

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF: :

Debebe Addis, :

t/a Mesobe Restaurant and: :

Deli Market :

1853 7th Street, NW : Show Cause

Retailer CR - ANC 1B : Hearing

License No. 81030 :

Case #17-CMP-00680 :

(Operating after Hours) :

Wednesday
March 28, 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

NICK ALBERTI, Member

BOBBY CATO, JR., Member

DONALD ISAAC, SR., Member

MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

PETER CHATTRABHUTI, OAG

ADDIS DEBEBE, Owner

SAMUEL MESOBE, Owner's Husband

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

Opening Statement by Government. 7
Opening Statement by Licensee.11

Hearing Rescheduled to April 11 at 2:00.33

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

3:59 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The next case is Case No. 17-CMP-00680, Mesobe Restaurant and Deli Market, License No. 81030.

All right. I was told that -- we were running behind schedule and we -- our 1:30 hearing actually started at 3:00. And so I was told that we informed folks that we were running about an hour behind.

So I believe that the applicant will be -- the licensee will be here at 5:00. I apologize, Mr. Chattrabhuti.

MR. CHATTRABHUTI: I serve as the Board's leader, so --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So we are -- so we have to then wait until 5:00 to start this hearing. We will call it to see if they will show up. All right?

MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Very well.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All right.

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
2 went off the record at 4:00 p.m. and resumed at
3 4:19 p.m.)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. We
5 now will be recalling Case No. 17-CMP-00680,
6 Mesobe Restaurant and Deli Market, License No.
7 81030.

8 Would everyone, please, show up?
9 Please appear.

10 Sir, in the green, come forward, sir.
11 No, right there. What language is this, sir?
12 You are interpreting into what language?

13 INTERPRETER: Amharic.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Amharic?

15 INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So from English
17 to -- okay. Can you raise your right hand,
18 please?

19 Do you swear or affirm to faithfully
20 translate these proceedings from English to
21 Amharic and from Amharic to English?

22 INTERPRETER: Yes, sir, I do.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. You
2 can have a seat, please.

3 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Good afternoon,
4 Members of the Board. Pete Chattrabhuti on
5 behalf of the District of Columbia.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Can
7 you all identify yourself for the record?

8 MR. MESOBE: Yeah, my name is Samuel
9 Mesobe, the owner's husband.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I didn't hear
11 a thing you said, sir.

12 MR. MESOBE: My name is Samuel Mesobe,
13 the owner's husband.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
15 sir.

16 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

17 MS. DEBEBE: My name is Addis Debebe.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who are
19 you?

20 MS. DEBEBE: I'm the owner of the
21 Mesobe Restaurant.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are the

1 owner?

2 MS. DEBEBE: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so because
4 you are the owner, then you are the one who needs
5 to speak, unless you specifically tell me that
6 you authorize your husband to speak for you.

7 MR. MESOBE: Yeah.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So which one is
9 it? Are you -- who am I addressing in this
10 hearing?

11 MR. MESOBE: Both are --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It can't be
13 both, sir. I mean this is the way it is. She is
14 the owner.

15 MS. DEBEBE: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: He is not.
17 Hold on. All right. I'm sorry, is your name on
18 the license, sir?

19 MR. MESOBE: No, sir.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
21 the only person who can speak is her, because she
22 is the owner. So his name is not on the license.

1 So the only way he can speak for her is if he
2 tells me that he authorizes her to speak for, but
3 it's not going to be both people. It's either
4 going to be that she is representing him by
5 speaking for him or -- but he can't jump in and
6 out.

7 MS. DEBEBE: I have represented him to
8 speak for me.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are
10 telling me that you want your husband to --
11 although you are the owner of the facility, that
12 you authorize your husband to speak for you in
13 these proceedings. Is that correct, ma'am?

14 MS. DEBEBE: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
16 right. Fine. Mr. Chattrabhuti, all right, are
17 there any preliminary matters in this case?

18 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: No, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does the
20 Government wish to make an opening statement?

21 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Yes, very briefly,
22 Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

2 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Today the
3 Government intends to prove that on August 19,
4 2017, Mesobe Deli Market --

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
6 Chattrabhuti, I'm sorry to cut you, but remember
7 we --

8 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- have a
10 translator going on, so maybe you can slow up a
11 little bit.

12 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Yes, thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So -- all
14 right.

15 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Today the
16 Government intends to prove that on August 19,
17 2017, Mesobe Deli Market was operating
18 substantially after the hours of its allowed
19 operation.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on, hold
21 on one minute, please, okay? I need to figure
22 out how -- what is being translated, okay,

1 because are we having continuing -- are you
2 translating everything that is being said or does
3 she understand? I need to know what is being
4 translated.

5 Does she want you to translate
6 everything word-for-word or does she understand?
7 So I need to know what is going on.

8 MS. DEBEBE: Yeah.

9 INTERPRETER: She said she wants me to
10 translate everything for her.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
12 then I don't see you translating for her, so
13 that's one of the reasons I told Mr. Chattrabhuti
14 to kind of slow down. So I need him to slow down
15 and I need to see that you are translating things
16 for her.

17 INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And it's not a
19 criticism of you, Mr. Chattrabhuti, I just wanted
20 the record to reflect that. Okay.

21 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: The District will
22 prove that on August 19, 2017, Mesobe Deli Market

1 was operating substantially after the hours of
2 its allowed operation.

3 The evidence will show that this has
4 been a regular problem. And we will also prove
5 that on this date, an ABRA Investigator went
6 undercover and witnessed numerous patrons
7 drinking and purchasing alcohol in the
8 establishment. It was stocked with a full bar.

9 The evidence will show that once the
10 licensee realized that ABRA Investigators
11 intended to enter the premises, they locked the
12 front door and frantically pushed every patron
13 out into a dark back alley, which was not a
14 proper exit.

15 It is here the evidence will show that
16 an ABRA Investigator was injured and was forced
17 to miss work as a result of this injury.

18 The evidence will show that this
19 establishment has brazenly and continuously
20 flouting the regulations and laws of this
21 District creating an unsafe and unregulated
22 environment. And for this reason, there is no

1 other recourse than to revoke their license.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is that it,
3 sir?

4 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you wish to
6 make an opening statement or do you reserve that
7 until you present your case?

8 MR. MESOBE: Okay. First of all, we
9 -- last time we come here, you guys give us a
10 date on the 21st and the 14th. We asked to make
11 it together so you told us no. And we come on
12 the 14th, they say they change it to the 21st on
13 April.

14 And when we come on 21st, there was a
15 snow, we understand this and everything. Now, we
16 don't know anything today what is going on. We
17 have a witness. The witness is -- we don't see
18 the witness today, because somebody called us
19 today. We saw our name outside on the board. I
20 say what, today? Yes.

21 We called to the office today, 9:00.
22 Nobody transfer me to answering much and nobody

1 don't come. They call us 2:30 and told us you
2 guys have hearing date. How we going to get
3 there? The Government is ready. We are not
4 ready. Look at me. You see how we look? We
5 can't -- we closed the store, we come.

6 And I think something going on. You
7 know, we keep getting hurt the ABC Board. I
8 don't know why.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10 Hold on one minute, please.

11 MR. MESOBE: And we not even ready.
12 They are ready. We have one hour to come. We
13 close the store. We have 100 chicken in our --
14 in the store and we throw it away. And we got to
15 pick the grandchildren by 4:30. Who knows who
16 going to pick her up.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, sir.

18 MR. MESOBE: This is not fair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just hold on
20 one minute, please. Okay? This hearing was
21 scheduled for last week on the 21st, last week.
22 The Government was shut down last week the 21st.

1 All right?

2 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So everybody
4 was closed.

5 MR. MESOBE: And we don't know today.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, I'm sorry,
7 say what?

8 MR. MESOBE: We don't know today.
9 Nobody told us. We don't email us.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just hold on
11 one minute.

12 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We are going to
14 be in recess for a couple of minutes. Let me
15 find out from our legal staff when is it that we
16 advised you, who did and when is it that we
17 advised you that this hearing was today. So just
18 we will be in recess for a couple of minutes.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 went off the record for a recess.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let
22 me ask you a question, Mr. Chattrabhuti. How

1 were you advised about this hearing today?

2 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: I was advised over
3 the phone and through email from ABRA's offices.
4 I believe, if memory serves me correctly, it was
5 either last --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need
7 specifics, Mr. Chattrabhuti. I don't need
8 memory. The applicant, the licensee is saying
9 that he wasn't advised, so I'm trying -- that's
10 why I'm trying to find specifically from you how
11 were you advised about this hearing.

12 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Through email and
13 with the Court's indulgence, I can find the date
14 of that email.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please do. Let
16 me ask the Translator a question. When were you
17 advised that we were having this hearing today,
18 that you had to be here for a 4:00 hearing, sir?

19 INTERPRETER: I was emailed.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm trying to
21 find out from you when were you advised about
22 this hearing today, sir?

1 INTERPRETER: Let me check my email --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please.

3 INTERPRETER: -- because I believe the
4 date is there.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Both of you are
6 checking your email and Mr. Chattrabhuti is
7 checking his email and then I'm going to find out
8 from the Agency when is it that the Agency
9 advised the applicant. And so --

10 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: If I may, Mr.
11 Chairman, the District was informed on Friday,
12 March 23, 2018, of the rescheduled hearing.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Through what?

14 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Through an email
15 and the email attached a formal notice from ABRA
16 stating the same.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who was that
18 email sent to?

19 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: It was sent to
20 myself and the District's -- my section's staff
21 assistant.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But was it sent

1 -- I'm saying was that email -- was the licensee
2 included in that email?

3 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Not in this email.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you had
5 any conversation with the licensee over -- since
6 Friday?

7 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: I have not.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have not.

9 Okay.

10 INTERPRETER: It was March 26.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, sir?

12 INTERPRETER: March 26.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: March 26?

14 INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess two
16 days ago. All right.

17 Let me ask you a question. Since --
18 who -- how did you originally find out about this
19 hearing?

20 MR. MESOBE: This one restaurant
21 called McKee's Restaurant --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no,

1 that's not the question I'm asking. I know that
2 you have been here previously. How is it that
3 you have been advised that this hearing was
4 scheduled?

5 MS. DEBEBE: Today only McKee's
6 Restaurant they was here.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No.

8 MS. DEBEBE: And they called me.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not the
10 question. How did you know that you were
11 supposed to have been here last week on the 21st?

12 MR. MESOBE: The 21st you give me the--
13 - you guys give us the date on the 21st.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How? How were
15 you given that date?

16 MR. MESOBE: We -- somebody come to --
17 they mail it to us. Somebody come and they give
18 it to us by hand.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So someone --
20 so you got -- it was mailed to you.

21 MR. MESOBE: Mailed and --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who was the

1 letter addressed to? And where was it mailed to?

2 MR. MESOBE: To 1853 7th Street.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 1853 7th
4 Street. So you got personal -- so you got a mail
5 copy.

6 MR. MESOBE: As matter of fact, I have
7 it in the car. I can bring it to you and show
8 you.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
10 know. So for -- so you were given a mail copy
11 and someone brought a copy and served you to tell
12 you that you -- that we had this hearing on the
13 21st?

14 MR. MESOBE: Yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So since you
16 came on Wednesday or you realized the Government
17 was shut down on Wednesday, why didn't you call
18 the Agency to say all right, we didn't have our
19 hearing on the 21st, when are we going to have
20 our hearing?

21 MR. MESOBE: We got a date on April
22 24th. And we was think about it because my --

1 gather the witness, because we told us the
2 problem, so every time we come here, we close the
3 store. And we have a big family. And we asking
4 him to run it together and even we don't run it
5 together.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you are
7 saying that you got a date to say that you are
8 having a hearing on April 24th?

9 MR. MESOBE: Yeah, that was another
10 one.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When did you
12 get that notice?

13 MR. MESOBE: I think the person right
14 there, she give it to me --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was that?

16 MR. MESOBE: -- on my hand. On the
17 last time we come in on -- what date?

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On the 14th?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: It must be a
20 different date.

21 MR. MESOBE: The 14th? No, no, before
22 that. Yeah, no, 14th date.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you were
2 here on the 14th and you were given a date for
3 April 24th for another case, right?

4 MR. MESOBE: Yes. We have -- you give
5 us before.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For another
7 case?

8 MR. MESOBE: Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so
10 therefore, you are saying that no one told you
11 that the hearing for April 21st was rescheduled
12 for today. Is that correct?

13 MR. MESOBE: Yes. Even last time we
14 come in on 14th, nobody don't know. Nobody don't
15 realize --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir?

17 MR. MESOBE: -- and we come and --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir, sir?

19 MR. MESOBE: Yes, sir?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are not
21 telling the truth. You were here on the 14th and
22 I know you were here on the 14th, because --

1 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you sat here
3 on the 14th.

4 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you -- the
6 time before you were asked -- you had asked for
7 an extension and we told you that the hearing was
8 scheduled for the 21st. And the reason why I
9 know that factually is because I saw you sitting
10 in the audience on the 24th.

11 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I was
13 wondering why you were sitting in the audience on
14 the 24th and I instructed the General Counsel to
15 go let you know that the hearing was on the 21st.
16 And I know that you were not happy, because you
17 were saying that, you know, you had to close the
18 shop to be here and no one told you, but I know
19 for a fact that we told you that when you were
20 here on the 14th, and you weren't supposed to be
21 here on the 14th, that --

22 MR. MESOBE: No.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- this hearing
2 was supposed to be on the 21st. What I'm trying
3 to find out now --

4 MR. MESOBE: Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- is that what
6 is it that my -- ABRA did to advise you that this
7 hearing was -- that when the hearing was
8 postponed from the 21st, what notice did ABRA
9 give you that the hearing was today? I know you
10 said you are here today because someone told you
11 that you were on the schedule.

12 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

14 MR. MESOBE: We are kind of think --
15 okay. What I'm trying to say was there was the
16 14th. I have the dates on the 14th.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know.

18 MR. MESOBE: And the 21st.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

20 MR. MESOBE: When you give me the date
21 21st, I asked you, please, can you make it on the
22 14th?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we -- and
2 I --

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: We said no.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we told you
5 no.

6 MR. MESOBE: And you guys say no.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

8 MR. MESOBE: And we come in on the
9 14th, they say no, no, we change the date to the
10 24th.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: To the 21st,
12 right. To the 21st, sir.

13 MR. MESOBE: Yeah, April 24.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, sir. To
15 the --

16 MR. MESOBE: I have the paper in my
17 car.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, listen to
19 me, sir. You were here and while -- and because
20 I remember who you are --

21 MR. MESOBE: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you were

1 here sitting on the 14th. And I said to Ms.
2 Jenkins why is he sitting here on the 14th, when
3 his hearing is not. That you had asked and I
4 know that Ms. Jenkins went out -- I know that
5 personally, because I saw that she escorted you,
6 went around the corner and she spoke to you and
7 she told you the hearing was on the 21st. And
8 you basically stated that the hearing was
9 scheduled on the 21st. It was -- snowed out and
10 so you knew about that.

11 So we -- I am not revisiting that.
12 The only thing that I'm trying to get
13 clarification on today is when is it that this
14 Agency notified you that the hearing that was
15 scheduled on the 21st was rescheduled for today,
16 the 28th? That's the only thing that I'm
17 discussing today.

18 MR. MESOBE: Today they told me 2:30.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?
20 Today they told you 2:30?

21 MR. MESOBE: Today, 2:30.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. And

1 I know why you were told -- and I know because we
2 were off schedule and somebody probably called
3 you and changed the time today. So what I'm
4 trying to find out from the Agency is prior to
5 today, when did the Agency advise you that the
6 hearing on the 21st was rescheduled for today?

7 MR. MESOBE: I called this morning.
8 I called this morning 9:00 and then I left a
9 message twice and no one said --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
11 we are going to be in recess until I can find out
12 from our Agency the notice that they gave to you
13 on the hearing for today.

14 If the Agency cannot prove to me that
15 you were -- that you -- I know that Mr.
16 Chattrabhuti was notified. I know that the
17 Translator was notified. And if the Agency
18 cannot give me proof that you were notified
19 today, we will reschedule the hearing. It's
20 simple as that. Okay?

21 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So we will be

1 in recess until I can find the answer. Okay.

2 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 4:38 p.m. and resumed at
5 4:40 p.m.)

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.
7 Chattrabhuti, we are back on the record. Are you
8 available for hearing on April the 11th at 2:00?

9 MR. CHATTRABHUTI: The Court's
10 indulgence? Yes. And you said 2:00, Mr.
11 Chairman?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. We are
13 rescheduling this hearing for April the 11th at
14 2:00. It is two separate cases. We are not
15 going to combine the two cases.

16 MS. DEBEBE: 2:00?

17 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So it's April
19 the 11th at 2:00.

20 MR. MESOBE: Can you make it before?
21 It's 2:00 means we don't close the store for
22 whole days, all night, you know.

1 MS. DEBEBE: It's best in the mornings
2 for us.

3 MR. MESOBE: Like we have to work our
4 restaurant hours in the morning.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
6 Sir, the violation that occurred, okay, is for
7 something that happened in the night.

8 MR. MESOBE: No, this is --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The violation
10 that occurred, you are here today for a violation
11 for something that happened in the night. Now,
12 I'm sorry that you are now telling me that
13 because your restaurant now -- you see, if you
14 had told me -- if this was a violation that
15 occurred during the day, I would be more
16 sympathetic to switching the date.

17 But this is a violation. This is
18 about operating after hours. Okay?

19 (Simultaneous speaking)

20 MR. MESOBE: Some -- going to have a
21 lot of video for you to show to you --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, sir --

1 MR. MESOBE: -- see person in --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- and you have
3 a lot of video. Sir?

4 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Listen, sir.
6 All right?

7 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have a lot
9 of video.

10 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have April
12 the 11th. This hearing is scheduled for April
13 the 11th at 2:00. And you also have a separate
14 hearing for April 24th, whatever time that is.
15 But this -- because I cannot have -- because the
16 Agency is unable to provide us proof that you
17 were served, this hearing is rescheduled for
18 April the 11th at 2:00.

19 So and the Translator has been
20 translating. We are not switching the time. It
21 is April the 11th at 2:00.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Would you ask her to

1 confirm that she understands?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, do you
3 understand --

4 MS. DEBEBE: Yes, I understand.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- that this
6 hearing is scheduled for April the 11th at 2:00?
7 And she told me she understands.

8 MR. MESOBE: Yes, she understands.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what it
10 is.

11 MR. MESOBE: I explain to her, too.
12 The whole thing is it's very hard for us to fight
13 and we don't have to pay -- want to pay. We see
14 you on April 20 -- 11.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: April the 11th.

16 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: At 2:00.

18 MR. MESOBE: 2:00.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And if you --
20 you know, you came here, sir, to say that you
21 have chicken on the oven, you have chicken in the
22 oven.

1 MR. MESOBE: Can I ask you one
2 question?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't --
4 sure.

5 MR. MESOBE: How much you guarantee us
6 our life to show you that video?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir?

8 MR. MESOBE: I'm serious. You will be
9 surprised.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I --
11 well, I don't know what is on the video, but --

12 MS. DEBEBE: They taking \$200 a day.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you
14 said what?

15 MS. DEBEBE: They taking \$200 a day.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: \$200?

17 MS. DEBEBE: They make it after our --
18 another place. The people that working, they
19 taking \$200 a day. I have a video of that.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Then --

21 MR. MESOBE: We don't show the video.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- if you have

1 the video, you -- this is what I always tell --

2 MR. MESOBE: This is a meeting they
3 give it to us purposefully because we know what
4 is going on.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is what --

6 MR. MESOBE: And I know this is your
7 supervisors they come in every night. They are
8 bothering us. They give us hard times.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me --

10 MR. MESOBE: We have each one, it's
11 the names and --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me say this
13 to you, sir. If you --

14 MR. MESOBE: You understand, we
15 scared.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- are stating
17 that there is some employee of this Agency who is
18 on the take --

19 MR. MESOBE: We want --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- you provide
21 the -- you can provide the video to the police.

22 MR. MESOBE: I want to.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And they will
2 file a formal charge.

3 MR. MESOBE: Yes, I want you just
4 found out who called ABRA Hotline.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It doesn't
6 matter, sir.

7 MR. MESOBE: That says it's going to
8 be your employee.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, it doesn't
10 matter who called ABRA Hotline. The bottom line
11 is that this charge is -- again, is about
12 operating after hours.

13 MR. MESOBE: We don't operate after
14 hours.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You know what,
16 sir --

17 MR. MESOBE: We just cleaning after
18 hours.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, this
20 hearing is scheduled --

21 MR. MESOBE: Okay. I think we can go
22 to the state of showing --

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- for -- sir?

2 MR. MESOBE: -- the video here. I
3 might show the video somewhere.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, sir? This
5 hearing is scheduled for April the 11th.

6 MR. MESOBE: Okay.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: At 2:00.

8 MR. MESOBE: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And this is
10 what the Government is asking. This is what the
11 Government is asking, based on the seriousness of
12 the charge, the Government is asking us to revoke
13 your liquor license. That's what -- okay, so
14 that's what the Government is asking you for --
15 asking us for.

16 Our General Counsel will provide you,
17 if you wait around for a couple of minutes, with
18 information with a contact if you believe that
19 there is anyone within the ABRA Division who is
20 or any Government official that is receiving
21 bribes, that has been bribed.

22 And I will ask Mr. Chattrabhuti to, as

1 a Government official, verify that this
2 information has been given to you. So if you
3 just hold on, just hold on for a couple of
4 minutes until --

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's the Inspector
6 General's Office.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. The
8 Inspector General's Office, but this matter then
9 is recessed until April the 11th at 2:00 p.m.

10 MR. MESOBE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Thank you. So Ms. Jenkins will provide you
13 information how to contact the Inspector General
14 to make -- to report what you have just stated,
15 sir. Okay?

16 MR. MESOBE: Yes, yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
18 Now, so just stay in the audience for a couple of
19 minutes, please, sir.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Sir? Oh, forget it.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you tell
22 him to just -- tell him to wait for a few

1 minutes.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Sir, can you wait
3 just a moment, please?

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just tell him
5 to wait for a couple of -- you're going to give
6 them -- they are going to give them the contact
7 information. All right.

8 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
9 Beverage Control Board for the District of
10 Columbia and in accordance with DC Official Code
11 Section 2-574(b), closed meetings, and Section 2-
12 574, Notice of Meetings, of the Open Meetings
13 Act, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed
14 meeting on April 4, 2018 for the purpose of
15 discussing and hearing reports concerning ongoing
16 or planned investigations of alleged criminal or
17 civil misconduct or violations of law or
18 regulations and seeking legal advice from our
19 counsel on the Board's Investigative, Legal and
20 Licensing Agenda for April 4, 2018 as will be
21 published in the DC Register on March 30, 2018.
22 Is there a second?

1 MEMBER SHORT: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
3 seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
4 vote on the motion before us now that it has been
5 seconded.

6 Mr. Isaac?

7 MEMBER ISAAC: I agree.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

9 MEMBER CATO: I agree.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?

13 MEMBER SHORT: I agree.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr.

15 Silverstein?

16 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Anderson?

18 I agree.

19 As it appears that the motion has
20 passed, I hereby give notice that the ABC Board
21 will hold this aforementioned closed meeting
22 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Notice will

1 also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room
2 bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar
3 on ABRA's website and published in the DC
4 Register in as timely a manner as practicable.

5 It is 4:49 p.m. and we are adjourned
6 for the day. Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, the Show Cause Hearing was
8 concluded at 4:49 p.m.)
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Debebe Addis

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 03-28-18

Place: Washington, DC

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Court Reporter

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