DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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ROLL CALL HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:

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Hillview Market, :

t/a Hillview Market

2324 North Capitol Street, NW: Roll Call Retailer B - ANC 5E : Hearing

Retailer B - ANC 5E : License No. ABRA-119160 : Case #22-PRO-00001 :

:

(Substantial Change)

Tuesday
January 18, 2022

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, LaVerne Fletcher, Board's Agent, presiding.

PRESENT:

LAVERNE FLETCHER, ABRA Board's Agent

ALSO PRESENT:

DINESH TANDON, Applicant
EMILY BARRAGAN, Protestant
JANET LEE, Protestant
DAVID MARTINEZ, Protestant
NORA PFAFF, Protestant
ERIC TOMASI, Protestant
TERI JANINE QUINN, Protestant
KIRBY VINING, Protestant
DIANNE BARNES, ANC 5E

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

10:09 a.m.

MS. FLETCHER: Well, first of all, I'd like to thank everyone for participating in ABRA's roll call hearings via the Webex platform provided by the D.C. Office of Open Government. There are two cases on the calendar today. The first hearing on the calendar is Hillview Market.

This is Case No. 22-PRO-00001,
Hillview Market, LLC, 2324 North Capitol Street,
Northwest, License No. ABRA-119160. This is a
Retailer Class B, substantial change. This is a
license class change from B market to Class A
liquor store.

My name is LaVerne Fletcher conducting the role call hearing as the Board's agent. Who is present on behalf of the applicant? Is anyone present on behalf of Hillview Market?

MR. TANDON: Yes, I am. My name is Dinesh Tandon. I am representing my wife who is the applicant, Nidhi Tandon.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much.

Mr. Tandon, would you please spell your name for
the record?

MR. TANDON: Dinesh Tandon. Dinesh is

D as in David, I-N-E-S-H. Last name, Tandon, T 1 2 as on Tom, A-N-D as in David, O-N. 3 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. 4 And present on behalf of the Stronghold Civic 5 Association? MR. VINING: Kirby Vining representing 6 7 the Stronghold Civic Association. 8 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Vining. 9 Would you spell your name for the record, please? 10 MR. VINING: First name is Kirby, K as 11 in Kenneth, I-R-B-Y. Last name, Vining, V as in 12 Victor, I-N-I-N-G. 13 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Is anyone 14 else from the Association present today? 15 MR. VINING: Not from the Stronghold 16 Civic Association, no. 17 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. I 18 just want to make sure. Mr. Vining, I have a 19 question for you. I read in your protest letter 20 where the Association gave notice to the 21 community about the meeting that you held on 22 December 6, 2021. You notified the community of 23 the meeting which is correct. Did you also 24 notify the applicant of that meeting you held? 25 Applicant, as I recall, MR. VINING:

joined us at our November Stronghold Civic
Association meeting. I can't recall if the
applicant joined us at the December one or not.
But we've been in constant communication with the
applicant.

MS. FLETCHER: Well, let me ask Mr. Tandon. Mr. Tandon, did you or your wife attend a meeting of the Association related to this application?

MR. TANDON: I recall attending three Zoom meetings. And one of them I was not notified, and I don't know which -- what particular date was it. But I was not notified, neither was my wife notified about it. And Commissioner Barnes called me and told me that why did I -- why am I not there. And at the last minute, like, you know. But I was not notified before.

MS. FLETCHER: You wound up going -you're saying that you wound up going but not
because the Association informed you but because
someone else informed you?

MR. TANDON: Yes, Commissioner Barnes called me and told me about this meeting. But I didn't get any notification besides her call.

1	MS. FLETCHER: Well, who's Mr. Barnes?			
2	MR. TANDON: Ms. Barnes, the			
3	Commissioner Barnes.			
4	MS. FLETCHER: Commissioner Barnes?			
5	Which Commissioner, from the ANC?			
6	MS. BARNES: Yes.			
7	MS. FLETCHER: Which ANC?			
8	MS. BARNES: ANC 5E.			
9	MS. FLETCHER: Okay. So Ms. Barnes			
10	from ANC 5E notified you of the meeting. And so			
11	you attended the meeting.			
12	MR. TANDON: And then I don't			
13	particularly remember what meeting was it. But I			
14	attended three Zoom meetings. And I was I'm			
15	not sure about the December 6th. I guess I was			
16	not in December 6th meeting, yeah.			
17	MS. FLETCHER: Well, you don't know			
18	because you don't remember which ones you went			
19	to. But the ones that you went to, were they			
20	related to the application?			
21	MR. TANDON: Well, yes, they were			
22	about they were discussing			
23	MS. FLETCHER: They were related to			
24	the			
25	MR. TANDON: about the application.			

They were related to 1 MS. FLETCHER: 2 the application that you submitted? 3 MR. TANDON: Yes, ma'am. 4 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. So 5 what I'm going to do, I'm going to make a note 6 here that -- so Mr. Tandon, you attended a 7 meeting related to the application. You just don't know which one it was. And you didn't 8 9 receive notice from the Association. But you 10 wound up attending the meeting because Ms. Barnes 11 informed you of the meeting. 12 MR. TANDON: Yes, I remember one was 13 December 21st. I attended that one. One was 14 17th and before that was in November. I am sure 15 that December 6th was I was not there. I'm 16 pretty sure about it. I'm not 100 percent sure, 17 but I'm pretty sure about it. 18 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. Just 19 a moment. So what I'm going to do, I'm going to 20 grant standing to the Stronghold Civic 21 Association. Mr. Vining, as far as you know, 22 your Association gave notice to the community 23 regarding the meeting. Oh, yes. 24 Several times. MR. VINING: 25 MS. FLETCHER: There's also a

requirement that you give at least seven days notice to the applicant just so that you know. So I don't know who submitted your -- I think your protest letter was submitted by your president of the Association. So you may or may not know what she did or did not do.

But just so that you know whenever an Association files a protest against an application, you have to give at least seven days notice to the applicant so that they have an opportunity to attend the meeting concerning the application. So in this case, Mr. Tandon had an opportunity to attend a meeting concerning the application because Ms. Barnes informed of it. But for that, I would have to dismiss the Association. But because Mr. Tandon wound up attending the meeting concerning the application, I'm going to go ahead and grant standing to the Stronghold Civic Association.

MR. VINING: We had -- we first learned about the application in October. And our president, India Luckett, immediately contacted the applicant. And the process that we notified all concerned, our community and Mr. Tandon, was that we would put this on the agenda

for the November Stronghold Civil Association meeting.

Mr. Tandon, as I recall, was given time to talk with the community, make a presentation in November. And we decided at the November meeting that we would survey our community to see what the community wanted to do. The Stronghold Civic Association officers are neutral in this matter. And we decided to survey our community. And we announced that we would present the results of that survey at our December meeting and make a decision about what to do about the protest.

MS. FLETCHER: That's sufficient.

Thank you. And so the Stronghold Civic

Association has standing as a protestant. You

mention in your protest letter that you're

incorporated in the District of Columbia?

MR. VINING: Yes, as a nonprofit.

MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Okay. And so the Stronghold Civic Association has standing as a protestant. I'm going to move to the group of 5. Who's present on behalf of the group of 5?

MR. TOMASI: This is Eric Tomasi. I'm

one of the five. My name is Eric, spelled E-R-I-

1	C. Last name Tomasi, spelled T-O-M-A-S-I. We		
2	also have the other four protestants here with us		
3	today.		
4	MS. FLETCHER: Oh, okay.		
5	MR. TOMASI: David and Emily, if you		
6	want to spell your names, if you need them		
7	specifically called out.		
8	MS. FLETCHER: Yes. So state your		
9	name and spell it for the record.		
10	MR. TOMASI: Okay.		
11	MR. MARTINEZ: Hello, Ms. Fletcher.		
12	My name is David Martinez, D-A-V-I-D M-A-R-T-I-N-		
13	E-Z.		
14	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.		
15	MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.		
16	MS. BARRAGAN: Good morning. My name		
17	is Emily Barragan, spelled E-M-I-L-Y B as in boy,		
18	A-R-R-A-G-A-N.		
19	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms.		
20	Barragan.		
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)		
22	MS. LEE: And my name is Janet Lee.		
23	I'm one of the private citizens. My name is		
24	spelled J as Juliet, A as in alpha, N as in		
25	November, E as in echo, T as in tango. Last name		

That is L as in lima, E as in echo, E as 1 is Lee. 2 in echo. 3 MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Lee, you signed the 4 protest letter as well? 5 MS. LEE: Yes, I did. My name is Nora Pfaff. 6 MS. PFAFF: 7 Last name, Pfaff, P-F-A-F-That's Nora, N-O-R-A. 8 F. And I'm one of the protestants here today. 9 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Pfaff. 10 So there were five signatories. So that means 11 all five are here. I counted five. Was that 12 correct? 13 MR. TOMASI: That is correct. 14 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. The group 15 of 5 has standing as a protestant. What that 16 means, Mr. Tomasi, is that at the upcoming status 17 hearing, only the designated representative will 18 need to appear because the entire group was 19 granted standing today. 20 MR. TOMASI: Okay. Thank you. 21 MS. FLETCHER: Is anyone present on 22 behalf of the Bloomingdale Civic Association? 23 MS. JANINE QUINN: Yes, this is Teri 24 Janine Quinn, President of the Bloomingdale Civic

Association. And my name is spelled T-E-R-I J-A-

	N-I-N-E Q-U-I-N-N.	
2	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Janine.	
3	Is anyone else present with you today?	
4	MS. JANINE QUINN: No, I do have	
5	alternative, Evelyn Brown. But I'm the person	
6	who signed the letter.	
7	MS. FLETCHER: I'll spell her name	
8	since we mentioned it for the record. It's E-V-	
9	E-L-Y-N. Last name, B-R-O-W-N.	
10	MS. JANINE QUINN: That's correct.	
11	MS. FLETCHER: So we have okay.	
12	Thank you. The Bloomingdale Civic Association	
13	has standing as a protestant. You indicated in	
14	your protest letter that the applicant actually	
15	attended and presented at the December 2021	
16	meeting.	
17	MS. JANINE QUINN: Yes, as well as the	
18	November meeting.	
19	MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. Is	
20	anyone present on behalf of ANC 5E?	
21	MS. BARNES: Yes, my name is Dianne	
22	Barnes, Dianne with two Ns, Barnes, B-A-R-N-E-S.	
23	MS. FLETCHER: Thank you, Ms. Barnes.	
24	MS. BARNES: You're welcome.	
25	MS. FLETCHER: Dianne with two Ns.	

MS. BARNES: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Thank you. ANC 5E does have standing as a protestant. So just in summary, the Stronghold Civic Association has standing as a protestant. The Group of 5 has standing as a protestant. The Bloomingdale Civic Association has standing as a protestant. And ANC 5E has standing as a protestant.

We need to set a date for a status hearing, protest hearing, and a mediation. I'm going to give you the dates for the status and protest hearing first. The status hearing is scheduled for March 2nd, 2022 at 10:30.

The protest hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. And you'll receive Webex invitations to attend those hearings as well. We need to set a date for mediation. I'll give you the next available day.

MR. TANDON: On what April did you say? Excuse me.

MS. FLETCHER: Yeah, for the protest hearing, it's April 20 at 1:30. And the status hearing is March 2nd at 10:30. The next available day for mediation is next Tuesday, January 25, pretty much anytime during that day.

1	Is anybody available on the 25th or is everyone
2	available?
3	MS. JANINE QUINN: I'm available after
4	2:00 p.m.
5	MS. FLETCHER: After which time, Ms.
6	Quinn?
7	MS. JANINE QUINN: 2:00 p.m.
8	MS. FLETCHER: After 2:00 p.m. 2:00
9	p.m. is actually the last time available. What
10	about the applicant. Mr. Tandon
11	MR. TANDON: I am available.
12	MS. FLETCHER: are you available?
13	You're available too?
14	MR. TANDON: Yes.
15	MR. TOMASI: This is Eric Tomasi from
16	the group of 5. I'm also available at that time.
17	I'm not sure whether it's individual meetings at
18	mediation sessions or combined.
19	MS. FLETCHER: We'll all be together.
20	MR. TOMASI: Okay.
21	MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Group of 5, the
22	applicant, Bloomingdale. Okay. What about
23	MS. BARNES: Yes, I'm available during
24	that time.
25	MS. FLETCHER: Stronghold?

1	MR. VINING: Stronghold, you said	
2	Tuesday, January 25th at 2:00?	
3	MS. FLETCHER: At 2:00, uh-huh.	
4	MR. VINING: Available, yes.	
5	MS. FLETCHER: And ANC 5E?	
6	MS. BARNES: Yes.	
7	MS. FLETCHER: Ms. Barnes, you're	
8	available also?	
9	MS. BARNES: Yes, I am.	
10	MS. FLETCHER: So mediation is set for	
11	January 25, 2022 at 2:00 o'clock in the	
12	afternoon. I'll sent out web invitations for you	
13	to attend that mediation. Any questions from any	
14	protestants in this case at all?	
15	(No audible response.)	
16	MS. FLETCHER: Okay.	
17	(Simultaneous speaking.)	
18	MS. FLETCHER: Well, thank you for	
19	mm-hmm?	
20	MR. TOMASI: Yes, this is Eric Tomasi	
21	from the Group of 5. Is there someone I can talk	
22	to specifically about the methodology these	
23	mediations follow, the practices that are	
24	typically done?	
25	MS. FLETCHER: For the mediation?	

MR. TOMASI: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Oh, I can tell you.

MR. TOMASI: I'll talk -- well, I can call you offline separately or we can talk about it here, whichever you prefer.

MS. FLETCHER: Well, I can just tell you. It's very informal. It's not adversarial. The whole point of it is for everyone to have an opportunity to speak.

The objective is to reach a settlement agreement. If the parties are able to reach a settlement agreement, it's reduced to writing. The purpose of the settlement agreement is to resolve the concerns of the community and any concerns of the applicant as well to your mutual satisfaction, if that can be done. The settlement agreement is submitted to the ABC Board for review.

If the ABC Board approves the settlement agreement, then the protest hearing is canceled because mediation is an alternative to going through the protest proceeding. The Board gives the community and the applicant an opportunity to resolve the concerns among themselves. If you're not able to do that, the

Board will conduct a protest hearing and the 1 Board will decide the outcome. 2 3 Mediation is a requirement. So 4 everyone has to attend. And everyone here has 5 already agreed on a date. A mediation is 6 confidential. If the matter is resolved in 7 mediation, then you all go to a protest hearing. 8 You would not be able to use as evidence anything 9 that you learn during the mediation. And it's confidential for me as well. 10 11 I'm the Board's mediator. It's confidential for 12 me as well. The Board does not discuss with me 13 or ask me anything about what transpired during a 14 mediation. It's just between you and me --15 (Simultaneous speaking.) 16 MR. TOMASI: Okay. Thank you very 17 much. 18 MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome, Mr. 19 Tomasi. Anybody else have any questions from the Hillview Market matter? 20 21 No, no. We got it. MR. TANDON: 22 Thank you. 23 MS. FLETCHER: Well, thank you for 24 The matter of Hillview Market is coming. 25 concluded. I'm going to call the next case on

1	the calendar. You're welcome to stay on the
2	line. It's a public hearing. But your case is
3	concluded.
4	MR. TANDON: Thank you. Thank you
5	very much.
6	MS. FLETCHER: You're welcome. You're
7	very welcome.
8	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9	went off the record at 10:29 a.m.)
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11:24 12:1 13:23 14:6 **D** 3:1 G Α 14:7,9 **D-A-V-I-D** 9:12 A-N-D 3:2 qive 7:1,9 12:11,18 Barragan 1:19 9:16,17 **D.C** 2:6 given 8:3 A-R-R-A-G-A-N 9:18 date 4:13 12:9,17 16:5 9:20 gives 15:23 **a.m** 2:2 17:9 behalf 2:17,18 3:4 8:23 dates 12:11 **ABC** 15:17,19 **Government** 2:6 10:22 11:20 David 1:20 3:1,2 9:5,12 able 15:11.25 16:8 grant 6:20 7:18 **Beverage** 1:2,13 day 12:18,24,25 above-entitled 17:8 granted 10:19 Bloomingdale 10:22,24 days 7:1,9 **ABRA** 1:16 group 8:22,23 10:14,18 11:12 12:6 13:22 **December** 3:22 4:3 **ABRA's** 2:5 12:5 13:16,21 14:21 **Board** 1:2,13 15:18,19 5:15,16 6:13,15 8:12 ABRA-119160 1:8 2:11 quess 5:15 15:22 16:1,2,12 11:15 adversarial 15:7 **Board's** 1:14,16 2:16 decide 16:2 Н afternoon 14:12 decided 8:5,9 16:11 agenda 7:25 hearing 1:3,7 2:8,16 **boy** 9:17 decision 8:12 agent 1:14,16 2:16 10:17 12:10,10,12,12 **Brown** 11:5 designated 10:17 agreed 16:5 12:14,22,23 15:20 **Dianne** 1:22 11:21,22 agreement 15:11,12,13 16:1.7 17:2 11:25 15:17,20 **hearings** 2:5 12:16 Dinesh 1:18 2:20,25,25 C 9:1 **ahead** 7:18 **held** 3:21,24 **discuss** 16:12 calendar 2:7,8 17:1 Alcoholic 1:2,13 **Hello** 9:11 discussing 5:22 **call** 1:3,7 2:5,16 4:25 alpha 9:24 Hillview 1:6,6 2:8,10,18 15:4 16:25 **dismiss** 7:15 alternative 11:5 15:21 16:20,24 called 4:15.24 9:7 **District** 1:1 8:18 **ANC** 1:7,22 5:5,7,8,10 canceled 15:21 11:20 12:2,8 14:5 Ε **Capitol** 1:7 2:10 announced 8:10 I-N-E-S-H 3:1 case 1:8 2:9 7:12 14:14 **E** 9:25 10:1,1 anybody 13:1 16:19 I-N-I-N-G 3:12 16:25 17:2 **E-L-Y-N** 11:9 anytime 12:25 I-R-B-Y 3:11 cases 2:7 **E-M-I-L-Y** 9:17 **appear** 10:18 immediately 7:22 **change** 1:9 2:12,13 **E-R-I-** 8:25 applicant 1:18 2:17,21 incorporated 8:18 citizens 9:23 **E-V-** 11:8 3:24,25 4:3,5 7:2,10 India 7:22 Civic 3:4.7.16 4:1 6:20 **E-Z** 9:13 7:23 11:14 13:10,22 indicated 11:13 7:19 8:8,15,21 10:22 **echo** 9:25 10:1,2 15:15,23 individual 13:17 10:24 11:12 12:4,6 **Emily** 1:19 9:5,17 application 4:9 5:20,25 informal 15:7 Civil 8:1 **entire** 10:18 6:2,7 7:9,12,14,17,21 informed 4:21,22 6:11 class 2:12,13,13 **Eric** 1:21 8:24,25 13:15 approves 15:19 7:14 **Columbia** 1:1 8:18 14:20 April 12:15,19,22 invitations 12:16 14:12 combined 13:18 Evelyn 11:5 Association 3:5,7,14 **coming** 16:24 evidence 16:8 3:16,20 4:2,8,21 6:9 Commissioner 4:15,23 **Excuse** 12:20 6:21,22 7:5,8,16,19 J 9:24 5:3,4,5 8:1,8,16,21 10:22,25 **J-A-** 10:25 F communication 4:4 11:12 12:4,7 Janet 1:19 9:22 **community** 3:21,22 **F** 10:8 attend 4:7 7:11,13 **Janine** 1:21 10:23.24 6:22 7:24 8:4,7,7,10 far 6:21 12:16 14:13 16:4 11:2,4,10,17 13:3,7 15:14,23 **files** 7:8 attended 5:11,14 6:6,13 **January** 1:11 12:25 concerned 7:24 first 2:3,8 3:10 7:20 11:15 14:2,11 concerning 7:11,13,17 12:12 attending 4:10 6:10 ioined 4:1,3 concerns 15:14,15,24 five 8:25 10:10,11,11 7:17 Juliet 9:24 concluded 16:25 17:3 Fletcher 1:13,16 2:3,15 **audible** 14:15 conduct 16:1 2:22 3:3,8,13,17 4:6 Κ available 12:18.24 13:1 conducting 2:15 4:19 5:1,4,7,9,17,23 13:2,3,9,11,12,13,16 **K** 3:10 confidential 16:6,10,11 6:1,4,18,25 8:14,20 13:23 14:4,8 Kenneth 3:11 constant 4:4 9:4,8,11,14,19 10:3,9 **Kirby** 1:22 3:6,10 contacted 7:23 10:14,21 11:2,7,11,19 В **Control** 1:2,13 11:23,25 12:2,21 13:5 **B** 1:7 2:12,13 9:17 **correct** 3:23 10:12,13 13:8,12,19,21,25 14:3 **B-A-R-N-E-S** 11:22 L 10:1 11:10 14:5,7,10,16,18,25 **B-R-O-W-N** 11:9 **LaVerne** 1:13,16 2:15 counted 10:11 15:2.6 16:18.23 17:6 Barnes 1:22 4:15,23 5:1 learn 16:9 **follow** 14:23 5:2,3,4,6,8,9 6:10 learned 7:21 D four 9:2 7:14 11:21,22,22,23

Lee 1:19 9:22,22 10:1,3 10:5 letter 3:19 7:4 8:17 10:4 11:6,14 license 1:8 2:11,13 lima 10:1 line 17:2 liquor 2:14 LLC 2:10 Luckett 7:22

ma'am 6:3 March 12:13,23 market 1:6,6 2:8,10,13 2:18 16:20,24 **Martinez** 1:20 9:11,12 9:15 matter 1:5 8:9 16:6,20 16:24 17:8 means 10:10.16 mediation 12:10,17,24 13:18 14:10,13,25 15:21 16:3,5,7,9,14 mediations 14:23 mediator 16:11 meeting 3:21,23,24 4:2 4:8,24 5:10,11,13,16 6:7.10.11.23 7:11.13 7:17 8:2,6,12 11:16 11:18 meetings 4:11 5:14 13:17 mention 8:17 mentioned 11:8 met 1:13 methodology 14:22 **minute** 4:17 moment 6:19

Ν

morning 9:16

mutual 15:15

move 8:22

N 9:24 N-I-N-E 11:1 N-O-R-A 10:7 name 2:15,19,23 3:1,9 3:10,11 8:25 9:1,9,12 9:16,22,23,25 10:6,7 10:25 11:7,9,21 names 9:6 need 9:6 10:18 12:9,17 neither 4:14 neutral 8:9 Nidhi 2:21 nonprofit 8:19 North 1:7 2:10 Northwest 2:11 note 6:5 notice 3:20 6:9,22 7:2 7:10 notification 4:25 notified 3:22 4:12,13,14 4:17 5:10 7:24 notify 3:24 November 4:1 6:14 8:1 8:5,6 9:25 11:18 Ns 11:22,25 NW 1:7

Nora 1:20 10:6.7

0

o'clock 14:11

O-N 3:2 objective 15:10 October 7:21 Office 2:6 officers 8:8 offline 15:4 ones 5:18,19 Open 2:6 opportunity 7:11,13 15:9,24 outcome 16:2

P-F-A-F- 10:7 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1 **p.m** 12:15 13:4,7,8,9 participating 2:4 particular 4:13 particularly 5:13 **parties** 15:11 percent 6:16 person 11:5 Pfaff 1:20 10:6,6,7,9 platform 2:5 please 2:23 3:9 **point** 15:8 practices 14:23 **prefer** 15:5 present 1:15,17 2:17,18 3:4,14 8:11,23 10:21 11:3.20

presentation 8:5 presented 11:15 president 7:5,22 10:24 presiding 1:14 pretty 6:16,17 12:25 private 9:23 proceeding 15:22 process 7:23

protest 3:19 7:4,8 8:13

8:17 10:4 11:14 12:10 12:12,14,21 15:20,22 16:1,7 protestant 1:19,19,20 1:20,21,21,22 8:16,22 10:15 11:13 12:3,5,6 12:7,8 protestants 9:2 10:8 14:14 provided 2:6 public 17:2 purpose 15:13 put 7:25

Q

Q-U-I-N-N 11:1 question 3:19 questions 14:13 16:19 Quinn 1:21 10:23,24 11:4,10,17 13:3,6,7

R

reach 15:10.11 **read** 3:19 recall 3:25 4:2,10 8:3 receive 6:9 12:15 record 2:24 3:9 9:9 11:8 17:9 reduced 15:12 regarding 6:23 related 4:8 5:20,23 6:1 6.7 remember 5:13.18 6:12 representative 10:17 representing 2:20 3:6 requirement 7:1 16:3 resolve 15:14,24 resolved 16:6

response 14:15 results 8:11 Retailer 1:7 2:12 review 15:18 role 2:16 roll 1:3,7 2:5

S

satisfaction 15:16 saying 4:20 scheduled 12:13,14 sent 14:12 separately 15:4 sessions 13:18 set 12:9,17 14:10 settlement 15:10,12,13 15:17,20 seven 7:1,9 signatories 10:10 signed 10:3 11:6

Simultaneous 9:21 14:17 16:15 **speak** 15:9 speaking 9:21 14:17 16:15 specifically 9:7 14:22 **spell** 2:23 3:9 9:6,9 11:7 **spelled** 8:25 9:1,17,24 10:25 standing 6:20 7:18 8:16 8:21 10:15,19 11:13 12:3,5,6,7,8 **state** 9:8 status 10:16 12:9,11,12 12:22 stay 17:1 **store** 2:14 Street 1:7 2:10 **Stronghold** 3:4,7,15 4:1 6:20 7:19 8:1,8,15,21 12:4 13:25 14:1 **submitted** 6:2 7:3,4 15:17 substantial 1:9 2:12 sufficient 8:14 summary 12:4 survey 8:6,9,11

T 3:1 9:25 T-E-R-I 10:25 T-O-M-A-S-I 9:1 **t/a** 1:6 talk 8:4 14:21 15:3,4 **Tandon** 1:18 2:19,20,21 2:23,25,25 3:1 4:7,7 4:10,23 5:2,12,21,25 6:3,6,12 7:12,16,25 8:3 12:19 13:10,11,14 16:21 17:4 tango 9:25 tell 15:2,6 **Teri** 1:21 10:23 thank 2:4,22 3:3,8,13 3:17 6:4,18 8:15,20 9:14,15,19 10:9,14,20 11:2,12,19,23 12:2 14:18 16:16,22,23 17:4.4 three 4:10 5:14

three 4:10 5:14 times 6:24 today 2:7 3:14 9:3 10:8 10:19 11:3 told 4:15,24 Tom 3:2 Tomasi 1:21 8:24,24 9:1,5,10 10:13,16,20

13:15,15,20 14:20,20

п	
15:1,3 16:16,19 transpired 16:13 Tuesday 1:11 12:24 14:2 two 2:7 11:22,25 typically 14:24 U upcoming 10:16 use 16:8 V V 3:11 Victor 3:12 videoconference 1:13 Vining 1:22 3:6,6,8,10 3:11,15,18,25 6:21,24 7:20 8:19 14:1,4 W wanted 8:7 web 14:12	22-PRO-00001 1:8 2:9 2324 1:7 2:10 25 12:25 14:11 25th 13:1 14:2 2nd 12:13,23
WebEx 1:13 2:5 12:16 welcome 11:24 16:18	
X Y Z Zoom 4:11 5:14	
1 1:30 12:15,22 10:09 2:2 10:29 17:9 10:30 12:13,23 100 6:16 17th 6:14 18 1:11	
2:00 13:4,7,8,8 14:2,3 14:11 20 12:15,22 2021 3:22 11:15 2022 1:11 12:13,15 14:11 21st 6:13	

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In the matter of: Hillview Market

Before: DCABRA

Date: 01-18-22

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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