



**ALSO PRESENT:**

**JOHN NELSON, MPD**

**SERGEANT STEVE SCHWALM, MPD**

**VANESSA PLEITEZ, ABRA Investigator**

**DEREGE ZEWDIE, Licensee**

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

STATEMENTS

Investigator Vanessa Pleitez . . . . . 7  
Officer John Nelson. . . . . .14  
Sergeant Steve Schwalm . . . . . .17  
Derege Zewdie, Licensee. . . . . .23

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

2 1:39 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We  
4 are back on the record. Our next case is we are  
5 having a Fact-Finding Hearing on Case No. 17-251-  
6 00206, MK Lounge & Restaurant, License No. 88787.

7 Would the parties, please, approach  
8 and identify themselves for the record, please?  
9 We will start on this side. Yes?

10 OFFICER NELSON: Officer John Nelson  
11 with Metropolitan Police Department.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ellison?

13 OFFICER NELSON: John Nelson.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Nelson. Good  
15 afternoon.

16 OFFICER NELSON: Thank you.

17 SERGEANT SCHWALM: I guess we are  
18 standing. I'll stand, too. Sergeant Steve  
19 Schwalm, S-C-H-W-A-L-M.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon.

21 SERGEANT SCHWALM: Good afternoon.

22 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Investigator

1 Pleitez with ABRA.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon.

3 MR. ZEWDIE: Derege Zewdie.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, sir.

5 I didn't -- you have to go slower. I did not

6 hear the last name.

7 MR. ZEWDIE: MK Lounge, Derege Zewdie.

8 Last name Zewdie.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Zewdie?

10 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How do you

12 spell that, please?

13 MR. ZEWDIE: Z-E-W-D-I-E.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Z-E-W-D-I-E,

15 Zewdie?

16 MR. ZEWDIE: Z-E-W-D-I-E, yes, sir.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Good

18 afternoon, sir. Have a seat.

19 This is a Fact-Finding Hearing about

20 an incident that occurred at your -- and who are

21 you? You are the?

22 MR. ZEWDIE: The owner.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're the  
2 owner?

3                   MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

4                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Regarding an  
5 incident at your establishment. And so I would  
6 ask everyone to put their phones on silent,  
7 please.

8                   And the purpose of the Fact-Finding  
9 Hearing is non-adversarial. You don't have an  
10 attorney, so we can't order you to do anything.  
11 We can listen. And then the Board can make a  
12 recommendation whether or not, based on what is  
13 presented today, we are going to say no further  
14 incident or whether or not we believe it is  
15 serious enough that we will refer this matter  
16 over to the Office of the Attorney General for  
17 further proceedings.

18                   So it's just a matter of asking  
19 questions to get some more information about what  
20 happened, so we can make some recommendations  
21 about what it is.

22                   So what I'm going to do is to have the

1 Investigator present to us what happened and I'll  
2 have the Officers present and then you can give  
3 your version of what happened. You can -- the  
4 Board Members might ask questions and you can ask  
5 questions. And then based on what happened, then  
6 we will decide what is it that we need to do.

7 Okay. So, Investigator, can you tell  
8 us, bring us -- tell us did you write a report?

9 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And tell us  
11 what it is that how did you become involved with  
12 this establishment, please.

13 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: All right. I  
14 was assigned to investigate an incident that  
15 occurred at MK Lounge & Restaurant in the early  
16 morning of September 21, 2017. My investigation  
17 determinations were based on the Metropolitan  
18 Police Department 251. The Case No. is 17163 --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do me a favor,  
20 please. Tell us what a 251 is. There are two  
21 Board Members that I'm not sure if they know what  
22 it is and sometimes some of us laypersons don't

1 really know. So just say that in English to --  
2 so everyone will know what a 251 is, please.

3 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Okay. It's a  
4 police report for incidents that occur.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

6 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: So my  
7 investigation determinations were based on the  
8 MPD, which is Metropolitan Police Department,  
9 251, interviews with the owner, Mr. Zewdie, and  
10 an employee, Ms. Naomi Gebrahim. I'm going to  
11 call her Ms. Naomi.

12 The MPD 251 CCN No. stated the  
13 following: "The undersigned officers while on  
14 patrol noticed a group outside of the above  
15 location yelling and screaming. When the  
16 officers approached, the group left and the owner  
17 of the establishment approached officers and said  
18 that there was an incident inside of his  
19 location, which location where a purse was taken  
20 from, from another and a fight occurred from the  
21 same group" that took the purse or "whose purse  
22 was taken." I'm sorry.



1                   "The group was outside yelling." I'm  
2 sorry. "The group that was outside yelling was  
3 part of the group that caused the incident  
4 inside. It was established that no 911 call was  
5 made to anyone."

6                   On October 2, 2017, I visited MK  
7 Lounge. I spoke to the owner, Mr. Zewdie. Mr.  
8 Zewdie stated that he was there the night of the  
9 incident. He explained that there was a  
10 bartender, Ms. Naomi, who was off-duty the night  
11 of the incident. She was there as a patron.

12                  Mr. Zewdie stated that Ms. Naomi was  
13 approached by a male patron, who is a regular  
14 customer of the establishment, who had arrived to  
15 the establishment with his girlfriend.

16                  The male patron approached Ms. Naomi  
17 and said hello -- to say hello. The male  
18 patron's girlfriend got upset and attempted to  
19 fight Ms. Naomi.

20                  Mr. Zewdie stated that Ms. Naomi's  
21 purse was stolen or had allegedly been stolen by  
22 the patron's girlfriend.

1                   So I then requested to speak with Ms.  
2 Naomi. So he told me that she would be working  
3 on Tuesday, October 10th, and I told him that I  
4 would go back to the establishment and I also  
5 made a request for footage.

6                   On October 10, 2017, I visited MK  
7 Lounge to speak with Ms. Naomi. Ms. Naomi stated  
8 that she was at the establishment the night of  
9 the incident as a patron. She did say that she  
10 was the bartender of the establishment.

11                   Ms. Naomi stated that she was on her  
12 way to the restroom when she was greeted by a  
13 male patron, who is a regular customer of the  
14 establishment. She said she continued walking  
15 towards the restroom and she was pushed by a  
16 female patron.

17                   Ms. Naomi stated that she went behind  
18 the bar to avoid confrontation with the patron.  
19 Ms. Naomi then stated that another female patron  
20 threw a bottle or threw a drink at her and pulled  
21 out a knife and that patron was escorted out of  
22 the establishment.

1 Ms. Naomi also did mention that her  
2 purse may have been stolen by the male's -- the  
3 girlfriend.

4 While at the establishment, I did talk  
5 to Mr. Zewdie. He stated that the night of the  
6 incident was a Wednesday night. He stated that  
7 that night they only had one security personnel  
8 that was at the door. The security person is  
9 required to search all male patrons and check all  
10 female patrons' purses.

11 Mr. Zewdie also stated that after  
12 reviewing the footage, he asked one of his good  
13 friends to let him borrow a metal detector wand  
14 and that he would be using that metal detector  
15 going forward.

16 On October 24, 2017, I spoke with MPD  
17 Officer Collin Hopkins, who stated he was on  
18 patrol on the 9th Street Corridor the night of  
19 the incident. He said he heard commotion outside  
20 of MK Lounge. He stated that there was a group  
21 outside of the establishment arguing, but being  
22 civil.

1           Officer Hopkins stated that the owner  
2 of the establishment reported that there was an  
3 argument inside of the establishment, but that it  
4 was under control. Officer Hopkins also stated  
5 that no one in the establishment called 911 or  
6 flagged MPD down as they were directly across the  
7 street from the establishment.

8           Mr. Zewdie did provide me with  
9 footage, the camera footage for Camera 1, which  
10 was the front door, and Camera 2, which was the  
11 bar area, displayed the following.

12           Camera 2, at approximately 1:21, you  
13 see Mrs. Naomi. She is stopped by a male patron  
14 and is seen having a conversation or conversing.  
15 Miss Naomi was walking towards the restrooms and  
16 she is seen pushed -- being pushed by a female  
17 patron that had a hat on.

18           Ms. Naomi is seen going behind the bar  
19 and talking to the owner, Mr. Zewdie. Ms Naomi  
20 appears to be exchanging words with the female  
21 patron and she pulled her hair back in a bun.  
22 Ms. Naomi retrieves a bottle from the bar and is

1 just seen holding the bottle. Ms. Naomi places  
2 the bottle back on the bar a couple seconds later  
3 and is still seen exchanging words with the  
4 female patron.

5 At 1:23, security is called inside of  
6 the establishment. Once the security is by the--  
7 around the patron, there is another female patron  
8 that grabs what appears to be a beer bottle and  
9 throws it to Ms. Naomi's head.

10 Ms. Naomi runs to the entrance of the  
11 bar and she is stopped by Mr. Zewdie actually.  
12 She was stopped. Because of the angle of the  
13 camera, you can't really see what -- where she  
14 grabbed it from, but Ms. Naomi did brandish a  
15 knife from behind the bar.

16 At 1:25, you see the female patron  
17 with the hat on retrieve her purse and take a  
18 knife out of her purse.

19 At 1:25, the patrons were escorted out  
20 of the establishment. Ms. Naomi attempted to  
21 exit the establishment, but is stopped by the  
22 establishment's staff.

1           So once the patrons were escorted out  
2 of the establishment, they weren't allowed to  
3 come back inside.

4           After reviewing -- after review of  
5 ABRA records, the establishment does have -- does  
6 not have a security plan. However, the  
7 establishment does have a settlement agreement.  
8 Based on what I observed, the establishment was  
9 not in violation of their settlement agreement on  
10 the night of the incident.

11           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.  
12 Officer Nelson, can you add anything regarding  
13 that? I was looking at the report. I guess you  
14 were one of the officers who was there?

15           OFFICER NELSON: Yes, sir.

16           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So can you tell  
17 us, what can you add to what happened, please?

18           OFFICER NELSON: I was in the block at  
19 the time the 1900 Block of 9th Street, similar to  
20 what Officer Hopkins had stated in the report. I  
21 saw a large group basically having an  
22 altercation, at which time, we were just trying

1 to get them to move on. There was no mention  
2 ever of any weapons or anything that had taken  
3 place inside.

4 The owner did come out and state  
5 something about someone's purse being missing,  
6 but we were never able to locate any type of  
7 complainant that came to us stating that their  
8 purse had been taken.

9 At that point, he went back inside.  
10 We were still trying to calm the situation down  
11 outside and just to get people to move out of the  
12 block. And I did ask one of the security members  
13 at the door if I can speak to the manager, which  
14 ended up being the owner here and I just asked  
15 him, you know, why he hadn't made a call to 911  
16 or any type of -- what was taking place, that  
17 there was something that was going on inside.

18 At which point he stated that there  
19 had been an off-duty officer inside that asked  
20 him about the situation. And it was revealed  
21 that this person was not an off-duty officer. So  
22 I just advised him -- after we spoke to this

1 gentleman, I advised the owner that the gentleman  
2 that he thought was an MPD Officer was not, in  
3 fact, an officer. And to ensure that he was  
4 calling 911 for any types of issues that were  
5 going on inside his establishment.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, did he  
7 tell you what role, if any, this person was  
8 playing in the establishment?

9 OFFICER NELSON: He just said he was  
10 a customer, a regular customer.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying  
12 the off-duty. He said -- the person he said was  
13 an off-duty officer, do you know?

14 OFFICER NELSON: He stated that he was  
15 a customer.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A customer.

17 OFFICER NELSON: He was someone who  
18 frequented the establishment that he believed to  
19 be a member of the Metropolitan Police  
20 Department.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
22 right. Thank you. Your title again? I have the



1 name.

2 SERGEANT SCHWALM: Sergeant.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sergeant

4 Schwalm?

5 SERGEANT SCHWALM: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What if

7 anything can you add?

8 SERGEANT SCHWALM: I'm the supervisor  
9 for that area. It is called Focus Beat. We do  
10 the U Street Corridor from 14th, we do the east  
11 side of the 1900 to 2000 Block of 14th Street,  
12 and we continue east from 14th all the way down  
13 to 9th, to the 1900 Block at 9th.

14 The Unit is called Focus Beat. My  
15 name was given to me when I became a supervisor,  
16 so I'm a supervisor for that area. It was a  
17 slower night, so if there is a commotion going on  
18 or I hear my units, I just typically check to see  
19 what is going on and if there is any supervisory  
20 guidance that needs to be taking place.

21 I was advised that, basically, there  
22 was some type of commotion that went on at MK

1 Lounge. There is no complainants, nobody is  
2 coming forward with reference to any form of  
3 assault or theft and they were uncooperative and  
4 they were sent on their way.

5 During the course of that debriefing,  
6 a gentleman came up to me, a light complected  
7 African-American male, late 30s, early 40s, came  
8 up and identified himself as working for NSID.

9 MEMBER SHORT: NSID?

10 SERGEANT SCHWALM: Yes. I'm sorry,  
11 Narcotics Special Investigation Division. It's a  
12 branch of the Metropolitan Police Department and  
13 they cover a wide variety of the narcotics and  
14 acid forfeiture.

15 I was a member of NSID for 10 years,  
16 so at that point in time, I asked the gentleman--  
17 I'm like, you know, because he was older, so I  
18 mean not that it's not synonymous with having  
19 time on the Department, because we hire, you  
20 know, various different people, but, you know, I  
21 was like yeah, looking at him like you have a  
22 little bit too much to lose to hang out at

1 establishments.

2           If you are 21, 22 and you get hired,  
3 I can see you doing something young and stupid,  
4 but -- so I asked him. I start inquiring like  
5 who do you work for over at NSID? And he says I  
6 work for the Narcotics -- I work in Narcotics  
7 with Sergeant Sloan.

8           I have personal knowledge that  
9 Sergeant Sloan is a Gun Recovery Unit Sergeant.  
10 He does not do narcotics. He does firearms  
11 recovery. So at that point in time, I start  
12 inquiring even more about the guy. And he just  
13 kept on, you know, reiterating I work narcotics,  
14 NSID.

15           And then finally I said that's it.  
16 I'm done. You, sir, are a liar and you are not  
17 going to, you know, say that you are a member of  
18 the Metropolitan Police Department, because I  
19 know you are not, because Sergeant Sloan doesn't  
20 handle narcotics. There is, you know, no  
21 narcotics section per se. We have different  
22 names for them.

1 Major Case Unit, we have Interdiction.  
2 We have a lot of different things, but we don't  
3 have just a particular like this is narcotics.

4 So at that point in time, the  
5 gentleman up and, I mean the best word I can say  
6 is, actually scurried on his way. At that point  
7 in time, I advised Officer Nelson and the group  
8 there to advise the owner that came out that was  
9 visible upset about, I guess, evidently police  
10 service, to advise him that gentleman is not a  
11 member of the Metropolitan Police Department.  
12 He, you know, was never IDed, unfortunately.

13 You know, I can say I'm a doctor all  
14 day long at a club and, you know, there is -- as  
15 long as I'm not doing doctor activity, I'm not,  
16 you know, subject to an arrest. It's the same  
17 thing it is with police departments. You know,  
18 if you can -- you can say you are a police  
19 officer all day long, as long as you are not  
20 doing a police function, you can't be subject to  
21 an arrest for impersonating a police officer. We  
22 did not have that rise to that level at that

1 time.

2 The most disturbing thing that we  
3 found out is after the ABRA investigation is that  
4 a serious offense took place inside and we were  
5 never alerted to it. That's a volatile situation  
6 that could have turned ugly for everybody. You  
7 know, and that's the main important thing that we  
8 want to impress upon the clubs that we are there.  
9 You know, we are not security guards for them,  
10 but we are there to enforce the laws of the  
11 District of Columbia.

12 And we are highly visible. At any  
13 point in time, if you don't even get a chance to  
14 call 911, any security guard, we always tell them  
15 to get the flashlights that have the strobes.  
16 You can -- you know, that way we know that you  
17 need assistance. We will come over. We are  
18 always highly visible and, you know, we like to  
19 keep abreast of every volatile or serious  
20 situation we have, it needs to be documented.

21 This is a situation that was highly  
22 volatile that was never documented properly and

1 could have been handled that night.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. I know  
3 this is not necessarily on point because of the  
4 issues, but if you talk about this is your beat,  
5 so what is -- have you had any -- what is your  
6 experience with this establishment?

7 SERGEANT SCHWALM: This was the only  
8 major scene that I have seen with this nightclub,  
9 for the most part. We have had severe assaults  
10 take place in that block that we can't  
11 necessarily attribute to one particular  
12 nightclub.

13 We know that we -- a couple months  
14 prior to that, we actually had a severe ADW,  
15 which is assault with a dangerous weapon, where  
16 one of the individuals was actually stomping  
17 somebody outside after he was already down. We  
18 issued an arrest and the case was closed on that,  
19 so we couldn't attribute it to one particular  
20 establishment.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
22 right. Mr. Zewdie?

1 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what, if  
3 anything, can you add to this night?

4 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes. As far as the  
5 footage, they already checked it. On the front  
6 door, I had a flashlight where Officer William is  
7 sitting in a corner. I know he is always there.  
8 I flashed him.

9 MEMBER SHORT: You said Officer  
10 Williams?

11 MR. ZEWDIE: Officer William, yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a  
13 minute. Who is Officer William?

14 SERGEANT SCHWALM: We had Officer  
15 Davon Williams is currently reassigned, but we  
16 did have an Officer Williams assigned to the  
17 Focus Beat.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

19 MR. ZEWDIE: He is always there. The  
20 reason it happened so quick, you know, in order  
21 to call 911. And I know there was one time there  
22 was an incident inside, I call 911. Officer

1 Hank?

2 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Hopkins?

3 MR. ZEWDIE: Hopkins. He was sitting  
4 in the corner where Officer Williams sit. We  
5 called 911. Nobody showed up. And then I have  
6 to walk to Officer Hopkins and then I told him we  
7 called 911. Oh, my bad, my radio is down and  
8 then they came and so based on that experience,  
9 calling 911 might -- it would be a second option  
10 for me, since I know there is a police officer  
11 across the street.

12 So if you look at it call 911, there  
13 is a flashlight that I was flashing Officer  
14 William. And after he arrived, I guess the call  
15 came from the 1900 Block. And then after I even  
16 told him, they did not even try to talk to the  
17 girls. They see them walking, get in the car,  
18 leave, even though I said there is a purse is  
19 missing. Can you talk to them? Can you stop  
20 them? Nobody did anything. They got in the car.  
21 They left.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, who got in



1 the car and left?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: The girl who was  
3 fighting.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
5 right.

6 MR. ZEWDIE: So I was kind of  
7 disappointed how they handled the situation,  
8 because calling 911 is one thing, but even though  
9 they are there, but they haven't done nothing.  
10 And they just -- when she drive off, they said  
11 the car is moving and that's exactly what  
12 happened.

13 What happened inside is exactly what  
14 she mentioned, but as far as the knife, I have  
15 not seen. I'm trying to, you know, make the  
16 scene and try to cool down, because the person  
17 who -- the boyfriend is -- he comes seven days a  
18 week. He is a regular. He is like 55, 60 years-  
19 old guy. And we never have any problem with him,  
20 so he got this girlfriend when she talked with  
21 him, you know, as a regular customer just  
22 greeting him, and that's how the girl got upset.

1           And as far as searching, yes, on the  
2 night when we didn't have the wand, I purchased  
3 one for myself right now, and I make sure all the  
4 security search the female and the male. I have  
5 to change some other stuff. The security, I have  
6 to hire a different company, which I have,  
7 American Security Company who does the security  
8 right now.

9           And as far as the settlement  
10 agreement, what is it they said about the  
11 security plan? I did have security plan inside,  
12 that's the only way you can get extended hour, so  
13 we apply for extended hours. They ask you  
14 security plan. So it should be in the file if  
15 it's checked.

16           But just in case, we are willing with  
17 a security plan.

18           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, we have  
19 a copy of the security plan --

20           MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

21           CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that is  
22 dated January 29th. There -- we will talk about

1 that a little bit later.

2 Let me ask you a question. So tell us  
3 about the type of security that you currently  
4 have at your establishment. You said you hired a  
5 new security company. So tell us about the  
6 security. When are you open and when is security  
7 and how many people do you have there?

8 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, on the weekends we  
9 have five security on the weekends, Friday and  
10 Saturday. Thursday we have two, because we open  
11 like -- a little bit busier than the Monday and  
12 Tuesday and Wednesday, but Monday, Tuesday and  
13 Wednesday, it's only one floor. There is not too  
14 much activity. So I have one security searching  
15 at the door. He is actually inside the building,  
16 so it's not the area that is really big of an  
17 area that you need three, four security on Monday  
18 nights where you have 30, 20 people in there.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, let me --  
20 but this incident occurred on a Wednesday night  
21 and you only had one security, so how -- if you  
22 only have one security and this -- and because

1 you said it's not busy, at least I'm not hearing  
2 that this -- and you had security that night,  
3 that Wednesday night?

4 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what was  
6 this person doing?

7 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, actually, he  
8 probably stepped out to smoke a cigarette or  
9 whatever that he was doing. Really, I mean, I  
10 hired security to do the job. He didn't do the  
11 job right. So I'm not really sure what he was  
12 doing, but he in and out, he in and out.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I guess  
14 what I'm saying it's a Wednesday night. You only  
15 have one security and you have one security  
16 moving forward, so how is this one security --  
17 I'm asking, how is this one security person could  
18 prevent this issue if it reoccurs?

19 MR. ZEWDIE: I mean, we really never  
20 have too much of an issue.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, it's  
22 not --

1 MR. ZEWDIE: You know, that -- after  
2 that --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'm saying,  
4 you have now -- you went through the security  
5 that you have for different nights and you said  
6 it's not busy on a Wednesday.

7 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you still  
9 have one security on a Wednesday. So all I'm  
10 asking you is that, okay, we never know what is  
11 going to happen, but now something happened. And  
12 so what I'm asking you moving forward, how are  
13 you going to address this incident? How would  
14 this one security officer address this incident  
15 on a Wednesday?

16 MR. ZEWDIE: Okay. Right after that,  
17 I have another security coming in at 11:00, he  
18 stay at the back and one will stay at the front.  
19 So right now, I have two security Monday,  
20 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Officer --  
22 I'm sorry Sergeant Schwalm had talked about this

1 off-duty police officer who, I guess, you told  
2 them that there was an off-duty police. What's  
3 that all about? And who is this person? What  
4 role did they play?

5 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, this guy is a  
6 regular customer. And he comes in happy hour,  
7 comes in late night and I just -- you know, we  
8 have been talking and said I'm a police officer,  
9 off-duty, I mean, police officer. He been  
10 telling me for awhile. It's not like he asked  
11 anything for free or anything, but he is  
12 presenting himself as a police officer.

13 He was right there by the bar when  
14 this happened. He said don't worry about it, I  
15 can handle it. My mind is assuming he is  
16 undercover police officer, because there is any  
17 report that need reported, he probably can do it.  
18 But I didn't know until they came to me the next  
19 day, I think it was two days, they said he is not  
20 a police officer.

21 I even told them, I even ban him  
22 because he came by and he suggested that I watch

1 out for this guy. He is a liar. He is not a  
2 police officer, so don't get involved in these  
3 things. And I said, sorry, and I cannot serve  
4 you any more. So he have -- he came like the  
5 next day and after three days, but after that he  
6 -- I haven't seen him. He stop coming there.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just one last  
8 thing and I'm going to have -- Sergeant, there  
9 was a comment that the licensee, the owner said  
10 about he was flashing his flashlight to look for  
11 Officer Williams. And so do you know anything  
12 about that and how did -- or Officer Nelson, do  
13 you guys know anything about what was allegedly  
14 been done?

15 SERGEANT SCHWALM: No, sir, I don't.  
16 You know, I'm not going to dispute the fact that  
17 maybe he did flash somebody, but the 911 system  
18 is if he called 911, and let's just say I'm --  
19 like Officer Nelson and I are engaged in a  
20 conversation and we are totally engrossed and we  
21 are not listening to the radio, other Focus Beat  
22 members would answer out and when -- we would

1 hear the sirens coming, because that type of  
2 incident if you are mentioning knives, bottles in  
3 an alcoholic establishment, we are going to come  
4 running. We are coming Code 1, which is lights  
5 and sirens.

6 So even if I'm engrossed in  
7 conversation and not paying attention to the  
8 radio and neither is Officer Nelson, lights and  
9 sirens should have kicked off. And that should  
10 have been like what's going on, that should have  
11 been our clue of like something is going on.

12 You know, so yeah, that's one of the  
13 things that is a little bit off-putting that, you  
14 know, if you did call 911, what miscommunication  
15 took place that we didn't get the call like that,  
16 that we had to rely on, you know, the old method  
17 of the flashlight, if that did occur?

18 And I don't have a chance or position  
19 to where I can speak with Officer Williams to see  
20 if that did or did not occur at this time.

21 But more to the fact of we have  
22 criminal procedure that also has to take place.



1 If I don't have a complainant, technically, I  
2 don't have a crime. And that's a big issue. If  
3 nobody is coming forward saying I was assaulted,  
4 I was assaulted, I can have 50 witnesses saying  
5 that's the guy that assaulted, you know, a lady  
6 or that's the guy that, you know, did something.  
7 You know, we are in that gray area.

8 Do we stop and identify him and  
9 hopefully a complainant comes later? Do we  
10 handle the immediate threat of a hostile crowd  
11 that is yelling and screaming? Is that more  
12 important? You know, so there is a lot of  
13 varying factors that come into our job and into  
14 our play.

15 Especially if I have a possible threat  
16 of a yelling and screaming crowd, I want to take  
17 care of that, calm everything down and then start  
18 finding the facts.

19 Is it possible during that time period  
20 of that calming that somebody got away? It  
21 happens. You know, it's -- you know, we don't  
22 have a perfect system. It's just the system we

1 have.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
3 Thank you. All right. Any questions by any  
4 Board Members? Mr. Alberti?

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: So, Mr. Zewdie?

6 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes?

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: I want to go back to  
8 Officer Williams. So Officer Williams, your  
9 understanding, was an on-duty officer?

10 MR. ZEWDIE: (No audible answer.)

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: And where was he  
12 stationed that night?

13 MR. ZEWDIE: Stationed right in front  
14 of my -- the new Shay Building. He always there.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: In front of what  
16 building?

17 MR. ZEWDIE: The Shay Building.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And where is  
19 that in relationship to your establishment?

20 MR. ZEWDIE: No, that's where they  
21 stand now. They got the -- where they --

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Where is that in

1 relationship to your establishment?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: I mean --

3 MEMBER SHORT: Addresses, addresses.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yeah. Is it across  
5 the street?

6 MR. ZEWDIE: Across the street.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Is it next door?

8 MR. ZEWDIE: Across the street.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Is it five doors  
10 down? Where is it?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's across the  
12 street.

13 MR. ZEWDIE: 19 --

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Is it across the  
15 street from your --

16 MR. ZEWDIE: Across the street, yes.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: So it's directly  
18 across the street. And that's where the officers  
19 stand, you say?

20 MR. ZEWDIE: Directly across the  
21 street.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And you say

1 you signaled him and got no response?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: I signaled. No, he  
3 respond. I signal him, he respond.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: What did he do?

5 MR. ZEWDIE: He did the siren, that's  
6 when they heard it and came, because you -- he  
7 was on the bike and the rest of them was in the  
8 van, so they --

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Okay. So,  
10 Officer Nelson, are you the one who first  
11 responded that night and saw the group outside?

12 OFFICER NELSON: I was not the first  
13 that responded, no. I don't remember in what  
14 order I showed up. I don't even remember --

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: But some officers  
16 came by and saw the group outside?

17 OFFICER NELSON: That I don't know.  
18 I believe -- I don't remember how it occurred as  
19 far as how we were flagged down or who showed up  
20 first.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Investigator, what's  
22 your understanding? Investigator, what's your

1 understanding of how the police discovered this?  
2 Either one of you, somebody tell me.

3 SERGEANT SCHWALM: It was my  
4 understanding that we were flagged down.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: By whom?

6 SERGEANT SCHWALM: By a member of MK  
7 Lounge. You know, that's what we were --  
8 actually, correction. I apologize. According to  
9 the officers that were on the scene that night of  
10 the initial debrief, we got a -- they heard the  
11 commotion outside. And when the commotion came  
12 outside, that's when they responded.

13 Nobody said anything about a  
14 flashlight. Nobody said anything about a 911  
15 call. The biggest thing that we actually had  
16 that night was the fact that allegedly there was  
17 no 911 call.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So that's what  
19 I'm trying to figure out. I mean, to your  
20 knowledge, there was no summoning of fellow  
21 officers by Officer Williams, to your knowledge?

22 SERGEANT SCHWALM: Correct.

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. Okay. I  
2 just wanted to make sure I understood that.

3                   Chairman Anderson, I've got comments  
4 on the security plan, but maybe you want to deal  
5 with that a little later?

6                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, let's --  
7 yeah, well, let's deal with that later.

8                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short?

10                  MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon. How  
11 long have you been in business in that location?

12                  MR. ZEWDIE: Two years.

13                  MEMBER SHORT: Two years. Any other  
14 business experience other than that nightclub?

15                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, not nightclub, but  
16 restaurant I have right across 1919 9th Street.

17                  MEMBER SHORT: So you have a  
18 restaurant and a nightclub?

19                  MR. ZEWDIE: This is a lounge and then  
20 across the street we have a restaurant called  
21 Habesha.

22                  MEMBER SHORT: Do they both sell

1 alcohol?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: Beer and wine at 1919 and  
3 at 1930, yes, we do.

4 MEMBER SHORT: So you have two  
5 separate licenses?

6 MR. ZEWDIE: Two separate license,  
7 yes.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, thank you,  
9 Officers, especially Sergeant. The night of this  
10 incident -- well, first of all, I'm kind of  
11 disturbed. You said you had an incident wherein  
12 you called 911 and you got what type of response?  
13 You said it was a time when you lost faith in  
14 911, because you called and what happened?

15 MR. ZEWDIE: I called 911 and there  
16 was an argument inside the building and we have  
17 six men security, we try to break it up. And in  
18 the meantime call 911. And actually --

19 MEMBER SHORT: What date was that,  
20 approximate?

21 MR. ZEWDIE: What date?

22 MEMBER SHORT: When did it happen?

1 Compared to this incident?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: It was not actually a  
3 physical fight, but it was some where we have to  
4 turn the light on and turn the music off because  
5 a female and four female and two female been  
6 talking back to back and that's when --

7 MEMBER SHORT: So that was a female on  
8 female incident, just like the one you had this  
9 time?

10 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, yes. So that's when  
11 we call 911 and we thought about it and when I  
12 didn't hear anything, I stepped out and I saw --

13 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. That's gone.  
14 And unfortunately now, I'm sorry to hear that.  
15 It's hard to believe that you called 911 in this  
16 city in the location that your business is in and  
17 no one paid you any attention.

18 But the night of this incident you are  
19 here about today, did anyone call 911? If not,  
20 why not?

21 MR. ZEWDIE: Based on that experience,  
22 I said there is a police officer across the



1 street, might as well just go get him.

2 MEMBER SHORT: That wasn't my  
3 question.

4 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

5 MEMBER SHORT: My question was the  
6 incident that we involved in today, did anyone  
7 call 911 from your establishment? And if not,  
8 why not?

9 MR. ZEWDIE: Nobody called 911.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Why not?

11 MR. ZEWDIE: We, you know, find out it  
12 was not -- it was something that we could  
13 control, because --

14 MEMBER SHORT: Someone brandished a  
15 knife against another person.

16 MR. ZEWDIE: I did not see that,  
17 that's why. If I see that, the first thing I do  
18 is --

19 MEMBER SHORT: The footage that is in  
20 this report from the Investigator says she  
21 observed on the footage someone brandishing a  
22 knife. Did you see that footage?

1 MR. ZEWDIE: I did not see the  
2 footage. Basically, when she come to ask me from  
3 this time to this time, I did copy and I give to  
4 her.

5 MEMBER SHORT: So you are telling this  
6 Board today that even after the Investigator came  
7 and got the footage and said to you someone had a  
8 knife, you had not looked at the footage?

9 MR. ZEWDIE: I don't have the footage  
10 any more, because I -- the footage just it delete  
11 itself like after a month. After I gave it to  
12 her --

13 MEMBER SHORT: In your security plan,  
14 what does it say about footage? How long do you  
15 keep it and how do you control it if you do have  
16 an incident? What is your -- is that in your  
17 security plan?

18 MR. ZEWDIE: On this one, yes.

19 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. What does it  
20 say? Which page are you looking at?

21 MR. ZEWDIE: It's --

22 MEMBER SHORT: Page 7, if you have

1 camera surveillance. I was just reminded by  
2 another Board Member, page 11. Okay. This is  
3 the new one.

4 Okay. Let's -- we're going to go over  
5 that a little deeper when Mr. Alberti gets back  
6 to you.

7 MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

8 MEMBER SHORT: The procedures. If  
9 there were an incident today, would you call 911?

10 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, we would call 911.  
11 If it's the safety of our customer and the safety  
12 of myself.

13 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Also another  
14 question I would like to ask you, your staff,  
15 have they been trained on what to do with your  
16 security plan and how to call 911 and when? Has  
17 anyone been trained on your staff about what to  
18 do with incidents like this?

19 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, they will be  
20 trained on it. I will be telling them like if  
21 anything happen, anyone can pick up the phone and  
22 call 911.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: That particular night  
2 no one did?

3                   MR. ZEWDIE: No one did.

4                   MEMBER SHORT: How many staff did you  
5 have working that night?

6                   MR. ZEWDIE: Three.

7                   MEMBER SHORT: Three working?

8                   MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

9                   MEMBER SHORT: So you had one security  
10 guard?

11                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

12                  MEMBER SHORT: Yourself?

13                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

14                  MEMBER SHORT: And one other person?

15                  MR. ZEWDIE: Well, I have, you know,  
16 the cook and the manager, but they were all well  
17 in the back.

18                  MEMBER SHORT: You had a manager  
19 there?

20                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, I'm talking about  
21 like the three --

22                  MEMBER SHORT: So how many people did

1 you have working that night? How many staff?

2 MR. ZEWDIE: Five of them was working.  
3 Three of them supposed to be on the floor. The  
4 waitress and then two.

5 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, I'm going  
6 to cut to the chase. Your security plan should  
7 be known by everyone who works in your  
8 establishment, even the cooks. Everyone should  
9 know what to do and how to do. If there is a  
10 crime scene, what to do and what not to do. And  
11 when to call 911. Someone should have called.

12 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

13 MEMBER SHORT: That's all I have for  
14 right now, but I will have -- I have further  
15 questions. That's all I have for right now.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. Any  
17 other questions by any other Board Members? All  
18 right. Go ahead, Mr. Alberti. I know that you  
19 provided -- we have a copy of a security plan  
20 that was submitted. I guess it was submitted to  
21 the Agency on January 28th. And so Mr. Alberti  
22 has some questions about the security plan that

1 he wants to talk to you about.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, just before I  
3 begin, I think staff is going to give you back a  
4 piece of paper that is a checklist of items in  
5 your security plan. And the one thing that they  
6 say is missing is procedures for crowd control  
7 and preventing overcrowding.

8 So I would ask you to work with our  
9 staff, probably Mr. Berman. I'm not sure who  
10 will contact you, but you need to work with them  
11 to make sure something like that is in there.

12 All right.

13 Additionally, I have some concerns.

14 All right. I will tell you that I am  
15 disappointed and very concerned that no one on  
16 your staff called 911. All right. If someone  
17 brandishes a knife -- two people brandished a  
18 knife, the woman from behind the counter and then  
19 someone in front of the counter pulls one out of  
20 her purse. And so we've got two knives flashing  
21 and no one calls 911. That's not acceptable.

22 Okay?

1                   That brings me to my point in your  
2 security plan. Do you have a copy there?

3                   MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, I do.

4                   MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. I see in  
5 your security plan at the bottom of page 6, the  
6 very bottom of page 6 and then I see in page 7 at  
7 the end of the discussion, towards the end of the  
8 discussion under Patron Ejection, you talk about  
9 when to call 911.

10                   Is there someplace else in here that  
11 I have missed that you talk about when to call  
12 911? Do you want to take a quick look at the  
13 places I just talked about and then you can tell  
14 me if there is someplace else in there that you  
15 talk about calling 911?

16                   MR. ZEWDIE: Okay. As far as that,  
17 it's like as far as at night --

18                   MEMBER ALBERTI: No, no, no, no. I  
19 don't want to go there.

20                   MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

21                   MEMBER ALBERTI: I just want to focus  
22 on your security plan.

1 MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm not -- you know,  
3 I don't want to have a discussion with you about  
4 why you didn't call 911, whether who saw somebody  
5 with a knife, how visible. I don't want to know  
6 -- that's not this discussion.

7 This discussion is on your security  
8 plan right now.

9 MR. ZEWDIE: Page 6.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Page 6 and page 7.  
11 So at the bottom of the page 6 and the bottom of  
12 the Patron Ejection section you talk about when  
13 to call 911. Is there someplace else in the plan  
14 where you talk about when to call 911 that I'm  
15 not aware of, that I have missed?

16 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, the security plan  
17 is just done recently right after the incident  
18 happened.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So let's just  
20 assume for now that I'm correct and those are the  
21 only two places in the security plan that calling  
22 911 is mentioned. All right?



1           My concern is that in those spots, it  
2           is very vague. At the end of page 6 it says "MPD  
3           is to be called if at any time a person is hurt  
4           or you need assistance of MPD or management deems  
5           it necessary for any enforcement issues that may  
6           be beyond the control of management or staff."

7           Well, obviously, two people  
8           brandishing knives did not meet that  
9           requirement --

10           MR. ZEWDIE: Yeah.

11           MEMBER ALBERTI: -- in your eyes. All  
12           right? Management didn't seem to deem it  
13           necessary that MPD -- call 911. So I'm concerned  
14           that this is too vague. All right?

15           At the end of the Patron Ejection  
16           section it says "The staff member should warn the  
17           guest that they must leave the premises  
18           immediately or be subject to arrest by police.  
19           If the ejected person attacks anyone, reasonable  
20           force can be used in self-defense and, when  
21           necessary, contact police or 911."

22           Again, and when necessary. Well, it

1 didn't seem to be necessary to you to call 911  
2 when I've got battling knives being pulled in  
3 your establishment. All right? So this is too  
4 vague. I would ask you to work with staff to  
5 make it more concrete. I have -- staff was --  
6 I'm sure we have more, but the staff was kind  
7 enough to give me two examples that have been  
8 used in other agreements.

9           One says "Police will be called in a  
10 timely manner any time management or staff has  
11 information to believe that a crime has been or  
12 about to be committed."

13           Well, if someone brandishes a knife,  
14 I think a crime is about to be committed.

15           MEMBER SHORT: Someone brandishes a  
16 knife, it's being committed there.

17           MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. All  
18 right. Either way. And/or whenever a threat or  
19 act of violence occurs. Well, someone with a  
20 knife, they are threatening someone, so this is  
21 pretty clear that you should have called 911  
22 under those conditions.

1                   The other condition that I found here  
2                   was "Any violent incident commissions a crime or  
3                   brandishing or possession of a weapon or other  
4                   emergencies, the management/security should call  
5                   911."

6                   So these are examples of more concrete  
7                   statements about when you should call 911. And I  
8                   ask that you put those in your security plan,  
9                   that you work with our staff to get something in  
10                  there like that.

11                  MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

12                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Are you willing to do  
13                  that?

14                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

15                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you.

16                  MR. ZEWDIE: Let me ask one question?

17                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Sure.

18                  MR. ZEWDIE: As far as calling the  
19                  police, should we just call 911 if -- when  
20                  somebody is just talking back to back without any  
21                  incident or is it necessary just to call 911 at  
22                  any time when you have any fights or --

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI: No, we are not saying  
2 that.

3                   MR. ZEWDIE: Okay.

4                   MEMBER ALBERTI: But if there is an  
5 argument and there is no threat of violence that  
6 you can perceive, then you don't. But if someone  
7 throws a punch at somebody, all right, and they  
8 are hurt, especially if they are bleeding or  
9 something --

10                  MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

11                  MEMBER ALBERTI: -- call 911. If  
12 someone pulls out a knife, if someone breaks a  
13 glass and holds a piece of glass at somebody or  
14 any other sharp object or a fork at somebody,  
15 it's a threat of violence, call 911.

16                  MR. ZEWDIE: Of course, I will. I  
17 understand exactly what you say.

18                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, let me  
19 ask, Sergeant, can you maybe provide him some  
20 examples of when you believe he should call?  
21 Since this is your beat, when is it that you--

22                  SERGEANT SCHWALM: My recommendation

1 is just exactly as, your know, Board Member  
2 Alberti said. It's definitely, you know, it has  
3 gone too far when we are brandishing knives. 911  
4 should have already been called. If it's a  
5 heated argument and, you know, there is a  
6 difference between a heated argument like that's  
7 my drink and then it's like oh, all right, you  
8 know, something like that. Okay. You could see  
9 that they are calming down. If they are  
10 escalating, constantly escalating, call 911.

11 You know, if you have a patron that  
12 you want to leave the establishment and your  
13 security approaches him and he says hey, you  
14 know, we are asking you to leave. We no longer  
15 want you to be a patron here. And he refuses,  
16 call us. We will be more than happy to escort  
17 him out.

18 And so that's where the crime of  
19 unlawful entry comes. So you explain your side  
20 of the story, hey, look, we don't want him here.  
21 He is not paying the bill. He is not doing this,  
22 that or the third or something that violates your

1 protocols that you don't want him here and your  
2 security staff says sir, you have to leave and he  
3 says no, call 911 immediately.

4 And the reason why I say call 911 and  
5 don't rely on us being out there, because what if  
6 we get another call, because it is a Club Zone  
7 environment, for around the corner and you are  
8 too busy worrying about trying to flag us down,  
9 we are losing precious time to -- you know,  
10 especially with brandishing of knives.

11 There is witnesses that could have  
12 left. There is evidence that we could have  
13 obtained. There is a lot of different things.  
14 Cooperation is key in getting a thorough  
15 evaluation.

16 I understand that you may, in the  
17 past, have had some discontents with the  
18 Metropolitan Police Department and maybe even the  
19 911 system, but that's the system we have in  
20 place. You should always call us.

21 And like I said, if arguments keep  
22 escalating and not de-escalating and patrons

1 aren't separating, it's time for us to be called  
2 in and for us to intervene.

3           You know, I understand that one of the  
4 big things with alcohol establishments, they are  
5 always worried about an ABRA Incident Report  
6 being filed. ABRA Incident Reports aren't always  
7 bad. They don't always reflect negative. It  
8 reflects that hey, look, MK Lounge used their  
9 security plan and called 911 and they implemented  
10 it. So therefore, it is documented that you did  
11 something positive and that you are -- the plans  
12 are in place.

13           It doesn't always have to be a  
14 negative report. Your cooperation is documented.  
15 All this stuff is able to be obtained. So my  
16 biggest thing is don't fear the policies and  
17 procedures that are in place, embrace them  
18 because it could work to your advantage as well  
19 as it could be a disadvantage.

20           You know, but definitely it's up to  
21 properly trained security, properly trained  
22 management, properly trained employees to

1 recognize this is a situation that is not going  
2 to go away and the police department needs to  
3 intervene.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'll say  
5 this to you. One of the main reasons why you are  
6 here today is because an incident occurred in  
7 your establishment and you did not call 911.

8 Now, if the incident occurred and you  
9 called 911, maybe we would not have had the  
10 pleasure of seeing you. So as the Sergeant said,  
11 it's not necessarily a bad thing to call 911,  
12 because it's we read the report, you followed  
13 your procedures, so there is really no reason,  
14 because you have done what you are supposed to  
15 do.

16 You are here because we do not think  
17 that you acted appropriately.

18 All right. Any other questions by any  
19 other Board Members? All right. I'm going to --  
20 yes, sir, go ahead.

21 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, I say that I know  
22 what I have done is wrong. I understand going



1 forward that I need to get involved with the  
2 police department.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Speak up, speak  
4 up, please. There is a microphone there.

5 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, not  
7 that one. That --

8 MR. ZEWDIE: Oh, right here.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- one, yeah.

10 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes, so going forward,  
11 you say it makes sense and I definitely call 911,  
12 because if things get worse, the place could be  
13 damaged. Of course, it's going to cost me, so  
14 this is the easy way to get things done. 911 is  
15 not a number that you forget, so we can easily  
16 pick up the phone and call 911 and I make sure I  
17 train all the staff to do.

18 I just don't want them to call just  
19 because people are talking back to back. But  
20 going forward, everything you said makes sense.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Chairman, one last  
22 question.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

2 MEMBER SHORT: You know you have to  
3 resubmit this to ABRA and talk to the  
4 Investigator? It does not meet the standards of  
5 ABRA.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we will  
7 contact him and tell him what is wrong with it.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. So we  
10 will tell him what -- it was submitted. It was  
11 reviewed. So the Legal Office will contact you  
12 and tell you what is wrong with it and what  
13 changes needs to be made.

14 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
16 Officer Nelson, any final comments you want to  
17 make?

18 OFFICER NELSON: No. No, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sergeant  
20 Schwalm, any final comments?

21 SERGEANT SCHWALM: No, sir. Thank you  
22 for today.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for  
2 being here. Investigator Pleitez?

3 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: No.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any final  
5 comments? You have the last word, sir. Any  
6 final comments you want to make?

7 MR. ZEWDIE: Well, to me this is a  
8 learning lesson. It's -- sometimes it happens  
9 and a good reason before really get to a bad  
10 situation. And I want to make sure you are not  
11 calling me in here going forward, so we will  
12 definitely cooperate and do whatever necessary to  
13 get things going right.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 Thank you. Officer Nelson, thank you for being  
16 here today. Sergeant Schwalm, thank you for  
17 being here today and Ms. Pleitez, Mr. Zewdie.

18 It is never a good experience when you  
19 have to come here, because when you come here,  
20 unless you are asking to renew your license or  
21 asking for a -- or applying for a new license,  
22 it's always that something has gone bad that you

1 are here.

2 The Board will take this matter under  
3 advisement and make a determination whether or  
4 not we will do -- we will take any further  
5 action.

6 A good start however, it's for you --  
7 that you have submitted a security plan. The  
8 Legal Office will get back in contact with you to  
9 let you know what changes you need to make to the  
10 security plan, at least from a legal perspective.  
11 I know that Mr. Alberti has made some comments to  
12 you to say that when you call the police, so you  
13 could also ask our legal staff for whatever  
14 language that was being suggested that has been  
15 in other security plans that would be accepted to  
16 the Board.

17 So if a Board Member says to you that,  
18 you know, I don't like this language, their  
19 language then you can go -- you can do -- I think  
20 that's something that I would do, because that  
21 would, at least, prevent you from coming back  
22 here in front of us.

1 MR. ZEWDIE: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I do appreciate  
3 the fact that you are here. I do appreciate the  
4 fact that you have stated that you understand the  
5 seriousness of the matter and that you don't want  
6 to see us again and it's vice versa. And it is  
7 never -- it's usually never a good thing when you  
8 are here.

9 So we will take this matter under  
10 advisement and thank you for being here. And  
11 thank, everyone, for being here. You are free to  
12 go. Thank you.

13 MR. ZEWDIE: Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing  
15 was concluded at 2:34 p.m.)

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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: Family, LLC  
t/a MK Lounge & Restaurant

Before: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Date: 01-31-18

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
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Court Reporter

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