DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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MEETING
p--------------------------->
IN THE MATTER OF:
Vertigo, Inc. t/a
Sultra Lounge Viet-Thai : Show
2406 18th Street, NW : Cause
Retailer CR - ANC-1C : Hearing
License No. 82430
Case \#12-CMP-00105
(Substantial Change without :
Board Approval, Failed to
Follow the Terms of License) :
p--------------------------1/4
January 30, 2013
The Alcoholic Beverage Control
Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson

Ruthanne Miller, presiding.
PRESENT:
RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson NICK ALBERTI, Member
HERMAN JONES, Member
DONALD BROOKS, Member
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member
ALSO PRESENT:
FERNANDO RIVERO, OAG
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
(10:50 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The next case on our calendar is Case No. 12-CMP-00105 VietThai, 2406 18th Street, N.W., License No. 82430 in ANC-1C.

MR. RIVERO: Good morning, Board Members, Fernando Rivero for the District of Columbia standing in for Senior Assistant Attorney General Maureen Zaniel.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good morning.
MR. WELLS: Good morning, Board. Christopher Wells on behalf of Vertigo, Inc. t/a Viet-Thai and Sultra Lounge.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you are here for a Show Cause Hearing. Mr. Rivero, are there any preliminary matters in this case?

MR. RIVERO: The Government will be dismissing Charge 2 in this matter and moving forward with Charge 1.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Will there be
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433

|  | Page 3 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | any witnesses in this case? |
| 2 | MR. RIVERO: Yes. We will have a |
| 3 | witness to forward for Charge 1. |
| 4 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And |
| 5 | will you have any witnesses? |
| 6 | MR. WELLS: I don't have any |
| 7 | witnesses, but can later -- |
| 8 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You may |
| 9 | testify? |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: Yes, 1 will testify. |
| 11 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All |
| 12 | right. |
| 13 | MR. WELLS: And if I may present |
| 14 | opposing counsel with my exhibits? |
| 15 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Rivero or |
| 16 | Mr. Wells, are you familiar with the procedure |
| 17 | for a Show Cause Hearing or not really? I can |
| 18 | just tell you in general, if you would like to |
| 19 | know how it is going to go. |
| 20 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 21 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So the |
| 22 | Government has the burden of proof. The |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

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Government goes first with an opening statement, if he chooses to, which just says what he is going to prove. It is not evidence. It's just argument.

And then you can also after him do an opening statement or you can reserve your opening statement to when it's time to do your case, so you will have that choice.

So then Mr. Rivero will call his witnesses and ask questions and you can crossexamine his witnesses and we can cross-examine his witnesses.

And then he can put in any evidence and documents that he wants, subject to your objection.

And then you do your case, witnesses, same thing or maybe yourself. You can testify and then he can ask you questions on your testimony an we can.

And then there will be a closing and that's it, basically.

MR. WELLS: Can I provide the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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Board with my exhibits, too? I don't know if you have a copy of opposing counsel's.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have a copy for them?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you can give that to our -- okay. We are not going to enter -- the process for entering them into evidence is you can move at some point to identify them and offer them into evidence and then the other side can object. But you can give that to our assistant right now, so she has it.

MR. WELLS: Along with Board copies? Okay. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We have some exhibits.

MR. WELLS: We -- actually --
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you want
to wait?
MR. RIVERO: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. We
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
will wait then until he puts on his case.
MR. RIVERO: We don't share our exhibits until we actually put them into evidence.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. RIVERO: So we would not like the Board to see anything that actually isn't entered into evidence at the moment. So once his exhibits are in evidence, then we don't object to having the Board Members review them.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay. To me it didn't matter whether DeeDee got them now or later, but -- and I'll need to see them in order to rule on them. But we can wait until then, because we won't be looking at them until that point.

MR. RIVERO: Right.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.
So why don't we then -- if there aren't any other questions, we can proceed then with Government's opening statement.

MR. RIVERO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. RIVERO: I'll be brief here. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

MR. RIVERO: The Government today will move forward on Charge 1 of the case, which is that the licensee made a substantial change in operation without the Board approval and that change being providing entertainment after the limit of the hours stated in its license at the time, which was the weekend of January 28 and 29.

And the Government will call
Investigator Lawson to testify to those facts.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
Mr. Wells, do you wish to make an opening statement, at this time?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Vertigo, Inc. is
alleged to have violated or substantially change this operation without proper approval.

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We contest that this is totally inaccurate. We have a series of events that I will outline that led up to this incident.

And I believe that the District's proof is inadequate. I also have some other exhibits that $I$ will bring into -- that I would like to present to the Board that show gross misconduct and downright inappropriate behavior on the part of ABRA Investigators Stewart and Maisel. And that's it.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank you. All right. Mr. Rivero, your first witness?

MR. RIVERO: Thank you. The Government will call Investigator Lawson to testify.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Good morning, Mr. Lawson.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Good morning, Madam Chairperson. Whereupon,

INVESTIGATOR TYRONE LAWSON
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
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was called as a witness by Counsel for the Government, and having been first duly sworn, assumed the witness stand and was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

MR. RIVERO: Good morning. Please, state your first and last name clearly for the record, please.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Tyrone Lawson.

MR. RIVERO: Thank you. Mr. Lawson, what is your occupation?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I'm an investigator.

MR. RIVERO: For whom are you an investigator?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: For the
Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.
MR. RIVERO: And for how long have you been an investigator for ABRA?

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## INVESTIGATOR LAWSON:

Approximately, three and a half years.
MR. RIVERO: Okay. And what are your duties in your capacity as an ABRA Investigator?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I conduct inspections and investigations for the -- for alcohol -- I'm sorry, alcohol licensed establishments in the District of Columbia.

MR. RIVERO: Thank you. Are you familiar with the establishment known at one time as Instant Noodles/Sultra Lounge?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: Okay. And how are you familiar with this establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, it's an ABC-licensed establishment. I have periodically monitored and conducted regulatory inspections at the establishment. And I'm familiar with the operations in that establishment and many establishments on 18th Street.

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: In Adams Morgan.

MR. RIVERO: I want to turn your attention to January of 2012. Did you have occasion to visit this establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: And when was that?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I visited -actually, I had received a complaint that was assigned to me regarding after hours loud music being played at the establishment.

I received the complaint on the 16th of December of 2011. I went to the -I'm sorry, I received the complaint on January 26th. The complaint was dated December 16, 2011. And I received it on January 26, 2012.

I went to the establishment.
MR. RIVERO: On what date?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: On January 26, 2012 --

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- to conduct a regulatory inspection and speak to the owner and staff regarding the complaint.

MR. RIVERO: And with whom did you speak when you got there?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I spoke with Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland.

MR. RIVERO: And who was --
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Who was the ABC manager.

MR. RIVERO: -- Mr. Wells?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Mr. Wells is the owner of the establishment.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And Mr. Madland is?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: The -- he is the ABC manager/general manager.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And what was your discussion?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, I spoke to Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland regarding the complaint that there was loud music being
played on December 16th and Mr. Wells was good enough to retrieve his calendar for the establishment's events and he said that there was no particular establishment -- particular event that was held on that particular day. MR. RIVERO: Yes. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And that he recalled that the establishment closed early. I conducted a regulatory inspection. I had a copy of the voluntary agreement with me. And I reviewed license that was -- the establishment had, at the time, with the hours of operation, sales and entertainment and I went over the documents thoroughly with Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland. MR. RIVERO: Okay.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And I
specifically pointed out the fact that his entertainment hours ended 45 minutes before his hours of operations hours for sales ended.

MR. RIVERO: Let me show you a document, which is marked Government Exhibit

1 for identification. A copy of which has been provided to the respondent.
(Whereupon, the document was marked as Government Exhibit 1 for identification.)

MR. RIVERO: What does that look like to you?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: This looks like the license, the hours that were assigned to Instant Noodles/Sultra Lounge on January 26, 2012. It says Savor/Sultra Lounge, but I know there's been a name change since this license was --

MR. RIVERO: Okay. That was on top, correct?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: This is an accurate copy of the document discussed at that time? INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, other than the name change.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. The --
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Trade name Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
change.
MR. RIVERO: -- Government will move Exhibit 1 into evidence, at this time, which is a copy of the establishment's license that existed at the time which the witness has testified to having discussed with Mr. Wells.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Wells, any objection?

MR. WELLS: To Mr. Lawson or --
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, no, no. Sorry, to this document.

MR. WELLS: No.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. That's all right now. Thank you. Okay. This document is admitted as Government's Exhibit No. 1.
(Whereupon, the document marked as Government Exhibit 1 was received in evidence.)

MR. RIVERO: I want to turn your attention then to the part of the license that says entertainment. Do you see the range of Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
hours there?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: Okay. Why don't you tell me where it says here Friday and Saturday what time.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Friday and Saturday it says 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. -MR. RIVERO: Okay.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- Friday and 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Saturday.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Thank you. So you had this conversation with Mr. Wells -INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. MR. RIVERO: -- and Mr. Madland and you reviewed the VA, okay, and the license. What happened then?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, that was pretty much it then. The conversation centered around the hours and making sure that they understood that it would be a violation if they had entertainment beyond their approved Board hours.

MR. RIVERO: And did you have occasion to return to the establishment? INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.

MR. RIVERO: When was that?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: On Saturday, January 28th, at approximately 2:50 a.m. I went to the establishment to monitor compliance with the Board-approved hours of entertainment.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Did you go by yourself?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, I was with Investigator Roxanna Maisel.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And what happened when you got there?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: We were right on 18th Street. I stopped because at the time, 18th Street was under severe construction and there was no parking at all on 18th Street. So in the interest of time to have Investigator Maisel capture any evidence of entertainment, I stopped and asked her to
go into the establishment while I parked the car.

And she got out. I saw her walk to the door and show her identification to the doorman and then I pulled down to the -- about 25 yards to the corner of Belmont and 18th Street and I parked right on the corner and then I walked to the establishment.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And when you got to the establishment, what happened?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: When I got to the establishment, Mr. Wells met me in their foyer and he was screaming and hollering. He was pretty upset. And he was insisting that Investigator Maisel was drunk or had been drinking.

And he repeatedly stated this. I was kind of surprised, because I had contact with Mr. Wells on previous occasions and, you know, he was always pretty calm and collected when -- on any other occasions that $I$ had, but this time he was screaming and hollering.

And I tried to talk to him, but he was --

MR. RIVERO: What was your response to his statements that Investigator Maisel was drunk?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I told him that Investigator Maisel had not been drinking because she was driving with me that entire evening that $I$ was training her at the time.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And then what happened?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: He kept going on and on about the -- Investigator Maisel was intoxicated. And I told him that she wasn't intoxicated because she had been with me. And I asked Mr. Wells had he been drinking, because I smelled alcohol in his breath.

MR. RIVERO: What was his response?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: He didn't respond to that.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Then what else happened?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I informed him of the violation. Investigator Maisel advised him that they were -- she observed a disc jockey manipulating the music and that they were in violation of their Board-approved hours of entertainment. And I informed Mr. Wells of the violation and I exited the establishment, so that there wouldn't be any further conflict or arguing regarding Investigator Maisel and Mr. Wells', I guess, dispute.

MR. RIVERO: What music, if any, did you hear when you were in the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: You mean what genre?

MR. RIVERO: Did you hear
anything?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, I heard music, but $I$ don't recall what was playing.

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MR. RIVERO: But it was music?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, it was music.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Was that your last visit?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No. I went back the next day on January 29th, Sunday, January 29th.

MR. RIVERO: At what time?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: It was 2:15 a.m.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And I actually did the same procedures, because, again, I wanted to Investigator Maisel to capture any evidence of disc jockey manipulating music and patrons dancing. She got out. She went to the establishment and again, I saw her show her identification to the doorman and I parked my car 25 yards away in the same place, 18th and Belmont.

I walked up to the establishment.
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

When I got to the establishment, Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland was again extremely upset. Mr. Wells was saying that he was angry because he didn't want her, Investigator Maisel, back into the establishment. He was wondering why she came back when she was -- he was insisting that she was drunk the previous day and that he wanted her to leave the establishment.

And he also stated that
Investigator Maisel allegedly assaulted his doorman. His doorman had reported that she had pushed him or something of that nature. Investigator Maisel then came to the foyer area while I was talking to Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland and stated that she did not push the doorman.

She said she opened the door and the doorman was, $I$ guess, kind of in the way when she opened the door, as she opened the door wide and then she walked right in and that may have been when she incidently -incidental to opening the door may have made
contact with the doorman.
Investigator Maisel said that -oh, Mr. Madland stated that the previous day, Saturday, September -- I'm sorry, January 28, 2012 when we visited, that Investigator Maisel allegedly pointed her middle finger at Mr. Wells. And I asked Mr. Madland why didn't he bring that up on that date that we were there, that morning, that Saturday morning and why was he just now reporting this?

And he didn't comment about that. Investigator Maisel stated that she saw a disc jockey manipulating music and people dancing upstairs and she said that one of the disc jockeys was dancing to the music when she went up there. So Mr. Wells was informed that there was another violation of operating beyond his approved hours of entertainment.

MR. RIVERO: What conversation, if any, did you have concerning changes to hours of entertainment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I don't Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
understand.
MR. RIVERO: Did you discuss any changes to hours of entertainment with the licensee?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, when I initially conducted the regulatory inspection on the 26th of January, we -- I discussed that Mr. Wells -- I told -- I informed Mr. Wells that he should submit a request for a substantial change and hours of his entertainment if he wanted to provide entertainment longer than what his Boardapproved hours were on his license.

He told me that he had a working relationship, he had a good relationship with the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and that he was working to negotiate terms of -changes in his voluntary agreement to reflect that he could obtain Board-approved hours or longer Board-approved hours than what was on his license at the time.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Turning your
attention to the 29th.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: What else happened after what you just testified to?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, after Mr. Wells continued insisting that Investigator Maisel leave, that he didn't want her in his establishment, I went and -- when we left the establishment, we reported the incident to my superior, Supervisor Investigator Craig Stewart.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And then he went -- the three of us went back to the establishment.

MR. RIVERO: The three of us went back to the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: The three -Investigator Maisel, myself and Investigator Stewart, Supervisor Investigator Stewart went back to --

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I'm sorry, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
who was the third?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Supervisor Investigator Stewart, Investigator Maisel and myself went back to the establishment.

MR. RIVERO: The same night?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, or the same morning.

MR. RIVERO: Same morning.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Sunday morning.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: Then what happened?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I don't know a lot, because I was -- the same thing, I was parking the car. When I got in, Supervisor Investigator Stewart was having a conversation with Mr. Wells.

MR. RIVERO: What did you hear?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Just that
Mr. Wells -- initially when I came in, Mr. Wells was talking to Supervisor Investigator

Stewart. Supervisor Investigator Stewart was responding to him saying that he could not keep Investigator Maisel out of his establishment because she was on official business conducting ABRA business. And that he could not restrict or interfere with her investigation.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And things of that.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. And then did you all leave or did you stay further?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, we -after Supervisor Investigator Stewart talked to Mr. Wells, we left. I mean, I didn't speak to Mr. Wells or Mr. Madland or anybody else about this.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Let me show you a document, Mr. Lawson, that is marked Government's Exhibit No. 2 for identification.
(Whereupon, the document was
marked as Government Exhibit 2 for Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
identification.)
MR. RIVERO: A copy of which is already -- has already been provided to the respondent. And I want to know what -- can you tell me what that looks like?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: This looks like a copy of the report that I prepared for the incident with Instant Noodles/Sultra Lounge that occurred on January 26th, 27th -I'm sorry, 26th, 28th and 29th.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Take a moment to just go through and make sure that it is an accurate copy, that it has all pages.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, it does.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. A copy of the investigation report is in the Agency's file and is part of the ABRA records and so the Government would like to move this into evidence, at this time.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Do you have a copy, Mr. Wells?

MR. WELLS: Yes, I do.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And any objection?

MR. WELLS: No objections.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Then Mr. Lawson's report is Government Exhibit No. 2 and it is admitted.
(Whereupon, the document marked as Government Exhibit 2 was received in evidence.)

MR. RIVERO: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr. Wells, do you have any cross-examination for Mr. Lawson?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
MR. WELLS: Mr. Lawson, on the night of January 26 th when you came into my establishment, you made a couple of statements that I would like to clarify.

First of all, just for the record, there was a complaint?

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INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. WELLS: On December 15th that I was playing -- sorry, 16th that I was playing after hours? That complaint went no further than that conversation. There was no substantiating evidence to show a reason to go forward with that. Just for the record.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You know, it's -- are you asking Mr. Lawson a question?

MR. WELLS: No, no, sorry. I'm just saying for --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. This--
MR. WELLS: I just want to clarify, because --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: -- it was mentioned as --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I just want to tell you just because you are probably not that familiar with the rules and procedures.

MR. WELLS: Not at all.
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So, at this point, it is questions for Mr. Lawson based on his testimony. And you save your arguments or statements for your testimony and your closing.

MR. WELLS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Okay. Okay. As -just a couple of things. Mr. Lawson did point out that I was totally cooperative. And I wanted to mention that when we went through that -- sorry, not mentioned.

My question is when we went through --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Sorry. When we went through the license, Mr. Lawson, it was -- you pointed out that we were in -- we are currently operating earlier, opening earlier for brunch or lunch, which is a violation of the ABRA license.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

MR. WELLS: $I$ in turn, is this not true, said to you, yes, but our voluntary agreement said that without prejudice to open for brunch or lunch, there is no -- without -we can open for brunch or lunch without prejudice.

And you then advised to speak to the Alcohol Board about extending these hours. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.

MR. WELLS: Did you not?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. WELLS: In addition to that, it was I that -- was it not I that pointed out to you the entertainment hours? I said to you as a matter of fact, also our entertainment hours are until 2:00 and our alcohol beverage sales license says 2:45. And I would like to get that amended. I pointed that out to you.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I'm sorry? CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is that a question?

MR. WELLS: Yes. The question is
did I not -- wasn't -- because you stated in your question in your responses, that you pointed out to me that the entertainment license was until 2:00 p.m. I actually was the one who pointed out to you that it was until 2:00 p.m. and that was because you were more concerned with the -- with the fact that we were opening for brunch and lunch.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. A question, please.

MR. WELLS: So the question is -MR. RIVERO: Objection.

MR. WELLS: The question is was I -- wasn't it I that pointed out to you that the entertainment license actually went until 2:00 and not 2:45? I brought it to your attention. And I think it's important --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. That's the question. Did you get -- Mr. Lawson, did you hear the question?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, I heard -- well --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did he bring it to your attention? He is saying isn't he the one that brought it to your attention?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: You know, I -- he may have. He may have pointed it out. The conversation was more or less that we recognized that there was -- his voluntary agreement said one thing and his license said something else. And I suggested to him that he speak with ABRA licensing because it's possible there was an error on his license with regards to the brunch activity and that he should get that straight.

I don't recall that -- I really don't recall the matter where we were discussing about entertainment being on this voluntary agreement, because, as far as I know, I checked the voluntary agreement and the license at the time and it was to -initially to investigate the complaint on December 16th, the complaint of December 16th that I received.

MR. WELLS: Okay. The next question. On the Saturday night.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. WELLS: Sorry, the Friday night, the 28th, you stated that you came into my establishment with Investigator Maisel.

You never entered my establishment on Saturday night. I actually --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Wait. You can't testify.

MR. RIVERO: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I know. I understand you are not a lawyer. Do you understand that, you have to really try to keep this in your head, this is an opportunity to ask Mr. Lawson questions. You will have an opportunity to make your statements like you kind of -- that you are anxious to make. But you have to wait until that time in the proceeding.

MR. WELLS: Sorry.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

MR. WELLS: Sorry. Mr. Lawson, did you ever enter my establishment on Friday night?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. Friday night, no. Saturday morning, yes.

MR. WELLS: Saturday morning, yes. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.

MR. WELLS: And you -- I would
like for the record that we never spoke about the nature of --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: A question? MR. WELLS: -- a violation on Friday night. We never -- did we speak about a violation on Friday night?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: For?
MR. WELLS: On the -- on Friday night, the first night you visited my establishment.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Okay. The first night --

MR. WELLS: I met you at the front door outside. You -- did you make any Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
reference to a specific violation on that night or Ms. Maisel?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Okay. If you are referring to the visit we made on Saturday morning, it wasn't Friday night.

MR. WELLS: Sorry.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Saturday morning.

MR. WELLS: Saturday morning, sorry, yes.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. WELLS: Saturday morning.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: So is that what you are question is?

MR. WELLS: Yes, yes.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: So can you rephrase?

MR. WELLS: Did you make any reference to a specific violation --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. WELLS: -- on Friday night?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I informed
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you that you were -- that it was a violation of your Board-approved hours, because you offered entertainment after 2:00 a.m.

MR. WELLS: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That's why we were there. And I reminded you -- actually I had a conversation with you and I reminded you about the conversation that we had on the 26th when we went over all of that. And, yes, yes.

MR. WELLS: Okay. Where is Mrs. Maisel or how come she isn't at this hearing?

MR. RIVERO: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Sustained.
MR. WELLS: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Board questions? Mr. Lawson, $I$ have a question about there was originally a noise complaint on December 16th? Is that correct?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, yes, ma'am. As I recall, there was an email that was sent from the ABC -- it's the Advisory

Neighborhood Commissioner's ABC Committee Chairperson Olivier Kamanda sent to the Director regarding a complaint from, I think it was, a Mr. Nixon that he heard music being played at the establishment after 3:00 in the morning.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But you didn't go investigate until January what, 26th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, I
received it -- I didn't receive it until January 26th, I think. There was a delay in-right.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. That's my only question. Others? Mr. Alberti?

MEMBER ALBERTI: Investigator
Lawson, good morning. Okay. I may have things a little confused. On Saturday, January 28th, when you were there did you go over the license with Mr. Wells?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I didn't go over the license.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Fine. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Saturday. MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you went over the license on January 26th? INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: 26th, yes. MEMBER ALBERTI: That's correct. Okay. That is -- is that when you had this conversation about his entertainment hours? INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And the conversation about his brunch hours. MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Based on your conversation with him on January 26th, was it your impression that he was aware of his entertainment hours?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, he was aware. I made sure that they were quite clear.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. When you arrived on the 28th, Investigator Maisel was already in the establishment? When you got to

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the door of the establishment, Investigator Maisel was already in the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Did you make contact with her in the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: After a few moments she came downstairs, yes.

MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. And spoke to you?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. I was actually inside the -- when you enter the establishment, there is a foyer.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Right.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And then you can go to the left or right. The right side is where they have tables set up for more restaurant operations. The left side -- there is a bar on that side also, but on the left side, if you go to the left, there is more open space most of the time. And there is a bar on that side where most of the people -most of the patrons are.

And I was in the foyer initially. And then so that we could be a little more private and not around people, we went to the right of the building where the restaurant or the tables and chairs are set up.

MEMBER ALBERTI: This restaurant has two floors?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: What was -- do you know what was occurring on the ground floor when you were there, at that time?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Just patrons there that were in the bar area.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So was there music there in that area?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, well, the speakers is upstairs and downstairs.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So did Investigator Maisel have a camera with her?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Did she
tell you anything about her investigation
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while she was there? Not her interactions with the owner necessarily. The fact of what she might have seen.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: She told me that there was a DJ upstairs and he was manipulating music and that she got pictures.

MEMBER ALBERTI: And that she got pictures?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: When did you see those pictures?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: When she printed them out, probably that night.

MEMBER ALBERTI: She would have printed them out that night and you saw them? Is that what you said?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, sir.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I was actually going to be preparing the case, so she would have printed them out for me.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Did she describe Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
the setup of the DJ for you?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, because the pictures -- she had the pictures that showed the DJ equipment.

MEMBER ALBERTI: And in your report there is Exhibit 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, would those have been the pictures that you saw that evening after they were printed out?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, these are the photographs that she provided with the DJ manipulating the music in Instant Noodles/ Sultra Lounge.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Based on your experience as an investigator, how would you describe the activities that you see in these photos?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That there is a male standing in front of the equipment with headphones on and the equipment is commonly used by disc jockeys to manipulate and play music.

MEMBER ALBERTI: I have no further
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questions.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Brooks?
MEMBER BROOKS: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Lawson.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Mr. Brooks.
MEMBER BROOKS: How long were you and Investigator Maisel together that night and morning?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That night?
MEMBER BROOKS: Approximately. Including the time --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: For --
MEMBER BROOKS: -- that you indicated that Investigator Stewart, Supervisor Investigator Stewart also joined you guys later.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I would have to say at least seven and a half hours.

MEMBER BROOKS: Seven and a half hours?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

me.
On the 28th or early in the morning on the 28th, which was that Saturday, you -if I remember correctly, you indicated that you let Investigator Maisel out and then you parked down the street.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Some distance away.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That's correct.

MEMBER BROOKS: Do you have any idea roughly the amount of time that it took from the time that she got out and entered into the establishment, because if I remember correctly you said you could see her enter the establishment.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: From the time that you saw her enter the establishment to the time that you reengaged her, can you put a rough time period on that?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, sir. I Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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would so no -- absolutely no more than four minutes, roughly, three minutes, because it was actually -- I mean, as soon as I pulled the corner from Instant Noodles/Viet-Thai it's about 25 yards. And as soon as I pulled right there, I saw that there was enough space for me to pull on the corner and I pulled right there and I walked up to the establishment. MEMBER JONES: Okay. All right. So just to give a good round number, no more than five minutes?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I would say less than that. I would say three minutes. MEMBER JONES: Three minutes -INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. MEMBER JONES: -- where you were not in her presence?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. When you reengaged her and you personally entered into the establishment --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

MEMBER JONES: -- did you hear music on that Saturday morning?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: You did?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. Did you have any reason to believe and/or question what Investigator Maisel was communicating to you about the entertainment that was going on, as she witnessed, in the establishment? Outside of the pictures, just was she verbally communicating to you, at the time that you entered the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, because at the time, even at -- the night that we were there, Mr. Wells nor Mr. Madland contested that there was a DJ there. They -- there was never even discussion that -- you know, they never denied it.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So did you go out --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: So she made Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
her comments while we were in front of all, you know, of us there that there was a DJ. She took pictures of the DJ.

MEMBER JONES: And her comments specifically, to the best of your recollection, was what that she made an impression --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, she said that there is a DJ upstairs. He is playing music and people are dancing.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Something to that effect.

MEMBER JONES: All right. And you are indicating that she made that comment in the presence of Mr. Wells?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: And that Mr. Wells did not, at any point, deny the fact that there was a DJ upstairs playing music and there were people dancing?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. Well, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Mr. Wells initially was busy screaming and hollering about her being drunk.

MEMBER JONES: Understood.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: But outside of that accusation, did he at any point deny --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. Did you personally go upstairs and witness what Investigator Maisel had communicated to you?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you personally did not see a DJ booth or a DJ or people dancing?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, sir.
MEMBER JONES: Were you able to get a -- can you describe just, 1 think you have already, so I apologize, but, a quick synopsis of the layout. There is a first floor and a second floor.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. If you go in to -- there is a door that -- and there Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
is a foyer area.
MEMBER JONES: Yes.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And you can go to the left or to the right where there are large rooms. The one area to the right is really maintained for restaurant operations, because there is always tables and chairs set up in there. And I have never seen them remove them since $I$ have been monitoring the establishment.

MEMBER JONES: Understood.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: To the left there is a bar area and there is a DJ booth that you can see from the lower level, first floor level where the bar is where most of the patrons congregate. And then there is the second floor.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. And upstairs on the second floor is what?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: It's a room that's for the dancing and stuff.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. And on that Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
night, did you see a large number of patrons? Do you recall there being a large number of patrons?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I didn't even enter on that side of the establishment, because Mr. Wells was -- he met me at the foyer and he was just going on about -- and in the interest of both maintaining calm, I went to the restaurant side of the building where the table and chairs are with Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland. And then Investigator Maisel came down shortly after that when we were over there.

And in the interest of, you know, getting out of there, $I$ didn't tour the establishment. I just -- well, she said that she saw a DJ up there and that she had pictures, then that was enough for me.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So in the interest of, I'll just say, professional decorum and perhaps personal safety, you did not go upstairs to take that time to witness
it because there was a concern in your mind about the nature of which the owner, Mr. Wells, was addressing you and your --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That's correct, yes, sir.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Fair enough. Did you get the impression, excuse me, scratch that.

At what point prior to -- at any point prior to the 28th, had you had a detail or had any conversation of any sort with Mr. Wells regarding his entertainment hours?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Prior to the 28th?

MEMBER JONES: At any point -INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. MEMBER JONES: -- prior to the 28th.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, on the 26th.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So based on your conversations you had with him on the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

26th, did you feel the need to reiterate that on the 28th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, because it was -- I was very adamant and quite clear of going over his license and the voluntary agreement and making sure that they understood that any entertainment after the prescribed hours of their license, at that time, the Board-approved hours would have been a violation of their Board-approved hours.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you were very clear?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Very clear about it.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Fair enough. Last question. On the 29th, do you recall going to the establishment?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. The 29th is the very next day after the 28th. Is that your understanding as well?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
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MEMBER JONES: Okay. When you arrived at the establishment, did you, now I remind you, I understand the same scenario occurred, you dropped off Investigator Maisel. INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. MEMBER JONES: She went in and just to make sure we are on the same page, would you estimate that that was roughly the same amount of delay between the time that you left her --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- and saw her go in the establishment and the time that you engaged?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. It was probably even shorter, because I went to the quick-step that day. My step was a little quicker.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. And keeping in mind your earlier testimony about the safety concerns that were raised in terms of the actions of Mr. Wells the night prior,
which was the 28th, were -- was there a particular reason why you went to the establishment on the 29th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, because, again, $I$ wanted to monitor if they were complying with their Board ordered hours of entertainment.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So the intent was to follow-up on --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- the activities of what you witnessed on the 28th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes, sir.
MEMBER JONES: And to -- did you have reason to believe that perhaps Mr. Wells was not in agreement with your guidance that you provided on the 28th? Was that potentially a reason why you went there again on the 29th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No.
MEMBER JONES: No. So would you normally -- is that a normal practice? A

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normal practice of doing an immediate followup the next day or within a few days of witnessing or identifying or pointing out to the licensee that there was a violation of some sort?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Is it normal practice for?

MEMBER JONES: So let me back up. You went on the 28th. You observed what you define or what you articulated to the licensee to be a violation?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Is that a fair statement?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Would it be normal practice in your history as an investigator to go to that same establishment around the same time?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: And if so, what would be one of the reasons why you would do Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
that?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, for one, the reason around the same time is because that was -- it was around the time that the entertainment hours was approved to end. So the window that the entertainment hours ended, he still could operate and sell until, I think he could sell if I recall correctly, 15 minutes past the entertainment hours. And he could operate 30 minutes past the entertainment hours.

So the establishment could remain open and sell, but the entertainment was supposed to end at 2:00. So that's why it was around roughly the same amount of hours. It's a practice of mine if they are violating, to continue to monitor an establishment to determine if they are continuing to violate and to document the -- each violation prior to and add it to the initial case.

MEMBER JONES: Understood. And based on his actions, his being Mr. Wells'
actions, on the 28th, did you have reason to believe or doubt that he would comply with the entertainment restrictions as noted on his license?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I wouldn't say based on anything particularly with Mr. Wells, but based on my experience --

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- with ABC-
licensed establishments that, you know --
MEMBER JONES: Understood.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- they want to continue. If they are doing it, then it's not going to stop.

MEMBER JONES: All right.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Unless they come before the Board.

MEMBER JONES: Understood. And Mr. Wells how did he -- how would you characterize his actions on the 29th as they related to you and Investigator Maisel?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Well, on the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. -- well, one of the reasons why I -understand, this was when 18th Street was really -- I mean, there was the whole street, both sides with severe construction going on.

MEMBER JONES: Understood.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: So I really didn't have any substantial thing in my mind where I would have felt that Mr. Wells would have continued his conduct towards Investigator Maisel another night.

I assumed that because I smelled the alcohol on Mr. Wells' breath on the 28th, maybe he wasn't drinking that night and maybe he would have calmed down and would have been more receptive to Investigator Maisel that night.

So it wasn't really a big thought that there was going to be conflict on the 29th. So when I let her out and she went inside the establishment, and again, you know, it was very quickly -- it was even more quicker that night because it's just a matter
of me parking the car and walking briskly to the establishment.

And she could not have even almost been upstairs by the time I got there.

MEMBER JONES: Understood.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: And when I walked in the door, you know, again, I was met by Mr. Wells and Mr. Madland. And then the security doorman also entered into the conversation.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Let me just make sure I'm clear. Well, how would you characterize Mr. Wells --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: On the 29th?
MEMBER JONES: -- on the 29th?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: He --
MEMBER JONES: Was it similar to the 28th? Was he confrontational?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: He was. On the 29th, he was --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: He was --
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MEMBER JONES: He was as confrontational on the 29th as he was on the 28th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: He was fine with me personally. He was okay and he was respectful to me, but the way he was talking to me about her was -- you know, and I was trying to calm him down and say look, you know, let's talk --

MEMBER JONES: Understood. Okay. Thank you.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- like professionals or whatever, but he was adamant that, you know, he didn't want her in there. She wasn't supposed to be there. And how is-she shouldn't be in his establishment. Get her out. That kind of stuff.

MEMBER JONES: And one last thing. Did he, Mr. Wells, accuse Investigator Maisel of being intoxicated --

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Not that night.

MEMBER JONES: -- on the 29th?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: But he kept saying that she was in here drunk the night before.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Now, Mr.
Alberti?
MEMBER ALBERTI: Just real quick, Mr. Lawson. On the 29th, $I$ forgot to ask, did you hear music when you went in?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Did you observe anything else that would lead you personally to know that there wa a DJ?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I saw -- I did see on -- I could see to the left side lounge area, $I$ did see some dancing in there where patrons were.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: So and they were dancing to music. But, you know, I

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couldn't see the DJ, because I never made it in that far.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you knew because it was reported to you by Investigator Maisel?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: When did she report that to you?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: She immediately -- as soon as she came downstairs, she immediately joined me and Mr. Wells and she told me again that there was a DJ and she got pictures.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Did anyone deny that there was a DJ up there that evening?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No. No, sir.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Wells didn't?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No. His
focus was on, you know, why was she in my establishment again when $I$ didn't want her
here.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just have one clarifying question. Mr. Lawson, when you were asking or answering Mr. Brooks' question about spending time with Ms. Maisel and you said you drove around for seven and a half hours or you were with her that whole day, were you referring to the 28th? The day of the 28th?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Actually, both days.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Both days. Okay. And those seven and a half hours were right before you went to this establishment? Is that right?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: I was -yes. Because we work eight hour or eight and a half hour shifts, so $I$ would say at -- you know, only -- it probably was an hour of being in the office, but other than that driving
around we were together the whole night.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And you didn't see her take a drink?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, ma'am.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I don't have any other questions. Anybody else? Any redirect?

MR. RIVERO: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
MR. RIVERO: Mr. Lawson, I'm going to show you again Government's Exhibit 1. This is the license of the establishment at the time and it is admitted into evidence.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: Go ahead and look at the column where it says sales and go ahead and read me the ending time for sales for Friday and Saturday.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: 2:45 a.m.
MR. RIVERO: And now go to the next column where it says entertainment.

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Please, read the ending time for entertainment on Friday and Saturday.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: 2:00 a.m.
MR. RIVERO: Thank you. And my one last question, Mr. Lawson, in your official capacity, we're not talking about, you know, elsewhere in your life, how much time, period of time, have you spent observing people that were intoxicated?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Oh --
MR. RIVERO: Only in your official capacity, mind you.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: In my official capacity where?

MR. RIVERO: That's right.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: At ABRA or--
MR. RIVERO: At ABRA as an investigator. So we are talking about three years.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Okay.
MR. RIVERO: Of those three years, how much time have you spent observing people Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
who are intoxicated?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Three years.
MR. RIVERO: Okay. And so you would say then that based on your -- would you say based on your three years of experience observing people, what would you say when you compare Investigator Maisel's behavior with you that weekend?

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: That she --
MR. RIVERO: Is there a match?
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: -- was sober.

MR. RIVERO: Thank you.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Sober.
MR. RIVERO: No further questions.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr. Wells?

MR. WELLS: Yes, one question.
RECROSS-EXAMINATION
MR. WELLS: Mr. Lawson, at any point, did you see a disc jockey playing music in my establishment?

|  | Page 70 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Personally, |
| 2 | no, I didn't. |
| 3 | MR. WELLS: At any point, did you |
| 4 | see Ms. Maisel's conduct in the area of Sultra |
| 5 | Lounge where this entire complaint and basis |
| 6 | of this is transpired? Did you see any of her |
| 7 | actions? As you stated, you were at the foyer |
| 8 | outside the door. |
| 9 | INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Yes. |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: Did you see any of her |
| 11 | actions inside my establishment? |
| 12 | INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Inside? |
| 13 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 14 | INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No. |
| 15 | MR. WELLS: Okay. No further |
| 16 | questions. |
| 17 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any |
| 18 | other questions? |
| 19 | INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Oh, correct |
| 20 | that. I saw when she came and joined us, if |
| 21 | that's what you mean. |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: After she exited my |
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establishment.
INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: No, when she came to talk. When we were talking and she came from upstairs or wherever she was. I didn't observe her upstairs taking the photographs, but when she joined us as we were having the discussions and you were talking to me and I was talking to you and Mr. Madland, yes.

MR. WELLS: Permission to clarify? Mr. Lawson, by his own statements, never got outside of my foyer and the entry point to the door.

MR. RIVERO: Objection.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is that a question?

MR. RIVERO: Question please.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's only questions. It's only questions. You can clarify later in your closing argument what the testimony was.

MR. WELLS: Okay. No further
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questions.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All
right. You can be excused. Thank you very much.

INVESTIGATOR LAWSON: Thank you.
(Whereupon, witness was excused.)
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Any other witnesses?

MR. RIVERO: No. The Government is finished with its case.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr. Wells?

MR. WELLS: Okay. What I would like to do is outline my version of events surrounding --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right. I'm going to -- if you are going to do that, it's testimony.

MR. WELLS: Oh, I'm sorry.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, that's okay. It will be evidence if you are under oath. Are you okay over there with your

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papers? Otherwise, I --
MR. WELLS: I would prefer to stay here.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right. You can do that.

MR. RIVERO: No objection. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to swear you in. Whereupon,

## CHRISTOPHER WELLS

was called as a witness for the Licensee, and having been first duly sworn, assumed the witness stand and was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you can proceed with your testimony as you like.

DIRECT EXAMINATION
MR. WELLS: Okay. This weekend started on January 26th when Investigator Lawson came into my establishment, asked to see the manager on -- asked to see the license, presented his ID, asked to see the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
license.
My manager came and contacted me. I spoke to Mr. Lawson. Mr. Lawson and I have interacted in the past and as he said, I have no personal complaint against Mr. Lawson whatsoever. On every occasion he has handled himself with the utmost professionalism.

Mr. Lawson brought to my attention the fact that a complaint was raised on December 16th. This was about 40 days before. I said, Mr. Lawson, no idea, no knowledge, no recollection. Let me go check my calendar. I went, checked my calendar, there was no incident reported and I did see on Thursday evening it's generally slow. So we are usually out of there by 12:00, by midnight. Okay. I later -- so Mr. Lawson then pointed out that, you know, your license -- right now, you guys are open for lunch, you are in violation. So I looked at it and I said, you know what, you are absolutely right. We start sales at this -- the license says

5:30, but we are open for lunch and brunch.
In addition to that, $I$ pointed out that the voluntary agreement says there is no prejudice towards us opening for lunch or brunch. Mr. Lawson suggested I go see ABRA as soon as possible to resolve the situation.

The next morning, and this is exhibit number -- I have four exhibits here stapled together. I'm not sure what the best way to present them is. I'm going to go through each of them.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Right away, no objection and --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No objection to the exhibits?

MR. RIVERO: No. Let's just bring them all in.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. MR. RIVERO: And let's just go ahead.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.
Let me see what they are.
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MR. WELLS: Thank you.
MR. RIVERO: Copies to the Board. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Over here. MR. WELLS: I'm sorry. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You can give it to us. Mr. Wells, if we are going to put these in, do you want to just say what they are right now?

MR. WELLS: Sure.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Would that work for you?

MR. WELLS: Sure.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Absolutely. Exhibit No. 1.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
MR. WELLS: Is a letter $I$ wrote to
ABRA on January 30th surrounding the incidents which transpired that weekend along with a formal complaint against Investigator Stewart and Investigator Maisel surrounding their conduct over the weekend.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Exhibit No. 2 is an email exchange between Director Moosally and myself. This exchange, as $I$ will go into later, $I$ will go into it later, because it's an email exchange between Mr. Moosally and myself.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
MR. WELLS: Exhibit 3 is a letter to ABRA requesting the hours to change, to change my hours of operation dated January 30th, also, the Monday.

And Exhibit 4 is the photograph taken by Investigator Maisel in my establishment.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And Mr. Rivero has no objection, so I'm going to admit all of these exhibits as Licensee's Exhibits 1 through 4.
(Whereupon, the documents were marked for identification as

Licensee Exhibit 1 through 4 and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
were received in evidence.)
MR. WELLS: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RIVERO: No objection.
MR. WELLS: So to continue where I left off, Investigator Lawson suggested I go talk to ABRA as soon as possible to resolve this issue with the entertainment hours.

I went the next morning, January 26th -- sorry, 27th to ABRA, spoke to a licensing specialist. I asked to speak to Mr. Moosally directly. He was not in. I then was directed to a licensing specialist who then directed me to an adjudication specialist who was not available at that time.

But so I left. When I was
leaving, I encountered Mr. Moosally in the lobby and I introduced myself. I said to him, you know, Investigator Lawson came in last night. I would like to change these hours. He said -- he told me the procedure.

He said if there is -- and I asked him, I said well, my voluntary agreement says there is no prejudice. He said it shouldn't be a problem. Here is the number for Bill Hager, contact him to make sure we have the same voluntary agreement on file.

All this is the next day.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
MR. WELLS: Friday during the day.
Mr. Hager, $I$ contacted 4:00 in the afternoon, said to me to make sure the voluntary agreement $I$ have on file is the voluntary agreement in our -- that $I$ have -- that I operate on.

I later went ahead and put in the request to adjust the hours on Monday morning, which was subsequently approved, that's exhibit -- well, Exhibit 3 is the request I put in to extend the hours.

As you will see, I extended the hours for opening and the entertainment hours for closing.

So moving forward, all those events transpired the next day during the day. The evening of January -- sorry, Saturday morning, January 28th. Okay. On that evening, Investigator Maisel, who I did not know at the time who she was, entered my establishment at about 2:50.

She proceeded to -- she walked in and started taking pictures walking around the place, visibly stumbling around the place. I said to her excuse me -- she was by herself. I said to her excuse me, who are you? Ms. Maisel continued to walk around taking pictures.

She walked upstairs. She is taking pictures. I said I'm sorry, can I help you with something? Who are you? At this point in time, she just -- she hasn't responded. She is just moving around. She goes back downstairs and comes out the mezzanine area where the DJ is positioned.

The allegation is that my DJ was Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
playing music. I have one system that operates that entire building that is two CD players that sit externally on the mezzanine area.

Those players play CDs seven days a week. If a DJ is in operation at the same time, he will be on that equipment playing music. That's where the -- everything happens. The music is played regardless of a DJ or not.

So I am always going to have in my establishment two CD players and a mixer setup, any day of the week. Okay.

So at this point in time, I have gotten no response from Ms. Maisel as to who she is. So I walk downstairs and position myself by the front door. I said to her, I said -- so by now she is walking out. This is -- I said, I'm sorry, who are you? She said you don't want to go there.

I said what do you mean I don't want to go there? Who are you? I have no
idea who you are. Ms. Maisel says okay, you really want to go there? She reaches in her blouse and pulls out an ID card and sticks it back in her blouse.

I said I'm sorry, I couldn't read that. So she pulls it out again. I said and do you have a business card? She is like yes. She hands me a business card. I said, you know, I said clearly you are operating like you are intoxicated. I wasn't the only person that felt this way. I have witnesses that will say -- attest to the same thing. She literally -- so she literally handed me the card. She said you are in violation. And she walked out the door. No, sorry, she didn't even say you're in violation. She just walked out the door. At this point in time, I turn around, open the door to go behind her. Mr. Lawson is outside of my establishment. At no time did Mr. Lawson enter my establishment. He is now walking up to the front door. I
opened the door.
I said Mr. Lawson, she is
intoxicated. Why is she in my establishment? She is intoxicated, visibly intoxicated. She stands up and looks at me and makes no comment to refute that. Absolutely nothing. She literally turns around. Mr. Lawson says come on, Jonathan. I said come on what? She is visibly intoxicated. She turns around -- she then turns around and just walks off.

Who does not refute any kind of accusation and/or statement that somebody is intoxicated, unless they know that they are properly intoxicated.

Anyway, Ms. Maisel continues to walk off. She walks off down the street. Mr. Lawson -- the only conversation we have on that night, zero discussion about -- all he says is, Mr. Wells, you know you are in violation. I said violation? He said yes, you are in violation.

I said all right, all right, Mr. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Lawson. I said she is intoxicated. She walks -- he said I'll talk to you later, Mr. Wells. He never steps foot in my establishment. Never passed the pavement.

He continues to walk off now behind Mr. Lawson who is -- Ms. Maisel who has already walked forward.

The second night in question. Ms. Maisel walks into my establishment at, approximately, 2:18. She comes up to the front. I did not witness this. My security guard, who is an employee of the DOJ, sorry, the State Department and works security at my door literally -- I'll go to his story/ conversation with him after.

She walks in the door. Again, I encounter her in the bar area where she is telling two patrons move aside, right? She is telling them -- she goes like this, move aside and she has got a camera to take a picture of a beverage between the two of them.

It is 2:18 in the morning, okay? Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

I said you are back again? I said can I help you with something? You are in violation. you are supposed to be closed at 2:00. I paid no attention to this. She walks upstairs and she takes a picture of the DJ. She goes up to the second floor, takes another picture of the DJ, comes downstairs, walks to the front.

By this time, $I$ am walking to the front also. Mr. Lawson is now coming in the front door. So I said, Mr. Lawson, let's go have a word. My establishment is divided into two sides. The bar area where all of this transpired is all of these buildings.

Next door is the full seating restaurant. We go to the left to the restaurant. I was visibly upset, because it was totally -- I have never dealt with any ABRA Investigator who did not identify themself from the time they entered the establishment.

> Never said can I see your ID.

Never showed their ID openly when they first
said -- usually the policy is hi, I'm Investigator Stewart or I'm Investigator Lawson, $I$ would like to see $X, Y$ and $Z$ or we are here on $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{Z}$. No identification whatsoever.

Okay. Fine. So she -- so I tell Mr. Lawson that. I said $I$ have never seen such unprofessional behavior in my life. And she is back again when last night you know I told you I -- it is my personal opinion that she was totally intoxicated.

Mr. Lawson walks out. Mr. Lawson said, Mr. Wells, you know, you are in violation. I'm going to leave. Basically, not those exact words I'm going to leave, but we didn't have any extended -- Mr. Lawson makes reference to having extended conversations about the license.

There was absolutely no need to have a conversation about the license, because on Thursday night we fully had a discussion about the license. I pointed things out to

Mr. Lawson.
For example, the fact that no, there wasn't just an issue with opening, there was an issue with the time we closed, that our entertainment stopped at 2:00 and we went until 2:45. I pointed that out to Mr. Lawson. And it was my contention that $I$ need to get this adjusted.

Now, before Friday night, I had every expectation of ABRA coming in there on that weekend, so I made sure every one of my DJs knew you are not supposed to play any music after 2:00 a.m., that is our cut off time. Can we still have music in the establishment? Absolutely.

Can you be disc jockeying music in the establishment? No. That was my understanding of the license. If that is a mistake, I'm guilty as charged. My understanding is that you can still play music in the establishment, you just cannot have a disc jockey spinning -- DJing, interactively
playing that music.
Keep in mind what I said, my house system is my music system. It is there seven days a week.

Okay. So after that, after all of this transpired, Mr. Lawson leaves. And as I said, we had no extensive conversation about the licensing issues, because I both thought we were on the page -- same page. But one thing that struck me is that Ms. Maisel said you are in violation. You are supposed to close at 2:00.

She walks out the door. I'm standing now digesting this whole thing, writing my incident reports, which is exhibit -- which is part of Exhibit No. 1, the incident reports from the night in question, which I have. I did right after the incident on both nights.

I'm walking back to the door after -- Investigator Stewart comes. My door is -the latch is locked, mind you. He pulls the
door open, pulls it to the point where it rips open. My door is actually locked. It has a fire bolt that locks, but he pulls it so hard it pulls right out.

So I'm standing there because my policy is my door is locked when my business is closed. 3:08 he walks in. He pulls open the door. He says who the hell do you think you are talking to my Investigator like that? I said hold on a minute. I said hold on a minute.

I said your Investigator was drunk. I did not make -- I was not -- then I said she was drunk on Friday night when she came in here. I don't care what you say. And then he says to me how dare you point your finger to an ABRA Investigator. Who do you think you are? I deal with you club owners all the time who think you can do this. I'm going to shut you down. You are supposed to be closed at 2:00.

I said wait a minute. I keep
hearing 2:00. I'm not supposed to be closed at 2:00. I close at 2:45. He is like and furthermore don't point your finger at any Investigator. I said I'm not pointing. I said you are in front of me. Investigator Maisel is to the right of you behind you and I am pointing her out.

I said furthermore, don't come into my establishment and speak to me like I work for you, because I have all my employees around me and he was downright unprofessional, threatening and disrespectful to me.

Later on after that, he says let me see your license. He is like I'm going to have you shut down by next Saturday. He -- so my manager, at this time, comes up with the board, which has never happened Friday night or Saturday night, not a single person have identified theirselves as -- Mr. Stewart is the first person that identified himself throughout this whole ordeal when he busted open the door.

Investigator Stewart, here is his badge, Investigator Stewart. First person to investigate themselves entering my establishment.

Mr. Lawson, granted, I spoke with him before on Thursday night, so I knew exactly who Mr. Lawson was. There was no question as to who Mr. Lawson was.

Mr. Lawson never entered my establishment Friday or Saturday night when Ms. Maisel was in my establishment. Not on one single occasion.

So my manager brings my license to Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart looks at my license. After saying I'm going to shut you down, looks at it, hands it back to him and walks back out and says you will be hearing from me.

He then encounters my door guy, Rolando Diaz, who in exhibit -- the other Exhibit 1 is the testimony from him. Mr. Rolando Diaz said -- he said, sir, I have a complaint. I have an issue. Your

Investigator upon entering my bar on the morning of -- Saturday morning pushed me out of the way.

He is like she pushed you out of the way? There was some interaction there and my -- he said to him, sir, why are you yelling? He said this is not how -- I'm not yelling. This is how I talk. He is like well, is it also the policy of ABRA Investigators to push somebody out of the way upon trying to gain entry when we have a valid reason to be here checking IDs?

We need to see your ID before you come in, that applies to every single person without prejudice. He is like well, if she did that, she is in violation. He is like, furthermore, she is on probation and you can file a complaint against her, if you would like. That was Mr. Stewart's words.

Mr. Stewart and I entered --
interaction ended that night in which I
assured Mr. Stewart that Monday morning,
before he got to work, $I$ was going to be here with a formal complaint filed. I filed that complaint two days and have not gotten a single response from ABRA, which to me is outrageous.

Because we -- as owners we respect this Board. Everything that this Board does, we have to abide by. Dates are critical. Everything is critical surrounding it. I have gotten no response.

The other thing I would like to point out in closing, Exhibit 4 with these pictures, first of all, Exhibit No. 3, this is the Friday night supposedly alleged picture of my DJ operating the equipment.

My DJ, his hand is visible.
Supposedly he was dancing with a patron. He wasn't operating any equipment.

The second one, again, this is
2:15, the second night. Okay? Shows the DJ in front of the equipment. Like I said every -- this is the only questionable picture that
this opposing counsel has against this accusation that $I$ was operating outside of hours.

This picture was him standing in front of it -- in front of the equipment.

This gentleman was instructed to not play after 2:00 a.m. Every DJ was. He was packing up or doing whatever he needed to do to close up. And he is willing to testify to that.

The third picture, again, shows nothing but the DJ actually interacting and standing in front of the music.

The fourth picture upstairs shows the DJ backing -- packing up his stuff because that's where -- because his stuff is not even there. It's to the front. So he is backing-packing up himself his stuff.

Again, if this is the best evidence that the District has against me, not only I would like to point out that these pictures all on the night of the 29th are Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
handwritten. They are pictures handwritten. Don't we have digital cameras? They are handwritten. They are -- the time stamp is exactly the same and she is in two different locations.

This is on the second floor. This is on the third -- first floor. Two different locations of pictures with the exact same time stamp. I'm sorry, how is that possible? And if the whole hinge of your -- the whole basis of your case is that $I$ was not operating within my time, and this is how you are presenting the time for me, and nobody actually witnessed the DJ spinning music, that's -- I'm sorry.

I usually -- usually, when I am wrong, I have no problem admitting and trying to reach a mutually suitable agreement with the District, but in this instance, no, I'm not wrong. I'm sorry. I am totally not wrong in this instance. And that's it. I rest my case.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr. Rivero, any cross?

MR. RIVERO: We have a few questions.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right. We? We, the Government?

MR. RIVERO: We, the Government. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. MR. RIVERO: It's the royal we in there.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

MR. RIVERO: I would like to turn your attention to your exhibits you just talked about some photographs. And the photograph I would like to turn your attention to is marked -- it's the third one on your packet and on the side of it it says Photo No. 2, Exhibit No. 5.

Now, you testified that the DJ was packing up, is what you said, from the basis of this photo. This is a record clearly shown on the photograph, isn't it?

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 2 | MR. RIVERO: It looks like -- |
| 3 | MR. WELLS: Well, no, no. |
| 4 | MR. RIVERO: -- mechanism -- |
| 5 | MR. WELLS: It's a turntable. I'm |
| 6 | not admitting to it being a record. It's a |
| 7 | turntable. |
| 8 | MR. RIVERO: Well, there is a |
| 9 | record on top of the turntable, isn't there? |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: No, there is a needle |
| 11 | sitting on top of where a record would sit |
| 12 | MR. RIVERO: So needles sit on top |
| 13 | of -- |
| 14 | MR. WELLS: The needles -- |
| 15 | MR. RIVERO: -- an empty |
| 16 | turntable? |
| 17 | MR. WELLS: No, no. It's not |
| 18 | actually on top of the turntable. |
| 19 | MR. RIVERO: Well, that -- |
| 20 | MR. WELLS: These are vinyl |
| 21 | tables. They come with black carbon bases. |
| 22 | MR. RIVERO: Yes. |
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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | it. |
| 2 | MR. RIVERO: Right? |
| 3 | MR. WELLS: Right. It looks like |
| 4 | a turntable. |
| 5 | MR. RIVERO: And then what is this |
| 6 | shiny thing there doing? |
| 7 | MR. WELLS: Not shiny. |
| 8 | MR. RIVERO: It's going to be |
| 9 | there on or off, okay? |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: It's going to be |
| 11 | exactly there on or off. |
| 12 | MR. RIVERO: And what does it look |
| 13 | like to you? What would you call that? |
| 14 | MR. WELLS: I don't know the |
| 15 | technical term for it, but I believe it is - |
| 16 | it would be the needle. |
| 17 | MR. RIVERO: It's the needle. |
| 18 | Which is what plays records, right? |
| 19 | MR. WELLS: Absolutely. |
| 20 | MR. RIVERO: Okay. You indicated |
| 21 | that he was packing up. |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: I indicated that the |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

Exhibit No. 6 was this DJ packing up.
MR. RIVERO: Okay. So then here it looks like there is a DJ playing music, isn't it?

MR. WELLS: I would not say that that's definitive enough to say that there is a DJ playing music.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Absolutely not.
MR. RIVERO: But you weren't there, were you, in this space to see this? You were downstairs.

MR. WELLS: I was actually -well, no, $I$ was not there in that space.

MR. RIVERO: Okay.
MR. WELLS: But I know --
MR. RIVERO: That's it. That was the answer to the question.

Where is Investigator Maisel's business card? She gave it to you.

MR. WELLS: Where is her business card?

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. RIVERO: Yes. She said -- |
| 2 | MR. WELLS: Yes, it's in my |
| 3 | possession. |
| 4 | MR. RIVERO: Okay. |
| 5 | MR. WELLS: Not on me. |
| 6 | MR. RIVERO: Not on you? |
| 7 | MR. WELLS: No. |
| 8 | MR. RIVERO: Okay. |
| 9 | MR. WELLS: I don't make it a |
| 10 | policy to carry a business card. |
| 11 | MR. RIVERO: No further questions. |
| 12 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Board |
| 13 | questions? |
| 14 | MEMBER JONES: Yes. |
| 15 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: Thank you. So just |
| 17 | to make sure I'm clear because there was a lot |
| 18 | of statements that -- well, you made a very |
| 19 | long statement and a lot of it was related to |
| 20 | your perception of alleged ABRA misconduct. |
| 21 | But the case that we are here for, |
| 22 | the violation, you are clear on the violation |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

that you are being charged with, correct? MR. WELLS: Absolutely.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So there was a few things that you made mention of related to that. And I just want to get clarification on my understanding of what you are presenting as your evidence to support your position.

So you made reference to a couple of photos provided in your exhibits.

MR. WELLS: Yes, that's right.
MEMBER JONES: And you indicated that -- did you make a statement here today that you did not have entertainment on either of the nights in question, the 28th or the 29th? Is that a statement that $I$ heard from you?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: After 2:00 p.m., we did not have entertainment.

MEMBER JONES: After 2:00 p.m.?
MR. WELLS: An entertainment
endorsement. After 2:00 a.m., I'm sorry.
MEMBER JONES: After 2:00 a.m?
MR. WELLS: Yes, correct.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So on January 28 you had no entertainment after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. As you look at it, so January 28th is the Saturday morning.

MR. WELLS: Okay.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So on Saturday the 28th, you had entertainment up to and including -- well, up to 2:00 a.m. only? MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. And as you understand your license, you are allowed to have entertainment up to what time on Saturday?

MR. WELLS: 2:00 a.m.
MEMBER JONES: 2:00 a.m. Okay.
On Sunday the 29th, you are saying that you
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
had no entertainment after 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, the 29th?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you had entertainment up to 2:00 a.m. on Sunday the 29th?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: You did. Okay. On either of the nights -- so on your exhibit -you have Exhibit 3.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Do you have that in front of you?

MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER JONES: All right. Exhibit 3, can you describe to me what your intent was in providing this exhibit as evidence for your case?

MR. WELLS: This was basically a letter at the suggestion of Mr. --

MEMBER JONES: I'm sorry, I'm looking at the photos.

MR. WELLS: I'm sorry.
MEMBER JONES: So you -- there is a photo that is labeled Exhibit 3. I don't know if you labeled these this way.

MR. WELLS: Oh, the photo. I'm sorry. I thought -- sorry, I thought you were referring to my package.

MEMBER JONES: I am referring to your package. I'm referring to Exhibit 4. Exhibit 3 or Exhibit 4, I guess, which are the photos.

MR. WELLS: So we want to go to Photo No. 3?

MEMBER JONES: Exhibit 3.
MR. WELLS: Yes, yes.
MEMBER JONES: Photo Exhibit No.
3.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: All right. Now, what was your intent?

MR. WELLS: Okay. My -- if you come to my establishment any of the seven days

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
a week, you will see this identical setup here. You will see the two CDJs and the mixer. I don't have a separate house system. This is when -- lunchtime, afternoon time, evening time, this is how I play music. Whatever vocal level, whatever tone level I play it at, this is my house system.

I don't have a separate system for music.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So -MR. WELLS: So I'm saying this is not proof that I had a DJ on that night. I'm sorry and I'm admitting to having a DJ on that night. I'm not even disputing having a DJ on that night. My contention is that this is visible every day of the week in my establishment.

MEMBER JONES: It's visible every day of the week?

MR. WELLS: Absolutely.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. Understood.
So you are saying that this setup never comes
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

|  | Page 107 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | down? |
| 2 | MR. WELLS: No, never comes down, |
| 3 | correct. |
| 4 | MEMBER JONES: How many DJ areas |
| 5 | do you have? |
| 6 | MR. WELLS: Two. |
| 7 | MEMBER JONES: Two. So this DJ |
| 8 | area is setup this way all the time? |
| 9 | MR. WELLS: All the time. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: Okay. This photo |
| 11 | is at 2:50 a.m. on the 28th? |
| 12 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 13 | MEMBER JONES: According to their |
| 14 | handwritten notes. |
| 15 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: Do you dispute -- |
| 17 | are you disputing that this is representative |
| 18 | of your setup on January 28th at 2:50 a.m. at |
| 19 | your establishment? |
| 20 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 21 | MEMBER JONES: You are? |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
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| 1 | Page 108 <br> MEMBER JONES: Okay. What are you |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | disputing about this setup being at your |
| 3 | establishment? Now, keep in mind you just |
| 4 | stated that I will see this every day of every |
| 5 | week -- |
| 6 | MR. WELLS: Okay. What I am |
| 7 | saying is -- |
| 8 | MEMBER JONES: -- at your |
| 9 | establishment. |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: -- no DJ was actually |
| 11 | manipulating the sound. |
| 12 | MEMBER JONES: That's not what I |
| 13 | asked you. |
| 14 | MR. WELLS: Oh, I'm sorry. I |
| 15 | misunderstood. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: So I'm asking you |
| 17 | are you disputing that this picture, this |
| 18 | picture in and of itself, is representative of |
| 19 | what is -- what was there on January 28, 2012 |
| 20 | at 2:50 a.m.? |
| 21 | MR. WELLS: Well, yes. |
| 22 | MEMBER JONES: You are disputing |
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that this --
MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- picture -- okay.
So what is wrong with this picture?
MR. WELLS: I am -- my only
dispute would be the time stamp that is written in pen. I am not disputing what is actually appeared -- what the picture is detailing. What I'm questioning is, first of all, the time 2:50 in two different areas of my establishment on the same night.

MEMBER JONES: No. I'm not -- you are going beyond what I'm asking. This is one picture. I'm looking at this picture in isolation.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Is this picture representative of what was at your establishment at 2:50 a.m. on January 28, 2012? Period. That's the end of the question. Is this picture representative of what was at your --

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handwritten time. Forget that it's even there.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Do you agree that this is reflective of what was at your establishment, based on your own vision, based on your own knowledge?

MR. WELLS: Absolutely.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. Help me understand then what I'm looking at here. What I'm looking at are two DJ turntables for CDs.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: A mixer.
MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: As well as a laptop.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: At 2:50 a.m. on 1/28/2012 --

MR. WELLS: Um-hum, yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- tell me what
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your operations consisted of as far as your entertainment.

MR. WELLS: Okay. As I stated, my DJ was playing until 2:00 a.m. that morning. I never disputed that. My Dj has to wait to be paid for the night's activities, that is after we close. Nobody gets paid before I close. There is no law that says I need to kick my DJ out of the establishment and for him to pack up, which in this case would be nothing but his headphones and the laptop would be -- so yes, he was waiting around to get paid.

I never disputed the fact that he was there earlier in the evening. He was playing until 2:00 p.m. -- 2:00 a.m. as he was contracted to do.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So at this point, at 2:50 a.m., where is the music source?

MR. WELLS: This is the music
source.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Every day of the week this is the music source.

MEMBER JONES: So there are three possible things here that could generate music? There is one CD player, the other CD player and the laptop that $I$ can see in the picture.

MR. WELLS: Um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: I'm asking you to testify to what item here was playing music at that time.

MR. WELLS: I know a little more about DJing than I thought I need to trick down to.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you know.
MR. WELLS: But, yes, this -- no, absolutely you are right. This -- I was actually -- the CDs. He was actually operating a manual CD in the CD player.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you are saying he was actually operating a --

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. WELLS: Yes, he could have-- |
| 2 | MEMBER JONES: -- CD in the CD |
| 3 | player? |
| 4 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 5 | MEMBER JONES: The CD player to |
| 6 | the right, left or was it a CD player in -- |
| 7 | MR. WELLS: The one to the right, |
| 8 | I would think. |
| 9 | MEMBER JONES: The one to the |
| 10 | right? |
| 11 | MR. WELLS: Yes, since the |
| 12 | turntable is sitting -- since the headphones |
| 13 | are sitting on top of the thing. |
| 14 | MEMBER JONES: They are sitting on |
| 15 | top of the -- |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: I mean -- |
| 17 | MEMBER JONES: -- left unit? |
| 18 | MR. WELLS: Yes, yes. |
| 19 | MEMBER JONES: Okay. So the one |
| 20 | to the right, you are saying that that was the |
| 21 | item that was providing music source for the |
| 22 | entertainment at your establishment on the |

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night in question, at this time?
MR. WELLS: That was, yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: I was basically -basically, I instructed my DJs that they could not interact with the system. They could not actively DJ after 2:00 a.m. Get a CD for me. Get a CD that we can play. Just get a CD that I can plug in and play from 2:00 to 2:45. And that's what they did.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So this DJ on the night in question, he got a CD that -of any type of -- did you --

MR. WELLS: I didn't. I don't know.

MEMBER JONES: You don't know? MR. WELLS: No.

MEMBER JONES: Because I'm assuming, I mean, at a club you are not going to have a single CD by a single artist that is going to play track 1, track 2, track 3 and track 4.

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definitively to the fact that the DJ didn't touch this unit after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: I mean from -- I mean, he -- like I said, I -- he was instructed to make sure that to not play. He was told to not play from 2:00 a.m. in the morning. I will be honest. I didn't not stand over them and watch them for that entire 45 minutes, but yes, that was my instructions.

MEMBER JONES: Those were your instructions, but you can't say that they followed your instructions?

MR. WELLS: Let me just say that every time I did look up there, there was nobody actively playing. And no, I did not look there for every second of that 45 minutes.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Also, do you have a clear picture of Exhibit 3 ?

MR. WELLS: Actually, these are Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
pictures I received from your Investigator.
MEMBER JONES: Do you have a color picture that you can see clearly?

MR. WELLS: No, I have --
MEMBER JONES: No.
MR. WELLS: -- a black and white picture.

MEMBER JONES: You don't. Okay. The picture I'm looking at, Exhibit 3, also on that laptop -- well, one, do you agree that that's a laptop?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Is that on a laptop that was provided by the DJ?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: It was. Okay. The -- you are saying that you believe on the night in question that the music source was the CD player to the right? That's what your test --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: That's what you
testified to.
MR. WELLS: I, basically, said to him, make a compilation CD between --

MEMBER JONES: I understand.
MR. WELLS: -- to play for the 45 minutes.

MEMBER JONES: Sir, sir, I respect that answer. I just want to make sure. What you said earlier was that you believe that the source of the music on that night in question, the 28th, at 2:50 a.m. that you believe that the music was coming out of the CD player to the right? Is that still your belief? Is that still what you are testifying to?

MR. WELLS: I believe that it was coming out, but I 'm not going to say that it is impossible that it was a compilation playing off of a digital media. It doesn't matter what media it comes from.

MEMBER JONES: Yes, it does to me.
MR. WELLS: Okay.
MEMBER JONES: So that's why I'm
asking these questions. So are you now saying that you are not sure?

MR. WELLS: I'm saying it could have been either the laptop or the CDJ.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you are not sure what the DJ did after 2:00 a.m., because you don't know what the source of the music was after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. WELLS: I'm saying that I don't know what the source was. I know he was instructed not to play and to the best of my knowledge, he did not actually interact or play the music. Do I know the source was the laptop or the CDJ, no, I am not 100 percent sure.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So now you are not sure.

MR. WELLS: No, I'm not sure about the --

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: -- source of the music. I'm very sure if he was playing or
interacting with the sound system. He was not. He was playing off of either the CD player or a digital format.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: The music was coming--
emanating from one of those two devices. Yes, absolutely.

MEMBER JONES: It was coming from one of those two devices?

MR. WELLS: Yes, absolutely.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So you don't know which one?

MR. WELLS: No. I mean, I -MEMBER JONES: Okay.

MR. WELLS: -- have a business to run. I can't stand up and -- once my instructions are do not play music, do not interact with the sound system, make sure that you have a CD, whatever else to play for that 45 minutes, $I$ don't care where they put it on from. I don't care whether the source is digital or the source is a CD.

MEMBER JONES: But you -- is it safe to say that you do care that they -MR. WELLS: They are not in violation.

MEMBER JONES: -- weren't playing after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So the challenge that I'm having -- well, I'll get back to that. So on the 28th, was this the only DJ booth setup that you had?

MR. WELLS: No, two. Two.
MEMBER JONES: You had two?
MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So how do you balance one versus the other? So this guy you are saying -- this gentleman at this DJ booth was playing up until 2:00 a.m., correct? That's what you testified to.

MR. WELLS: Um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: What was the point of the other DJ booth area?

MR. WELLS: They are two separate spaces, two distinct spaces, which I can regulate. I can either play from the first floor throughout the building or I can have a separate DJ on the second floor.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So I guess I misunderstood.

MR. WELLS: The venue -- I'm sorry.

MEMBER JONES: I misunderstood some of your testimony earlier, because you said there was one source that you had with these two inputs or the two CDs and that's the one input that you have for your whole building.

So you are always going to hear music coming out of your establishment because you are always going to have CDs playing through that one source.

So now, you are saying that you have two inputs. And maybe I misheard you before, so $I$ would like to give you an

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opportunity to clarify.
MR. WELLS: Let me clarify. Let me clarify. Seven days a week, this sits in my mezzanine area.

MEMBER JONES: So where is your mezzanine area?

MR. WELLS: My second floor -it's --

MEMBER JONES: I'm not familiar with your establishment. MR. WELLS: If you -- yes. If you walk into the establishment, it's kind of overlooks the area.

MEMBER JONES: So it's upstairs? MR. WELLS: It's stairs that go up the side, yes, but it's not a second floor, because it's wide open. It's like a balcony, so to speak on the first floor that you -- you come in one the first floor and you can walk up side stairs to what, in essence, is a balcony that overlooks.

MEMBER JONES: That overlooks the
first floor?
MR. WELLS: Yes, overlooks the first floor.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: So this -- now, for this, these are my inputs. These are my CDJs. These are my inputs. Behind the bar I have one controller that can regulate, play first floor volume up, second floor volume up, second floor volume down, second floor -- I can manipulate anywhere spaces that $I$ want to play.

The source is up here, but I can literally turn off or on locations as I see fit.

Now, on the night in question, and this is most Friday and Saturday nights, we have a separate place upstairs where we have a different kind of entertainment on the second floor. So that's how, in this instance, there were two different DJ areas. Does that help?

MEMBER JONES: To some degree. So at the -- let's call it the second level and your mezzanine level. So at the second level, you had a separate DJ with a separate DJ booth playing music that was localized to the second floor area only?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
MEMBER JONES: And then you also had, in parallel, a second DJ operating at the mezzanine --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- area and that music was playing the mezzanine down --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- and including the first floor?

MR. WELLS: Correct. Until 2:00 a.m.

MEMBER JONES: Until 2:00 a.m. Now --

MR. WELLS: Until 2:00 a.m., they were both, yes.

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| 1 | MEMBER JONES: So they were both |
| 2 | instructed to operate until 2:00 a.m.? |
| 3 | MR. WELLS: Correct. |
| 4 | MEMBER JONES: Okay. So the |
| 5 | mezzanine DJ was given an instruction to play |
| 6 | a CD or some compilation from some source that |
| 7 | was to be pumped through the entire house, |
| 8 | i.e., second floor and first floor? |
| 9 | MR. WELLS: Yes, sir, um-hum. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: Okay. And then the |
| 11 | DJ on the second floor, he was given |
| 12 | instructions to do what? |
| 13 | MR. WELLS: Stop playing. |
| 14 | MEMBER JONES: Stop playing and |
| 15 | pack up and leave? |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: Um-hum. |
| 17 | MEMBER JONES: And pack up and |
| 18 | leave? |
| 19 | MR. WELLS: Well, they are not |
| 20 | going to leave, because nobody is getting paid |
| 21 | until after the night is done. So they are |
| 22 | not going -- they are going to stop playing, |
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but $I$ don't -- I'm too busy with the night's activities to go and start dispensing payroll to individual staff members prior to closing.

MEMBER JONES: Understood. So there was a DJ booth set up on the second floor that was separate and distinct from this mezzanine DJ booth on the night of the 28th? MR. WELLS: Yes.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. And they both stopped at 2:00 according to you?

MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So on your second -- there is another exhibit, I believe, this is exhibit -- the next exhibit which has a gentleman in a gray shirt with headphones on with the Kangol, he is standing in front of a fan or a fan is blowing on him. I can't really see what exhibit. It looks like Exhibit 4.

MR. WELLS: Um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: It looks like it got cut off a little bit. Can you see that?

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| 1 | MR. WELLS: Absolutely. |
| 2 | MEMBER JONES: All right. |
| 3 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Whose Exhibit |
| 4 | 4 are you referring to? I mean, are you in |
| 5 | Government' exhibits or are you in the |
| 6 | licensee's exhibits? |
| 7 | MEMBER JONES: The licensee's |
| 8 | exhibits. |
| 9 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: Is Photo No. 1, |
| 11 | Exhibit No. 4. |
| 12 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 13 | MEMBER ALBERTI: They are numbered |
| 14 | the same. |
| 15 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: All right. So in |
| 17 | this exhibit, what area am I looking at here? |
| 18 | Is this the second floor -- |
| 19 | MR. WELLS: The DJ area. |
| 20 | MEMBER JONES: -- or the |
| 21 | mezzanine? |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: The mezzanine. |
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MEMBER JONES: This is the mezzanine yet again?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So in that mezzanine area --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- where are the CD players, CD decks?

MR. WELLS: Okay. Again, let me explain. Let me give you a little insight into Serato DJ equipment and laptop computers. Whatever medium your source file is, be it on the laptop, be it on a CD player, you have a Serato.

The laptop uses a software tool called Serato. It's actually a piece of software that interfaces with CDJs or vinyl CDJs. What -- basically, what you are looking at, I know you might think that this is a record playing here, but this is not a record. This is not a record playing here. This is not an LP, long play record, as the olden days
as we understand.
MR. RIVERO: Can I --
MR. WELLS: What this is --
MR. RIVERO: I'm sorry, I need to object, if I may, unfortunately. If there are full color photographs being help up for purposes of illustrating and only black and white copies are in front of the Board Members,it might be helpful to have the actual originals.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: We have some. We have them.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I don't have them.

MEMBER ALBERTI: We are working from them.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well --
MEMBER ALBERTI: The questions would be from them.

MR. RIVERO: The exhibits that were admitted into evidence were not color photographs from the respondent, based on what

I received.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I don't have that either. I don't have it.

MR. WELLS: I was just exhibiting what the Government gave to me. They never gave me --

MR. RIVERO: I received --
MR. WELLS: -- produced color copies.

MR. RIVERO: -- this in evidence.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I have black and white myself, so I'm not sure where the color came from. Okay.

MR. WELLS: It's your source.
MR. RIVERO: Correct.
MR. WELLS: It's not mine.
MR. RIVERO: So I would like -- I don't have a problem indicating -- if the color photographs are in evidence, $I$ don't have a problem at all. But the Government introduced black and white and the respondent introduced black and white. The respondent --

in evidence, as far as $I$ know.
MEMBER JONES: Understood.
MEMBER ALBERTI: Ms. Miller, the Board has in its files color photographs.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But we don't have in evidence color photographs.

MEMBER ALBERTI: And they were part of the report. Maybe not the report that was given to the attorney, Mr. Rivero.

MR. RIVERO: Again, if the Board wants to admit color photos, as --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Otherwise it --
MR. RIVERO: -- evidence and discuss them, no problem.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Can we take administrative notice --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No.
MEMBER ALBERTI: -- of the color photos? And if Mr. --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No. No. And we have -- what was put into evidence was these black and whites.

MR. WELLS: Right.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The pictures are somewhat unreliable to begin with for evidentiary reasons, as we don't have the person here who took the picture to testify to them. So if somebody is going to make a motion to put in evidence now the colored ones, $I$ don't hear that coming from the parties.

I think they just want to make sure that we are talking about the photos that the Board has -- that is in evidence that the Board is going to be looking at, so everybody is on the same page. Is that right?

MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is that all right with everyone?

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So we are looking at the black and white photo?

MEMBER JONES: In front of me.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Photo 1.
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| 1 | MEMBER JONES: I'm not sure I |
| 2 | think the procedure is correct though. |
| 3 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Would you |
| 4 | like to raise an objection and argue it? You |
| 5 | were making an interesting point and I hope |
| 6 | that you haven't lost that. |
| 7 | MEMBER JONES: So |
| 8 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: He was |
| 9 | answering. Oh. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: Can I proceed with |
| 11 | this? |
| 12 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, it's in |
| 13 | evidence. |
| 14 | MEMBER JONES: And I can do an |
| 15 | introduction? |
| 16 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's in |
| 17 | evidence, the black and white. The question |
| 18 | was about the -- |
| 19 | MEMBER JONES: So I can proceed |
| 20 | with this? |
| 21 | MEMBER ALBERTI: With the black |
| 22 | and white. |

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| 1 | MR. RIVERO: Yes, fine. |
| 2 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You don't |
| 3 | remember the question now or what you were |
| 4 | answering? |
| 5 | MEMBER JONES: I guess I can |
| 6 | proceed with these. Yes? |
| 7 | MR. WELLS: Would you like me to |
| 8 | finish answering the question? |
| 9 | MEMBER JONES: Thank you. |
| 10 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But he was in |
| 11 | the middle of a question. |
| 12 | MEMBER JONES: So |
| 13 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So he was in |
| 14 | the middle of proceeding, that's what I'm |
| 15 | saying. Unless you forget the question. |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: No, I remember. I was |
| 17 | literally explaining -- I was just explaining. |
| 18 | MEMBER JONES: He was giving me DJ |
| 19 | booths -- |
| 20 | MR. WELLS: Technical insight. |
| 21 | MEMBER JONES: -- in the |
| 22 | establishment. |

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MR. WELLS: And so they use -because I think --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No. Now, we are listening to the question and answer. And you were explaining something that $I$ was finding useful and I don't know now where -if you remember.

MR. WELLS: I know what it is.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Could you pick up where you were at then?

MR. WELLS: So we were making some distinction between the use of a CD, what a CDJ or LP style long-play record-style player, Serato, the software that it runs, Serato, the actual source file of the music is either on the laptop or if it's a CDJ, on the CD.

In this case, it's what is actually -- this is just an interface that allows you to manipulate the music. There is no song playing here on this needle. This is not an LP that plays music. This is an actual -- just as the CD -- the digital CJs are, it
allows you to manipulate, to scratch or whatever. But you have to have that interface to play with your laptop.

So I would just like to clarify, don't think that you are looking at an oldstyle LP player here and this is what you are seeing playing. Understand?

MEMBER JONES: Completely.
MR. WELLS: Okay. Sorry. I was just kind of valuing your question.

MEMBER JONES: My question was --
MR. WELLS: I mean --
MEMBER JONES: My question was is this the same DJ booth that we were talking about in Exhibit 3?

MR. WELLS: Um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: Where is the CDJ?
MR. WELLS: Okay. So one picture is from Friday night and one is from Saturday night.

MEMBER JONES: Correct.
MR. WELLS: So on this Saturday Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
night, clearly he brought his -- because he brought his own player and stuck it in. He brought his own interface.

MEMBER JONES: So where is the CDJ setup?

MR. WELLS: 99.999 percent it's under the table right here.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So the CDJ setup that you said is there all the time -MR. WELLS: Seven days a week. MEMBER JONES: -- is not there all the time?

MR. WELLS: No, no. It's there seven days a week. That is my source for playing music. If this gentleman -MEMBER JONES: So it's there unless the DJ brings his own equipment? MR. WELLS: Unless the DJ brings his own equipment, that is my source. MEMBER JONES: Okay. MR. WELLS: Of music right here. And it always has to be something set up here.


MR. WELLS: Absolutely.
MEMBER JONES: The mixer, is that yours?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: And the laptop in the Exhibit 3, that photo, whose is that? MR. WELLS: That is the -MEMBER JONES: Who does that belong to?

MR. WELLS: That' the same DJ that was playing the next night. He actually was playing both the Friday and the Saturday night. But clearly, the Saturday night, he closed -- chose to bring his own CDJs as opposed to using mine. You see? These do exactly the same thing. These CDJs and these LP-style players do exactly the same thing.

MEMBER JONES: Well, are you sure about that, sir? You are sure that the CDJs do the exact same thing as this technique turntable that I'm looking at?

MR. WELLS: The --

MEMBER JONES: They both play CDs? MR. WELLS: Yes. And the interface -- the objective is really to obtain an interface within which to manipulate. If you can picture turning the -- speeding it up, slowing it down, it's an interface with which to scratch on.

MEMBER JONES: So, sir, I am just going to caution you. I just want to make sure you are answering this. Are you answering this from a standpoint of knowledge?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: So you know this for sure?

MR. WELLS: (No audible answer.)
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So --
MR. WELLS: I mean, yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- these CDJs that are located on Exhibit 3, you are saying perform the exact same function as the input devices that are located on Exhibit 4?

MR. WELLS: When interfaced with a
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| 1 | laptop, 100 percent. |
| 2 | MEMBER JONES: Okay. Okay. |
| 3 | What's the purpose of the needle? |
| 4 | MR. WELLS: That's the connection |
| 5 | between -- okay. If you have got the CDJs, |
| 6 | you have got a digital needle that is built |
| 7 | in. That's an older style analog vinyl |
| 8 | scratcher. |
| 9 | MEMBER JONES: That's a digital |
| 10 | needle? |
| 11 | MR. WELLS: So your interface is |
| 12 | that needle. |
| 13 | MEMBER JONES: So you are saying |
| 14 | if I have a CDJ, right, I have a digital |
| 15 | needle? |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 17 | MEMBER JONES: Would that -- |
| 18 | MR. WELLS: You will have a |
| 19 | digital needle. |
| 20 | MEMBER JONES: Would another name |
| 21 | for that be a laser? |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: Sorry, yes. A laser, |
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Yes. The stylus sits on top of an LP. The LP -- the stylus relays the information. The LP is a standard LP. It's not a music LP. That stylus is what is the connection between the LP and the laptop player.

So that reads that, okay, you have a disc spinning, be it on a digital format, be it on an analog format.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So is this an analog format?

MR. WELLS: With the stylus, yes.
MEMBER JONES: It is. Oh, okay, excellent. So we are on the same page then. So we have an analog format LP that's receiving input through a stylus and it's pumping that information through the laptop and then projecting that through your system? MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.

MEMBER JONES: Only on the first floor, mezzanine down?

MR. WELLS: After 2:00 a.m. throughout the entire building.

MEMBER JONES: Throughout the entire building. Okay. So this picture on Exhibit 5, 4 and 5, what is this DJ doing? What is your testimony that this DJ is doing on either Exhibit 4 or 5?

MR. WELLS: Exhibit 5 or Exhibit 4.

MEMBER JONES: 4, let's do Exhibit 4.

MR. WELLS: The problem is he is standing in front of his equipment. What is he doing? It's totally, totally inconclusive as to what he is doing. He is standing in front of his equipment. That's all he is doing. And it's his CD player, so he has -it's his laptop. He has a right to stand in front there until we close or be around. But manipulating the music? No.

MEMBER JONES: So you are saying you can testify to the fact that you know that this individual was not manipulating the music from this position and from this posture?

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MR. WELLS: Absolutely.
Absolutely. And I have already spoke to this individual who has no problem providing an affidavit saying that at 2:00 p.m. -- 2:00 a.m. he stopped playing music.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Interactively playing music with anything.

MEMBER JONES: So you mentioned you had witnesses that would testify to that fact. You just now relayed that this DJ would testify to that fact. Is there a reason why you don't have him here today?

MR. WELLS: Yes. My lack of understanding of the proceedings, $I$ thought with a Show Cause, I needed to present my arguments and at a later date we would determine if we go forward to bring in additional witnesses, etcetera.

I didn't want to waste somebody's time twice, if possible.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
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MEMBER JONES: So all --
MR. WELLS: At 2:15 a.m. she is on first floor Sultra 1. At 2:15 a.m. she is on second floor Sultra 2. How is that possible?

MEMBER JONES: So on Exhibit 4 -MR. WELLS: How are you in two places at the same time?

MEMBER JONES: So on Exhibit 4 -MR. WELLS: I can't put my hand on the block for this.

MEMBER JONES: I ask you to try and focus on the question. In Exhibit 4, based on your recollection, your understanding of your setup that night --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: -- at 2:15 a.m., would this picture appropriately reflect what you believe to be going on at your establishment with the DJ at 2:15 a.m.? MR. WELLS: No.

MEMBER JONES: No. Okay. And what would be the difference at 2:15 a.m.?



|  | Page 154 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | everybody is getting tired. |
| 2 | MEMBER JONES: Say what? Mike, |
| 3 | what do you want me to do? Do you want me to |
| 4 | stop? Huh? Okay. Whatever. |
| 5 | MEMBER ALBERTI: Actually -- |
| 6 | MEMBER JONES: So -- |
| 7 | MEMBER ALBERTI: -- I was fine. I |
| 8 | was -- |
| 9 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: How long? |
| 10 | How much more do you have? |
| 11 | MEMBER ALBERTI: -- getting good |
| 12 | information -- |
| 13 | MEMBER JONES: I don't know. |
| 14 | MEMBER ALBERTI: -- from this line |
| 15 | of questions. |
| 16 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I didn't say |
| 17 | to stop. I just want to know how much more |
| 18 | there is, because it seems like -- |
| 19 | MEMBER JONES: It depends on how |
| 20 | long it takes him to answer. |
| 21 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- it is |
| 22 | getting repetitive. |

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| 1 | Page 155 <br> MEMBER JONES: It takes him to |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | answer the question. |
| 3 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, I can |
| 4 | hear that from the witness at this point. |
| 5 | MEMBER JONES: How -- okay. Can |
| 6 | we talk about that? Mike, do you feel like |
| 7 | I'm badgering the witness, at this point? |
| 8 | MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I would |
| 9 | prefer -- |
| 10 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, let's not |
| 11 | put Board Members on the spot. |
| 12 | MEMBER JONES: Well, you put me on |
| 13 | the spot. I'm asking do you feel like -- |
| 14 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So let's not |
| 15 | put Mike on the spot. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: -- I'm badgering |
| 17 | the witness? |
| 18 | Member Alberti, do you feel like |
| 19 | I'm badgering the witness, at this point? |
| 20 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right. |
| 21 | MEMBER ALBERTI: I was comfortable |
| 22 | with the line of questioning. |
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MEMBER JONES: Okay. So I don't feel like I'm badgering the witness. I don't know if the Board Members will go for this, so I think it is three to --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. What are you --

MEMBER JONES: -- one --
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, how much more do you have?

MEMBER JONES: -- feel like I'm badgering the witness.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Can you give us an idea of how much more you have?

MEMBER JONES: It depends on how long it takes him to answer. I didn't think it was going to take this long. But if you want me to stop, I'll stop. I mean, if you've got an issue with it, then speak on it.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No. I just want you to try to wrap up and get to your main points, because it has been --

MEMBER JONES: What does that

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | mean? |
| 2 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It has been a |
| 3 | long time. |
| 4 | MEMBER JONES: How much time do I |
| 5 | have? Do you want to put a cap on it? |
| 6 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, I'm not |
| 7 | going to put a cap on it. Just try -- can you |
| 8 | zero in? |
| 9 | (Simultaneous speaking.) |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: 1 need -- |
| 11 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I think we |
| 12 | have covered things. |
| 13 | MEMBER JONES: -- clear -- |
| 14 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm telling |
| 15 | you when it seems redundant. |
| 16 | MEMBER JONES: I don't know what |
| 17 | that means. |
| 18 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It means |
| 19 | simply -- |
| 20 | MEMBER JONES: Try to -- so -- |
| 21 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Can |
| 22 | you wrap it up? |
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|  | Page 158 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MEMBER JONES: Within 10 minutes. |
| 2 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Good. |
| 3 | MEMBER JONES: Give me a time. |
| 4 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That would be |
| 5 | good. |
| 6 | MEMBER JONES: All right. |
| 7 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. |
| 8 | MEMBER JONES: At 2:15, sir? |
| 9 | MR. WELLS: Right. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: At 2:15 a.m. |
| 11 | MR. WELLS: Right. |
| 12 | MEMBER JONES: -- in your |
| 13 | mezzanine area, you had -- your instruction |
| 14 | was to have the DJ not play anything more, |
| 15 | correct? He was supposed to stop at 2:00? |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 17 | MEMBER JONES: Did you have a DJ |
| 18 | on the second floor area? |
| 19 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 20 | MEMBER JONES: You did. Okay. |
| 21 | What was his setup like? |
| 22 | MR. WELLS: Pretty much the same |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

setup.
MEMBER JONES: Pretty much the same thing?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Can you turn to Exhibit 6 in what you provided?

MR. WELLS: Yeah.
MEMBER JONES: What area is this?
Is this the mezzanine or the second floor DJ booth area?

MR. WELLS: Exhibit 6 would be the second floor DJ booth area.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So I cannot see what the DJ booth equipment looks like in that area. Can you describe that to me?

MR. WELLS: Sure. It's actually the same laptop setup that would be directly in front facing the outward window. That would be the laptop setup there. Okay?

MEMBER JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. WELLS: And the CDJs below.
MEMBER JONES: Below?
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

MR. WELLS: Below --
MEMBER JONES: When you say below, basically, where is it?

MR. WELLS: They usually put one here and one here. I'm sorry, one on left and one on the right or both right in front, depending on the DJ, what their personal preference is. But the laptop sits to the front.

So that opening, the laptop would sit -- there is a ledge here.

MEMBER JONES: Understood.
MR. WELLS: So depending on their preference, the laptop is either there or, you know, they catty-corner it depending on their preference.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. Is this the DJ that you had under employ on the evening of January 29th? This individual in the striped Freddie Kruger-like sweater?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. On the
second floor area or in the second floor area, would this be reflective or representative of your setup and what would have been going on in your establishment after 2:00 a.m. on January 29th on the second floor?

MR. WELLS: Um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: It would be. But your position is that because -- just because he is standing there, does not mean he was manipulating the music?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. Where would the music source be coming from that is playing throughout your establishment after 2:00 a.m.? Is it coming from the mezzanine area or from the second floor DJ area?

MR. WELLS: That night in question, I believe, both DJs were instructed to play CDs. Have a compilation ready, not I believe. Both DJs were instructed to play a CD for the remaining period of the night. To stop playing at 2:00.

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So he would have had a CD, |
| 2 | downstairs would have had their CD. |
| 3 | MEMBER JONES: Understood. So the |
| 4 | second floor was still localized to the second |
| 5 | floor? |
| 6 | MR. WELLS: Yes, yes, yes, yes. |
| 7 | MEMBER JONES: And the mezzanine |
| 8 | was still localized to the mezzanine -- |
| 9 | MR. WELLS: Um-hum, um-hum. |
| 10 | MEMBER JONES: -- and down below? |
| 11 | MR. WELLS: Yes. |
| 12 | MEMBER JONES: Correct? Okay. |
| 13 | MR. WELLS: Correct, yes. |
| 14 | MEMBER JONES: And who stopped the |
| 15 | music? |
| 16 | MR. WELLS: Either myself, my |
| 17 | security. |
| 18 | MEMBER JONES: So |
| 19 | MR. WELLS: Once it is last call, |
| 20 | we turn on the lights and we go through the |
| 21 | process of, you know, shutting down and then |
| 22 | we turn off the DJs. Turn off the music. |
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MEMBER JONES: Turn off the music. So you physically go and turn off the DJ equipment and you remove any media, i.e., CDs or vinyl LPs or whatever you want to call them? You physically do that?

MR. WELLS: No, I don't.
MEMBER JONES: The DJ does not do that?

MR. WELLS: No. I don't physically do it. I would physically do it if I am doing it -- in charge of doing it, I will would go and stop the music, yes, turn off, remove the music.

MEMBER JONES: Understood. But on the night in question, in your mezzanine area on the 28th, specifically, in the mezzanine area, did you or one of your staff, someone other than the DJ turn off the CD?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: Someone other than the DJ turned off the CD?

MR. WELLS: No, no. I honestly
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
can't attest to who turned it off. I know I didn't turn it off.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: But I -- but it's common protocol every time the lights come on between my general manager, security, they all know music goes off.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: It's an operation procedure that we do every time.

MEMBER JONES: So how do you handle requests from the audience?

MR. WELLS: I think --
MEMBER JONES: How is it handled?
MR. WELLS: -- we -- well, this
night we didn't have any requests after 2:00 a.m. because we weren't operating. We weren't interacting with the music. So there wouldn't have been any requests.

On a normal night during the course of the regular evening, a DJ can walk-a patron can walk up and say hey, can you play Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
this and he says sure, $I$ have it or no, I don't have it.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Or I'll see do you have the radio version or not and determine if it's played or not.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. So a patron would come to the DJ and the DJ would say I may have it, $I$ may not have it and then he will come to you and say can I play this?

MR. WELLS: Yes. If it's something questionable, yes, absolutely, he will come to me because there is a certain degree of lewdness out there that $I$ don't want played in there.

MEMBER JONES: Okay. But if it's not questionable, he has the authority to go ahead and play it?

MR. WELLS: Yes, um-hum.
MEMBER JONES: Okay. So after
2:00 a.m., did you instruct patrons that they could no longer ask or make requests?

MR. WELLS: No, no.
MEMBER JONES: No? Okay. On the 29th after 2:00 a.m., did you instruct patrons that they could no longer make requests? MR. WELLS: No. MEMBER JONES: No. At any point what happens -- what's your procedure or protocol or guidance that you give to the DJs when the CD comes to an end?

MR. WELLS: In this case, the DJs were specifically told to make sure they had a DJ -- a CD or media that could play for 45 minutes.

MEMBER JONES: Okay.
MR. WELLS: And were specifically told to make sure they had a media that could play for 45 minutes. In addition to that, if a patron came up and said can $I$ hear $X$, they would say no, we are not taking requests. We are not actually playing.

MEMBER JONES: So that's the guidance that was given to the DJ in terms of Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

> requests?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER JONES: And that's the guidance that they were given in terms of preparation for the after 2:00 a.m. festivities?

MR. WELLS: Um-hum. Yes, um-hum. MEMBER JONES: Yes. Okay. So they were specifically told to provide a CD or a media that could play for -- continuously for 45 minutes. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. I just realized we have a 1:30 hearing next and we are close. Are there any other questions? Yes? Mr. Alberti, some questions? MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Wells, forgive me. It's been very educational all the information you have given me, but I'm still a little confused.

So on the 29th, I'm looking at the picture, Exhibit No. 4, what was the source -Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
what would have been the source of music before 2:00 a.m.?

MR. WELLS: I'm sorry, exhibit number what?

MEMBER ALBERTI: No. 4. MR. WELLS: No. 4. MEMBER ALBERTI: That's the 29th. MR. WELLS: This would have been the source before 2:00 a.m., absolutely. MEMBER ALBERTI: What would have been the source of music?

MR. WELLS: Right here, the CDJs. The CDJs or whatever was positioned here.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Meaning? Well, that's kind of general. What does the CDJ do? MR. WELLS: Okay. MEMBER ALBERTI: Tell me what a CDJ does.

MR. WELLS: That's what is -MEMBER ALBERTI: Just tell me what a CDJ does.

MR. WELLS: Let's refer to exhibit
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-- let me make the distinction for you. Let's refer to Exhibit No. 3.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
MR. WELLS: The CDJs are the two digital devices next door. What you do, in this case, it's playing from Serato, from on a laptop. So his source is a laptop.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So the source of the music is the laptop?

MR. WELLS: The source of the music --

## MEMBER ALBERTI: Is it an MP3?

MR. WELLS: The actual MP3 files--
MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes.
MR. WELLS: -- are -- reside on the laptop.

MEMBER ALBERTI: All right, all right.

MR. WELLS: The two CDJs are actually just dummy CDs, so to speak, that go in there that interact with the software to, basically, allow you to manipulate.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So they are manipulating --

MR. WELLS: But they have to be --
MEMBER ALBERTI: Hold on. They are manipulating the sound that is originating from -- they are manipulating the signal that is originating from the MP3 file. Is that correct?

MR. WELLS: They are a necessary component if you are playing through a laptop, which Serato does.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, you just told me that that would have been -- an MP3 file would have been the source.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: And they are manipulating the electronic signal from the MP3 source. Is that right?

MR. WELLS: Not manipulating. They are enabling the source to go out to the -- the CD --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. But they Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | are somehow -- |
| 2 | MR. WELLS: -- that source is |
| 3 | digital. |
| 4 | MEMBER ALBERTI: -- affecting that |
| 5 | source. They are somehow affecting that file |
| 6 | to create -- |
| 7 | MR. WELLS: Let me explain. |
| 8 | MEMBER ALBERTI: -- the sound that |
| 9 | goes out. |
| 10 | MR. WELLS: Let me explain. |
| 11 | MEMBER ALBERTI: I gotcha. All |
| 12 | right. |
| 13 | MR. WELLS: Let me explain. It is |
| 14 | coming in the laptop. It comes in to the two |
| 15 | CDJs. |
| 16 | MEMBER ALBERTI: Right. |
| 17 | MR. WELLS: The two CDJs go out |
| 18 | into the mixer. The mixer goes out into the |
| 19 | house -- |
| 20 | MEMBER ALBERTI: Absolutely. |
| 21 | MR. WELLS: -- speakers. |
| 22 | MEMBER ALBERTI: So they affect -- |
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MR. WELLS: Oh, yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: The MP3 comes in and they affect that electronic signal and it goes to the mixer. Gotcha.

MR. WELLS: It's --
MEMBER ALBERTI: On the 29th --
MR. WELLS: -- a necessary component of --

MEMBER ALBERTI: -- what was the source of the sound? What was the source of the file?

MR. WELLS: Either --
MEMBER ALBERTI: Was it an electronic file or was it an analog file?

MR. WELLS: On the 29th?
MEMBER ALBERTI: Meaning --
MR. WELLS: On the 29th, I would say an electronic --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Well, what was the source?

MR. WELLS: -- through the laptop.
MEMBER ALBERTI: What was the
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.


MEMBER ALBERTI: Just tell me what it's called. Answer my question. What's it called?

MR. WELLS: Okay, CDJ is the brand. So I'm not exactly sure what his brand is. It's probably a Pioneer turntable. MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, CDJ is a brand?

MR. WELLS: It's a Pioneer turntable.

MEMBER ALBERTI: It's not a kind of equipment? All right. I gotcha. All right. And does it do the same thing as the CDJ does?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
MEMBER ALBERTI: It brings to question why would the DJ bring their own? MR. WELLS: Sometimes -- just sometimes they actually -- sometimes, first of all, they prefer to play on their own equipment. It varies. It's purely a personal preference. I provide -- the house has
equipment. They can bring. Some people like the feel of the vinyl. You know what I mean, if they are actually playing on manipulating music, they will prefer the vinyl feel to it as opposed to the digital head of the CDJ. MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I gotcha. I gotcha. So but the original source is the MP3 file that is in the laptop?

MR. WELLS: In this instance, yes. MEMBER ALBERTI: And that would have continued after 2:00 a.m.? MR. WELLS: Until 2:45. MEMBER ALBERTI: So that's the difference between what happened between -- in your testimony in terms of what you are testifying, what is the difference between what happened before 2:00 a.m. and -MR. WELLS: My source. MEMBER ALBERTI: -- after 2:00? MR. WELLS: Okay. My source of music is the same seven days a week. It is from that specific staging area.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Seven days a week. My contention is that they were instructed, told to not manipulate with the music. Meaning not manually change songs, not interact with customers as to requests, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Nobody has seen or proven that I have --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Gotcha.
MR. WELLS: -- that they have done such.

MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. It took a long time, but now I understand what you are trying to tell us. Thank you.

MR. WELLS: All right. Thank you. Sorry for, you know --

MEMBER ALBERTI: I have no further questions.

MR. WELLS: Appreciate your patience.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Other Board questions? I just want to ask one clarifying
question. Just in Exhibit 5, Photo 2, where it looks like there is a needle on a record. MR. WELLS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are you saying that is not a needle on a record? It's something else?

MR. WELLS: It's not what you are interpreting that to be like a normal longplay LP player.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But --
MR. WELLS: It's not -- that's not how -- it's not a record. It's not a record that is playing music.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.
MR. WELLS: You know what I mean? That is part of the -- like I was explaining to Mr. Alberti, that is part of the function for Serato to operate. It needs to have that.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: Not a laser as Mr.
Jones points out, but an analog connection to the actual turntable, because that's where the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
song goes into the mixer and it then comes out to the house.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So a CD could be playing --

MR. WELLS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- in this
picture? Okay. Any redirect?
MR. RIVERO: Not really.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I --
MR. RIVERO: Could I have a brief recess?

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. How much would you -- two minutes?

MR. RIVERO: Really short.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, okay. Why don't we take -- we can take five minutes. Okay.
(Whereupon, at 12:57 a.m. a recess until 12:59 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. RIVERO: Thank you. Board Members, there were a whole lot of statements Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
today about the ins and outs of music equipment, the conduct of certain Investigators that were involved and, in fact, the conduct of the licensee proper.

This case threatens to get lost in a morass of details and I'm here to tell you that it's actually a rather simple case. And we need to eliminate the clutter and we are going to do it right now.

And what we want to do is we want to start with a very simple definition. Okay? And that is what is entertainment? That's what this case is really about. It centers on a very simple illustration.

Is going -- a human being going up to equipment and putting on music and then walking away from equipment whether it looks like a turntable or a laptop does become -the complexity of the equipment is not important. It could be something as ancient as your grandfather's phonograph or as advanced as something out of Star Wars.

Is the act of walking up to this equipment and arranging for music to be played simply some bureaucratic task or is it entertainment, as the law defines it? The law by which this Board is bound.

So we start with that definition of entertainment. Entertainment means live music or any other live performance by an actual person, including live bands, karaoke, comedy shows, poetry readings and disc jockeys.

The term entertainment shall not include the operation of a jukebox, a television, a radio or other "prerecorded" music.

This case centers around the interpretation of the phrase "prerecorded music" in that definition that I just read to you.

Now, this definition, as we all know, is pretty old. In fact, it predates laptops. It doesn't predate record players,

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
but it predates laptops. Okay.
And on the one hand, you have in the first sentence inclusion of disc jockeys. You are entitled to use Webster's Dictionary and your every day knowledge of what you think a disc jockey is. In that very same sentence, the disc jockey is part of a line of people who do "live performances." People who sing with a microphone.

The disc jockey is characterized by law as someone who is doing something to entertain people. Not talking, not singing with a microphone, but certainly doing something to entertain people. And what is that something? Well, disc jockeys don't play live music, that's what a band does in our understanding.

A disc jockey plays songs that are on tapes or records or CDs or MP3s or what have you. When you look at that source of music, it looks like prerecorded music, doesn't it?

A disc jockey can't do what we know disc jockeys do without prerecorded music. So by definition, it's necessary. And yet, entertainment doesn't include prerecorded music as you see in the second sentence.

There must have been some intent as to what that phrase in the second sentence means. And I'll tell you what it means. It would be absurd if every restaurant in the city had to get an entertainment endorsement or permit to play the background music that diners enjoy.

The background music is often the source of -- you know, it could be a radio station. It could be some long -- something playing at -- for the diners. People who are not doing what? Dancing.

Let me take you to the wall. DC Code 25- -- we were just reading from DC Code 25-101 and the definition is (21)(a).

I will now take you to 25-113(a), license endorsements. It says "The licensee Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
under a license class," and it includes the category of the establishment here, "shall obtain an entertainment endorsement from the Board to be eligible to have entertainment, a cover charge or offer facilities for dancing."

Now, I don't know about you, but we use our every day knowledge and I can't come up with a single instance where you can offer facilities for dancing without music. I haven't seen people dance to silence. So if you are going to have dancing, you've got to have music. And here there is zero evidence, zero evidence, that the dancing and the operation of the $D J$ were disconnected. They are hand-in-hand in this case.

So we have got someone who, by the nature of his or her job, uses prerecorded music, but arranges it. Okay? It wasn't the dishwasher doing it. It wasn't the waiter doing it. It wasn't the manager doing it. There is testimony that it was a DJ and nobody Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
has told me or you otherwise.
You've got a DJ doing what DJs do. Now, the question then is did this DJ do what he or she does in violation of the license in question? So all this turns on whether it was after 2:00 a.m. on the days in question or not.

There is zero, again I love that number, evidence that we have talking about what happened at 2:00 a.m. or before. There is no evidence on the record here that Investigators were in this establishment before 2:00 a.m. witnessing music being played. You don't have the Investigators saying that to you. They wouldn't, because it wouldn't be a violation.

What you have is after 2:00 a.m. the Investigators were there. They heard music. Investigator Lawson heard music whether in the foyer or the restaurant portion doesn't matter, because we have heard that the music could have only come from one source, a
human being that we call a DJ, who arranged music to play.

It didn't come from any other way. It didn't come, in fact, from any of the exemptions in the law that says this isn't entertainment. So we wouldn't be talking about anything.

And that's it. That's what this case is about. There is no evidence to say that music was not playing.

Now, you have got some statements on the other side to the effect that DJs may have been packing up. We don't have any exact time in evidence as to when that music that may have been prearranged stopped playing, but we do have the evidence of Investigator Lawson who said I came in at 2:50 on Friday/Saturday night. I came in at 2:15 on Saturday/Sunday morning and I heard music.

You also have these photographs.
Now, there has been an admission that Investigator Maisel was running around the
place taking photos. That hasn't been contradicted. What is at issue is the time stamp, whether these photos accurately portray a violation of the law.

But again, zero evidence that Investigator Maisel was doing that before 2:00 a.m., zero.

Now, there is a whole lot of other stuff that might lead you to question the credibility of some statements. I submit to you that the credibility at issue here is the credibility of the witness who testified for the Government, Investigator Lawson. And there is zero evidence to impugn his testimony.

Investigator Maisel took the photographs, printed them, gave them to him and said to him that this is what they were. She was with him. They were almost joined at the hip during their shifts together.

So any accusations about inappropriate conduct, including alcohol
consumption, as relates to Investigator Maisel, or even the conduct of Investigator Stewart. are completely and utterly irrelevant and should very well be the subject of an investigation by ABRA and there ought to be some conclusion and yes, perhaps the licensee ought to be contacted of the investigation if that is the process that the Agency uses in its normal course of business.

Whatever it is that is going on with the allegations with respect to these two individuals, that's the subject of an investigation. That has nothing to do with the fact of this case.

Now, you may choose to credit the licensee's statements about the inappropriate behavior of Investigator Maisel and the inappropriate behavior, according to the allegations, of Investigator Stewart.

Let's assume that this is true, that these people did what they did. It still has no bearing on my job, which is to give you Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
evidence to prove what I believe I have already proven by virtue of the fact that the critical information in front of you has not been contradicted by the other side.

And so you see, we really can help ourselves to clarity by focusing on what is entertainment and, more specifically, what is prerecorded music? And if you put two-and-two together and use a little bit of logic, you must know when you put together the definition of entertainment in DC Code 25-113(a), that the prerecorded music that the DJ uses is not part of the exemption that is listed in entertainment, because otherwise you don't have entertainment.

And so, unfortunately, you have a situation where the licensee indicates that he wasn't present hovering over the shoulder of the DJs. You have a situation where it was after 2:00 and the DJs were playing music and that's the end of the story.

I understand it's not a problem Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
now. The Board can take administrative notice that the licensee's hours have changed. But at the time of this incident, Exhibit 1 will show you that there has been a violation. And that's all this case is about. Thank you. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. Mr. Wells?

MR. WELLS: Yes, thank you. If I may, this case is about so much more than just if a disc jockey was playing the music. As opposing counsel said, whether Mrs. Maisel accurately -- conduct had an issue, how can her conduct not have any bearing on this proceeding?

My entire complaint that I lodged the Monday morning was based on her conduct the evening of the Friday night of Saturday morning. Friday night/Saturday morning and Saturday night/Sunday morning, in which I stated she showed me her middle finger. She acted intoxicated. And I finally filed a formal complaint.

Mr. Lawson, by his own admission, has never walked into the establishment on any nights in question, not one single night did he walk in on Friday night to the area in question of Sultra Lounge. He stayed by the foyer Friday night and never made it past the front door.

Saturday night, he proceeded to step in the front door and move to the left, which is an entirely different building and address. Okay? Never mentioned -- never actually entered the area in question and yet, still, I'm not supposed to question the conduct of Ms. Maisel, who is the sole presenter of this case? The sole person who took these pictures? And she is not even here. I don't know where she is yet. Nobody has felt inclined to tell me, that's fine.

But, yes, I have a problem with her not being here to answer all these claims that are made directly against her and Mr. Lawson openly admitting to never coming into Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
my establishment at any point in time to the area in question where all of these allegations transpired.

He admits to showing up four minutes after she walked out of the door on Friday night and then three minutes after -three minutes -- no, no. After she -- three minutes after she walked to the front of the foyer area. So again, he never came into my establishment. This is on his own admission-by his own admission.

Opposing counsel's definition of live music, yes, it would be absolutely insane for us to go around and get every establishment to get an entertainment endorsement for playing background music. We know that. We deal with this every single day.

To think that the source of the music does not -- could not remain the same regardless of if you have a disc jockey present or not, is ludicrous because the disc Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
jockey -- where my disc jockey and where my music emanates from is there seven days a week.

And yes, he was instructed to play a CD. I admitted to that. He was instructed to play until 2:00 a.m. I admitted to that. I admitted to the fact that $I$ told him and instructed him and he stopped playing at 2:00 a.m.

The District has done nothing to prove by these pictures that my DJ was playing music other than playing from any other media that they normally would be. And any other establishment you go to closing down, you are still going to see -- hear music in the background.

The District has presented no evidence of anybody dancing on either night of the occasion, which would acknowledge that there was some kind of other live -- there was live entertainment and people were partying, you know.

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Unfortunately, there is no evidence of that whatsoever and from my memory and I was there, both nights were pretty dead and there was practically no one there on either of the nights when that Investigator came in.

One time was 2:18, one time was 2:50. Adams Morgan is pretty dead these days around that time, especially during last year when we were in the middle of the 18th Street construction and I had a construction zone in front of me.

I'm sorry. So, yes, really, to state that this is -- with the evidence that the District has presented a substantial change to my operating policy? No, I can't agree with it. And none -- and the pictures that are handwritten, this is the age of digital pictures.

All the pictures with the time stamp written were two different areas of my establishment with the exact same time stamp.

That is humanly impossible. And I'm supposed to question -- and I'm also questioning the conduct of an Investigator, who is not present to represent herself or defend herself as to her conduct being totally unprofessional and she was drunk. I don't care what anybody says, she was intoxicated. And I have witnesses to prove that, if we need to go forward further.

That's -- I mean, that's really I -- you know, like I said, that's my full case. I rest my case.

MR. RIVERO: The Government would object to any statements in closing argument that qualify as testimony and was not presented during the licensee's case.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It won't be considered as testimony as it wasn't under oath, correct. Okay.

MR. RIVERO: If it is included in closing --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I understand. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

MR. RIVERO: -- and never
mentioned before --
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
MR. RIVERO: -- and it is of a testimonial nature, we would ask that it be stricken and not considered.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. Mr. Wells is not an attorney. And, Mr. Rivero, unless you object, the way $I$ see it is that closing is argument and that whatever evidence might be put in in closing is not evidence in the record. It's just argument.

MR. RIVERO: Okay. Great.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, yes, it won't be considered as testimony.

MR. RIVERO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.
At this point, I'm about to close the record. Is there anything else anyone wants to put into the record, at this time?

MR. RIVERO: Not the Government.
MR. WELLS: No. I would just like
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to thank the Board for my lack of understanding of the procedural formalities here. Sorry about that.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, that's okay. You are not an attorney and it's -- a non-attorney, unless you are an attorney.

MR. WELLS: I'm not an attorney. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay. MR. WELLS: Sorry.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: This is the next question and you may need help on this one, but do the parties want to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law or waive their right to do so?

MR. RIVERO: The Government will waive.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And do you understand what the question is?

MR. WELLS: I'm sorry, what was the question?

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. You have a legal right to file proposed findings
of fact and conclusions of law, based on the evidence that is in the record. The Government is waiving its rights. Most participants in these proceedings don't. It's like a legal brief that can be done.

You would have to get the transcript and then make your arguments in writing, but you have a right to do so, if you choose.

MR. WELLS: I waive.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you will waive. Okay.

And I'm just going to say I didn't -- when you asked about Ms. Maisel before why they didn't produce Ms. Maisel as a witness, I sustained the objection because a party doesn't have to explain their case why you are there and presenting a witness or not presenting a witness.

But just for a point of
information, and that may not go to whether or not the reason she did not appear today, I
don't know, but she is not with the Agency any more, just for your own knowledge.

Okay. So now, I'm going to close out this hearing and just read our Open Meetings instructions for this as we will be deliberating on this later in Executive Session.

As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and in accordance with Section 405 of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for purposes of seeking legal advice from our counsel on Case No. 12-CMP-00105, Sultra Lounge, per Section 405(b)(4) of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, and deliberating upon this case for the reasons cited in Section $405(b)(13)$ of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010.

Is there a second?
MEMBER BROOKS: Second.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Brooks Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
has seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call on the motion now that it has been seconded.

Mr. Brooks?
MEMBER BROOKS: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Alberti?
MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Ms. Miller agrees.

Mr. Silverstein?
MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Jones?
MEMBER JONES: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It appears that the motion has passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will recess this proceeding to hold a closed meeting in the ABC Board conference room pursuant to the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010 later in the day. Okay. And we will issue an order within 90 days.

Any other questions? It has been

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | a long morning. Thank you very much. |
| 2 | MR. WELLS: Thank you. |
| 3 | CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. We |
| 4 | have a 1:30 hearing, so we will recess now at |
| 5 | least until then. |
| 6 | (Whereupon, the Show Cause Hearing |
| 7 | in the above-entitled matter was concluded at |
| 8 | 1:19 p.m.) |
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