

IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Tillman Group, LLC, :
t/a Vieux Carre/For Rent :
1413 K Street NW : Fact Finding
Retailer CT - ANC 2F : Hearing
License No. 102576 :
Case #18-CMP-00011 :
 :
(Transfer Application and: :
Selling Alcohol without a: :
License) :

Wednesday
January 31, 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
REMA WAHABZADAH, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SHAWN TOWNSEND, ABRA Investigator

SHAWNEQUEE LATIMER, Transferee

JAMES TILLMAN, Licensee

JERMAINE JONES, Licensee

LISA COUSER, ABRA Investigator

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

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

2 10:58 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The
4 next case on our calendar is Case No. 18-CMP-
5 00011. We have a Fact-Finding Hearing on Vieux
6 Carre/For Rent, License No. 102576.

7 Are the parties here? I don't see the
8 Investigator. I don't -- neither do I see the
9 licensee, so is there anyone here for this case?

10 Can someone go find the Investigator,
11 please?

12 The next case on our calendar is case
13 -- we have a Fact-Finding Hearing on Vieux
14 Carre/For Rent, License No. 102576.

15 Will the parties, please, approach and
16 identify themselves for the record?

17 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Good morning.
18 Investigator Shawn Townsend.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
20 Mr. Townsend.

21 I do not see the licensee here. All
22 right. It is my understanding that this matter--

1 although our calendar says that the Fact-Finding
2 Hearing was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. this
3 morning, it's my understanding that the Agency
4 informed the licensee that the hearing would be
5 at 1:30 this afternoon. So we will then move
6 this case to 1:30.

7 All right. The Board then will be in
8 recess until our afternoon calendar. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 went off the record at 11:00 a.m. and resumed at
11 2:35 p.m.)

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
13 Moving on on our calendar, our next case is we
14 have a Fact-Finding Hearing on Vieux Carre/For
15 Rent, License No. 102576.

16 Would the parties, please, approach
17 and identify themselves for the record?

18 MS. LATIMER: Shawnequee Latimer.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Lavender?

20 MS. LATIMER: Latimer.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Latimer. There
22 is a sign-in sheet, please, sign your name in,

1 please.

2 Now, can -- who are you, sir? Are you
3 here for this case? Are you going to -- do you
4 have -- are you going to say something?

5 MR. TILLMAN: Yes, sir, I am.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you can
7 come up.

8 MR. TILLMAN: No problem.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When I call
10 everybody, everybody -- you pull a chair up and
11 sit at the table and introduce yourself and have
12 a seat.

13 MR. TILLMAN: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

15 MR. TILLMAN: I'm going to sit. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Huh?

18 MR. TILLMAN: I'm going to sit.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can pull
20 the chair up. There is a chair there if you
21 need. If you can sit, yeah. Whichever way,
22 whichever is more comfortable for you, sir.

1 MR. TILLMAN: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 Okay. State your name for the record. I'm
4 sorry, sir. I see you are making yourself
5 comfortable.

6 MR. TILLMAN: No, I can't put pressure
7 on my --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what I'm
9 saying, you are making yourself comfortable.
10 State your name for the record, please, sir.

11 MR. TILLMAN: James Tillman.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Tillman.

13 MR. TILLMAN: With the Tillman Group.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you, sir?

15 MR. JONES: Jermaine Jones from
16 Tillman Group.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones. And
18 you are Ms. Latimer. And introduce yourself for
19 the record, please.

20 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: ABRA
21 Investigator Shawn Townsend.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Townsend.

1 Now, maybe -- I just want folks to just -- so who
2 are you, Ms. Latimer?

3 MS. LATIMER: I am the person that the
4 licensee is supposed to be transferred to.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So you
6 are --

7 MS. LATIMER: It has not transferred
8 yet.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
10 have we -- have you submitted a transfer
11 application? Has there been a transfer
12 application submitted to the Agency?

13 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And do you know
15 when that was submitted?

16 MS. LATIMER: December 5, 2017.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And --

18 MS. LATIMER: That's when it was
19 stamped in.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so from
21 your perspective, what does that mean to you?
22 You have submitted a -- that's a transfer

1 application, so what does that mean to you as far
2 as this business is concerned?

3 MS. LATIMER: That I don't even think
4 that I can make a decision until transfer the
5 license over to me.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so can you
7 operate? Can you run the business?

8 MS. LATIMER: I can't do anything
9 without a license.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you can't
11 run the business.

12 MS. LATIMER: No.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All
14 right. And so we have Mr. Tillman and Mr. Jones,
15 so, Mr. Tillman and Mr. -- who wants to speak
16 first on that? Mr. Jones?

17 MR. TILLMAN: I was going to speak.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So tell me what
19 is going on as far as this establishment and your
20 ownership, please.

21 MR. JONES: So formerly, Mr. Tillman
22 was the owner of Tillman Group, Vieux Carre. I

1 was the business manager, day-to-day operations
2 at Vieux Carre. July 31st of 2017 was our last
3 day of business. And since then, we have
4 attempted to transfer the liquor license to Ms.
5 Latimer.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So you
7 have attempted. What do you mean you have
8 attempted to transfer it to her since July?

9 MR. JONES: Mr. Tillman has submitted
10 the paperwork necessary on his part for the
11 transfer application to that award.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that was --
13 so July 31st. So what --

14 MR. JONES: July 31st was the last day
15 that Mr. Tillman or myself was operating the
16 actual space.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
18 is this place still open?

19 MR. JONES: I have no idea. From what
20 we understand, apparently it has been, but not by
21 our account. We have not had it open.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who has been

1 operating this place?

2 MR. JONES: It hasn't been us.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But -- and
4 before I go to -- all right. Okay. You own an
5 establishment. Okay? You have transferred it or
6 attempted to transfer it July 31st to another
7 owner.

8 MR. JONES: No, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You ceased
10 operation on July 31, 2017?

11 MR. JONES: Correct.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So did you turn
13 the license back -- your license into the ABC
14 Board?

15 MR. JONES: So we have retained the
16 license. We hold the license. They called us
17 and asked us if we would like to -- an abeyance
18 or --

19 MEMBER SHORT: Safekeeping.

20 MR. JONES: -- safekeeping.

21 MR. TILLMAN: We was going to put it
22 into safekeeping.

1 MR. JONES: They contacted us about
2 safekeeping.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

4 MR. JONES: We were making a
5 determination on whether or not there was going
6 to be some sort of sale of the business. We did
7 not have any viable buyers.

8 In November of last -- I'm sorry.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, go ahead.
10 All right. So you asked the Agency about
11 safekeeping. And so you ceased operations.

12 MR. JONES: Correct.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what is --
14 so what happened with the safekeeping request or
15 anything else?

16 MR. TILLMAN: Nothing. So actually
17 this Board, the Board actually suspended the
18 license, if I'm not mistaken, because we did not
19 renew it, because we weren't doing business.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was that?

21 MR. JONES: This was I think October
22 or last year and then we had to reinstate the

1 license.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you --

3 MR. JONES: If you allow me, can I
4 give you -- I just want to give you the course of
5 action.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, yeah. And
7 that's why I'm asking the question.

8 MR. JONES: It will be easier.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

10 MR. JONES: So we were operating the
11 space up until July 31st of last year.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

13 MR. JONES: We did an auction, sold
14 everything in the space, removed all the alcohol
15 from the space. Between July and November of
16 last year, we had no dealings with this space.
17 We did not have keys. The locks had been
18 changed. No one was operating in the space.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: So have you moved the
20 alcohol you said?

21 MR. JONES: We have removed it and put
22 it in safekeeping.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

2 MR. JONES: Okay. So there was no
3 alcohol. There was -- all of the contents in the
4 space was removed. We sold everything.
5 Literally, the doors off some of the walls. So
6 we did an auction and sold everything. The place
7 was closed.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So that's
9 between July and?

10 MR. JONES: November of last year.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: November, what
12 date, approximately?

13 MR. JONES: November 5th. I'm sorry,
14 it had to be the first week of November. I don't
15 want to give you an exact date.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

17 MR. JONES: I can give you exact dates
18 on when some of the next part of my story has
19 been in terms of us doing transfers.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So about the
21 first week in November of 2017.

22 MR. JONES: Correct.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So where was
2 the license? Where was --

3 MR. JONES: In our possession or in
4 Mr. Tillman's possession. It was not on
5 premises.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So you
7 had the physical license, because you had -- it
8 wasn't in safekeeping?

9 MR. JONES: Right.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But the -- we
11 had canceled it and you asked for reinstatement
12 and it was reinstated?

13 MR. JONES: No. So there is more to
14 the story between us asking for the reinstatement
15 and us closing down.

16 So we had the license in our
17 possession. There was no operations going on.
18 In November of last year, we were contacted by an
19 Ajiboye interested in taking over the space.
20 They had worked out something with the landlord
21 and wanted to use the space. They reached out to
22 us. We were interested in allowing them to

1 assume the business, so they could operate with
2 the proper procedure for the transference of the
3 license.

4 We called down to ABRA to speak to
5 somebody to ask them what that procedure was. We
6 spoke to Ms. Nicole Cullings, who gave us a
7 series of things that we needed to do prior to
8 transferring the license. We did all of those
9 things.

10 We went down to DCRA and I have the
11 documents here. We reinstated the business with
12 DCRA. We did a transfer of the principal place
13 of business. The governing member or authorized
14 person for the business out of Mr. Tillman's name
15 and into Ms. Latimer's name.

16 We went to OTR did the -- to use --
17 got the corresponding documents. And then we
18 came to ABRA to ask what happens next. So we met
19 with Nicole Cullings in a conference room. She
20 met with myself, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Latimer. We
21 went through the entire procedure for what needed
22 to be done. She gave us a packet.

1 We took that packet downstairs, got
2 some things notarized. Ms. Latimer took the
3 packet back. We had to get a few other documents
4 signed and/or generated for her to finish the
5 documents.

6 They asked if we were interested in
7 operating during the transfer. We said no. Mr.
8 Tillman explicitly made it clear to Ms. Cullings
9 that we were not interested in operating
10 whatsoever.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Just when did that
12 happen, all of that you just described?

13 MR. JONES: This was on November the
14 15th.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: So it wasn't in
16 September?

17 MR. JONES: No. Nothing happened in
18 September.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Things were --

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I -- someone --
21 I thought I heard someone say that --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- the transfer
2 started in September.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

5 MR. JONES: No.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The business
7 was shutdown between July and --

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, I understand.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- November.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: I understand. I just
11 wanted to make sure I had my timings right.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- they weren't
15 operating.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: I know.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So
18 about November 15th you met with the Agency?

19 MR. JONES: Correct.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Go
21 ahead.

22 MR. JONES: So we started that

1 transfer process. We filled out the application,
2 sent all the corresponding documents in. I think
3 we had a new operating agreement established for
4 Tillman Group now that we had changed ownership
5 giving Ms. Latimer full control of the business
6 and removing Mr. Tillman.

7 We asked Ms. Cullings, at that time,
8 if in fact there were operations that still went
9 on, would Mr. Tillman be held liable for
10 violations, for any issues that may arise. She
11 informed us that he would. We made it very clear
12 that we did not want that to happen. We kept the
13 license and we asked for Ms. Cullings and ABRA
14 not to issue anybody any copies or any other
15 parts of the license.

16 And as far as we know, outside of
17 that, Ms. Latimer was and, as far as we know, has
18 submitted an application for transfer and that is
19 the furthest that our involvement goes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why are you
21 here today?

22 MR. JONES: Mr. Tillman asked me to be

1 here. We were, I think, summoned to be here.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, well, yeah.
3 So why are you here today, Mr. Tillman? You told
4 me that you shut your business down. You closed
5 the doors on July 30th -- July 31st. You --
6 nothing happened. You started the transfer, so
7 why are you here today?

8 MR. TILLMAN: We are here because we
9 just wanted to make sure once we turned in the
10 license, that our, I guess, part in the business
11 was done.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But --

13 MR. TILLMAN: And --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, go
15 ahead.

16 MR. TILLMAN: -- so what I did, I
17 reached out to Inspector Shawn --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

19 MR. TILLMAN: -- and gave him the
20 license and told him he has to turn it in.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

22 MR. TILLMAN: And I just wanted to

1 make sure that we had no more dealings with the
2 business at all.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. So you
4 don't know about anything that -- so is there
5 some operation in this establishment, in this
6 building? Do you know anything about that?

7 MR. TILLMAN: We do not.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You don't know
9 nothing?

10 MR. TILLMAN: We do not.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you don't
12 even know why you are here today?

13 MR. TILLMAN: Well, we understand that
14 there was apparently some sort of violation --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm asking
16 you --

17 MR. TILLMAN: -- that occurred. Oh,
18 yeah, but --

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- so what do
20 you know?

21 MR. TILLMAN: We don't -- in all
22 honesty, we don't know the details of it, because

1 we were not involved. So we don't know. All we
2 know is apparently we -- that there was a
3 violation. They went into the space. Someone
4 was operating. Someone was posing or apparently
5 had something to do with Tillman Group. We are
6 here to make clear what Tillman Group's
7 involvement is and is not.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know that.
9 The reason why is because I'm going to have Mr.--
10 I'm going to you. I'm not even with Mr. Townsend
11 yet. So I'm asking you guys from your
12 perspective.

13 MR. TILLMAN: What happened was my
14 assistant, Lisa --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is she here?

16 MR. TILLMAN: She is right there.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell her to
18 come on up.

19 MR. TILLMAN: Come on up, Lisa.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And give her
21 name for the record and everybody sign-in.

22 MR. TILLMAN: May I finish?

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. So she
2 can introduce herself and yeah.

3 MR. TILLMAN: So my assistant sent me
4 -- she contacted me and she said "James, is your
5 establishment open?" I said "No, it's closed."
6 She said "Well, I received a flyer saying that
7 they having parties at your establishment." I
8 said "I don't know anything about it. It's not
9 us." And I left it as that.

10 I reached out to my friend, Shawn, and
11 I said who is having parties at this
12 establishment? It's not us. He said I don't
13 know. So I left it at that with him. He went
14 down and investigated and that was it.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you don't
16 know who is having parties at --

17 MR. TILLMAN: I do not.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- so and I'm
19 going to ask some questions to ask you, because
20 once Mr. Townsend gives his report, then there is
21 a question that I'm going to ask about something
22 that's important.

1 Yes, go ahead, Mr. Alberti.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: So I want to -- so
3 just on what -- I'm sorry, your name again, sir?

4 MR. JONES: Jermaine Jones.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Jones, just sort
6 of the rendition that you gave, I have several
7 questions.

8 MR. JONES: Okay.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: First of all, you
10 said in October you let the -- the license was
11 suspended for non-payment, correct?

12 MR. JONES: Correct. Don't quote us
13 on the dates in terms of what day it was.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, that would have
15 been about right.

16 MR. JONES: Right.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. All
18 right.

19 MR. JONES: Correct.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's cool. We're
21 cool. Then you said it was -- you came down and
22 you had it reinstated.

1 MR. JONES: We did not.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Who did?

3 MR. JONES: We authorized for it to be
4 reinstated, because we could not apply for a
5 transfer.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: How did you authorize
7 for it to be reinstated?

8 MR. JONES: We wrote a letter which I
9 have a copy of if you would like to see.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: To?

11 MR. JONES: To ABRA.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Asking that --

13 MR. JONES: To this Board asking this
14 Board to, please, reinstate the license.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: And was it?

16 MR. JONES: Yes, it was.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And that would
18 have been sort of the November time frame?

19 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Before or
21 after you had discussions with Ms. Latimer?

22 MR. JONES: This was when we had --

1 after we had discussions with Ms. Latimer. We
2 actually didn't even know that the license was
3 canceled. When we came down to start the
4 transfer process, that is when Ms. Cullings
5 informed us that it was, in fact, suspended.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

7 MR. JONES: And we couldn't even begin
8 that process until we had reinstated it.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Then the Board
10 reinstated it. Meanwhile, you were having
11 discussions with Ms. Latimer?

12 MR. JONES: Correct.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Correct?

14 MR. JONES: Correct.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. You said
16 that you removed everything from the
17 establishment, closed it completely down. Took
18 all of the alcohol out, right?

19 MR. JONES: Correct.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Some of the
21 furnishings?

22 MR. JONES: Everything.

1 MR. TILLMAN: Everything.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Everything.

3 MR. JONES: Everything.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. Did you
5 rent this establishment?

6 MR. JONES: We did.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right.

8 MR. JONES: We were renting it.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Were you still the
10 rentee or the lessee in November and after
11 November?

12 MR. JONES: We -- yes. We were on the
13 -- we are on the lease, yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Until when?

15 MR. JONES: The lease is a 10-year
16 lease, so I think we may have eight years left on
17 the lease.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you were
19 technically still on the hook. You are still the
20 lessee?

21 MR. JONES: Correct.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. How did

1 someone else, besides Mr. Tillman or his
2 authorized personnel, get access to the
3 establishment?

4 MR. JONES: Got it. So it is our
5 understanding that the person apparently,
6 Ajiboye, who was a part of the violation went to
7 the rental office, made a payment towards our
8 back rent and worked out some sort of deal to get
9 access to the space.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: So he -- so somebody
11 who we will hear about later --

12 MR. JONES: Right.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- he went --

14 MR. JONES: To the landlord.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- directly to the
16 landlord without your authorization.

17 MR. JONES: Correct.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And the landlord
19 accepted his representation?

20 MR. JONES: Well, I imagine so,
21 because upon our closing, we turned our keys into
22 the landlord, were two months behind on rent and

1 figuring out a settlement to get out of our lease
2 with him.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, so even if you
4 had --

5 MR. JONES: Yeah, we were like done,
6 done.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

8 MR. JONES: That's why we did the
9 auction.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: So it's your
11 contention that the landlord then gave the keys
12 to someone who then gained access to this
13 establishment?

14 MR. JONES: We are certain. Well, the
15 keys we had didn't even work any more. They keys
16 were -- the locks were changed.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Prior to --

18 MR. JONES: We didn't have --

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- by the landlord?

20 MR. JONES: On the last day of our
21 closing when we left, we turned in the keys and
22 the locksmith was changing the locks.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Very
2 interesting.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Did you make Ms.
5 Latimer aware of this?

6 MR. JONES: No.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: No. Okay. So was it
8 your impression she was going to have to deal
9 with the landlord to get access to this
10 establishment?

11 MR. JONES: We weren't really
12 concerned with how she was getting access to the
13 establishment, only because her reaching out to
14 us or our interaction was purely around assuming
15 the business, thus for the transfer of the liquor
16 license to operate properly.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So Tillman
18 Group, LLC --

19 MR. JONES: Yes.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- does it still
21 exist?

22 MR. JONES: Currently, yes.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Who are the
2 members of Tillman Group, LLC?

3 MR. JONES: Now it should be just
4 Shawnequee Latimer. We actually went down to
5 DCRA.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Do you have
7 documentation to show that that happened?

8 MR. JONES: Yes. I actually have
9 seven copies.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you given it to
11 us at all? I don't see it in our records.

12 MEMBER SHORT: And when --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are going
14 to -- she will take it from you.

15 MR. JONES: All right.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: I guess there would
17 be a bill of sale or something like that? You
18 know, the things I have seen is that you are
19 giving this business over to Ms. Latimer for no
20 cost?

21 MR. JONES: No cost.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So do we

1 have like a sales agreement or a summary to show
2 the percentage of interest?

3 MR. JONES: No, because again, it was
4 not a sale, so we allowed her to just assume the
5 business by -- our intent was to file an
6 amendment to our organization documents and allow
7 her to assume governing the actual LLC and remove
8 Mr. Tillman.

9 So when we went to -- we went to DCRA
10 on November 15th and got all this done. We
11 actually went to DCRA last Friday to make certain
12 that this was, in fact, what they had on file.
13 When we went there, they printed us out the exact
14 same documents that you are looking at right now,
15 made it clear to us that Ms. Latimer was, in
16 fact, the governing officer for Tillman Group.

17 MEMBER SHORT: I have a question.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So the
19 problem I -- well, the problem I'm having is that
20 I have limited liability -- maybe you can help me
21 understand this.

22 MR. JONES: Okay.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm only -- I'm still
2 a novice with these documents. The Limited
3 Liability Company Operating Agreement, all right?

4 MR. JONES: Right.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's signed on
6 November 30, 2017, right?

7 MR. JONES: Correct.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's signed by Ms.
9 Latimer and Mr. Tillman.

10 MR. JONES: Correct.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: It lists Ms. Latimer
12 as a general member and it lists Mr. Tillman as a
13 general member. Why would that be if Mr. Tillman
14 is now --

15 MR. JONES: Which document are you
16 referring to?

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- relinquishing all
18 interest in this LLC, why is he on this operating
19 agreement as a general member?

20 MR. JONES: So based on a
21 conversation, which I also have printouts of with
22 Ms. Latimer, apparently when Ms. Latimer filed

1 the original operating -- she was providing for
2 the Board all the necessary documents to complete
3 the transfer. And the specialist, she was
4 working with Ms. Cullings, asked her for an
5 operating agreement and it was to have any or
6 include all this information.

7 When we initially filed it -- and you
8 will see and if you would like, I can give you
9 copies.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Back in November was
11 Mr. Tillman still part of the LLC?

12 MR. JONES: Up until November 15th,
13 yes, sir.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Until November 30th.

15 MR. JONES: Up until November 15th.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: You said November
17 30th and I have an operating agreement that lists
18 him as a general member.

19 MR. JONES: Because that --

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: This is troubling to
21 me.

22 MR. JONES: Well, that's because

1 that's what was asked for by Ms. Cullings. When
2 they asked --

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Ms. Cullings asked
4 for an operating agreement.

5 MR. JONES: Correct. And when we
6 submitted --

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: So in an operating
8 agreement, we only expect to see the members
9 discussed. I mean an operating agreement is
10 between the members of the LLC.

11 MR. JONES: I completely understand.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: According to what you
13 are telling me and I believe Ms. Latimer probably
14 will tell me the same thing is that on November
15 30th, she was the sole owner of this LLC,
16 correct?

17 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And you told me that
19 you took care of this with DCRA before November
20 13th. So why am I seeing Mr. Tillman still
21 listed as a member of the LLC on November 30th?

22 MR. JONES: Because that's what was

1 requested by the specialist.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, I find that
3 hard to believe, but I'll leave it at that.

4 MR. JONES: Is she available?

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. No, no,
6 that's fine.

7 MR. JONES: Okay.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's fine. But
9 it's your representation that Mr. Tillman, as of
10 November, mid-November, was no longer a member of
11 this LLC?

12 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you. I
14 have nothing further.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
16 want to bring everything full circle. I now --
17 so I know these folks are here and I want at
18 least to make sure that I know what your
19 positions are.

20 MR. JONES: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so now, Mr.
22 Townsend, can you tell us why is it that all

1 these folks are here, please?

2 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes, I can
3 speak to the events leading up to my visit to the
4 establishment on January 5, 2018.

5 I spoke with Mr. Tillman and he had
6 some questions around some events that he had --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did he initiate
8 the contact or did you contact him?

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes, he
10 initiated --

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

12 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: -- the
13 contact.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

15 MEMBER SHORT: What date was that?

16 MEMBER ISAAC: What was the date
17 again?

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: I spoke to Mr.
19 Tillman on January 5th.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

21 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: '18. And he
22 asked me about the operations at Vieux and if I

1 was aware if anyone was operating on this
2 particular evening. I told him I didn't. But I
3 did mention that I would go by there and see if
4 something was going on.

5 So during -- approximately, 11:00 p.m.
6 while monitoring in that block, I can see Sound
7 Check is an establishment directly across the
8 street from Vieux Carre. And from standing -- as
9 I was standing in front of Sound Check, I can see
10 that there was some movement, some lights going
11 on inside of Vieux.

12 So I entered along with Investigator
13 Kevin Puente and Mark Brashears. I was
14 approached by -- I'm sorry, I'll back up.
15 Immediately as I entered, I noticed that from my
16 previous visits at this establishment, the
17 alcohol license is usually posted on the left,
18 left column, along with the Certificate of
19 Occupancy, the business license, etcetera.

20 And in place of the alcohol license
21 was a receipt, was an ABRA receipt and I
22 immediately, you know, flashed my light on it to

1 see what it was. And from what -- at the moment
2 what I assumed was, based on knowledge that I had
3 of the transfer situation after speaking with Ms.
4 Cullings is that, that this was a renewal receipt
5 that someone had paid to reinstate the license.
6 This is my assumption at the moment.

7 So I was approached by Mr. Ajiboye
8 Laosebikan. For this testimony's purpose, I'm
9 going to refer to him as Aji, which is his common
10 name of -- from what I understand.

11 He presented me with an ABC Manager's
12 License. I immediately pointed out to Aji that
13 the -- I noticed a receipt on the wall and I
14 asked him where the alcohol license was. And Aji
15 stated to me that the ABC License was paid in
16 full and that he assumed that he can use the
17 receipt as proof that the establishment was
18 properly licensed until the Board had approved
19 the transfer of the license.

20 At that point, I started to question
21 Aji about who he was representing at the
22 establishment that evening and he stated that he

1 was representing the new ownership. And I
2 mentioned Ms. Latimer's name and he said yes, he
3 was representing Ms. Latimer under the new
4 Tillman Group, so to speak.

5 I asked him, you know, how is that
6 possible, because I was made aware that Mr.
7 Tillman was still in possession of the actual,
8 the physical alcohol license and he reiterated to
9 me that he assumed that because --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. Do
11 they have a copy of your report?

12 MR. JONES: No, we do not.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. We will
14 give you a copy. I see you are stretching, so
15 that was an indication to me that you have no
16 idea what he is talking about. All right. Go
17 ahead, Mr. Townsend.

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Thank you. So
19 I informed him, I informed Aji that although the
20 renewal was paid on the license, the transfer was
21 -- had not been approved by the ABC Board at that
22 time. And he, Aji, specifically told me that he

1 was both a former employee of Mr. Tillman and now
2 a current employee of the new owner, Ms. Latimer,
3 so he assumed that he could operate in the
4 establishment by using this receipt.

5 I informed him that it was a violation
6 because the establishment was operating without
7 an ABC License present. And then also, there
8 were -- he couldn't answer my questions related
9 to the alcohol that was being served by
10 bartenders, where it was purchased. He once
11 stated that the -- that Mr. Tillman, in fact,
12 still had the invoices for the alcohol, but you
13 just heard his testimony -- their testimony and
14 they stated that the alcohol was --

15 MEMBER SHORT: In safekeeping.

16 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: -- removed
17 from the establishment prior to them closing. So
18 I ended up making contact with Ms. Latimer on
19 Tuesday, January 9th, and informed her of the
20 violation that occurred on Friday, January 5th,
21 and also mentioned to her that Aji stated that he
22 was representing the new ownership of the

1 establishment.

2 Ms. Latimer stated that she had not
3 been approved by the ABC Board as a new owner and
4 advised me that I should contact Mr. Tillman,
5 because he was the still the owner of the
6 establishment pending the approval of the
7 transfer of the license.

8 MEMBER SHORT: What date was that?

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: I'm sorry?
10 January 9, 2018.

11 I attempted to explain to Ms. Latimer
12 that Mr. Tillman had advised ABRA not to issue
13 this establishment a copy of the license until
14 the transfer was complete. And she pretty much
15 told me that I needed to contact Mr. Tillman,
16 because he was still the owner on file at this
17 establishment.

18 I did pull up some flyers, which are
19 included as exhibits, from social media for
20 events taking place at the establishment, at
21 Vieux. I did confirm with licensing on January
22 9th as well that the transfer application packet

1 was still pending. It had not been approved yet
2 by the Board.

3 I contacted Mr. Tillman also on that
4 Tuesday, January 9th, and he stated that he
5 transferred the business to Ms. Latimer in
6 November of 2017 and was no longer involved in
7 the operations. Mr. Tillman did state that he
8 had the ABC License in his possession, because he
9 didn't want the establishment to operate until
10 the transfer was complete.

11 Just a point of reference, Mr. Aji is
12 an ABC Manager that I have dealt with at an
13 establishment on H Street, N.E., Da Luft. At the
14 time, he presented a fraudulent ABC Manager's
15 License to me during a regulatory inspection and
16 was issued a new ABC Manager's License that
17 expires in 2019.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When -- so it's
19 -- oh, it's 2019, okay. That's all?

20 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 Now, Mr. Davis?

1 MR. JONES: Jones.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones. Mr.
3 Jones, who paid the -- who paid to renew the
4 license?

5 MR. JONES: Ms. Latimer.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So she
7 paid to renew the license?

8 MR. JONES: Right.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So Mr. Tillman
10 or Mr. Jones, who is Mr. Aji? I thought from
11 what I heard from Mr. Townsend is that he said
12 that he was a former employee of the previous --

13 MEMBER SHORT: Da Luft.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no.
15 The previous establishment or -- I'm sorry, Mr.
16 Townsend. Where did Mr. Aji said that he was a
17 previous employee of what?

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Aji stated
19 that he was a previous employee of Mr. Tillman
20 himself.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,
22 Mr. Tillman, who is Mr. Aji?

1 MR. TILLMAN: He is a promoter. So
2 Aji promotes events. At Da Luft on H Street, he
3 helped us with events when we were open promoting
4 them. He was never an employee for our
5 establishment. He never was on our payroll. He
6 never made any decisions. He was never a part
7 of. We met Aji through the promotions of the
8 nightclub business.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So he you say
10 he was not an employee. He is a promoter?

11 MR. TILLMAN: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Ms.
13 Latimer, now it's my understanding that you paid
14 for -- to renew the license. Is that correct?

15 MS. LATIMER: I did not pay for the
16 renewal.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who paid to
18 renew the license? Somebody got to pay. Who
19 paid to renew the license? Mr. Jones said you
20 did. So who paid to renew the license?

21 MS. LATIMER: I did not pay.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: We can check.

1 MEMBER SHORT: Who did, Mr. Jones?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones said
3 Ms. Tillman did. Ms. Tillman said she didn't.

4 MR. JONES: Mr. Ajiboye paid for it on
5 behalf of Ms. Latimer, which is why he had the
6 receipt. We didn't have the receipt, because we
7 didn't pay for it. And because we were
8 transferring the business, we refused to pay for
9 it.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Ms.
11 Latimer, who is Mr. Aji?

12 MS. LATIMER: Ajiboye?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, who is
14 he?

15 MS. LATIMER: Um, worked for the
16 Tillman Group.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.

18 MS. LATIMER: He is the person that--

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. You
20 know, I'm going to -- you know, I think I'm going
21 to -- I'm not even sure if I'm going to go
22 through this hearing, okay, because one thing

1 I'll say, Ms. Tillman, you have a transfer
2 application in front of us.

3 MS. LATIMER: Me?

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so --

5 MS. LATIMER: Latimer?

6 MR. JONES: I'm sorry, Ms. Latimer.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Latimer,
8 I'm sorry. Ms. Latimer, you have a transfer
9 application in front of you -- in front of us
10 that we have to approve.

11 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We are here at
13 a Fact-Finding Hearing.

14 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you -- I
16 need you to be straight with me.

17 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because if you
19 are not straight with me, I will let you know
20 that that transfer application is going nowhere.

21 MS. LATIMER: I understand.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board --

1 because so you are sitting here in front of me.

2 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who paid for
4 it? I mean, you heard -- Mr. Tillman says that
5 Mr. Aji is not an employee of mine. He is
6 sitting there saying that.

7 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And then you
9 are saying that he is an employee. And so Mr.
10 Tillman, his folks are saying that we didn't pay
11 for the renewal. You are buying this place.

12 MS. LATIMER: No, no. I'm just
13 getting the license.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are --
15 well, that's the same difference, ma'am. You
16 want to get his license.

17 MS. LATIMER: Right.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And in order
19 for the license to be transferred, somebody paid.

20 MS. LATIMER: All right.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Why did Mr. Aji
22 -- how did Mr. Aji come down here and pay to

1 renew the license?

2 MS. LATIMER: How did he?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, under whose
5 instructions?

6 MS. LATIMER: It's my understanding
7 that in order for this transfer to go through,
8 that what they didn't pay needed to be paid.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how did you
10 know that?

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: So --

12 MS. LATIMER: Because I'm in
13 communications.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- Mr. Aji -- so
15 wait. Okay. So Mr. Aji came down. You said he
16 came down to renew the license.

17 MS. LATIMER: I understand that.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And he paid for it,
19 right?

20 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: From whom, whose
22 funds did he pay it for?

1 MS. LATIMER: Not from my funds.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Not from your funds.

3 MS. LATIMER: No.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

5 MS. LATIMER: I own an accounting
6 firm.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Pardon?

8 MS. LATIMER: Not from my funds.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I have a bunch
10 of questions about the --

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, but we
12 don't even need to go there.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Was it under your
14 authorization?

15 MS. LATIMER: I can't authorize him.
16 It's not my --

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, no, no, no, no.
18 Did you --

19 MS. LATIMER: No.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- ask him to come
21 down or instruct him to come down?

22 MS. LATIMER: I didn't. No, I did

1 not.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is a
3 pointless hearing. I don't -- there is really no
4 reason --

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: Can we pause? I need
6 some -- I would like to get some records from
7 licensing.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I mean --

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: So I'm going to do it
10 right now.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- we are going
12 to --

13 MEMBER SHORT: I have one question.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, yes.

15 MEMBER SHORT: I would like to ask Mr.
16 Jones and Mr. Tillman, you said that when you
17 stopped operating in July, you took all the
18 alcohol.

19 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Do you have any proof
21 of where you took it and where you stored it?
22 Any proof at all?

1 MR. JONES: I mean, I have the receipt
2 from the storage unit, which we were storing it
3 all, most of it in, yes. I mean, we transferred
4 it from the location along with --

5 MEMBER SHORT: Is the alcohol still
6 there now?

7 MR. JONES: It is not unfortunately.
8 We --

9 MEMBER SHORT: Oh. So what happened
10 to the alcohol that you had taken out of the
11 club?

12 MR. JONES: We gifted it over the
13 course of the last --

14 MEMBER SHORT: You gifted it to whom?

15 MR. JONES: Friends, family.

16 MEMBER SHORT: So --

17 MR. JONES: We had to get rid of
18 storage.

19 MEMBER SHORT: -- could it have wound
20 up back in the club?

21 MR. TILLMAN: No.

22 MR. JONES: There is no way possible.

1 MR. TILLMAN: No.

2 MR. JONES: Furthermore, just because
3 I would like to expedite part of the -- your
4 Fact-Finding Hearing, I have correspondence with
5 Aji and Ms. Latimer that shows us communicating
6 with them, them asking us for permission directly
7 -- not them, Ms. Latimer asking permission for
8 Mr. Tillman to authorize us to operate, us
9 denying them, telling them that we cannot and
10 will not.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is all of
12 this? Where is it?

13 MR. JONES: Right here.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you give
15 that to us, please?

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'll get it.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And we are
18 going to take a break, but I -- during the recess
19 -- I mean, the fact -- the purpose of a Fact-
20 Finding Hearing is to get information. And what
21 I'm saying and my concern more so is with you,
22 Ms. Latimer. You are asking us to approve you,

1 to give you a license.

2 MS. LATIMER: Right.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I can't
4 have you saying I don't know. You are asking us
5 to give you this license that Mr. Aji is
6 operating. And you can't tell us --

7 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- I don't know
9 who Mr. Aji is. I don't know why he is
10 representing me. I mean, Mr. Tillman --

11 MS. LATIMER: I never said I didn't
12 know who he was.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, but --

14 MS. LATIMER: I said he --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- this is what
16 I'm getting. Whether or not -- all right. This
17 is where I'll start. Mr. Tillman stated he is
18 not an employee. He is a promoter. He just said
19 that.

20 MS. LATIMER: Right.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We asked you
22 and you said that oh, he is an employee of Mr.

1 Tillman. And that's -- and then -- I mean, I
2 believe that -- I mean, say if you are making a
3 determination, I mean, I'm -- Mr. Tillman and Mr.
4 Jones as they are presented by their -- they are
5 giving it the way it is.

6 This matter started -- we would not
7 have known about it, about what was going on
8 here, but not for the fact that Mr. Tillman
9 contacted the Investigator to go figure it out,
10 because this place would have been operating and
11 we don't know.

12 Now, in this place, is there -- is
13 this place still open?

14 MR. JONES: Just to be clear, the text
15 messages are from me to Ms. Latimer and the
16 second -- the first two pages are from me to a
17 group chat speaking to Ms. Latimer and Aji. The
18 final page is me speaking directly with Ms.
19 Latimer. My information on the right, hers on
20 the left.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you do
22 for a living, Mr. Jones?

1 MR. JONES: I work for Mr. Tillman.
2 I'm a businessman.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't -- not
4 from that perspective, it's from the perspective
5 that you have paper. You have a paper trail,
6 that's -- it's on that perspective.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: He came prepared.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's on the
9 perspective -- I'm saying that I have basically
10 not gotten -- on a hearing where people got paper
11 trails and that's -- I'm giving you a compliment.

12 MR. JONES: The nightlife business
13 didn't work out for us.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry?

15 MR. JONES: I said the nightlife
16 business didn't work out for us.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you have a
18 paper trail to --

19 MR. JONES: Yeah, yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
21 take a short break recess. Now, she wants to say
22 something.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Can I ask her a
2 couple questions?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, she wants
4 to say something.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So I'm going to
7 let her say something and you can ask her a
8 question.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Great.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What did you
11 want to say, Ms. Latimer?

12 MS. LATIMER: I'm sorry.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I thought
14 you wanted to say something.

15 MS. LATIMER: Yeah. There was a lot
16 going on. I forgot.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go
18 ahead.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So, Ms.
20 Latimer?

21 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Actually, Ms.

1 Latimer, you have appeared before the Board
2 before, haven't you?

3 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, so you are an
5 accountant, I think, for a license held by D.
6 Smothers, am I correct?

7 MS. LATIMER: (No audible answer.)

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I thought I
9 recognized you, yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: So you became the
12 sole member of this LLC?

13 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Is that correct? Do
15 you agree with that?

16 MS. LATIMER: That's my understanding,
17 yes.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And when did you
19 become sole member of this LLC?

20 MS. LATIMER: In November.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: In November?

22 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum, November 30th is

1 when we signed the operating agreement.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. Do you
3 have any knowledge of someone getting the keys to
4 this?

5 MS. LATIMER: I don't have keys.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Wait, wait. Do you
7 have anyone not getting -- knowledge of anyone
8 getting keys to 1413 K Street, N.W.?

9 MS. LATIMER: Do I have knowledge of
10 someone getting keys for 1413 K Street?

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes.

12 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: When?

14 MS. LATIMER: Two years. What is
15 this, '17? 2015 the lessee, Mr. Ajiboye, for
16 that space is the one that is on the lease for
17 that property.

18 MEMBER SHORT: 2015?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: What's his last name.

20 MS. LATIMER: Laosebikan.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Laosebikan. He is
22 the lessee for that space?

1 MS. LATIMER: Correct.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Jones, can you
3 elaborate on that for me?

4 MR. JONES: Yes. So the way we came--

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: This is kind of
6 developing. I mean, I'm a little shocked that I
7 didn't know this earlier.

8 MR. JONES: So the way that we came
9 about learning about this space, it was formerly
10 going to be Odessa or something along those
11 lines.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, yes, I remember
13 that.

14 MR. JONES: That space kind of tanked
15 in the water. There was a bunch of issues with
16 liquor licenses and transfer. I think there was
17 an attempt for Aji to transfer it from Mike Romeo
18 to Ajiboye and his involvement as such was with
19 another organization.

20 They tanked. They were unable to get
21 the liquor license. They came to us, so we
22 assumed -- we started a completely different

1 business, got our own liquor license with Mr.--

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So what
3 was your -- let's cut to the chase. What was
4 your relationship to the lease?

5 MR. JONES: So we got our completely
6 new lease that Mr. Ajiboye is not on the current
7 lease.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Could you provide
9 that for us?

10 MR. JONES: Yes, I can.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Not right now. I
12 mean, you have it?

13 MR. JONES: Oh, yes, absolutely.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's fine. But you
15 will provide us --

16 MR. JONES: Absolutely.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- a copy of the
18 lease that you signed with the landlord for the
19 space?

20 MR. JONES: We have a --

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: When did you enter
22 into that lease?

1 MR. JONES: 2016. July of 2016, prior
2 to our approval from the Board.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, do you have
4 that on email?

5 MR. JONES: I do, yes.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: So --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, okay,
8 perfect.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- Ms. Latimer, were
10 you aware that Mr. Tillman -- in your discussions
11 with him, did you become aware that Mr. Tillman
12 gave up the space?

13 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Did you -- were you
15 aware that he exited the space?

16 MS. LATIMER: Yes.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: And he -- all right.
18 Do you have knowledge of anyone, other than Mr.
19 Tillman, getting keys to that space after your
20 discussions in November?

21 MS. LATIMER: The original lessee is
22 the one that has the keys. So, yes.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So he still
2 has keys? According to your knowledge, after
3 November, Mr. Laosebikan still had keys?

4 MS. LATIMER: Yes. It's a 10-year
5 lease.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. All
7 right. What is Mr. Laosebikan's relationship to
8 your proposed business?

9 MS. LATIMER: I would --

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: To you and your
11 proposed business? Not personal relationship,
12 but to your business interests.

13 MS. LATIMER: We were probably going
14 to use him as the manager for the space.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, no.

16 MS. LATIMER: Because he had --

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, no, no, no. I
18 don't want to know what you are probably going to
19 do.

20 MS. LATIMER: Right.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: I want to know from
22 November until today, what is his relationship to

1 your business interest?

2 MS. LATIMER: He doesn't have a
3 relationship with the Tillman Group.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: He has no
5 relationship to you?

6 MS. LATIMER: No.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you -- you have
8 not paid him in any -- you have not paid him for
9 anything?

10 MS. LATIMER: No.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Did you have
12 knowledge of the fact that he was going to be at
13 the establishment in January?

14 MS. LATIMER: I did not.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Well, I think
16 at some point, Mr. Chairman, we will discuss this
17 in the back, but I think we can have --

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we are --

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- Mr. Laosebikan
20 come in at some point.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, we -- I
22 think, Mr. Tillman, I see you have a nice smile

1 on your face. So you want to share with --

2 MR. TILLMAN: Yeah, yeah.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- us, please?

4 MR. TILLMAN: I'm just listening.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is this
6 business still -- is there still something going
7 on in this, Mr. Townsend? Do you know? Today is
8 January 31st, do you know if this place is still
9 open?

10 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: No, sir, I
11 have no --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, you don't
13 know.

14 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: I have not
15 seen any --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Activity?

17 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: -- activity
18 since that night, January 5th.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Does anyone
20 know whether or not there -- since -- what date
21 was this?

22 MEMBER SHORT: January 5th.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: January 5th, if
2 there is any activity, are folks selling or
3 serving alcohol at this establishment? If anyone
4 knows.

5 MR. TILLMAN: No, I don't know. I
6 didn't know until January the 5th when my
7 assistant sent me the flyer.

8 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Right, right.

9 MR. TILLMAN: And that's when I
10 contacted Mr. Townsend.

11 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Right.

12 MR. TILLMAN: So I didn't know
13 anything was going on.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm saying
15 since -- do you know if anything is going on
16 there since then?

17 MR. TILLMAN: Not -- she hasn't sent
18 me any more flyers letting me know anything is
19 going on.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. -- I'm
21 sorry, introduce your name for the record.

22 MS. COUSER: Lisa Couser.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Couser?

2 MS. COUSER: Couser.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Couser. Do you
4 know if there is any activity going on at -- do
5 you know whether or not this location is still
6 selling or serving alcohol currently?

7 MS. COUSER: I have not seen any other
8 postings on social media.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You haven't
10 seen. All right.

11 MR. JONES: I have. There is a flyer
12 for February 4th, so there is an event upcoming
13 February 4th. We have no involvement with.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Townsend?
15 No, he said he doesn't know.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: You don't know of any
17 further activity at this establishment?

18 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: No, sir.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you also
20 email that flyer to his email address?

21 MR. JONES: Absolutely.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to

1 end this hearing. I think this is a dog and pony
2 show. I'm sorry. This is what I will say. This
3 is a Fact-Finding Hearing and there are -- and
4 especially for you, Ms. Latimer, you are asking
5 us to give you a liquor license.

6 MS. LATIMER: Um-hum.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so you are
8 in the process of getting -- for the Board to
9 transfer to us. And --

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Can we ask her for
11 her lease for this establishment?

12 Ms. Latimer, do you have a lease for
13 this location?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I assume that--

15 MS. LATIMER: No. I refused -- I
16 can't -- no, I don't have a lease. I was waiting
17 on this to go through first before I get a lease.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So why didn't
19 you -- so when you submitted a transfer, the
20 lease was not a -- a lease is not something that
21 was required as part of the transfer application?

22 MS. LATIMER: No. I think that we--

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: For use of the
2 license it is.

3 MS. LATIMER: -- put in here that it
4 was going to continue as it did under the
5 previous license.

6 MR. JONES: That was the purpose for
7 the assumption of Tillman Group to make the
8 transfer process the least possible tedious, so
9 that it would be an easier process.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: You were going to
11 transfer your interest in the lease to Ms.
12 Latimer?

13 MR. JONES: No, no, not the lease, but
14 the liquor license.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: I know that, but we
16 are talking about --

17 MR. JONES: Okay.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- the lease now.

19 MEMBER SHORT: The lease.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: According to you, you
21 have no interest in the lease right now.

22 MR. JONES: None.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So the
2 landlord can lease it to whomever they want.

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: And Ms. Latimer tells
5 me that -- Mr. Tillman, you want to say
6 something?

7 MR. TILLMAN: Yes. We went to Court.
8 The landlord took us to Court and kicked us out
9 of the place.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

11 MR. TILLMAN: So that's why we wind up
12 auctioning off everything in there, turning in
13 the keys and getting out of there.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Can you provide us
15 the evidence of the auction? All of that would
16 be great.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Well, even the Court
18 documents, too. The Court documents also.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes.

20 MR. TILLMAN: Absolutely.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: And so, Ms. Latimer,
22 you have not entered into a lease with the

1 landlord?

2 MS. LATIMER: No. Not until I get the
3 license. If I don't get a license, there is no
4 need for a lease.

5 MEMBER SHORT: I have to ask this
6 question. Ms. Latimer, how much money have you
7 laid out? How much cash have you laid out in the
8 purchase of this license?

9 MS. LATIMER: For this -- there was no
10 cash value for the license.

11 MEMBER SHORT: So someone just gave
12 this to you?

13 MS. LATIMER: They are trying to.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Someone just gave it
15 to you?

16 MS. LATIMER: I guess so, yes.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you very
18 much. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: So, Mr. Jones, you
21 will provide whatever --

22 MR. JONES: The email address,

1 whatever documents can be emailed.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- and a copy of the
3 lease?

4 MR. JONES: Absolutely.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: That is very helpful
6 to us.

7 MR. JONES: Yes.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

9 MEMBER SHORT: And the Court
10 documents.

11 MR. JONES: Yes.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. I'll tell
13 you it's in your best interest.

14 MR. JONES: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. The
16 Board will take this matter under advisement.
17 Thank you very much for being here today. And I
18 wish you well, Mr. Tillman.

19 MR. TILLMAN: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, and while
21 we are on the record, and I'll just say this, Mr.
22 Jones, I've been here on the Board for two years

1 and this is actually the first time that I have
2 had --

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Can we ask him one
4 more question?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: This is who made
7 payment on the license.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This is the
9 first time that --

10 MEMBER SHORT: If you can answer the
11 question.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Whoa.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Ask Ms. Latimer who
14 she gets --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- all right,
16 that you brought documents. But I'm adjourning
17 the hearing.

18 Does anybody know who is the Brower
19 Group at 1505 22nd Street, N.W.?

20 MR. JONES: That's Ms. Latimer's
21 office address. I don't know who Brower Group is
22 though.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Ms. Latimer, do you
2 know who the Brower Group is?

3 MS. LATIMER: I do not.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. --

5 MS. LATIMER: I do have a number of my
6 clients that use our address as their registered
7 agent.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Use your address?
9 What is your address?

10 MS. LATIMER: It's 1505 22nd Street.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Northwest?

12 MS. LATIMER: Northwest 20037.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And whose phone
15 number is (202) 289-1000?

16 MS. LATIMER: (202) 289?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 1000.

18 MS. LATIMER: My office number is
19 (202) 525-2352.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

21 MEMBER ISAAC: Ms. Latimer, what's the
22 name of your firm again? I missed the name of

1 your firm.

2 MS. LATIMER: CWP Consulting.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. JONES: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You are
7 dismissed. Thank you very much. All right.

8 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing
9 was concluded at 3:24 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: Tillman Group, LLC
t/a Vieux Carre/For Rent

Before: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Date: 01-31-18

Place: Washington, DC

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



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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