

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
+ + + + +  
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:	:
	:
On the Rocks, LLC,	:
t/a On the Rocks	: Fact Finding
1242 H St NE	: Hearing
License #106695	:
Retailer CT	:
ANC 6A	:
(Request for Reinstatement:	:
of License Privileges	:

Wednesday  
March 20, 2019

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

**PRESENT :**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

CAMELIA MAZARD, Counsel for Licensee  
FARHAD MIRZADEH, Counsel for Licensee  
LANCE STEGLICH, Licensee  
INVESTIGATOR MARK BRASHEARS, ABRA

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

2 3:42 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

4 We're back on the record. Our next case is --

5 our next case is case -- is a fact-finding

6 hearing, On the Rocks, License Number 106695.

7 Would all of the parties please

8 approach and identify themselves for the record?

9 We can start with -- we'll start with the

10 investigator.

11 MR. BRASHEARS: Investigator Mark

12 Brashears, ABRA.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,

14 Mr. Brashears.

15 MS. MAZARD: Camelia Mazard, on behalf

16 of On the Rocks.

17 MR. STEGLICH: Lance Steglich,

18 owner/operator of On the Rocks.

19 FM: Farhad Mirzadeh -- I'm with On

20 the Rocks.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 Good afternoon. And, I tried to greet everyone,

1 but since you guys just -- whoosh. I'm trying to  
2 write the names down and say, good afternoon,  
3 good afternoon, good afternoon.

4 All right. This is a fact-finding  
5 hearing. And, one of the reasons why there is --  
6 we'd asked for a fact-finding hearing is that the  
7 licensee is requesting from the Board the  
8 authority to -- or the authorization to extend  
9 their hours.

10 I know that when their license was  
11 granted in, I think in 2017, I think, that I was  
12 concerned. Lots of Board members were concerned  
13 that there were some violations occurring. So,  
14 the Board decided to grant a license, but we --  
15 at the same time, we decided to put some  
16 limitations on the operation.

17 So, normally -- what I normally do is  
18 I usually start the process by asking the  
19 Investigator to start. But, in this particular  
20 case, I'm not going to do it this way. No. I'm  
21 not going to do it this way because it's -- we're  
22 not the one who's asking for something.

1                   You're asking us for -- you're asking  
2                   the Board to change the status quo. So, why  
3                   should the -- it's not even two years. I don't  
4                   know what month in 2017 that we had approved the  
5                   license.

6                   So, tell -- the purpose of this  
7                   hearing is for you to tell us why the -- why  
8                   should the Board decide to do that, if the Board  
9                   is so inclined to do that. And, I'm not -- and I  
10                  think, since we're changing out, maybe I'll have  
11                  some clarification from our legal counsel.

12                  So, even if the Board is inclined to  
13                  do it, I guess the Board would have to determine  
14                  whether or not this is a substantial change.  
15                  And, if the Board determines it's a substantial  
16                  change, then it probably would have to -- I need  
17                  to get some clarification on that, if the Board  
18                  determines that. I guess it's an hour. You're  
19                  asking for an hour?

20                  MS. MAZARD: Yes.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, whether  
22                  or not -- I guess we need to make a decision if

1       it's a substantial change. And, if we're going to  
2       grant -- even if we're going to grant it, if it's  
3       a substantial change, then that has to go through  
4       the protest period.

5               But if the Board decides it's not a  
6       substantial change, then I assume the Board can  
7       just grant it. So, before we started, let us  
8       know where we -- what has changed since what was  
9       presented to the Board in 2017 and why should the  
10      Board grant -- even consider this?

11             MS. MAZARD: Chairman Anderson and  
12      members of Board, I'm going to make a brief  
13      opening statement, then I will call the  
14      owner/operator up on the stand.

15             But basically, in looking at the  
16      guidelines for reinstating normal hours of  
17      operation, this Board should consider what is in  
18      the best interest of the locality, the section,  
19      and the portion of the District of Columbia where  
20      the establishment is located.

21             In 2017, it was in August we had the  
22      hearing here. And this Board imposed conditions

1 to OTR's license because it was concerned about  
2 the character of the licensees. After that  
3 hearing, the Board deemed them to be operational.

4 And we proposed a settlement whereby  
5 we would end hours of operation and alcohol sales  
6 at 1:00 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday and then,  
7 at 2:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

8 We also agreed, after the Board's  
9 order, that we would only have entertainment and  
10 dancing until midnight. When you look around at  
11 the other establishments down on H Street  
12 Northeast, it basically restricts On the Rocks'  
13 ability to continue to employ D.C. residents,  
14 most of which are Ward 6 and Ward 8 residents.  
15 And it also hinders their ability to contribute  
16 greater to the D.C. economy.

17 Since August of 2017, we were required  
18 to keep a security plan on file. What the  
19 licensee did was, they took extra steps beyond  
20 the Board's order to ensure that they -- first,  
21 they participate now through the MPD's  
22 reimbursable detail program, three nights a week.

1                   Second, they updated the security plan  
2                   and the system that was imposed back in 2017.  
3                   And it allows both the licensee, as well as the  
4                   ABC manager, to access the camera system via  
5                   mobile phone. Third, we hired a restaurant  
6                   management consultant.

7                   And, what that person does is he  
8                   imposed background checks for all staff, now  
9                   mandates training for all staff on an annual  
10                  basis. And that includes the requirement that  
11                  the bartending staff go through the eTIPS  
12                  training.

13                  We also have the new requirement,  
14                  since September of 2018, that basically, there's  
15                  -- these monthly staff meetings are followed by  
16                  training sessions. And also, they hold weekly,  
17                  dedicated security and management meetings.  
18                  Since August 2017, I would say that the  
19                  management consultant basically replaced about 50  
20                  percent of the staff.

21                  So, when you take a look at all of the  
22                  additional steps that the licensee has taken,

1       you'll see that they have gone above to ensure  
2       that On the Rocks is peacefully co-existing with  
3       the surrounding residents, the safety of its  
4       patrons and any pedestrians.

5               So, we're asking you today to remove  
6       the restrictive conditions that were imposed in  
7       August of 2017 and return to the existing hours  
8       of operation that were before then, which is 2:00  
9       a.m., Sundays through Thursdays, and until 3:00  
10      a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, consistent with  
11      the neighboring establishments on H Street  
12      Northeast.

13              CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:   Okay.

14              MS. MAZARD:   So, first we'd like to  
15      call Mr. Lance Steglich, who is the 70 percent  
16      owner of On the Rocks.

17              MR. STEGLICH:   Good afternoon,  
18      everyone.   How are you guys doing?

19              CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:   Are you  
20      planning to ask questions of him?

21              MS. MAZARD:   Yes.   I was going to ask  
22      him questions.



1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Can --  
2 yeah. Go ahead.

3 MS. MAZARD: Mr. Steglich, please  
4 state and spell your name for the record.

5 MR. STEGLICH: Lance, L-A-N-C-E,  
6 Steglich.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Pull the  
8 microphone closer to you.

9 MR. STEGLICH: Lance --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And also,  
11 because it's not contested, I'm not swearing him  
12 in. So, I'm not putting him under oath because  
13 it's --

14 MS. MAZARD: It's very short.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. No. I  
16 understand. This is just a -- we're just  
17 gathering information. Okay.

18 MS. MAZARD: All right. Mr. Steglich,  
19 please tell us how long you've been affiliated  
20 with On the Rocks.

21 MR. STEGLICH: Since the opening, two  
22 years, going on two years next month.

1 MS. MAZARD: And, can you please tell  
2 us what steps you've taken to improve the place  
3 since the Board's order?

4 MR. STEGLICH: Well, we just had a new  
5 security system put in. We hired the  
6 Metropolitan Policy to come on certain days of  
7 the week, definitely on the weekends. We hired  
8 new management. We have a consultant now to help  
9 us out. That's about it, so far.

10 MS. MAZARD: And can you explain your  
11 rationale for reinstatement of your prior hours?

12 MR. STEGLICH: We'll the hours have  
13 been -- seem to be suffocating the business,  
14 where everyone else is open until 3:00 a.m. A  
15 lot of our customers are leaving out, going to  
16 other establishments.

17 You know, the music is changing at  
18 12:00 a.m. And, it's just been bad for the  
19 business. A lot of customers are complaining.  
20 You know, even staff members, you know, keep  
21 asking, when are we going to get the hour back so  
22 they can, you know, work longer hours and make

1 more revenue for their household.

2 MS. MAZARD: And how many employees  
3 would you say are at On the Rocks?

4 MR. STEGLICH: About 20.

5 MS. MAZARD: And, on a --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How many?

7 MR. STEGLICH: 20.

8 MS. MAZARD: And, how many of these  
9 employees are D.C. residents?

10 MR. STEGLICH: 80 percent of them.

11 MS. MAZARD: And, do you know in which  
12 Wards they live?

13 MR. STEGLICH: 6, 7, and 8, mostly.

14 MS. MAZARD: Can you explain to us the  
15 background of hiring the restaurant management  
16 consultant?

17 MR. STEGLICH: Say that again?

18 MS. MAZARD: What was your rationale  
19 for hiring the restaurant management consultant?

20 MR. STEGLICH: Just try to have the  
21 establishment run a little bit more efficient, a  
22 little more professional.

1 MS. MAZARD: What steps has the  
2 management consultant implemented?

3 MR. STEGLICH: Basically, got rid of  
4 half of the staff, implementing training  
5 sessions, background checks. That's about it.

6 MS. MAZARD: And what percentage of  
7 the time do you spend at On the Rocks?

8 MR. STEGLICH: Of the hours of  
9 operation?

10 MS. MAZARD: What percentage of time  
11 do you spend at the establishment?

12 MR. STEGLICH: You mean while it's --  
13 the business is open or just throughout the day  
14 period?

15 MS. MAZARD: Both.

16 MR. STEGLICH: I would say half the  
17 day I'm there.

18 MS. MAZARD: And what about your  
19 management consultant?

20 MR. STEGLICH: A couple of hours  
21 before the establishment opens, maybe an hour or  
22 two before.

1 MS. MAZARD: I don't have any further  
2 questions.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions?  
4 The Board has any questions of him? Go ahead,  
5 Mr. Short.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon, Mr.  
7 Sledge.

8 MR. STEGLICH: Steglich.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Steglich.

10 MR. STEGLICH: Good afternoon, Mr.  
11 Short.

12 MEMBER SHORT: How many floors are in  
13 the building?

14 MR. STEGLICH: There are four floors  
15 in the building.

16 MEMBER SHORT: How many of them are on  
17 the Certificate of Occupancy?

18 MR. STEGLICH: Two.

19 MEMBER SHORT: What do you do on the  
20 two floors that aren't on the Certificate of  
21 Occupancy?

22 MR. STEGLICH: I mean, we sit up there

1 and some of the employees change their clothes.  
2 There's a restroom up there. They use the  
3 bathroom up there. Sometimes, I have, you know,  
4 family and friends, they come over. We go up  
5 there.

6 MEMBER SHORT: Well, you know you're  
7 not supposed to be using those if you don't have  
8 them on your Certificate of Occupancy. And, if  
9 you have family and friends up there and they  
10 bring a drink up there with them, then you're  
11 really breaking the rules. Do they take a drink  
12 up there when they go, from time to time?

13 MR. STEGLICH: Yeah.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Is that the first time  
15 you've heard this question from this Board, about  
16 using the third and fourth floor?

17 MR. STEGLICH: Yes. I believe so.

18 MEMBER SHORT: You say you've never  
19 heard -- excuse me?

20 MR. STEGLICH: I believe so. I don't  
21 -- if you did before, I don't recall.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Is there a bar on the

1       third floor still?

2                   MR. STEGLICH:   The business -- when we  
3       purchased the business, it was set up that way,  
4       yes.   Everything is set up the same way that it  
5       was when we bought the business.

6                   MEMBER SHORT:   Okay.   And, some of the  
7       problems we had, when you were talking about the  
8       transfer when you were buying it, once you told  
9       us the last people there ran into big trouble for  
10      using the third and fourth floor?

11                  MR. STEGLICH:   Well, we're not using  
12      it for customers.

13                  MEMBER SHORT:   I didn't say customers.  
14      You said family and friends.

15                  MR. STEGLICH:   Right.

16                  MEMBER SHORT:   And, they're drinking  
17      up there, right?

18                  MR. STEGLICH:   Yes.

19                  MEMBER SHORT:   No further questions,  
20      Mr. Chair.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:   Go ahead, Mr.  
22      Alberti.

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI: I just -- this is  
2 just a clarifying question, Mr. Steglich. It's  
3 my impression -- it's my understanding you don't  
4 own the building?

5                   MR. STEGLICH: No. We don't own the  
6 building.

7                   MEMBER ALBERTI: I just wanted to make  
8 sure I understood that. Thank you.

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions  
10 by any other Board members? Mr. Brashears, if  
11 you have any questions you want to ask him?

12                  MR. BRASHEARS: No.

13                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Can I ask Mr.  
14 Brashears some questions?

15                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. I'm  
16 going to have Mr. Brashears -- he's going to --  
17 I'm going to have him --

18                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, okay.

19                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Normally, I'd  
20 go with the Investigator, but since they're  
21 asking for it, I want them and then I'll -- you  
22 can step down. Then, when I'm done with them,



1 I'm going to ask Mr. Brashears.

2 MR. STEGLICH: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any  
4 other witness or anything that you want to say?

5 MS. MAZARD: That's our only witness,  
6 Your Honor.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Brashears,  
8 can you -- are you familiar with this  
9 establishment?

10 MR. BRASHEARS: I am. I am, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And, can you  
12 tell us what, if anything, do you know about this  
13 establishment, please?

14 MR. BRASHEARS: I was originally  
15 tasked to conduct a camera review and a  
16 walkthrough and an assessment in September of  
17 2017, which I did. I was also asked to revisit  
18 the establishment and conduct a walkthrough,  
19 check the camera system, and to conduct a  
20 regulatory inspection.

21 On March 8th, 2019, I visited On the  
22 Rocks and met with Mr. Steglich. I conducted a

1 review, a camera review, and regulatory  
2 inspection. The camera locations were  
3 essentially the same as they were in 2017, with  
4 minor changes.

5 A few of the camera angles had been,  
6 in my opinion, had been improved. The cameras  
7 themselves had been upgraded, much better  
8 quality. The cameras are all hard-wired.  
9 They're a combination of bullet and bubble  
10 cameras, and all contain low-light capability.

11 As before, the video could be viewed  
12 in the office, which is up on the rooftop. They  
13 have a recording system capable of storing video  
14 up to six weeks. During the walkthrough, I  
15 didn't notice any obvious black spots or issues  
16 with the camera system.

17 Mr. Steglich also mentioned the  
18 possibility of, at some point, adding more  
19 cameras. As for the regulatory inspection, the  
20 licenses, all the licenses were current. They  
21 were displayed appropriately.

22 Mr. Steglich also showed me the

1 establishment's alcohol invoices. He had he  
2 proper amount and they were maintained for the  
3 proper period of time. During my visit, I did  
4 not assess any ABRA violations. While I was  
5 there, I did speak with Mr. Steglich concerning  
6 the use of the third and fourth floors.

7 As, from my last visit -- my last  
8 visit, the bar was there, but it wasn't set up  
9 and the area was a different color. So now, the  
10 color -- the area's been painted. The bar is  
11 fully stocked and appeared there was equipment  
12 for, you know, processing pay.

13 I informed Mr. Steglich that,  
14 obviously, you're not supposed to use the third  
15 or fourth floor, unless they were on the  
16 Certificate of Occupancy. And he stated that he  
17 was working on that.

18 The issue I had with that is it  
19 clearly looked as though it had been used.  
20 However, since I did not visually see anyone  
21 utilizing it, I did not issue a violation.

22 However, that was pretty much the same

1 conversation we had had back in September of  
2 2017, that it would be improved. I also noted,  
3 the roof deck -- one side of the roof deck had  
4 been just roofing.

5 And now, it's a flooring material and  
6 there's a table and chairs up there. It appears  
7 to be set up as a roof-type deck or Summer  
8 garden. There's no endorsement for that.

9 When I checked ABRA records, I don't  
10 see any substantial change, documentation, to add  
11 the third or fourth floor or to use the roof  
12 deck. Again, since I didn't see anyone in  
13 operation or did not see it in operation, I  
14 basically mentioned it.

15 However, one of my co-workers, who  
16 routinely monitors social media, has stated that  
17 he has seen social media issues where the third  
18 floor was being utilized. So, that was my only  
19 real concern.

20 And then, of course, the height of the  
21 side rails on the roof deck -- I'm not sure. I'm  
22 not sure if it's to Code or whatnot. So, I was

1 going to have DCRA to visit to make sure that the  
2 roof deck had been constructed appropriately and  
3 met whatever requirements they had.

4 So, overall, the camera review was --  
5 you know, the camera system seemed very adequate.  
6 Mr. Steglich has the ability to view it on site  
7 and I believe from mobile devices as well. And  
8 everything seemed to be in order, with the  
9 exception of the potential, substantial changes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You still have  
11 a question, Mr. Alberti?

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
13 Brashears, for your work on this and thank you  
14 for these pictures. Do you have it in front of  
15 you, your report?

16 MR. BRASHEARS: Yes, sir.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: I want to go to  
18 Exhibit 16.

19 MS. MAZARD: Can we get a copy of it?

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Of his report?

21 MS. MAZARD: Yes.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: With pictures?

1 MS. MAZARD: Yes.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: You don't have a  
3 copy?

4 MS. MAZARD: No.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why don't we  
6 give her about --

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Sure.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: About three,  
9 four, minutes? You can review it and then -- you  
10 have never seen -- you have never seen this  
11 report before? Go ahead, Mr. Alberti.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So, can we  
13 turn to Exhibit 16? I don't want to belabor this  
14 matter.

15 MR. BRASHEARS: Yes, sir.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: According to your  
17 ledger at the front, this the third floor. Is  
18 that correct?

19 MR. BRASHEARS: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. And up on  
21 the shelf, there's a -- well, it looks like  
22 bottles of wine. But would you -- can you

1 remember whether they're bottles of alcohol,  
2 alcoholic beverages?

3 MR. BRASHEARS: I believe they were,  
4 sir.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Do you know  
6 how much was up there?

7 MR. BRASHEARS: Basically, I mean, the  
8 --

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: If you don't  
10 remember, that's fine.

11 MR. BRASHEARS: No. The concentration  
12 of the photo was for the camera. But as I  
13 recall, it may have -- just the top row.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Exhibit 19?

15 MR. BRASHEARS: Yes, sir.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: So, this is the  
17 fourth floor, according to your ledger. Is that  
18 correct?

19 MR. BRASHEARS: Yes, sir. This is the  
20 office/alcohol storage area.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: How do you know that?

22 MR. BRASHEARS: Because he mentioned

1       it, sir, when we went up.

2                   MEMBER ALBERTI:   That this is the  
3       alcohol storage area?

4                   MR. BRASHEARS:   Well, yes, sir.

5                   MEMBER ALBERTI:   All right.   I'll  
6       address that later.   When you say social media,  
7       do you know where on social media?

8                   MR. BRASHEARS:   I believe it was an  
9       Instagram account that I was told was up briefly,  
10      for 24 hours.

11                   MEMBER ALBERTI:   It's still there.

12                   MR. BRASHEARS:   Oh, it is?

13                   MEMBER ALBERTI:   Well, I just saw the  
14      picture.

15                   MR. BRASHEARS:   Okay.   I was basically  
16      told.   I didn't do it.   A fellow co-worker just  
17      mentioned it.   And again, since I didn't witness  
18      it myself, I didn't issue any type of violation.

19                   However, I forgot to mention, the  
20      following Wednesday, I had two ABRA investigators  
21      go by the establishment to physically check.  
22      And, at that time, the third floor was not being



1 utilized.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

3 And, for the record, I do recognize H Street from  
4 that vantage point. Okay. I have no further  
5 questions of the Investigator.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anyone have any  
7 questions of Mr. Brashears? Any questions of Mr.  
8 Brashears?

9 MS. MAZARD: Can you give us a copy of  
10 the social media post or let us know where to  
11 find the social media post that references the  
12 third floor?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know  
14 what folks are talking about. I don't have -- I  
15 don't -- well --

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's in Instagram.  
17 If you -- I -- if you Google -- I will tell you.  
18 I Googled On the Rocks, and discovered something-  
19 little does an Instagram post. And, in there,  
20 within the collection of pictures, there is a  
21 photo of what appears to be patrons on the fourth  
22 floor, with the new flooring. And, I'm having

1 trouble finding it again, but anyways.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's not in  
3 the record.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I don't  
6 know what it is. What's being referenced? It's  
7 not in any of the records that's in front of us.  
8 So, I don't have a copy in front of me and I  
9 don't have a computer to go Google to look at.

10 So -- but that's why I'm saying, it's  
11 not information that's before -- that's before  
12 this Board at this juncture.

13 MS. MAZARD: Can I recall Mr.  
14 Steglich?

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can. I'm  
16 just saying, do you have any other questions for  
17 Mr. Brashears? So, you're here and you can do  
18 whatever, whichever way you believe that you need  
19 to do.

20 MS. MAZARD: So, Mr. Steglich, photo  
21 number 16 in the packet is that third floor.

22 MR. STEGLICH: Can I see the picture?

1 Yes. Yes. Yes.

2 MS. MAZARD: And, photo number 7,  
3 which floor is this?

4 MR. STEGLICH: That's the first floor.

5 MS. MAZARD: Can you explain the  
6 difference between the first floor and the third  
7 floor?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't -- what  
9 two pictures are you asking him to look at?

10 MS. MAZARD: Number 7.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, 7.

12 MR. STEGLICH: Okay. Well, number 7  
13 is a fully-stocked bar, with numerous different  
14 brands of --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. Speak in  
16 the microphone, sir, please.

17 MR. STEGLICH: Number 7 is a full-  
18 stocked bar, with several different brands of  
19 alcohol. I mean, there's 20 different brands of  
20 alcohol.

21 Number 16 is just one brand, two  
22 brands, that are in that picture. So, it's

1        basically not fully stocked. It does have, you  
2        know, stuff on the shelf, but it's not a fully-  
3        stocked bar.

4                    MS. MAZARD: Have you taken any steps  
5        with AFC to try to change the occupancy of the  
6        third and fourth floor?

7                    MR. STEGLICH: Yes.

8                    MS. MAZARD: And what is that?

9                    MR. STEGLICH: Well, we just did,  
10       basically, a meet and greet. Me and the new  
11       management went down just to, you know, to talk  
12       with them and just basically, introduce ourselves  
13       to them, make them know what we're doing in the  
14       community.

15                   MS. MAZARD: And what does your  
16       current settlement agreement say about the third  
17       and fourth floors?

18                   MR. STEGLICH: It's zoned residential.

19                   MS. MAZARD: And so, do you currently  
20       use the third floor or the rooftop for food  
21       preparation?

22                   MR. STEGLICH: No.

1 MS. MAZARD: Do you currently use it  
2 for patron seating?

3 MR. STEGLICH: No.

4 MS. MAZARD: Do you currently use it  
5 for any service of alcohol?

6 MR. STEGLICH: No.

7 MS. MAZARD: Thank you. I have no  
8 further questions.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure. Go  
10 ahead, Mr. Alberti.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Steglich, it was  
12 mentioned that there was new flooring on the roof  
13 deck on the fourth floor.

14 MR. STEGLICH: Yes. We had a leak.  
15 The landlord redid the whole thing.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Do you know if  
17 he got construction permits for that?

18 MR. STEGLICH: I do not know.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: So, the landlord's  
20 responsible for getting that done, right?

21 MR. STEGLICH: Yes, sir.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: So, the landlord's

1 going to be responsible for getting the CFO, if  
2 you -- for --

3 MR. STEGLICH: The third and fourth  
4 floor?

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: Providing the third  
6 and fourth floor with a CFO?

7 MR. STEGLICH: No. I'm going to --  
8 the business will be responsible for that.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, okay. That's  
10 interesting.

11 MR. STEGLICH: You said, for getting  
12 the new CFO?

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, the CFO is in  
14 his name. I mean, he owns the building. So --

15 MR. STEGLICH: The CFO is in SMG  
16 Development or On the Rocks, LLC?

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: SMG -- so, he's the  
18 owner of the building?

19 MR. STEGLICH: Yes.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right. I  
21 digress here. So, how do you use the third  
22 floor? Do you use it for alcohol storage?

1 MR. STEGLICH: No.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Then, why is there  
3 alcohol there?

4 MR. STEGLICH: There was an office  
5 already in the building from the previous owner.  
6 And that's where they had stored everything and  
7 that's where I have continued to just keep  
8 everything, on the rooftop.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. On the third  
10 floor?

11 MR. STEGLICH: The fourth floor.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: The third floor --  
13 this picture of the third floor has alcohol  
14 bottles on the shelf.

15 MR. STEGLICH: Yes. Yes.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Do you use that to  
17 store alcohol up there?

18 MR. STEGLICH: If you want to say that  
19 that's storing it, then, yes. The bottles are on  
20 the shelf.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, how would you  
22 categorize it?

1                   MR. STEGLICH: Storage -- I guess you  
2                   can say it's storage, sir.

3                   MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. From the  
4                   comment, I thought maybe you were disagreeing  
5                   with my characterization of it. Fourth floor --  
6                   in the picture at 19 of the fourth floor, do you  
7                   use the fourth floor to store alcohol?

8                   MR. STEGLICH: There's an office in  
9                   the back of the fourth floor. Yes.

10                  MEMBER ALBERTI: And you do store  
11                  alcohol up there?

12                  MR. STEGLICH: Yes.

13                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, just for the  
14                  record, Mr. Steglich, you -- it is not allowable,  
15                  not legal, to store alcohol in portions of a  
16                  building that are not licensed, without express  
17                  permission of the Board.

18                  MR. STEGLICH: Okay.

19                  MEMBER ALBERTI: That's why I'm asking  
20                  those questions. I have no further questions.

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short?

22                  MEMBER SHORT: While we're at it, just



1       talking about storage, what did you say the  
2       occupancy was for the third and fourth floor?

3               MR. STEGLICH: Can you repeat that,  
4       sir?

5               MEMBER SHORT: You mentioned the  
6       occupancy for the third and fourth floor as being  
7       residential. Is that correct?

8               MR. STEGLICH: Yes, it is. It's zoned  
9       residential.

10              MEMBER SHORT: So, that's not zoned  
11      for storage of alcohol, correct?

12              MR. STEGLICH: Correct, sir.

13              MEMBER SHORT: So, why are you storing  
14      it up there if it's not zoned for it, if it's not  
15      a part of your business and it's residential?  
16      So, what you're doing is, you've painted yourself  
17      into a corner so much.

18              Because the last person who had the  
19      CFO for the same address, ran into the same kind  
20      of problems. And, then we learned they were  
21      attempting to hold events up there on the third  
22      and fourth floor, because they said it was just

1 too crowded downstairs and they couldn't help it.

2 And they ran into big problems. Well,  
3 I hope you don't have the same problem they had.  
4 Because today you're here asking us to give you  
5 something different and improve your business,  
6 but you're not working too much to help us.

7 If you're doing things illegal now,  
8 and then you come in here and ask us to give you  
9 longer hours? That's -- we reward persons and  
10 licenses when they do things right, not when they  
11 do things wrong.

12 Your predecessors -- I think they  
13 operated for -- without even a license for a  
14 while. They just opened up and they applied for  
15 a license, but then they just opened up.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: No. That was him.

17 MEMBER SHORT: That was you? Was that  
18 you that did that?

19 MR. STEGLICH: That was my other  
20 partner, Joseph Crawford.

21 MEMBER SHORT: That's still in your  
22 business?

1 MR. STEGLICH: Yes.

2 MEMBER SHORT: No further questions,  
3 Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other  
5 questions by any other Board members? You can --  
6 do you have any questions of him you want to ask?

7 MS. MAZARD: I do not, Your Honor.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can step  
9 down, sir.

10 MR. STEGLICH: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any questions?  
12 Any Board member, any other Board member have any  
13 questions for anyone? Any questions or any final  
14 do you want to make, Mr. Brashears?

15 MR. BRASHEARS: No, sir.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The floor is  
17 yours.

18 MS. MAZARD: Chairman Anderson and  
19 Members of the Board, let me just highlight a few  
20 things in closing. The Board is supposed to look  
21 at what would be in the best interests of the  
22 locality, the section, and the portion of D.C.

1 where the establishment is located.

2 Since August of 2017, Mr. Steglich has  
3 been working hard to beef up security, to get the  
4 staff up to speed, requiring that bartending  
5 staff go through rigorous ABRA training, hiring  
6 MPD reimbursable officers to ensure the safety of  
7 pedestrians and patrons.

8 He's also been working with the ABC  
9 Licensing Committee, as well as the ANC in the  
10 area, to change the current settlement agreement.  
11 As the settlement agreement now stands, it says  
12 that the Applicant may not use the rooftop nor  
13 the third floor for storage, food preparation,  
14 patron seating, or service of alcohol.

15 We're not asking that to be changed  
16 here. We're just asking that he get one more  
17 hour on Sunday through Thursdays, as well as on  
18 Fridays and Saturdays, to extend until 3:00 in  
19 the morning, just to be consistent with the other  
20 establishments on H Street Northeast.

21 He's been a great citizen, good for  
22 employment. He does community service in the

1 area, takes care of the alleys in the  
2 neighborhood. And, in order to help the patrons,  
3 as well as the current employees, we're asking  
4 that you reinstate his hours to the prior  
5 standard.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
7 Thank you. All right. The Board will take this  
8 matter under advisement. One thing that I would  
9 suggest, irrespective of whatever decision the  
10 Board makes, in order to maintain to be a good  
11 business, I would recommend that you find out  
12 whatever -- you reach out to the Board and to  
13 find out -- and I'm not sure that there's an  
14 allegation about whether or not the alcohol can  
15 be stored.

16 I'm not an expert on that, where the  
17 alcohol can be stored. But I'd ask that you  
18 reach out to the Board immediately and sit with  
19 them and get some type of training on what -- the  
20 do's and don'ts, whether or not alcohol can be  
21 stored or like, under what circumstances can  
22 alcohol be stored and, in any location in the

1 business.

2 And so, I'd ask that you afford  
3 yourself of that. The Board is here to -- I'm  
4 sorry. The Agency is here to work with the  
5 licensee. The Agency is not here today to ding  
6 the person.

7 So, I would ask that you afford  
8 yourselves to be on top of the law, to see what  
9 that is. So, as I said before, the Board will  
10 take this matter under advisement and we'll issue  
11 a decision. Okay. Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the hearing in the above  
13 matter went off the record at 4:17 p.m.)  
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20  
21  
22

<b>A</b>				
<b>a.m</b> 6:6,7 8:9,10 10:14 10:18	<b>angles</b> 18:5	6:3 13:4 14:15 16:10		
<b>ABC</b> 7:4 36:8	<b>annual</b> 7:9	26:12 32:17 35:5,12		
<b>ability</b> 6:13,15 21:6	<b>anyways</b> 26:1	35:12,19,20 37:7,10		
<b>ABRA</b> 1:22 2:12 19:4 20:9 24:20 36:5	<b>appeared</b> 19:11	37:12,18 38:3,9		
<b>access</b> 7:4	<b>appears</b> 20:6 25:21	<b>Board's</b> 6:8,20 10:3		
<b>account</b> 24:9	<b>Applicant</b> 36:12	<b>BOBBY</b> 1:17		
<b>add</b> 20:10	<b>applied</b> 34:14	<b>bottles</b> 22:22 23:1 31:14,19		
<b>adding</b> 18:18	<b>approach</b> 2:8	<b>bought</b> 15:5		
<b>additional</b> 7:22	<b>appropriately</b> 18:21 21:2	<b>brand</b> 27:21		
<b>address</b> 24:6 33:19	<b>approved</b> 4:4	<b>brands</b> 27:14,18,19,22		
<b>adequate</b> 21:5	<b>area</b> 19:9 23:20 24:3 36:10 37:1	<b>Brashears</b> 1:22 2:11,12 2:14 16:10,12,14,16 17:1,7,10,14 21:13,16 22:15,19 23:3,7,11,15 23:19,22 24:4,8,12,15 25:7,8 26:17 35:14,15		
<b>advisement</b> 37:8 38:10	<b>area's</b> 19:10	<b>breaking</b> 14:11		
<b>AFC</b> 28:5	<b>asked</b> 3:6 17:17	<b>brief</b> 5:12		
<b>affiliated</b> 9:19	<b>asking</b> 3:18,22 4:1,1,19 8:5 10:21 16:21 27:9 32:19 34:4 36:15,16 37:3	<b>briefly</b> 24:9		
<b>afford</b> 38:2,7	<b>assess</b> 19:4	<b>bring</b> 14:10		
<b>afternoon</b> 2:13,22 3:2,3 3:3 8:17 13:6,10	<b>assessment</b> 17:16	<b>bubble</b> 18:9		
<b>Agency</b> 38:4,5	<b>assume</b> 5:6	<b>building</b> 1:13 13:13,15 16:4,6 30:14,18 31:5 32:16		
<b>agreed</b> 6:8	<b>attempting</b> 33:21	<b>bullet</b> 18:9		
<b>agreement</b> 28:16 36:10 36:11	<b>August</b> 5:21 6:17 7:18 8:7 36:2	<b>business</b> 10:13,19 12:13 15:2,3,5 30:8 33:15 34:5,22 37:11 38:1		
<b>ahead</b> 9:2 13:4 15:21 22:11 29:10	<b>authority</b> 3:8	<b>buying</b> 15:8		
<b>Alberti</b> 1:16 15:22 16:1 16:7,13,18 21:11,12 21:17,20,22 22:2,7,11 22:12,16,20 23:5,9,14 23:16,21 24:2,5,11,13 25:2,16 26:4 29:10,11 29:16,19,22 30:5,9,13 30:17,20 31:2,9,12,16 31:21 32:3,10,13,19 34:16	<b>authorization</b> 3:8			
<b>alcohol</b> 6:5 19:1 23:1 24:3 27:19,20 29:5 30:22 31:3,13,17 32:7 32:11,15 33:11 36:14 37:14,17,20,22	<b>B</b>			
<b>alcoholic</b> 1:2,12,12 23:2	<b>back</b> 2:4 7:2 10:21 20:1 32:9	<th data-cs="2" data-kind="parent"><b>C</b></th> <th data-kind="ghost"></th>	<b>C</b>	
<b>allegation</b> 37:14	<b>background</b> 7:8 11:15 12:5	<b>call</b> 5:13 8:15		
<b>alleys</b> 37:1	<b>bad</b> 10:18	<b>Camelia</b> 1:20 2:15		
<b>allowable</b> 32:14	<b>bar</b> 14:22 19:8,10 27:13 27:18 28:3	<b>camera</b> 7:4 17:15,19 18:1,2,5,16 21:4,5 23:12		
<b>allows</b> 7:3	<b>bartending</b> 7:11 36:4	<b>cameras</b> 18:6,8,10,19		
<b>amount</b> 19:2	<b>basically</b> 5:15 6:12 7:14 7:19 12:3 20:14 23:7 24:15 28:1,10,12	<b>capability</b> 18:10		
<b>ANC</b> 1:8 36:9	<b>basis</b> 7:10	<b>capable</b> 18:13		
<b>Anderson</b> 1:14,16 2:3 2:13,21 4:21 5:11 8:13,19 9:1,7,10,15 11:6 13:3 15:21 16:9 16:15,19 17:3,7,11 21:10 22:5,8 25:6,13 26:2,5,15 27:8,11,15 29:9 32:21 35:4,8,11 35:16,18 37:6	<b>bathroom</b> 14:3	<b>care</b> 37:1		
	<b>beef</b> 36:3	<b>case</b> 2:4,5,5 3:20		
	<b>behalf</b> 2:15	<b>categorize</b> 31:22		
	<b>belabor</b> 22:13	<b>CATO</b> 1:17		
	<b>believe</b> 14:17,20 21:7 23:3 24:8 26:18	<b>certain</b> 10:6		
	<b>best</b> 5:18 35:21	<b>Certificate</b> 13:17,20 14:8 19:16		
	<b>better</b> 18:7	<b>CFO</b> 30:1,6,12,13,15 33:19		
	<b>Beverage</b> 1:2,12,12	<b>Chair</b> 15:20 35:3		
	<b>beverages</b> 23:2	<b>Chairman</b> 5:11 35:18		
	<b>beyond</b> 6:19	<b>Chairperson</b> 1:13,16 2:3,13,21 4:21 8:13 8:19 9:1,7,10,15 11:6 13:3 15:21 16:9,15,19 17:3,7,11 21:10 22:5 22:8 25:6,13 26:2,5		
	<b>big</b> 15:9 34:2			
	<b>bit</b> 11:21			
	<b>black</b> 18:15			
	<b>Board</b> 1:2,12 3:7,12,14 4:2,8,8,12,13,15,17 5:5,6,9,10,12,17,22			
		26:15 27:8,11,15 29:9 32:21 35:4,8,11,16 37:6		
		<b>chairs</b> 20:6		
		<b>change</b> 4:2,14,16 5:1,3 5:6 14:1 20:10 28:5 36:10		
		<b>changed</b> 5:8 36:15		
		<b>changes</b> 18:4 21:9		
		<b>changing</b> 4:10 10:17		
		<b>character</b> 6:2		
		<b>characterization</b> 32:5		
		<b>check</b> 17:19 24:21		
		<b>checked</b> 20:9		
		<b>checks</b> 7:8 12:5		
		<b>circumstances</b> 37:21		
		<b>citizen</b> 36:21		
		<b>clarification</b> 4:11,17		
		<b>clarifying</b> 16:2		
		<b>clearly</b> 19:19		
		<b>closer</b> 9:8		
		<b>closing</b> 35:20		
		<b>clothes</b> 14:1		
		<b>co-existing</b> 8:2		
		<b>co-worker</b> 24:16		
		<b>co-workers</b> 20:15		
		<b>Code</b> 20:22		
		<b>collection</b> 25:20		
		<b>color</b> 19:9,10		
		<b>Columbia</b> 1:1 5:19		
		<b>combination</b> 18:9		
		<b>come</b> 10:6 14:4 34:8		
		<b>comment</b> 32:4		
		<b>Committee</b> 36:9		
		<b>community</b> 28:14 36:22		
		<b>complaining</b> 10:19		
		<b>computer</b> 26:9		
		<b>concentration</b> 23:11		
		<b>concern</b> 20:19		
		<b>concerned</b> 3:12,12 6:1		
		<b>concerning</b> 19:5		
		<b>conditions</b> 5:22 8:6		
		<b>conduct</b> 17:15,18,19		
		<b>conducted</b> 17:22		
		<b>consider</b> 5:10,17		
		<b>consistent</b> 8:10 36:19		
		<b>constructed</b> 21:2		
		<b>construction</b> 29:17		
		<b>consultant</b> 7:6,19 10:8 11:16,19 12:2,19		
		<b>contain</b> 18:10		
		<b>contested</b> 9:11		
		<b>continue</b> 6:13		
		<b>continued</b> 31:7		
		<b>contribute</b> 6:15		
		<b>Control</b> 1:2,12,12		
		<b>conversation</b> 20:1		
		<b>copy</b> 21:19 22:3 25:9		

26:8  
**corner** 33:17  
**correct** 22:18 23:18  
 33:7,11,12  
**counsel** 1:20,21 4:11  
**couple** 12:20  
**course** 20:20  
**Crawford** 34:20  
**crowded** 34:1  
**CT** 1:7  
**current** 18:20 28:16  
 36:10 37:3  
**currently** 28:19 29:1,4  
**customers** 10:15,19  
 15:12,13

## D

**D.C** 1:13 6:13,16 11:9  
 35:22  
**dancing** 6:10  
**day** 12:13,17  
**days** 10:6  
**DCRA** 21:1  
**decide** 4:8  
**decided** 3:14,15  
**decides** 5:5  
**decision** 4:22 37:9  
 38:11  
**deck** 20:3,3,7,12,21  
 21:2 29:13  
**dedicated** 7:17  
**deemed** 6:3  
**definitely** 10:7  
**detail** 6:22  
**determine** 4:13  
**determines** 4:15,18  
**Development** 30:16  
**devices** 21:7  
**difference** 27:6  
**different** 19:9 27:13,18  
 27:19 34:5  
**digress** 30:21  
**ding** 38:5  
**disagreeing** 32:4  
**discovered** 25:18  
**displayed** 18:21  
**District** 1:1 5:19  
**do's** 37:20  
**documentation** 20:10  
**doing** 8:18 28:13 33:16  
 34:7  
**don'ts** 37:20  
**Donovan** 1:14,16  
**downstairs** 34:1  
**drink** 14:10,11  
**drinking** 15:16

## E

**economy** 6:16  
**efficient** 11:21  
**employ** 6:13  
**employees** 11:2,9 14:1  
 37:3  
**employment** 36:22  
**endorsement** 20:8  
**ensure** 6:20 8:1 36:6  
**entertainment** 6:9  
**equipment** 19:11  
**essentially** 18:3  
**establishment** 5:20  
 11:21 12:11,21 17:9  
 17:13,18 24:21 36:1  
**establishment's** 19:1  
**establishments** 6:11  
 8:11 10:16 36:20  
**eTIPS** 7:11  
**events** 33:21  
**exception** 21:9  
**excuse** 14:19  
**Exhibit** 21:18 22:13  
 23:14  
**existing** 8:7  
**expert** 37:16  
**explain** 10:10 11:14  
 27:5  
**express** 32:16  
**extend** 3:8 36:18  
**extra** 6:19

## F

**Fact** 1:6  
**fact-finding** 2:5 3:4,6  
**familiar** 17:8  
**family** 14:4,9 15:14  
**far** 10:9  
**Farhad** 1:21 2:19  
**fellow** 24:16  
**file** 6:18  
**final** 35:13  
**find** 25:11 37:11,13  
**finding** 1:6 26:1  
**fine** 23:10  
**first** 6:20 8:14 14:14  
 27:4,6  
**floor** 14:16 15:1,10  
 19:15 20:11,18 22:17  
 23:17 24:22 25:12,22  
 26:21 27:3,4,6,7 28:6  
 28:20 29:13 30:4,6,22  
 31:10,11,12,13 32:5,6  
 32:7,9 33:2,6,22  
 35:16 36:13  
**flooring** 20:5 25:22  
 29:12  
**floors** 13:12,14,20 19:6  
 28:17

**FM** 2:19  
**folks** 25:14  
**followed** 7:15  
**following** 24:20  
**food** 28:20 36:13  
**forgot** 24:19  
**four** 13:14 22:9  
**fourth** 14:16 15:10 19:6  
 19:15 20:11 23:17  
 25:21 28:6,17 29:13  
 30:3,6 31:11 32:5,6,7  
 32:9 33:2,6,22  
**Fridays** 6:7 8:10 36:18  
**friends** 14:4,9 15:14  
**front** 21:14 22:17 26:7,8  
**full-** 27:17  
**fully** 19:11 28:1  
**fully-** 28:2  
**fully-stocked** 27:13  
**further** 13:1 15:19 25:4  
 29:8 32:20 35:2

## G

**garden** 20:8  
**gathering** 9:17  
**getting** 29:20 30:1,11  
**give** 22:6 25:9 34:4,8  
**Google** 25:17 26:9  
**Googled** 25:18  
**grant** 3:14 5:2,2,7,10  
**granted** 3:11  
**greater** 6:16  
**greet** 2:22 28:10  
**guess** 4:13,18,22 32:1  
**guidelines** 5:16

## H

**H** 1:6 6:11 8:11 25:3  
 36:20  
**half** 12:4,16  
**hard** 36:3  
**hard-wired** 18:8  
**heard** 14:15,19  
**hearing** 1:6,12 2:6 3:5,6  
 4:7 5:22 6:3 38:12  
**height** 20:20  
**help** 10:8 34:1,6 37:2  
**highlight** 35:19  
**hinders** 6:15  
**hired** 7:5 10:5,7  
**hiring** 11:15,19 36:5  
**hold** 7:16 33:21  
**Honor** 17:6 35:7  
**hope** 34:3  
**hour** 4:18,19 10:21  
 12:21 36:17  
**hours** 3:9 5:16 6:5 8:7  
 10:11,12,22 12:8,20

24:10 34:9 37:4  
**household** 11:1

## I

**identify** 2:8  
**illegal** 34:7  
**immediately** 37:18  
**implemented** 12:2  
**implementing** 12:4  
**imposed** 5:22 7:2,8 8:6  
**impression** 16:3  
**improve** 10:2 34:5  
**improved** 18:6 20:2  
**inclined** 4:9,12  
**includes** 7:10  
**information** 9:17 26:11  
**informed** 19:13  
**inspection** 17:20 18:2  
 18:19  
**Instagram** 24:9 25:16  
 25:19  
**interest** 5:18  
**interesting** 30:10  
**interests** 35:21  
**introduce** 28:12  
**investigator** 1:22 2:10  
 2:11 3:19 16:20 25:5  
**investigators** 24:20  
**invoices** 19:1  
**irrespective** 37:9  
**issue** 19:18,21 24:18  
 38:10  
**issues** 18:15 20:17

## J

**JAMES** 1:17  
**Joseph** 34:20  
**JR** 1:17  
**juncture** 26:12

## K

**keep** 6:18 10:20 31:7

## L

**L-A-N-C-E** 9:5  
**Lance** 1:21 2:17 8:15  
 9:5,9  
**landlord** 29:15  
**landlord's** 29:19,22  
**law** 38:8  
**leak** 29:14  
**learned** 33:20  
**leaving** 10:15  
**ledger** 22:17 23:17  
**legal** 4:11 32:15  
**license** 1:7,9 2:6 3:10  
 3:14 4:5 6:1 34:13,15  
**licensed** 32:16



**licensee** 1:20,21,21 3:7  
6:19 7:3,22 38:5  
**licensees** 6:2  
**licenses** 18:20,20 34:10  
**Licensing** 36:9  
**limitations** 3:16  
**little** 11:21,22 25:19  
**live** 11:12  
**LLC** 1:5 30:16  
**locality** 5:18 35:22  
**located** 5:20 36:1  
**location** 37:22  
**locations** 18:2  
**long** 9:19  
**longer** 10:22 34:9  
**look** 6:10 7:21 26:9  
27:9 35:20  
**looked** 19:19  
**looking** 5:15  
**looks** 22:21  
**lot** 10:15,19  
**Lots** 3:12  
**low-light** 18:10

---

**M**


---

**maintain** 37:10  
**maintained** 19:2  
**management** 7:6,17,19  
10:8 11:15,19 12:2,19  
28:11  
**manager** 7:4  
**mandates** 7:9  
**March** 1:11 17:21  
**Mark** 1:22 2:11  
**material** 20:5  
**matter** 1:4 22:14 37:8  
38:10,13  
**Mazard** 1:20 2:15,15  
4:20 5:11 8:14,21 9:3  
9:14,18 10:1,10 11:2  
11:5,8,11,14,18 12:1  
12:6,10,15,18 13:1  
17:5 21:19,21 22:1,4  
25:9 26:13,20 27:2,5  
27:10 28:4,8,15,19  
29:1,4,7 35:7,18  
**mean** 12:12 13:22 23:7  
27:19 30:14  
**media** 20:16,17 24:6,7  
25:10,11  
**meet** 28:10  
**MEETING** 1:3  
**meetings** 7:15,17  
**member** 1:16,17,17,18  
1:18 13:6,9,12,16,19  
14:6,14,18,22 15:6,13  
15:16,19 16:1,7,13,18  
21:12,17,20,22 22:2,7

22:12,16,20 23:5,9,14  
23:16,21 24:2,5,11,13  
25:2,16 26:4 29:11,16  
29:19,22 30:5,9,13,17  
30:20 31:2,9,12,16,21  
32:3,10,13,19,22 33:5  
33:10,13 34:16,17,21  
35:2,12,12  
**members** 3:12 5:12  
10:20 16:10 35:5,19  
**mention** 24:19  
**mentioned** 18:17 20:14  
23:22 24:17 29:12  
33:5  
**met** 1:12 17:22 21:3  
**Metropolitan** 10:6  
**microphone** 9:8 27:16  
**midnight** 6:10  
**MIKE** 1:18  
**minor** 18:4  
**minutes** 22:9  
**Mirzadeh** 1:21 2:19  
**mobile** 7:5 21:7  
**monitors** 20:16  
**month** 4:4 9:22  
**monthly** 7:15  
**morning** 36:19  
**MPD** 36:6  
**MPD's** 6:21  
**music** 10:17

---

**N**


---

**N.W** 1:13  
**name** 9:4 30:14  
**names** 3:2  
**NE** 1:6  
**need** 4:16,22 26:18  
**neighborhood** 37:2  
**neighboring** 8:11  
**never** 14:18 22:10,10  
**new** 7:13 10:4,8 25:22  
28:10 29:12 30:12  
**NICK** 1:16  
**nights** 6:22  
**normal** 5:16  
**normally** 3:17,17 16:19  
**Northeast** 6:12 8:12  
36:20  
**noted** 20:2  
**notice** 18:15  
**number** 2:6 26:21 27:2  
27:10,12,17,21  
**numerous** 27:13

---

**O**


---

**oath** 9:12  
**obvious** 18:15  
**obviously** 19:14

**occupancy** 13:17,21  
14:8 19:16 28:5 33:2  
33:6  
**occurring** 3:13  
**office** 18:12 31:4 32:8  
**office/alcohol** 23:20  
**offices** 36:6  
**once** 15:8  
**open** 10:14 12:13  
**opened** 34:14,15  
**opening** 5:13 9:21  
**opens** 12:21  
**operated** 34:13  
**operation** 3:16 5:17 6:5  
8:8 12:9 20:13,13  
**operational** 6:3  
**opinion** 18:6  
**order** 6:9,20 10:3 21:8  
37:2,10  
**originally** 17:14  
**OTR's** 6:1  
**overall** 21:4  
**owner** 8:16 30:18 31:5  
**owner/operator** 2:18  
5:14  
**owns** 30:14

---

**P**


---

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**  
2:1  
**p.m** 2:2 38:13  
**packet** 26:21  
**painted** 19:10 33:16  
**part** 33:15  
**participate** 6:21  
**particular** 3:19  
**parties** 2:7  
**partner** 34:20  
**patron** 29:2 36:14  
**patrons** 8:4 25:21 36:7  
37:2  
**pay** 19:12  
**peacefully** 8:2  
**pedestrians** 8:4 36:7  
**people** 15:9  
**percent** 7:20 8:15 11:10  
**percentage** 12:6,10  
**period** 5:4 12:14 19:3  
**permission** 32:17  
**permits** 29:17  
**person** 7:7 33:18 38:6  
**persons** 34:9  
**phone** 7:5  
**photo** 23:12 25:21  
26:20 27:2  
**physically** 24:21  
**picture** 24:14 26:22  
27:22 31:13 32:6

**pictures** 21:14,22 25:20  
27:9  
**place** 10:2  
**plan** 6:18 7:1  
**planning** 8:20  
**please** 2:7 9:3,19 10:1  
17:13 27:16  
**point** 18:18 25:4  
**Policy** 10:6  
**portion** 5:19 35:22  
**portions** 32:15  
**possibility** 18:18  
**post** 25:10,11,19  
**potential** 21:9  
**predecessors** 34:12  
**preparation** 28:21  
36:13  
**PRESENT** 1:15,19  
**presented** 5:9  
**presiding** 1:14  
**pretty** 19:22  
**previous** 31:5  
**prior** 10:11 37:4  
**Privileges** 1:9  
**probably** 4:16  
**problem** 34:3  
**problems** 15:7 33:20  
34:2  
**process** 3:18  
**processing** 19:12  
**professional** 11:22  
**program** 6:22  
**proper** 19:2,3  
**proposed** 6:4  
**protest** 5:4  
**Providing** 30:5  
**Pull** 9:7  
**purchased** 15:3  
**purpose** 4:6  
**put** 3:15 10:5  
**putting** 9:12

---

**Q**


---

**quality** 18:8  
**question** 14:15 16:2  
21:11  
**questions** 8:20,22 13:2  
13:3,4 15:19 16:9,11  
16:14 25:5,7,7 26:16  
29:8 32:20,20 35:2,5  
35:6,11,13,13  
**quo** 4:2

---

**R**


---

**rails** 20:21  
**ran** 15:9 33:19 34:2  
**rationale** 10:11 11:18  
**reach** 37:12,18

**real** 20:19  
**reasons** 3:5  
**recall** 14:21 23:13  
 26:13  
**recognize** 25:3  
**recommend** 37:11  
**record** 2:4,8 9:4 25:3  
 26:3 32:14 38:13  
**recording** 18:13  
**records** 20:9 26:7  
**redid** 29:15  
**Reeves** 1:13  
**referenced** 26:6  
**references** 25:11  
**regulatory** 17:20 18:1  
 18:19  
**reimbursable** 6:22 36:6  
**reinstate** 37:4  
**reinstatement** 1:8  
 10:11  
**reinstating** 5:16  
**REMA** 1:18  
**remember** 23:1,10  
**remove** 8:5  
**repeat** 33:3  
**replaced** 7:19  
**report** 21:15,20 22:11  
**Request** 1:8  
**requesting** 3:7  
**required** 6:17  
**requirement** 7:10,13  
**requirements** 21:3  
**requiring** 36:4  
**residential** 28:18 33:7,9  
 33:15  
**residents** 6:13,14 8:3  
 11:9  
**responsible** 29:20 30:1  
 30:8  
**restaurant** 7:5 11:15,19  
**restrictive** 8:6  
**restricts** 6:12  
**restroom** 14:2  
**Retailer** 1:7  
**return** 8:7  
**revenue** 11:1  
**review** 17:15 18:1,1  
 21:4 22:9  
**revisit** 17:17  
**reward** 34:9  
**rid** 12:3  
**rigorous** 36:5  
**Rocks** 1:5,6 2:6,16,18  
 2:20 8:2,16 9:20 11:3  
 12:7 17:22 25:18  
 30:16  
**Rocks'** 6:12  
**roof** 20:3,3,11,21 21:2

29:12  
**roof-type** 20:7  
**roofing** 20:4  
**rooftop** 18:12 28:20  
 31:8 36:12  
**Room** 1:13  
**routinely** 20:16  
**row** 23:13  
**rules** 14:11  
**run** 11:21

---

**S**


---

**safety** 8:3 36:6  
**sales** 6:5  
**Saturdays** 6:7 8:10  
 36:18  
**saw** 24:13  
**saying** 26:10,16  
**says** 36:11  
**seating** 29:2 36:14  
**Second** 7:1  
**section** 5:18 35:22  
**security** 6:18 7:1,17  
 10:5 36:3  
**seen** 20:17 22:10,10  
**September** 7:14 17:16  
 20:1  
**service** 29:5 36:14,22  
**sessions** 7:16 12:5  
**set** 15:3,4 19:8 20:7  
**settlement** 6:4 28:16  
 36:10,11  
**shelf** 22:21 28:2 31:14  
 31:20  
**short** 1:17 9:14 13:5,6,9  
 13:11,12,16,19 14:6  
 14:14,18,22 15:6,13  
 15:16,19 32:21,22  
 33:5,10,13 34:17,21  
 35:2  
**showed** 18:22  
**side** 20:3,21  
**SILVERSTEIN** 1:18  
**sir** 17:10 21:16 22:15  
 22:19 23:4,15,19 24:1  
 24:4 27:16 29:21 32:2  
 33:4,12 35:9,15  
**sit** 13:22 37:18  
**site** 21:6  
**six** 18:14  
**Sledge** 13:7  
**SMG** 30:15,17  
**social** 20:16,17 24:6,7  
 25:10,11  
**something-** 25:18  
**sorry** 38:4  
**speak** 19:5 27:15  
**speed** 36:4

**spell** 9:4  
**spend** 12:7,11  
**spots** 18:15  
**St** 1:6  
**staff** 7:8,9,11,15,20  
 10:20 12:4 36:4,5  
**stand** 5:14  
**standard** 37:5  
**stands** 36:11  
**start** 2:9,9 3:18,19  
**started** 5:7  
**state** 9:4  
**stated** 19:16 20:16  
**statement** 5:13  
**status** 4:2  
**Steglich** 1:21 2:17,17  
 8:15,17 9:3,5,6,9,18  
 9:21 10:4,12 11:4,7  
 11:10,13,17,20 12:3,8  
 12:12,16,20 13:8,8,9  
 13:10,14,18,22 14:13  
 14:17,20 15:2,11,15  
 15:18 16:2,5 17:2,22  
 18:17,22 19:5,13 21:6  
 26:14,20,22 27:4,12  
 27:17 28:7,9,18,22  
 29:3,6,11,14,18,21  
 30:3,7,11,15,19 31:1  
 31:4,11,15,18 32:1,8  
 32:12,14,18 33:3,8,12  
 34:19 35:1,10 36:2  
**step** 16:22 35:8  
**steps** 6:19 7:22 10:2  
 12:1 28:4  
**stocked** 19:11 27:18  
 28:1,3  
**storage** 23:20 24:3  
 30:22 32:1,2 33:1,11  
 36:13  
**store** 31:17 32:7,10,15  
**stored** 31:6 37:15,17,21  
 37:22  
**storing** 18:13 31:19  
 33:13  
**Street** 1:13 6:11 8:11  
 25:3 36:20  
**stuff** 28:2  
**substantial** 4:14,15 5:1  
 5:3,6 20:10 21:9  
**suffocating** 10:13  
**suggest** 37:9  
**Suite** 1:13  
**Summer** 20:7  
**Sunday** 6:6 36:17  
**Sundays** 8:9  
**supposed** 14:7 19:14  
 35:20  
**surrounding** 8:3

**swearing** 9:11  
**system** 7:2,4 10:5  
 17:19 18:13,16 21:5

---

**T**


---

**t/a** 1:6  
**table** 20:6  
**taken** 7:22 10:2 28:4  
**takes** 37:1  
**talk** 28:11  
**talking** 15:7 25:14 33:1  
**tasked** 17:15  
**tell** 4:6,7 9:19 10:1  
 17:12 25:17  
**thank** 16:8 17:2 21:12  
 21:13 29:7 35:10 37:7  
 38:11  
**things** 34:7,10,11 35:20  
**third** 7:5 14:16 15:1,10  
 19:6,14 20:11,17  
 22:17 24:22 25:12  
 26:21 27:6 28:6,16,20  
 30:3,5,21 31:9,12,13  
 33:2,6,21 36:13  
**thought** 32:4  
**three** 6:22 22:8  
**Thursday** 6:6  
**Thursdays** 8:9 36:17  
**today** 8:5 34:4 38:5  
**told** 15:8 24:9,16  
**top** 23:13 38:8  
**training** 7:9,12,16 12:4  
 36:5 37:19  
**transfer** 15:8  
**tried** 2:22  
**trouble** 15:9 26:1  
**try** 11:20 28:5  
**trying** 3:1  
**turn** 22:13  
**two** 4:3 9:21,22 12:22  
 13:18,20 24:20 27:9  
 27:21  
**type** 24:18 37:19

---

**U**


---

**understand** 9:16  
**understanding** 16:3  
**understood** 16:8  
**updated** 7:1  
**upgraded** 18:7  
**use** 14:2 19:6,14 20:11  
 28:20 29:1,4 30:21,22  
 31:16 32:7 36:12  
**usually** 3:18  
**utilized** 20:18 25:1  
**utilizing** 19:21

---

**V**


---

**vantage** 25:4  
**video** 18:11,13  
**view** 21:6  
**viewed** 18:11  
**violation** 19:21 24:18  
**violations** 3:13 19:4  
**visit** 19:3,7,8 21:1  
**visited** 17:21  
**visually** 19:20

---

**W**

---

**W** 1:14,16  
**WAHABZADAH** 1:18  
**walkthrough** 17:16,18  
 18:14  
**wanted** 16:7  
**Ward** 6:14,14  
**Wards** 11:12  
**Washington** 1:13  
**wasn't** 19:8  
**way** 3:20,21 15:3,4  
 26:18  
**Wednesday** 1:10 24:20  
**week** 6:22 10:7  
**weekends** 10:7  
**weekly** 7:16  
**weeks** 18:14  
**went** 24:1 28:11 38:13  
**whatnot** 20:22  
**whichever** 26:18  
**whoosh** 3:1  
**wine** 22:22  
**witness** 17:4,5 24:17  
**work** 10:22 21:13 38:4  
**working** 19:17 34:6  
 36:3,8  
**write** 3:2  
**wrong** 34:11

---

**X**

---



---

**Y**

---

**years** 4:3 9:22,22

---

**Z**

---

**zoned** 28:18 33:8,10,14

---

**0**

---



---

**1**

---

**1:00** 6:6  
**106695** 1:7 2:6  
**12:00** 10:18  
**1242** 1:6  
**14th** 1:13  
**16** 21:18 22:13 26:21  
 27:21  
**19** 23:14 32:6

---

**2**

---

**2:00** 6:7 8:8  
**20** 1:11 11:4,7 27:19  
**2000** 1:13  
**20009** 1:13  
**2017** 3:11 4:4 5:9,21  
 6:17 7:2,18 8:7 17:17  
 18:3 20:2 36:2  
**2018** 7:14  
**2019** 1:11 17:21  
**24** 24:10

---

**3**

---

**3:00** 8:9 10:14 36:18  
**3:42** 2:2

---

**4**

---

**4:17** 38:13  
**400S** 1:13

---

**5**

---

**50** 7:19

---

**6**

---

**6** 6:14 11:13  
**6A** 1:8

---

**7**

---

**7** 11:13 27:2,10,11,12  
 27:17  
**70** 8:15

---

**8**

---

**8** 6:14 11:13  
**80** 11:10  
**8th** 17:21

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