

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
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IN THE MATTER OF:                   :  
   :  
 Hua May Inc.,                       :  
 t/a Fortune Liquors               :  
 606 7th Street SW                 : Fact Finding  
 Retailer A - ANC 6D               : Hearing  
 License No. 105355               :  
   :  
 (Request to Extend                :  
 Safekeeping)                       :

Wednesday  
 April 4, 2018

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

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

CHUAN TU ZHANG, APPLICANT

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

2 9:54 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Our  
4 next case is that we have a Fact-Finding Hearing,  
5 Fortune Liquors, License No. 105355.

6 Would the parties, please, approach  
7 and identify themselves for the record, please?

8 Good morning, sir. You are -- can you  
9 identify yourself for the record, please? Your  
10 name?

11 MR. ZHANG: Chuan Tu Zhang.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, I  
13 didn't hear.

14 MR. ZHANG: Chuan Tu Zhang.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Trong?

16 MR. ZHANG: Tu Zhang.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, Chuan. Mr.  
18 Zhang, good morning, sir, yes.

19 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I just -- right now,  
20 I got a boss that is --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Speak a little  
22 bit slower, sir, so I can hear you, please.

1 MR. ZHANG: I'm sorry. I only know to  
2 be two or three years that the license, so why  
3 not --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can have a  
5 seat.

6 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Sit down and  
7 speak into the microphone, please.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Yes,  
9 you can have a seat and make yourself  
10 comfortable, sir.

11 MR. ZHANG: Yeah. I already know the  
12 liquor license two or three years, so why not we  
13 don't have time for like the basement. I got the  
14 boss coming in now. Also right now, I will sale  
15 to my friend. He need it, liquor license now.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So have you --  
17 hold on. Well, sir, you know that when your  
18 safekeeping request is only for six months.

19 MR. ZHANG: I'm sorry?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If you -- if we  
21 were to grant the request for safekeeping, it  
22 would only be for six months. And I see in your

1 letter you are asking for another two to three  
2 years. So what is it that -- so you believe that  
3 -- you have an A License, right? You have a  
4 liquor store license.

5 MR. ZHANG: Right, right.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you have had  
7 this for a while, so why can't you find a  
8 location?

9 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I check it on  
10 location two, so also we don't have a car. I got  
11 a bus. I got a -- next year I buy the bus and  
12 bus company.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Slower, sir,  
14 slower for me, please.

15 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I say I -- we don't  
16 have time. I go look at all the location and got  
17 the bus and bus company. I buy the bus and bus  
18 company. We don't have time to look at other  
19 location.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm sorry,  
21 you said you buy what?

22 MR. ZHANG: The bus. B-U-S, bus. Bus

1 company.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Bus company?

3 Bus?

4 MR. ZHANG: Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You buy a bus

6 company? I don't --

7 MR. ZHANG: Me, I buy the bus company.

8 We just don't have a driver.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

10 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, location of that.

11 Cannot -- we don't have a car to look at the

12 location.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You know what?

14 This is what I'm going to do, sir. I'm having a

15 difficult time understanding you.

16 MR. ZHANG: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What language

18 do you speak?

19 MR. ZHANG: Mandarin.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mandarin

21 Chinese. I think I'm going to ask that we

22 provide you an interpreter, because I'm having a

1 difficult time understanding you.

2 MR. ZHANG: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I want to  
4 be fair to you. I know that you are asking for  
5 two to three years --

6 MR. ZHANG: Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- to continue  
8 this license. And I'm -- that's not even  
9 allowable. And I'm not quite sure why is it that  
10 you have had this license until -- since -- you  
11 have had this license now for three years.

12 MR. ZHANG: Yes, two to be --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, in  
14 October of 2015 you got this license. It's a  
15 very valuable license. I mean, there is a cap on  
16 A Licenses, so you have the license and you are  
17 not using it. And you are telling us that you  
18 are going to -- you probably are not going to use  
19 it for another two to three years.

20 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I know. So which is  
21 why I want we don't have time. I haven't look  
22 out at location, too, so I've got to work boss

1 that's very, very busy. So right now, I got my  
2 friend also you need it for the liquor license  
3 might need it for sale for my friend, too.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So have you --

5 MR. ZHANG: Yeah.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- come --

7 okay. So you said you are going to give it --  
8 you are going to sell it to someone?

9 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So have you put  
11 in any paperwork here to transfer the license to  
12 them?

13 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I also got the  
14 paperwork, too, uh-huh.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What have you?  
16 What? Tell me what.

17 MR. ZHANG: Oh, like a -- okay, hold  
18 on one second.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who are you,  
20 sir?

21 MR. ZHANG: He kind of the --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who is the guy

1 next to you?

2 MR. WANG: Can I show this to you?  
3 Mr. Zhang write this one and this is, you know,  
4 sales approval. And the other gentleman --

5 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: You need to speak  
6 into the microphone, please.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have to go  
8 back there and speak into the microphone. Go  
9 ahead. All right. Hold on.

10 MR. WANG: Is it on?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, you can  
12 sit there.

13 MR. WANG: I'm a CPA. My name is Neng  
14 Hsiang Wang. I help Mr. Zhang to come up with  
15 some kind of solution. And the solution is to  
16 sell to a friend of Mr. Zhang and this gentleman  
17 is called Mr. Shi, S-H-I. He is now sitting over  
18 there and he is willing to purchase the license.  
19 So if you -- if the owner agree therefore the  
20 transfer, he is willing that to buy and operate  
21 this license right away.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Yes, Mr.



1 Short? Go ahead, Mr. Short.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. CPA?

3 MR. WANG: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,  
5 what's your name for the record, sir?

6 MR. WANG: Neng Hsiang Wang.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is your  
8 name?

9 MR. WANG: Neng Hsiang Wang.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, just --

11 MEMBER SHORT: No, no, no.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- spell it.  
13 Write it on this sign-in sheet there. And also  
14 spell it for the record. Spell your name also,  
15 sir.

16 MR. WANG: Okay. Neng Hsiang Wang is  
17 N-E-N-G H-S-I-A-N-G last name is W-A-N-G.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And  
19 so, Mr. Wang, so there is a sign-in sheet, so  
20 make sure you sign-in on the sign-in sheet on the  
21 table, too. I think it is maybe that paperwork  
22 in front of you. Is there a sign-in sheet there?

1 All right. I know, but --

2 MEMBER SHORT: Both of you have to  
3 sign-in. Okay. Mr. Wang?

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can leave  
5 it right there. Leave it on the table.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Wang?

7 MR. WANG: Yes.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Now, you are stating  
9 that the current owner of this ABC License wants  
10 to sell and transfer it to the person who is  
11 sitting behind you, correct?

12 MR. WANG: I didn't -- no, I'm -- I  
13 have some hearing problem. Can you say one more  
14 time?

15 MEMBER SHORT: It's my understanding  
16 that the current owner, who is sitting beside  
17 you, wants to sell his ABC License, which he  
18 wants to keep in safekeeping, to the person  
19 behind you.

20 MR. WANG: Um-hum.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Sitting in the  
22 audience. Is that correct?

1 MR. WANG: That's correct.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Is that person also  
3 going to put it in safekeeping?

4 MR. WANG: Is that what?

5 MEMBER SHORT: Is he going to put it  
6 in safekeeping also?

7 MR. WANG: No.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Or does he have a  
9 location?

10 MR. WANG: Well, for the time being,  
11 but he want to find another location.

12 MEMBER SHORT: Well, what's the  
13 difference in him having -- by keeping --

14 MR. WANG: No, before he find a  
15 location, he has to put in safekeeping for maybe  
16 for a short while.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. What  
18 preparations have you made to transfer it? Is  
19 there a contract? A sale in place already?

20 MR. WANG: There is agreement.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Dated today.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. What's the --

1 MR. WANG: He would agree then, you  
2 know, I tried to finalize the contract.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Let me ask you  
4 a question.

5 MR. WANG: Yes.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Why doesn't Mr. Wang  
7 just go ahead and give this license up?

8 MR. WANG: Yeah.

9 MEMBER SHORT: And that person just go  
10 ahead and apply for a new license?

11 MR. WANG: Say again?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He probably  
13 won't get it, because it's an A License.

14 MR. WANG: Okay. But I am --

15 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's an A  
17 License.

18 MEMBER SHORT: I still want him to  
19 explain it.

20 MR. WANG: Okay.

21 MEMBER SHORT: I want you to explain  
22 why doesn't the person behind you who wants to

1 buy the license apply for his own license? Why  
2 doesn't he do that?

3 MR. WANG: Why he buy the license?

4 MEMBER SHORT: Why doesn't he buy his  
5 own license? Why does he have to get one that is  
6 in safekeeping and keep it in safekeeping?

7 MR. WANG: Because we don't know there  
8 is any moratorium or not. There is certain  
9 moratorium, then that be restrictions, right?

10 MEMBER SHORT: What's --

11 MR. WANG: So we have to buy it from  
12 safekeeping.

13 MEMBER SHORT: What's the address of  
14 the current license?

15 MR. WANG: Huh?

16 MEMBER SHORT: What is the address of  
17 the current license?

18 MR. WANG: I supposed to transfer.

19 MEMBER SHORT: What is the address?

20 MR. WANG: Address?

21 MEMBER SHORT: Yes, of the current  
22 license.

1           MR. WANG: The current one? I think  
2           that the original one is at Columbia Road. And  
3           then they transfer that to a lady in, what they  
4           call it, Indian Head, Maryland, but they -- the  
5           lady sell it to Mr. Zhang and Mr. Zhang is in  
6           Silver Spring. And because of the difficulty of  
7           buying that --

8           MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Wang has never  
9           operated a business with this license?

10          MR. WANG: Yeah.

11          MEMBER SHORT: Has he ever operated a  
12          business with this license?

13          MR. WANG: Myself?

14          MEMBER SHORT: Has he? Mr. -- the  
15          owner of the license ever operated an alcohol  
16          store in Washington, D.C.?

17          MR. WANG: He will try to, but he  
18          never did.

19          MEMBER SHORT: Yes or no? Has he ever  
20          operated his --

21          MR. WANG: No.

22          MEMBER SHORT: He has never operated

1 the license?

2 MR. WANG: Not open yet. Before we're  
3 not open yet. I just check it out and locate --

4 MEMBER SHORT: How many years? How  
5 many years have you had your license?

6 MR. ZHANG: Two or three years.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Two or three years.

8 MR. WANG: Three years.

9 (Simultaneous speaking)

10 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. And so then you  
11 want to sell it --

12 MR. WANG: I think like July --

13 MEMBER SHORT: -- to --

14 MR. WANG: -- '16. The beginning of  
15 July '16.

16 MEMBER SHORT: And then you want to  
17 sell it to someone else to put it in safekeeping?

18 MR. WANG: That's correct.

19 MR. ZHANG: No.

20 MR. SHI: No.

21 MR. WANG: Sell it for operation.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. You mentioned

1 moratorium a minute ago. Where is the moratorium  
2 that you -- that is going to affect this license?

3 MR. WANG: Say again.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Where is the moratorium  
5 that you spoke of a moment ago?

6 MR. WANG: Oh, we don't know, but --

7 MEMBER SHORT: No.

8 MR. WANG: -- we are not familiar  
9 whether that is in moratorium or not, but some  
10 people said that there could be a moratorium, you  
11 know, to a certain degree, but maybe that's  
12 correct, maybe that's not correct.

13 MEMBER SHORT: So may be correct, may  
14 not be correct.

15 MR. WANG: That's correct.

16 MEMBER SHORT: So what is this Board  
17 to act on correct or not correct?

18 MR. WANG: Maybe you can answer that  
19 question.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Oh, we will. That's  
21 all I have, Mr. Chair.

22 MR. WANG: Okay. Thank you. We need



1 your advice.

2 MR. ZHANG: Thank you. Thank you.

3 MEMBER SHORT: That's all I have, Mr.  
4 Chair. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

6 MEMBER SHORT: We will take care of  
7 it.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jin Cai  
9 Shi?

10 MR. WANG: You got my friend, yeah.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your --  
12 state your name for the record, sir.

13 MR. SHI: J-I-N C-A-I S-H-I, Jin Cai  
14 Shi.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Shi?

16 MR. SHI: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, so you  
18 want to buy this liquor license --

19 MR. SHI: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- from him?  
21 Do you have a location that you are going to  
22 operate this liquor license, sir?

1 MR. SHI: Right now, no. I'm try to  
2 look.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you -- how  
4 hard have you been -- this is the problem that we  
5 are having. Okay? He has had this liquor  
6 license for three years.

7 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I got to work the  
8 bus. I got a bus company. Bus company.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You own a bus  
10 company.

11 MR. ZHANG: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Now,  
13 we're making sense. I didn't understand what --  
14 because you were talking about bus and we are  
15 talking about liquor license.

16 MR. ZHANG: Right, yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you own a  
18 bus company. So you drive a whole lot, so you  
19 don't have enough time to --

20 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, no, also have no  
21 time. It's not easy, you know.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. So you

1 don't have enough time to go find --

2 MR. ZHANG: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- a location.

4 MR. ZHANG: Yes, I got to look at a  
5 location, too.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

7 MR. ZHANG: I got time to get out,  
8 so --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's your --  
10 but you drive a bus company.

11 MR. ZHANG: This is what I want. We  
12 don't have time to open.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

14 MR. ZHANG: And make a store.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

16 MR. ZHANG: So this is why I sale for  
17 my friend.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So he has had  
19 this license for three years.

20 MR. WANG: Two.

21 MR. ZHANG: Two years.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir, in

1 your letter to us, you said that you acquired the  
2 license in October of 2015. So October is going  
3 to be three years. That's what your letter says.  
4 I can check our record, but at least the letter--

5 MR. WANG: Actually, by July would be  
6 three -- would be two years. So not the two  
7 years yet.

8 MR. ZHANG: Talk about to me. By the  
9 contract only two years.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
11 Hold on. Hold on. You wrote a letter to us that  
12 Mr. Wang, you were copied of it -- you were  
13 copied on the letter, and you said that you  
14 bought this license in October of 2015. That's  
15 what your letter says.

16 I'm not sure what the ABRA record  
17 says, but your letter to us told us that you have  
18 owned it since October of 2015.

19 You have also stated that you have  
20 tried to find a location. You haven't found a  
21 location. You are asking us for another two to  
22 three years to keep it in safekeeping. What I'm

1 saying to you, even if the Board was to approve  
2 that today, the -- we can only give you six  
3 months. So even if we were to do that today, we  
4 would approve it through October -- September 30,  
5 2018.

6 You also said to me today that you  
7 have Mr. Shi who wants to buy the liquor license.  
8 Okay. And that's why since he is here, I'm  
9 saying to him okay, he wants to buy it, has he  
10 been -- okay. Because you are a bus driver, you  
11 haven't had time. You own a bus company. You  
12 haven't had time. Is he going to find a  
13 location? And so therefore, is he going to wait  
14 another three years --

15 MR. SHI: Huh-uh.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- to try to  
17 find a location?

18 MR. WANG: Maybe he come. Maybe --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but --

20 MR. WANG: -- I'm not saying me.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, that's  
22 why I'm asking him. Now, if he said to me, okay,

1 I have identified a location. I am negotiating  
2 with a landlord, then I mean, I would be more  
3 inclined to say to the Board, you know, give him  
4 some time to finalize the lease. But an A -- we  
5 have a cap in the District of Columbia that you  
6 can only have 250 A Licenses for the entire city.

7 We are almost at the cap. Okay? So  
8 you are sitting on a very valuable license. So  
9 why should this Board allow you to sit on a  
10 license that someone else can utilize for another  
11 three years, for another six months? That you  
12 have had it for three years that you have not  
13 used.

14 MR. ZHANG: Okay. April 4 in here I  
15 buy the license. He told me that he -- you got  
16 time. You take time for look at other location.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Yes, sir.

18 MR. ZHANG: Right?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

20 MR. ZHANG: So I got it -- every year  
21 we have had pay \$2,700 every year.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know, sir,

1       yes.

2                   MR. ZHANG:  And I got a company, too.  
3       I got a company too and before I cannot -- well,  
4       D.C. Government --

5                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  I know.

6                   MR. ZHANG:  -- the liquor store had --  
7       and company, too.  I also got to check it out,  
8       too.  So you before told me you say you got time.  
9       Okay.  You just take no more -- since you hold  
10      that the other lady, the old lady say that  
11      October the 7th, it's I can't say one more year to  
12      keep it there, the license.

13                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Right.

14                  MR. ZHANG:  So I go check it out, too.  
15      I go check it out many times and I got to work a  
16      bus company, too.  So just I got a little --  
17      right now, right now, I already no more time.  I  
18      got a bus with too many job, people work.  So and  
19      I check it out, check it out, check it out is  
20      what I did.  One, two, three, I got it just the  
21      talk of time.

22                  Someone tell me we don't have no time.

1 Well, my friend say, okay, he need it too. Okay.  
2 I for sale, that's it. Just what I want, what I  
3 need.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you have to  
5 decide do I want to own a liquor store or do I  
6 want to own a bus company or do --

7 MR. ZHANG: Yes, I -- just I can't do  
8 both, you know.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because you are  
10 telling me --

11 MR. ZHANG: It's hard time.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you are  
13 telling me --

14 MR. ZHANG: I can't have liquor store  
15 and buses.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. But so  
17 you are telling me that based on all the jobs you  
18 had, you don't have time to run a liquor store.

19 MR. ZHANG: No. Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what you  
21 are telling me.

22 MR. ZHANG: Before I driver, before I



1 already driver. Right now, I got a bus and --  
2 checking out store and location. Oh, I say very,  
3 very hard time. I say okay, well, maybe only one  
4 deposit and I talk with my friend. Okay. He  
5 said okay, he need it. He got time, so forget  
6 about --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But he is not  
8 telling me -- okay. Okay. You decide you're  
9 going to pass it on to him.

10 MR. ZHANG: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But he then  
12 needs to tell me what is it that, okay -- all  
13 right. I found a location or I'm about to find a  
14 location and that -- and then once the location  
15 is found, then you will formally ask that it's  
16 transferred from you to him.

17 But basically, you are asking us to  
18 put it back in safekeeping that even if you sell  
19 it to him, he is going to sit on it for another  
20 two to three years, that's what you are telling  
21 me.

22 MR. ZHANG: Okay.

1           MR. SHI: No. If I have the license  
2 change to my name, I will find a location to open  
3 the liquor store.

4           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how long is  
5 it going to take you to find -- if we were -- how  
6 long is it going to take you to find a location  
7 to open a liquor store?

8           MR. SHI: If I got a license, I will  
9 try to as soon as I can find a good location to  
10 open.

11          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, sir, you  
12 have to tell us, you have to tell me, okay, I  
13 have spotted these locations, okay? I have  
14 spoken to these landlords to do it. Because --  
15 and so because it is now October -- it's now --  
16 it's March.

17          MEMBER SHORT: April.

18          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's April.  
19 May, June, July, August, September, five months.  
20 So even if we were to grant this today, would you  
21 be able to identify a location in five months?

22          MR. SHI: I cannot tell you like

1 exactly, but I --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Would you be  
3 able -- no, sir. Would you be able to identify a  
4 location and actively be involved with a landlord  
5 in five months? Because if -- the reason why I  
6 said five months is because in October, you have  
7 to come back again to us to ask for another six  
8 months.

9 And so are you going to tell me that  
10 he has had it for three years.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chair is asking a  
12 question.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Huh? Hold on.  
14 I know. He has had it for three years. He  
15 couldn't find -- he can't find a location in  
16 three years. So therefore, if he sells it to  
17 you, then you are going to sit on it another  
18 three years and then you are going to come to us  
19 and tell me --

20 MR. SHI: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- hold on,  
22 sir. You have told me that you want to sell it

1 to him. If you are going to -- you have told me  
2 that you want to sell it to him. Okay. So  
3 because you told me you want to sell it to him,  
4 if he can give me the answer that I need, it will  
5 help your case, but he is basically -- you bought  
6 it from somebody who probably never used the  
7 license. You are selling it for three years, now  
8 you want to pass it on to him. He is going to  
9 sit on it for another three years and then by the  
10 time -- and you see I don't care how much money  
11 you sell it for to him, that's not our issue.  
12 Our issue is that we want to make sure that  
13 someone -- that the license is available to  
14 someone who is going to utilize it immediately,  
15 so the District can get -- sir, only -- sir,  
16 everything is being transcribed by --  
17 unfortunately, you are speaking Mandarin Chinese  
18 and I'm not sure if our transcriber speaks  
19 Mandarin Chinese, so I'm not sure what is going  
20 on with it, but both of us can't talk at the same  
21 time. Okay?

22 But if you are talking to me, I need

1 you to either speak in English or I can reset  
2 these proceedings, so I can get you a translator,  
3 so, therefore, we can communicate well.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Yes,  
6 Mr. Short?

7 MEMBER SHORT: I would just like to go  
8 on the record and if anyone can dispute the  
9 information I'm about to give, I wish they would.

10 Our records here at ABRA show that the  
11 License ABRA-15355, which is your license, has  
12 been not operating since October 2009.

13 Is that true or untrue? No one has  
14 operated and paid taxes from sales of alcohol to  
15 the Washington, D.C. since 2009 when someone got  
16 this license.

17 So now, we are just transferring it,  
18 transferring and transferring and if I might say,  
19 I'm just one Board Member, my thought is if that  
20 license was in the hands of an operator who is  
21 paying taxes in Washington, D.C., the fees you  
22 are paying once a year wouldn't touch that.

1           So someone could be operating with an  
2   A License in Washington, D.C. and making it  
3   benefit a community and benefit our tax base here  
4   in Washington, D.C.

5           Do you keep -- have been in  
6   safekeeping for three years and now want to sell  
7   to someone else who doesn't know when they will  
8   be able to operate with it and this has been  
9   going on since 2009.

10           Why should we, as a Board, continue  
11   this for you? What good reason do you have to  
12   give us that we should continue the safekeeping  
13   that you haven't used or no one has used since  
14   2009? And here we are in 2018.

15           MR. WANG: The lady that bought it  
16   from someone else, but we don't know there is --

17           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But she didn't  
18   use it.

19           MR. WANG: Okay.

20           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And then that's  
21   what we're saying. She bought it from -- I don't  
22   know when she bought it.

1 MR. WANG: Yeah.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then she sold  
3 it to --

4 MR. WANG: Yeah, that's what we know  
5 from there.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I think,  
7 sir, you know, I have been on this Board for two  
8 years and your face is familiar to me. So you  
9 have been here before. I am trying to figure it  
10 out. It's going to come back to me and I --

11 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, I know before here,  
12 too, so I don't know what before you told me got  
13 time, do more than several more years. I say I  
14 can in several more years. I already know you  
15 got a time. For new owner, you've got a time to  
16 check out location.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right, but  
18 that's three -- but, sir, I understand. I  
19 understand if -- I understand as a new owner,  
20 you --

21 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, you got time. New  
22 owner got time --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. But how  
2 much time is reasonable?

3 MR. ZHANG: -- to check out --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell me. Okay.  
5 If I sell you something, what's a reasonable  
6 period of time for you to start using it? You  
7 tell me. What's reasonable? Tell me. What's --  
8 how -- what is reasonable?

9 MR. ZHANG: Okay. You say me got a  
10 three year, you can say also when you sell my  
11 friend, got three more year.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's  
13 reasonable?

14 MR. ZHANG: When I came early, hoping  
15 to check out.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. All right.  
17 Okay. All right.

18 MR. ZHANG: Not the -- new owner, he  
19 come to me and he got three years.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But this is  
21 what I'm saying to you, okay? Okay. You tell me  
22 what's reasonable? What is a reasonable period



1 of time for us to give you for you to finalize  
2 it? What's reasonable? What six months, one  
3 year, two years, three years, four years? You  
4 tell me what's reasonable.

5 MR. ZHANG: Okay. I make it early.  
6 Maybe open everything. I make it -- I should buy  
7 since I am the new owner, since I buy, I make it  
8 early, open early. Sometime check it out, right  
9 now got rent, sometime maybe \$6,000 the busy --  
10 yeah, right now they're busy before they're cheap  
11 --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm thinking of  
13 taking under advisement.

14 MR. ZHANG: Right now, the building go  
15 high sometime, so, you know, check it out, check  
16 it out, maybe he better. Maybe he a better.  
17 Before me, to know he can open or not. He want  
18 me to know.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
20 Shi?

21 MR. SHI: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If he was to --

1 if you were to buy the license from him --

2 MR. SHI: Um-hum..

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- and if say  
4 for example the Board says today --

5 MR. ZHANG: Yeah, he no more than  
6 three years. Not say be three years.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking him.

8 MR. ZHANG: I know so long, you know.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: If the Board  
10 was to say, okay, fine, we will approve his  
11 request for safekeeping, how long would it take  
12 you, how long would you want? Say for example we  
13 approve his safekeeping request today, right?

14 MR. SHI: Um-hum.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You sign this  
16 contract today and so you now have this license.

17 MR. SHI: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so  
19 therefore, in order for you to get the license,  
20 you have to send in your documentation to us to  
21 transfer to you. How long would it take you --

22 MR. SHI: To find a location?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- to find a  
2 location to open up? Tell me how long.

3 MR. SHI: How long? I try to --

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I don't  
5 want no try. You tell me how much time would it  
6 take you to find a location to open to use this  
7 license?

8 (Foreign language spoken)

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir, sir,  
10 sir? Can you --

11 MR. SHI: Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- if you want  
13 me to hear, sir, because I have already told you  
14 that I don't speak Mandarin Chinese, speak  
15 English, because I know you can. I was going to  
16 get you a translator, but by listening to you, I  
17 now understand you clearly and I also know that  
18 you understand me clearly, sir.

19 MR. SHI: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, please,  
21 speak English.

22 MR. ZHANG: Okay.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I can hear  
2 what you are saying.

3                   MR. ZHANG: Okay.

4                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm asking  
5 you, you told me that Mr. Shi wants to -- you are  
6 going to sell it him. You gave me a sale  
7 agreement that is dated today that is not  
8 notarized yet, that you have -- your name is on  
9 it. Mr. Wang's name is on it and Mr. -- so we  
10 have Mr. Zhang, Mr. Shi and Mr. Wang. All three  
11 people's name are on it.

12                   That's why I'm calling Mr. Shi and I'm  
13 saying to Mr. Shi, if you were to buy this thing  
14 today, and we approve it, how much time do you  
15 need to put in your transfer application that the  
16 license be transferred to you and that you will  
17 find a location to use this license.

18                   How much time would it take you?

19                   MR. SHI: Can you give me -- once  
20 again, let me ask the guy?

21                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't need  
22 to ask him. He -- Mr. Shi, Mr. Shi, listen.

1 MR. SHI: We've got a deal.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Listen, Mr.  
3 Shi, this is what I'm saying to you. Okay. You  
4 gave me a piece of paper today.

5 MR. SHI: Um-hum.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That you sign  
7 it, you pay him, this says that \$25,000. You and  
8 him can figure out the -- how is it. But you  
9 signed this contract today, because it's dated  
10 today, you signed it.

11 MR. SHI: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So therefore,  
13 he sells it to you. You are going to open up  
14 this liquor store.

15 MR. SHI: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How long is it  
17 going to take you to find a location, so you can  
18 use this license? You don't need to talk to  
19 nobody. It's your business. It's your license.

20 MR. SHI: Right now in my head --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

22 MR. SHI: -- I don't have the

1 location, so when I got the license, then I can  
2 find a location, right?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, no. You  
4 are buying something. Sir, let me say this to  
5 you, okay? If you want me to believe you, you  
6 have to make sure --

7 MR. SHI: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- all right.  
9 You want to buy -- this man gave you -- sells you  
10 his liquor license, that the paperwork that I  
11 have in front of me said that it's dated today.  
12 So you can go a notary, notarize it. Okay.  
13 Don't tell me that you guys just wrote this for  
14 me to appease me today. Okay? I am hoping not.

15 MR. SHI: Oh, no, no, no.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm saying that  
17 this is legitimate. All it has to do is that you  
18 folks need to sign it. So therefore, you three  
19 you sign this today. If -- he has sold it to you  
20 today. How long is it going to take you? So you  
21 have this license in your hand today. You have  
22 it. It's yours, because you signed this

1 paperwork. How long is it going to take you to  
2 find a location to use this license?

3 MR. SHI: How long to find? I can go  
4 to find one when I leave the Court. But I cannot  
5 tell you exactly when I can open the store,  
6 right?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
8 right. I didn't ask you -- we are talking about  
9 two different things, sir. I'm asking how long  
10 is it going to take you to identify a location?  
11 Because in order -- what it says is that you  
12 identify a location, because you would have to  
13 give us a lease. I know that. Okay. You might  
14 find a location, it might have to be renovated.  
15 You have to sign a lease with the landlord. So I  
16 know that's a process. You have to put in a  
17 transfer application. You have to do a  
18 background check. You have to do all of this. I  
19 know that takes some time.

20 MR. SHI: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: However, at a  
22 minimum, you have to identify a location,

1 because, as Mr. Short says, this has been going  
2 on since 2009. This is nine years, nine years  
3 that these folks have been passing the license  
4 from one person to another. Somebody own it for  
5 a couple of years. Somebody owns it for a  
6 couple. He owns it for three years. Now, he is  
7 going to pass it on to you. You are going to sit  
8 on it for another three years and then three  
9 years later -- no.

10 You see, he is asking me for three  
11 years.

12 MR. SHI: No.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just  
14 telling you what the paper -- I'm just saying  
15 what his request is. So it's -- anyway, anything  
16 else anybody wants to say?

17 MR. SHI: Okay. I don't know what  
18 does he, the old owner before, but my friend, he  
19 just tell me like a couple days ago say he don't  
20 want to run the liquor store no more and want to  
21 transfer to me.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But he hasn't



1 run it. He has been sitting on the license.

2 MR. SHI: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He hasn't done  
4 nothing.

5 MR. SHI: Well, I --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He has been  
7 driving. He can't find --

8 MR. SHI: -- know he told me before  
9 like two years ago and he tell me he want to open  
10 the liquor store and I know he asked the agent to  
11 find a location, but after that, he own the bus  
12 company. Then I don't -- I think he don't have  
13 time to open the liquor store.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why didn't  
15 he make the decision three years ago when he  
16 bought the liquor license?

17 MR. SHI: A couple days ago, he asked  
18 me do I want to take over his license. And he  
19 give me good deal, so I say okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

21 MR. SHI: So I am here today.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And two days

1 ago he told you and so it's going to take you  
2 another three years and then he sells it to you,  
3 you sit on it.

4 MR. SHI: But --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You sit on it  
6 and you apply for it and then you send -- every  
7 six months, you send in what, \$1,300, or whatever  
8 it costs to do the fees to keep it in  
9 safekeeping. And then when we have a cap, then  
10 maybe you can sell it for -- you buy it for  
11 \$25,000 and we have a cap, then you can sell it  
12 for \$50,000.

13 I don't know how much the first person  
14 bought it for, but although that's not my  
15 concern. I'm not going to say to you that --  
16 hey, if somebody wants to buy a liquor license  
17 for \$100,000 and can hold it, that's another  
18 issue. That's not mine.

19 What my issue is is that if you come  
20 to us, you need to say to us genuinely I'm trying  
21 to find a location. This is what I have done.

22 MR. SHI: Yes.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I have found --  
2 I have looked at these locations and so I'm ready  
3 to use it. And no one is telling the Board today  
4 that they are ready to use it. It's like put it  
5 in safekeeping, I have paid the fees and I'll  
6 keep it on.

7                   Not for a license that can be -- that  
8 can generate a lot of money in tax dollars if it  
9 is used. Okay?

10                  MR. SHI: Okay. The thing is before  
11 I don't have license, I cannot to find a location  
12 for the liquor store, right?

13                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
14 Sir, yeah.

15                  MR. SHI: Like today is like the Court  
16 approve the nature to the license name change to  
17 my name.

18                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not  
19 going to happen today. The only thing that --

20                  MR. SHI: Yeah, I know.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- we will do--  
22 this is -- the only thing that we can do today,

1 if we decide to do it, is to extend the  
2 safekeeping until September, five months.

3 MR. SHI: Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's all we  
5 can do. That's the only thing we can do.  
6 Transferring the liquor license is between you  
7 and him. It's that you have to buy it and then  
8 you do a transfer application, that takes a while  
9 and it transfers. But then, you need to find a  
10 location. So we transfer it to you and then you  
11 sit on it for another three years, because as you  
12 tell me -- as Mr. Zhang is saying, he is too busy  
13 driving/running his bus company, so he can't find  
14 the time to find a location for a liquor store.

15 And then you are going to tell me  
16 that, you know, like, you know, I have this other  
17 business, so, you know, the District is not that  
18 big.

19 MR. SHI: No.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The District is  
21 not that big.

22 MR. SHI: Before the license on his

1 name, right, I cannot to find a location for  
2 what?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, you can't  
4 find a location, but you could look to say, hum,  
5 that's a good location for a liquor store or, you  
6 know, if this is what you had said to me, if you  
7 said to me today you know what, I --

8 MR. SHI: But I, right now, am looking  
9 for the liquor store. If you don't believe me, I  
10 can show you my email that my friend he sent to  
11 me.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
13 right. All right. Any other comments by any  
14 Board Members? Anything else you want to say?  
15 Do you want to say anything else, sir?

16 (Foreign language spoken)

17 MR. SHI: Can I show you this?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't need to  
19 see it, sir. I don't need to see it, sir, no.

20 MR. ZHANG: Also --

21 MR. SHI: This show the liquor store  
22 you see it.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: Sir, please, go back to  
2 your seat.

3                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't need to  
4 see that.

5                   MEMBER SHORT: Please, be respectful  
6 to this -- to the Board, please.

7                   (Foreign language spoken)

8                   MEMBER SHORT: Can I ask for some  
9 respect for the Board, please?

10                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't need to  
11 see it, sir. Anything that you -- any final  
12 comments you want to make?

13                  MR. ZHANG: Okay. I say he can maybe  
14 he got a new owner I before bought it \$95,000.  
15 Okay. To date, where I show you, I already know  
16 two or three years and got more time for me, I  
17 already know. So nine year before the old owner  
18 wanted me to know, I said before you told me no  
19 more seven day -- seven years, I said no, I can't  
20 do for seven more years. Me, already I need to  
21 go check it out, check it out, check it out.

22                  So just while maybe by the more money,

1 right now, what happened why sale was so cheap.  
2 Right now, I sale to cheap, just what I want. He  
3 got it, maybe new owner, he's going to need no  
4 more than three more years. Maybe one year,  
5 maybe just in case he need a bit more time,  
6 that's it.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

8 MR. ZHANG: He need more time, the new  
9 owner.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MR. ZHANG: He go check out. Since  
12 then, I cannot check it out location, too.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

14 MR. ZHANG: Check out maybe get a  
15 hand, he got maybe need it, no more three years.  
16 I know three years is long.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

18 MR. ZHANG: I not quit, no like three  
19 more years. Not everybody saying, you know.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

21 MR. ZHANG: Just what I want. Okay.  
22 New owner may be -- just why it's so cheap sale

1 for him. I be hold by how much, \$95,000. So  
2 right now, I sell him cheaper money. He said --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You paid  
4 \$95,000 for it and you are selling it to him for  
5 \$25,000?

6 MR. ZHANG: Yeah. I buy too much and,  
7 you know, I just realize it.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You paid \$90 --

9 MR. ZHANG: \$9,000 -- \$95,000.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 Okay. I was going to say that's not --

12 MR. ZHANG: That's when I still have  
13 the check it. They got new owner --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- relevant to  
15 me how much you paid for it.

16 MR. ZHANG: Okay. Okay. Just what I  
17 want.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

19 MR. ZHANG: Pay a little bit and --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

21 MR. ZHANG: -- just what I want, go  
22 ahead and need to pay more time. No more three



1 years. I know three years is so long, you know.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.

3 MR. ZHANG: Just what I need.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

5 Okay. The Board will take this under advisement  
6 and we will make a decision what we are going to  
7 do on your request for safekeeping. Okay? Thank  
8 you.

9 We will let you know. We will let you  
10 know. We will take this matter under advisement  
11 and we will let you know. And we will -- give it  
12 to Mr. Wang. I think Mr. Wang is the person who  
13 is coordinating all of this. So we will give you  
14 information. You can talk to our licensing folks  
15 and they will give you better information what  
16 needs to happen. Okay? All right. Thank you.

17 We will let you know. All right.

18 Have a good day.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 went off the record at 10:34 a.m.)

21

22

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Fortune Liquors

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 04-04-18

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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