhibit?

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 7, only purely because it's a legible form. It's not executed, but it at least as the text of --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is Exhibit $7 ?$

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 7 is clean, unexecuted copy of the settlement agreement. Because the one that's attached to the Board order is fuzzy. You can't read it very well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I'll

MS. YOHANNES: That was never -- I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have had testimony about the settlement agreement and the document is also -- the settlement agreement, that's an ABRA document also. So, I wouldn't see any reason --

MS. YOHANNES: This is not the settlement agreement that's signed. This is a draft settlement agreement. There's no date on
here, there's no signature on here. I haven't compared it with the settlement agreement.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're saying that's not --

MS. YOHANNES: I don't know if it is. I haven't -- I don't know if this was introduced. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We had testimony on the settlement --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. YOHANNES: There's testimony on the actual settlement agreement.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
MS. YOHANNES: But not on this one. Not on this exhibit.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --
MS. YOHANNES: This exhibit's not the settlement agreement.

MS. JEFFERSON: I actually asked that -- your investigator to read it. And for him to
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so
there are no signatures on the document. So therefore, since there are no signatures on the document, I'm not going to allow it into
evidence. What other document?
MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 20, with the exception of Exhibit PE4. I think we --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have already
-- I thought that that was already moved into evidence, Exhibit 20, with the exception of PE4.

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 21.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's Exhibit $21 ?$

MS. JEFFERSON: The Declaration of Carl Bergman with his embedded photos.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 21 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your position regarding Exhibit $21 ?$

MS. YOHANNES: Oh, I -- okay, sorry. I think I want to object to the commentary. I'm sorry for the -- with my exhibit. So my objection is the commentary on whatever photos are attached to that.

I notice there's a statement and there's a bunch of photos and we don't know -none of that was really authenticated. I don't know where that really came from.

MS. JEFFERSON: I presented it to the witness and had an opportunity to cross-examine it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, I'll allow the declaration itself. I don't know what these pictures are. They weren't authenticated. So, I will allow just the cover, which is the declaration itself, but not the attachments. So, it's just the one page.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay. Chair, I did ask him about the picture on the back that says, We Champion Bar. I did ask them specifically about that and he read that aloud.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't recall that --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. JEFFERSON: -- with that picture on the bottom --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We did?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, we did.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, what is -- all right. So, what are the --

MS. JEFFERSON: I think it's just three pages. The declaration is how many pages?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's more than
several pages. All right, so --
MS. JEFFERSON: His was only -- let's see.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know what -- okay, fine. So, page 1 is page 2. I don't recall the rest of the --

MS. JEFFERSON: I didn't -- well, the text is his statement. And I did ask him, but that's fine.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll admit the first two pages. Okay? The declaration itself, and then the second page that has number 3 on it. So, I'll admit those documents.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 21.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What other documents?

MS. YOHANNES: Wait. I'm sorry, I just want to be clear. So, these were authenticated? Like we know where they came from? I don't know where they came -CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We had testimony on --

MS. YOHANNES: -- where they came
from.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're only doing the cover page declaration and the page that is behind it that has the We Champion Bar.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There was testimony --

MS. YOHANNES: Okay. Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- I was
reminded by our Board member that we had testimony on this document and -- so I'll allow Exhibit 21, but just the cover page that says, declaration, and the second page that has two pictures on it and the bottom picture says, We Champion Bar.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What other
document?
MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 22, the Department of Health Food Establishment. There were three reports, June 20, 2019, July 24, 2019 and August 13, 2019. Mr. Bergman authenticated and read them.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 22 for
identification.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, Exhibit
22. Any objection to Exhibit 22?

MS. YOHANNES: My objection would be relevance, and that this is a hearing before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. These inspections, they're not relevant.

MS. JEFFERSON: They're relevant. Our settlement agreement specifically mentions Department of Health violations.

MS. YOHANNES: And this Board cannot determine what a health -- what a DOH violation is. And there hasn't been a determination --

MS. JEFFERSON: There doesn't have to. The document speaks for itself.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm going to introduce it into evidence. I'm sorry, I'm going to -- and the reason why, because during the Board's direct examination of its witness, the witness testified about that he was aware of violations by Department of Health.

We had testimony on it and it's on -this is a document that is -- so I'll admit this document.

MS. YOHANNES: And to clarify, $I$ don't
think he testified that there was DOH violations. I think he testified that DOH may have came in about the hookah. But I don't think --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He testified that he was told there were three DOH violations, but he did not know what they were. So, he couldn't testify specifically what they were. That was his testimony.

MS. YOHANNES: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And then, Mr. Bergman testified specifically on the document. So, I'll allow Exhibit 22.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 22.)

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 24 is the photo of litter that was -- it's June 2, 2019.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 24 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you, Ms. Jefferson, are the one who took this picture?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. I testified to that.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Ms.

Yohannes?
MS. YOHANNES: I'm just going to object in terms of relevance, because how is this relating to Champion? Is it because it's in front of --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's a picture that was taken by the witness of litter in front of the establishment --

MS. YOHANNES: Sure.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Champion, so I'm going to allow that in.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 24.)
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What other document? What other document?

MS. JEFFERSON: Twenty-five, 26 and 27 are also litter that were taken by myself. My testimony just talked about that. Twenty-five, 26 and 27.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You said 25 -MS. JEFFERSON: Twenty-six and 27.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
Twenty-six? Twenty-six is where? This is your
-- you said you testified? Is this your car, you said, in $26 ?$

MS. JEFFERSON: Is it a minivan?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, that --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where's this taken?

MS. JEFFERSON: That's in front of my house on Kalmia.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how far is your house from --

MS. JEFFERSON: My house is the first house on Kalmia.

PARTICIPANT: How far?
MS. JEFFERSON: How far? How many yards?

PARTICIPANT: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How far is your house from Champion?

MS. JEFFERSON: Probably under 400 feet. It is definitely.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'm not quite sure how we can tie this litter in front of your house to Champion. So, I'm not going to allow that.

MS. JEFFERSON: So, which one are you not allowing?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Twenty-six.
MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's 27?
MS. JEFFERSON: Twenty-seven is in
front of Champion Kitchen. It's the knocked over newspaper stand and the other litter.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The litter that I see, that's not in front of Champion's Kitchen. The litter that I see that -- I see some leaves. Champion Kitchen is --

PARTICIPANT: There's a knocked over newsstand.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is not in front of Champion -- there's another establishment that the litter that you are -- and most of the litter $I$ see here looks like it's debris from trees --

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that I'm not quite sure how one could even attribute that to Champion. So, I'm not going to -- this is not relevant to this case because it's not in front of -- this is not in front of this establishment
and $I$ don't see how we can determine that this litter is from Champion. Most of the litter that I see here is leaves.

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, there was a bottle and the can.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's one -there is --

MS. JEFFERSON: That's okay. We can

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see either a soda or beer can and I see one bottled water. So -- and there's no allegation.

MS. JEFFERSON: I'll withdraw that.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: Number 35, DC Unified 911 calls, the FOIA request.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 35 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, Ms.
Yohannes?
MS. JEFFERSON: Jefferson?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: Oh.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yohannes --

MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, I thought you said

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- Yohannes. MS. YOHANNES: I have no objection. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. MS. YOHANNES: I have no objection. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thirty-five is admitted.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 35.)

MS. JEFFERSON: Number 42 was the notice to cure that was sent. That was also in an attachment that's in -
(Simultaneous speaking.)
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who sent the notice to cure?

MS. JEFFERSON: I beg your pardon?
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who sent the notice to cure?

MS. JEFFERSON: The Shepherd Park Citizens Association did.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, so what number is this?

MS. JEFFERSON: Forty-two.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any objection?
MS. YOHANNES: So, I'm going to object to parts of it. We heard evidence -- or we heard testimony that a letter was sent.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.
MS. YOHANNES: But there's a whole lot of attachments here.

MS. JEFFERSON: The attachments were part of the letter. The letter references exhibits.

MS. YOHANNES: And none of which was authenticated. All that was asked is, was a letter sent. There's nothing about these attachments in terms of what they are, where they came from.

MS. JEFFERSON: It's part of the administrative record that was sent with the -when Champion Kitchen sent a letter to request the answers in occupancy.

As long as the Board takes administrative notice of it, that's fine.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, that's a letter that was sent to your firm. I'll admit it into evidence since this is -- this is a letter, I've read the letter, the attachments
with letters and notice to cure that was sent to your firm. So, $I$ see no reason -- I'll admit.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 42.)

MS. JEFFERSON: Exhibit 43 --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. I'm going to admit Exhibit 42.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, sir.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's Exhibit 43?

MS. JEFFERSON: That was the video of the flashing sign that was referenced. There was a difference incident that was referenced in Exhibit 42, but that was from September 14, 2019.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 43 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Was this the one that had the incorrect date?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, I'll
admit 43.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant

Exhibit 43.)
MS. JEFFERSON: The next one is Exhibit 46, which is the email that $I$ sent to Mark Patterson and Commissioner Stacey Lincoln.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Exhibit what?
MS. JEFFERSON: Forty-six.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll admit Exhibit 46.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was received into evidence as Protestant Exhibit 46.)

MS. JEFFERSON: The next one is Exhibit 50. That was the listing that was sent to me from the realtor, that $I$ referenced in my testimony.
(Whereupon, the above-referred-to document was marked as Protestant Exhibit 50 for identification.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And this is -why is this relevant?

MS. JEFFERSON: It just shows that it's having a negative impact on real estate values, even though they're quite affordable. That they've had to drop the prices, not raise the prices, in a city with very expensive
housing. And a neighborhood with very expensive --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. It shows that Champion Kitchen has had a negative impact on real estate values in a city where affordable housing is a crisis. They've had to continue to lower the price, rather than people bidding it up, compared to another property in the community that had similarly-sized condos with square footage where people bid up the prices.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your position, Ms. Yohannes?

MS. YOHANNES: She's already provided testimony on it as if she's an expert. She's providing this document. I don't know where this document came from.

MS. JEFFERSON: I said where it came from. I testified.

MS. YOHANNES: I mean, there's nothing -- this document wasn't used during your testimony. It was referred to. I heard listing. I don't think that there was proper validation, authenticity, and relevance. Those are my objections.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not going to allow this document. It's just speculative. I mean, from what $I$ was told, the property was vacant prior to Champion being -- at least that was the testimony, it's been renovated.

I don't know why this particular property has not been rented. And so, I think it's too speculative to state that it's because of Champion that the owner had to lower the price. So, that's just speculative. So, I'm not going to allow 50.

MS. JEFFERSON: That's it. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
-- okay. All right.
MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
The video.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry.
MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, never mind. We already dealt with the video.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.
MS. JEFFERSON: I'm sorry. I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Okay, so -- all right. Now, you're saying that,

Ms. Yohannes, that you have a rebuttal -- who's the rebuttal witness?

MS. YOHANNES: Mr. Worku.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
MS. YOHANNES: Very, very, very short.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Sure.
MS. YOHANNES: Go ahead.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're still under oath, sir. I don't need to swear you in. You're still under oath from the first time that I swore you in. So, what are the questions? What are you rebutting?

WHEREUPON,

## EYOB WORKU

was called for examination by Counsel for the Applicant and, having been previously sworn, assumed the witness stand, was re-examined and testified as follows.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

MS. YOHANNES: So, Mr. Worku, you just heard testimony regarding the neon sign that says, Champions. Can you tell me if that sign is still there?

MR. WORKU: No.
MS. YOHANNES: Let me rephrase. Is it
still flashing? It's still there, but is it still flashing?

MR. WORKU: Yeah, no. When I was told that light's going to be on one lights, on times, one times, but when I lose my remote controls, the flash going to keep going, you know, change it, change it. Then, hey, man, she complain about we have settlement document, blink light.

This one is changing slowly. Then, I said, okay. I turn it off. I don't -- that's over a year the lights not on. We spend for $\$ 3,000$ but we turn off the light. We don't use it anymore. For a year we don't use it.

MS. YOHANNES: Just to be clear, so when Naima -- Ms. Jefferson informed you that you were in violation, that you needed to turn those lights off, you turned those lights off. Right?

MR. WORKU: Yeah, I did. Yep.
MS. YOHANNES: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Questions, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: So, do you have a sign on the roof of your building?

MR. WORKU: Say what?
MS. JEFFERSON: Do you have a sign on
the roof of your building?
MR. WORKU: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are we talking about a sign on the roof? Are we -- we're --

MR. WORKU: That's the one that --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, sir. Are we talking about a sign, or are we talking about this particular --

MS. JEFFERSON: This particular sign.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So, ask him -- you said, do you have a sign. I don't know what sign you're talking about. So, you should be talking about this particular sign. This is what he's rebutting.

MS. JEFFERSON: Is the sign still -this particular sign, still on the roof of your building?

MR. WORKU: The one you show the video?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
MR. WORKU: Yes. But used to, that signs edit. We change it to Champion. That used to -- the edit sign, or the simplest for that Champion right now. On both side they have it on the roof. Used to have -- edits they have on the
roof.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, the sign that's on the roof, what does it say?

MR. WORKU: Champion Kitchen.
MS. JEFFERSON: Does it ever
illuminate at night?
MR. WORKU: No.
MS. JEFFERSON: So, you never turn it on.

MR. WORKU: I never turn -- I was turn it on when $I$ was -- at least for the first time. Because of the neighbor issue, we turn it off. That's it. That's why, you know, I working with the community. Whenever they have issue, bring it to me, whatever $I$ spend for that thing, it's not worth more than the community. That's why I turn it off. That's it.

MS. JEFFERSON: Did you get a permit for that sign?

MR. WORKU: Of course. The one I pay him for to do it, you know, he have to put a permit.

MS. JEFFERSON: And did you not notice in the notice to cure that there's a listing from DCRA that shows that there is no permit for that
sign?
MR. WORKU: I never see it.
MS. JEFFERSON: No further questions.
MR. WORKU: And that --
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's no pending question, sir. Is there any question by any Board members? Thank you very much for your testimony, sir. You can step down. Is that it? Is that it now?

MS. YOHANNES: Yes, that's it.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right, does the Protestant wish to call a rebuttal witness?

MS. JEFFERSON: No, the Protestants rest.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you ready to close, or do want a couple of minutes to prepare for closing?

MS. YOHANNES: I need a couple of minutes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Five minutes. It's 10:15. 10:20. We're off the record.
(Whereupon the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:15 p.m. and resumed at 10:25 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We'll have the Applicant's closing statement.

MS. YOHANNES: When we started this case, $I$ asked what are we doing here? What's this case about? What are the real issues? And I think that it's clear that SPCA has failed to show that there are any issues with peace, order and quiet.

They failed to show that Champion Kitchen has a negative impact on the community. Specifically, they're requesting the establishment have limited hours and limited entertainment.

They haven't shown that there's any negative impacts because of these hours, or because of entertainment. What they have focused on is capacity and the type of establishment it is.

Their issue has been, as we've discussed back and forth throughout this hearing, what this case is not about. This is not a substantial change application. And it ought to be clear that Champion Kitchen understands what their capacity is.

They understand that it's 44. And, as

Mr. Worku testified to, he's willing to go back to the establishment -- and we don't concede that there is a substantial change violation about the seating. I want that to be clear as well.

However, without conceding to that, he's already testified that he'll remove the extra seats. He'll make it so it's 44 seats if that's the issue.

So, he has done everything he can to comply with what the community's been requesting. And at that, after these changes have been made, after everything he's done, $I$ have still not heard any real issues about noise, any real issues about current complaints, complaints that have been occurring within the last year.

We've heard testimony from the owner and operator, Eyob Worku, who said that he has worked with this community, SPCA, as well as the ANC, for the past two years, despite things not going his way, and despite him not getting the increased capacity that he wants. He's still willing to work with the community.

He understands the value and the importance of the community and he's still willing to do that.

We've heard testimony from Thurman
Baker, who has testified and said he lives in the area. And not only does he live in the area, he works in the area.

He's a patron at Champion Kitchen. He goes there quite often. He goes there for birthdays, celebrations, and he testified regarding the environment.

And one thing that he did say and he was clear about, is that noise cannot be heard outside of the establishment.

There is no noise outside of the premises. And if that's the case, these allegations of noise complaints, without it being validated, without proof that there is actual noise being heard, is without any merit. And they have not established that there is a negative impact on peace order requirement.

You also heard testimony from the security -- the fee of the security company, who testified that has a lot of experience in this area.

Not only does he have a lot of experience as an owner of a security
establishment or -- I'm sorry, a security company, he knows Eyob and he's worked with Eyob for a while, and that Eyob is by the book. That he wants to be in compliance, that that's what he's been working towards.

And he testified that there's two security personnel in the establishment, meaning two security personnel and two RDLs on weekends. That's four security officers or personnel for 44 people.

And it's not because this
establishment has issues with crime or has issues with violence, or there are any fights. Because he's testified that there haven't been any. If anything, there may have been one.

And the may-have-been-one was a reference to homeless individuals that are outside that were not patrons in the establishment.

And, when asked why is he doing this, why do you have four security personnel, the answer is, I'm trying to alleviate and mitigate all these issues with the community. I want the community to understand that I'm taking all the measures necessary to try to be safe.

If they're saying that they hear noise outside, if they're saying that my patrons are leaving my establishment and they're causing them issues, I want to make sure that there are people out there that are watching it. And so that's what he's done.

You've heard testimony from the security officer that said that noise can't be heard. So, we have two witnesses that testified -- and three including Eyob himself -- that there's no noise that's coming from the establishment.

And Protestants have testified that there were some noise complaints. And I want the record to be clear that these noise complaints that have been referred to are noise complaints that occurred prior to the mitigation, prior to Eyob spending $\$ 30,000$ to put in the sound mitigation on the walls.

After he did that, there were no noise complaints. No noise complaints came to him, ABRA didn't find any violations or any noise complaints, either.

The investigator testified that he visited the establishment, $I$ believe he said
seven times. That the establishment was visited 17 times by ABRA investigators between August 17, 2019 and September 24, 2019.

Seventeen times, that approximately what, every other day? And still, there is no excessive noise violations, no issues with peace, order and quiet, no trash issues, no crowds outside the establishment, no criminal activity.

So, that being said, I'm going to request that the Board take all this into consideration, and that you make the determination that Protestants have not shown that this establishment has a negative impact on peace, order and quiet, and as I requested in the beginning, I'm going to request that you approve the renewal application, a renewal of his license, without any additional restrictions.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is doing the closing?

MS. JEFFERSON: I am.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are, Ms. Jefferson?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, sir. Thank you. Sorry. Good evening. Thank you, Chair, first and foremost, for helping walk us through this
and understanding this process. This is new for us. We appreciate the graciousness that you have shown us this evening, as this is our first protest hearing that we have participated in.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, we, in good faith, entered into a settlement agreement with the Applicant. This is not a situation where a small group of people are protesting an application.

This is a situation where an organization that represents over 1,800 households and businesses has voted to protest the renewal of this application.

I think the record is clear that Champion Kitchen has had an adverse impact on our community. What's more important is that the record is clear that in our settlement agreement, which the Applicant signed and agreed to and which is part of the license, we asked for very basic things.

We asked that the nature of the business be a restaurant and that it has coffee. I don't think we even saw coffee in any picture. In fact, that's in one part of our settlement agreement.

I'm not even going to go into the argument about patrons and occupancy. I'll leave that alone.

The Applicant himself talked about extending the hours of operations. He talked about on several times where food -- I'm sorry, where alcohol was served later than food.

The noise that we spoke of, the allegations is the rowdiness of the crowds that emanate from the establishment. And we showed evidence about the rowdiness of those crowds.

He also testified himself to parking in the neighborhood in an area where there's very limited parking in and of itself. That exacerbates a problem when you have people parking in the few residential spots that people have.

And I think he testified that it was better that he did it than a patron, which still takes away a parking space from a resident.

We showed evidence about the trash and litter, and it's supposed to be around the public space around the establishment. We also showed, and the Board's witness mentioned, about violations of other laws.

That is specifically mentioned within our settlement agreement. It specifically mentions laws and regulations related to ABRA itself, the District, DCRA, Department of Health, Department of Public Works, and other applicable Agency regulations and orders regarding the conduct of the business, the ownership of the license, and all other provisions applicable to liquor license, and that the outdoor signage would only be illuminated during operating hours, and that there would not be any blinking lighting or strobing features, which we showed evidence about that.

We have worked diligently with the Applicant. And each time we have felt that our concerns have fallen on deaf ears, similar to the Department of Health's experience.

So, therefore, as I mentioned in our opening statement, the Shepherd Park Citizens Association requests that the license not be -that the application for renewal be denied, and that the license be revoked.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's it?
MS. JEFFERSON: Well, we also said in the alternative, if the Board --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what is it?
MS. JEFFERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I said that in my opening statement. I apologize. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, when you're closing, your wrapping up the case and you're telling me what was proved and what it is you want the Board to do.

MS. JEFFERSON: In the alternative, we ask that the Board has Champion Kitchen's books and records audited to make sure that they're adhering to their food sales requirements. We also ask that you reduce the establishment operating hours such that the establishment closes at 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and at midnight on Friday and Saturday.

This is similar to other licensees in the immediate area. And we also talked about the certificate of occupancy, that it come into line so that there's not this conflict if the Board does find that there is this substantial change, as noted in the investigator's report, because it will always be a conflict and it will always be a substantial change if there's more seats.

And that the Applicant's entertainment endorsement be revoked, and that the nightclub
activities be prohibited, as well as the use of a cover charge in any circumstance.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's it?
MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, sir. Thank you very much for your time, all of you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. The record is now closed. Do the parties wish to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, or waive their right to do so, meaning that do you want to propose findings of fact and conclusions of law? Again, this is not providing new information. It's stating that these are the facts that were proven --

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- these are conclusions of law. Or you want to waive your right to do so?

MS. JEFFERSON: We would like to file it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You'd like to file it? All right. All right. So, if the parties choose to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, then 90 days from when the Board receives proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law, so this gives the Board
within 30 days after receipt of the transcript. You should receive the transcript in approximately three weeks. If you change your mind to say that you're not going to do this, then please inform the Board.

But again, remember this is not new information. You cannot bring in new information. It's only based on the testimony that was raised today. Okay? All right.

MS. JEFFERSON: Chair? I'm sorry. For clarification, is it 30 days from today, or 30 days from the three weeks?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: it's 30 days from the three weeks.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay, thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You should get the -- we will email both parties the transcript, which should take probably about three weeks.

MS. JEFFERSON: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And once you receive the transcript, the Board will allow -once the transcript is provided to you, you will be told the date. But it'll be 30 days from when you receive the transcript.

And then, we will issue a decision
within 90 days after that. So, therefore, it should take the Board -- it probably won't take 120 days for us to issue a decision. But think about that no later than 120 days from once you submit -- you know, no later than 120 days from three weeks after you receive the transcript, you should receive a decision.

MS. YOHANNES: Apologies, Chairman. Did you say 120 days?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I said it's 90 days. However -- I'm saying from today. It's 90 days from the 30 days, we'll issue a decision. Meaning that you'll get the transcript within three weeks.

You'll have 30 days from once you receive the transcript to provide your proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. And within 90 days after that, the Board will issue its decision. You're still -- are you clear or you're -- say, for example, if there was no --

MS. YOHANNES: No, I understand what you're saying. Sorry, apologies. I understand what you're saying. I thought the 90 days included that time.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. So, I
stand corrected. You'll get the transcript in about two to three weeks. You have 30 days from there.

And within 90 days we'll issue a decision. But we'll try to make sure the decision is issued prior to that. But that's the rough deadline that you're on. Okay? All right.

As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
Beverage and Control Board for the District of Columbia, in accordance with DC Official Code Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on case number 19-PRO-00051, Champion Kitchen, pursuant to DC Official Code Section 2574(b) of the Open Meetings Act, and deliberating upon case number 19-PRO-00051, Champion Kitchen, for the reasons cited in DC Official Code Section 2574(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a second?

MEMBER CATO: Second.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato has seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call vote before us now that the motion has been seconded. Ms. Crockett?

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

I want to thank the parties for their presentation today. Hopefully, I didn't bore you too much.

Thank you for being here. I know it's been a long day and we'll be here for a little while, while you pack and go home.

But thank you very much for your presentation.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. I thank all of you.
(Whereupon the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:45 p.m.)
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Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc. Washington DC

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Champion Kitchen

Before: DCABRA

Date: 10-02-19

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

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

