

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Peace Lounge  
2632 Georgia Avenue, NW  
License No. 94013  
One Day Substantial Change  
Application  
Date of Event: July 2-5, 2014  
30-50 attendees each night

Fact Finding  
Hearing

JUNE 25, 2014

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Ruthanne Miller, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson  
NICK ALBERTI, Member  
DONALD BROOKS, Member  
HERMAN JONES, Member  
HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member  
JAMES SHORT, Member  
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT

KOFI APRAKU, ABRA  
ABYIE GHENENE, ABRA

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

2:22 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

We're ready to hear the Peace Lounge fact finding.

MR. ETANA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, come on forward.

MR. ETANA: Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good

afternoon. You should sign in so that --

MR. ETANA: I did already.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You did

already?

MR. ETANA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Good.

So if you would identify yourself then on the record.

MR. ETANA: My name is Shewa Kanow

Etana. I'm the Peace Lounge manager.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I'm sorry?

MR. ETANA: Shewa Kanow Etana.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  And what's  
2 your position?

3                   MR. ETANA:  Manager, and the owner  
4 actually.

5                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Manager?

6                   MR. ETANA:  Yes.

7                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  For Peace  
8 Lounge.  So you're not the owner, but you're  
9 the manager?

10                  MR. ETANA:  I'm the owner as well.

11                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Oh, you're  
12 the owner as well?

13                  MR. ETANA:  Yes.

14                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  Good.  
15 Okay.  And would our investigators identify  
16 themselves for the record again, please?

17                  INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:  Investigator  
18 Kofi Apraku with ABRA.

19                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  
20 Investigator Abyie Ghenene with ABRA.

21                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  Great.  
22 All right.  So you may have heard me say

1 before that this is what we call a fact  
2 finding hearing. It's not a hearing in which  
3 you'll be put under oath to testify or  
4 anything like that.

5 We get some applications and we  
6 seek further information about them in order  
7 to make our decision. And also it's an  
8 opportunity for you to get some feedback if  
9 you need any information, if you don't  
10 understand something with respect to what you  
11 can do at your event or not do. And sometimes  
12 suggestions are made to improve safety or sale  
13 to minors, or those kind of alcohol-related  
14 issues.

15 MR. ETANA: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So it's more  
17 informal. If you have any questions or don't  
18 understand anything, just feel free to ask.

19 So I understand that you have a  
20 license and you want to get a one-day  
21 substantial change because you want to expand  
22 your hours of operation. And what I have in

1 my notes are that this is for July 2nd through  
2 5th?

3 MR. ETANA: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I'm  
5 going to let you explain then what you have  
6 now and how it's going to be changed, like  
7 what hours, etcetera, what your seeking.

8 MR. ETANA: Yes, well, there is a  
9 Eritrean festival.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

11 MR. ETANA: The soccer  
12 tournament --

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

14 MR. ETANA: -- that will be held  
15 from the 29 to -- pretty much to Sunday to  
16 Sunday. And, but we pick the Wednesday to  
17 Saturday to have a get together community and  
18 all kind of activity.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: To have what?  
20 I'm sorry, could you say that again?

21 MR. ETANA: The Eritrean community  
22 pretty much, they come from throughout the

1 state, and we want it to be like a event, a  
2 party with -- mixed with a live band and DJ,  
3 actually. And people to get together during  
4 that week.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
6 this is Wednesday through Saturday? So your  
7 hours are what? Currently you're allowed to  
8 stay open until --

9 MR. ETANA: 2:00 a.m. I think  
10 during weekdays.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. 3:00  
12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday?

13 MR. ETANA: Yes. We was wishing  
14 to extend to like -- the alcohol sales to keep  
15 to 4:00, and then stay until 6:00 in the  
16 morning.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 6:00?

18 MR. ETANA: Yes, 6:00.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
20 when did you want to have the entertainment?

21 MR. ETANA: The entertainment is  
22 going to start at around 10:00 and hopefully

1 end around 2:00. This is with the live band,  
2 but the DJ we'll keep it. I don't know if  
3 it's possible. This is my first time, you  
4 know?

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have a  
6 settlement agreement?

7 MR. ETANA: No.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You don't  
9 think you have a settlement agreement?  
10 Voluntary agreement?

11 MR. ETANA: No.

12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: They don't.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: They don't?

14 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: They don't.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So --

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: I think we had  
17 some confusion earlier.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. That's  
19 not agreement.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes. Well, this  
21 is a new license, so the voluntary agreement  
22 for the licensee that formerly was at this

1 location does not carry over, because it's a  
2 new license.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Okay.  
4 So you're not restricted by that.

5 MR. ETANA: Yes, I'm just a new  
6 owner, so --

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You're a new  
8 owner?

9 MR. ETANA: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: How long have  
11 you been in business here?

12 MR. ETANA: Since January pretty  
13 much, but I haven't really opened quite yet.  
14 Our grand opening is actually somewhere around  
15 mid-July.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: What about  
17 mid-July?

18 MR. ETANA: I was trying to  
19 introduce as the grand opening.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh.

21 MR. ETANA: Well, lately I'm  
22 softly opening.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Had a soft  
2 opening?

3                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

4                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

5                   MR. ETANA: Pretty much it's just  
6 to promote into the Eritrean community so they  
7 can have just a peaceful place, can just hang  
8 out and have a good time.

9                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So I'm under  
10 the impression that -- are you upstairs above  
11 another --

12                  MR. ETANA: Yes, second floor  
13 upstairs.

14                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. You're  
15 second floor upstairs, and how many do you  
16 seat?

17                  MR. ETANA: Eighty.

18                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Eighty? And  
19 what's downstairs?

20                  Downstairs is a restaurant. It's  
21 not -- it belong to somebody else.

22                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: A restaurant

1 that belongs to somebody else?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you know  
4 what their hours are?

5 MR. ETANA: Their hour is to  
6 10:00.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Until 10:00?

8 MR. ETANA: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is your  
10 entrance separate from theirs?

11 MR. ETANA: Right. Separate.  
12 It's side.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's on the  
14 outside? You go upstairs to yours?

15 MR. ETANA: Right.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Are  
17 you planning on having any different type of  
18 control over your service of alcohol during  
19 that period that you're asking for, or is it  
20 going to be what you normally do? What do you  
21 normally do? How do you normally check IDs --

22 MR. ETANA: Well, we have

1 security, yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- or how  
3 many bartenders do you have?

4 MR. ETANA: To begin with to get  
5 into entrance, we only allow 21 and over.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You only  
7 allow 21 and over?

8 MR. ETANA: Twenty-one and over,  
9 yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Who checks  
11 that?

12 MR. ETANA: The security. One  
13 security the front and we have another  
14 security at the exit side of stair. We have  
15 two security.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you have  
17 two doors to get into your establishment?

18 MR. ETANA: No, not to get in.  
19 The exit side of the business upstairs.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

21 MR. ETANA: Then we always keep a  
22 security. Just this is pretty much the door,

1 exit. It's just one big floor.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
3 you --

4 MR. ETANA: And then outside as  
5 entrance we have a security to check the ID.  
6 And I have also another staff to stay with him  
7 to make sure security and the client, you  
8 know, just don't work together. So I have --  
9 my employee is going to stay with the security  
10 to check the ID to make sure there is no under  
11 ages.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So your  
13 employee -- you have an employee that's going  
14 to be with a security officer?

15 MR. ETANA: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Who is your  
17 security?

18 MR. ETANA: Tony. His name is  
19 Tony.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is it  
21 somebody that works just for you? Is it a  
22 company you use, or what?

1                   MR. ETANA: He does it in the  
2 clubs most time, pretty much.

3                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. What  
4 do you call him? Is he a security officer, or  
5 what is he?

6                   MR. ETANA: He's not -- he's -- I  
7 believe he's trained security.

8                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: He's not with  
9 a company though? He's on his own?

10                  MR. ETANA: He's a self-security.

11                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
12 that's one person. Do you have more than one  
13 security?

14                  MR. ETANA: He bring -- he has a  
15 staff that work with him.

16                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

17                  MR. ETANA: Yes, he provide two --  
18 we ask him to security. He bring one other  
19 security with him.

20                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you have  
21 two security?

22                  MR. ETANA: Two security. Ozzie

1 and Tony.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And you have  
3 one employee of yours helping --

4 MR. ETANA: Right.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- check IDs?

6 MR. ETANA: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And are they  
8 trained in checking IDs?

9 MR. ETANA: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: How are they  
11 trained?

12 MR. ETANA: I believe they took a  
13 class here at ABRA.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The employee  
15 did?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes, he has  
17 previously working in the clubs like this.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how many  
19 bartenders do you have?

20 MR. ETANA: Two.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Two? Okay.  
22 Are they trained?

1 MR. ETANA: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: In what? In  
3 checking IDs and --

4 MR. ETANA: In everything. They  
5 work in different clubs.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: They work in  
7 different clubs too?

8 MR. ETANA: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Do  
10 they check again at the bar or is it just --

11 MR. ETANA: Yes, they do if  
12 there's suspicious -- especially.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If they're  
14 suspicious?

15 MR. ETANA: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
17 you say you -- can you seat 80 people or 80 is  
18 your occupancy, or what?

19 MR. ETANA: Eighty is our  
20 occupancy.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
22 that when you're --

1 MR. ETANA: I don't expect to get  
2 80 people.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. How  
4 many do you normally get?

5 MR. ETANA: Thirty to forty.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thirty to  
7 forty?

8 MR. ETANA: Something like that.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you expect  
10 more on the days that you're seeking the  
11 substantial change for?

12 MR. ETANA: I'm hoping. Hopefully  
13 Friday or Saturday there are more.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have  
15 TVs to watch the game?

16 MR. ETANA: I do have two TV  
17 currently, yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Two TVs?

19 MR. ETANA: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I'm  
21 going to let others ask questions. Yes, Mr.  
22 Alberti?

1 Thank you very much.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm going to  
3 thank you for coming. Okay. I'm going to go  
4 basics here first. You want to stay open  
5 until what time?

6 MR. ETANA: To 6:00 in the  
7 morning.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Until 6:00 a.m.?

9 MR. ETANA: Yes.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. The  
11 application I have before me, I don't know  
12 what it says. It's either 11:00 or 12:00 a.m.  
13 So you'll need to fix that. So --

14 MR. ETANA: What it say the  
15 application, until 7:00 in the morning?

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: And it says from  
17 8:00 p.m. until --

18 MR. ETANA: 7:00.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: No, hours of  
20 event, 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 a.m. or 12:00  
21 a.m. It's just confusing on here. So it  
22 doesn't matter what it says here. You're

1 going to fix it to say 6:00 a.m., correct?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So  
4 we'll have somebody bring you an application.  
5 You can cross that out and put 6:00 a.m.

6 MR. ETANA: Okay.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

8 MR. ETANA: Sorry about that.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's okay.

10 That's okay. Okay. Just want to make sure  
11 we're all -- we've got everything straight.

12 MR. ETANA: Okay.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right.

14 Secondly, you want -- the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and  
15 5th are the dates of this event?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes, I don't know if  
17 it's possible. Since I already submit the  
18 application, I don't know if I can change from  
19 Wednesday to -- starting from Thursday to  
20 Sunday.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: You want to go  
22 Thursday to Sunday?

1 MR. ETANA: And I see that Sunday  
2 has more demand.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. You want  
4 to go Thursday through Monday?

5 MR. ETANA: If it's possible.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Sunday.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Through Sunday?

8 MR. ETANA: Yes, Thursday to  
9 Sunday.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Cool. So  
11 that --

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: What are  
13 those dates then?

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So  
15 the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th?

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

17 MR. ETANA: Yes.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And he'll be able  
19 -- the law would allow him -- if approved, the  
20 law would allow him to serve until 4:00 a.m.  
21 on those days.

22 MR. ETANA: Okay.

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So that's  
2 why I wanted to find out about the 3rd. But  
3 that's no longer an issue.

4                   Okay. So what is the restaurant  
5 that's downstairs from you?

6                   MR. ETANA: That's a Pakistan  
7 restaurant.

8                   MEMBER ALBERTI: What's the name?

9                   MR. ETANA: It's Indian  
10 restaurant, I mean. Not Pakistan. I'm sorry.

11                   MEMBER ALBERTI: That's okay.  
12 What's the name?

13                   MR. ETANA: I'm not paying  
14 attention to that really. I do eat there, but  
15 I --

16                   MEMBER JONES: What letter does  
17 the name start with? Is the name a single  
18 word or --

19                   MR. ETANA: No, it's just a long  
20 name.

21                   MEMBER JONES: It's long?

22                   MR. ETANA: Yes, like something of

1 something?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes.

3 MEMBER JONES: It is? You sure?

4 MR. ETANA: Yes.

5 MEMBER JONES: Okay.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

7 MR. ETANA: Sorry about that. I  
8 just --

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That's all  
10 right.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Because -- let me  
12 see if I have it. I have it here. I'm a  
13 little confused here, because I have a  
14 Certificate of Occupancy for you which says  
15 first and second floors.

16 MR. ETANA: First and second  
17 floor?

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, it's says  
19 first and second floors.

20 MR. ETANA: I don't know how that  
21 happened. Oh, they mean that's for outside  
22 part.

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Outside?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Tell me  
4 about the outside.

5 MR. ETANA: We don't use it, but  
6 we apply for it. But supposed to set a table,  
7 I think.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Indoors or  
9 outdoors?

10 MR. ETANA: Outdoor.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, sort of an  
12 outdoor patio?

13 MR. ETANA: Can we ask for they  
14 consider.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Outdoor patio?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes. Not patios.  
17 Just outdoor. We supposed to create it as a  
18 -- to sit about 10 to 20 seats.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. But you  
20 haven't applied to occupy it, right?

21 MR. ETANA: Yes.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes?

1 MR. ETANA: Say that again?

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you applied  
3 to occupy that area?

4 MR. ETANA: Yes, I did.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: With whom?

6 MR. ETANA: For -- I never -- I  
7 did fill out application. I don't know, maybe  
8 if it's that -- that's the license actually  
9 given to us including the outdoor. I just  
10 don't serve liquor or alcohol, or anything  
11 outside.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Right,  
13 right, right. I'm looking. I'm looking. I'm  
14 looking. Okay. Yes, so you do have. All  
15 right.

16 MR. ETANA: Yes.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's part of the  
18 license. Okay.

19 MR. ETANA: Sorry about that.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: I've got it. We  
21 have it in our records. It's okay.

22 MR. ETANA: I'm totally new for

1 this, so --

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, no. It's  
3 okay. That's okay. And I don't have all the  
4 information.

5 MR. ETANA: Okay.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: So that's why I'm  
7 asking these questions.

8 MR. ETANA: Okay.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So where  
10 is the entrance to your upstairs?

11 MR. ETANA: It's -- you come from  
12 outside. It's the first --

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: On what street?

14 MR. ETANA: Georgia Avenue.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: On Georgia  
16 Avenue?

17 MR. ETANA: Yes.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And you go up  
19 stairways to your --

20 MR. ETANA: Yes, straight up.  
21 Straight through.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Straight up?

1 MR. ETANA: Yes. Second floor.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. And  
3 so the entrance to the ground floor, to the  
4 restaurant downstairs, is that on Georgia  
5 Avenue also?

6 MR. ETANA: That's the first  
7 floor, but theirs is on the other side. Mine  
8 is like the right side.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: What do you mean  
10 the other side? Are both on Georgia Avenue?

11 MR. ETANA: Yes.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So I'm  
13 looking at the building, right? Are there two  
14 doorways?

15 MR. ETANA: Yes.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. There are  
17 two doorways?

18 MR. ETANA: Yes.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: One goes upstairs  
20 to your place and ones goes --

21 MR. ETANA: To the first floor.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- directly into

1 the restaurant?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Very good.  
4 All right. And how will you make sure that no  
5 one has alcoholic beverages past 4:00 a.m.?

6 You understand that no one should have an  
7 alcoholic beverage sitting in front of them,  
8 in their hand or anything --

9 MR. ETANA: Yes.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- after 4:00  
11 a.m.? How will you make sure that happens?

12 MR. ETANA: Well, usually on --  
13 when it get to like closing time, we -- last  
14 call -- we call about 45 prior to the closing  
15 time last call. By 3:40 we should be  
16 collecting all the alcohol from the tables, as  
17 well as anywhere from the floor or anything.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: So are you going  
19 to have entertainment?

20 MR. ETANA: Yes, we're going to  
21 have a keyboardist and one singer just from --

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Until what

1 time?

2 MR. ETANA: I don't know until  
3 what time the ABRA allow to keep it, but so we  
4 would like to have it as far as that we can  
5 keep it.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, okay. So  
7 that's a question that we need to help you out  
8 with, right? Okay. Your entertainment says  
9 until 2:00 a.m. during the week and 3:00 a.m.  
10 Fridays and Saturdays.

11 MR. ETANA: Right.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: So that answers  
13 that question. And you have that on your  
14 license, so you can refer to that.

15 MR. ETANA: Okay.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So what's  
17 going to happen after 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m.?  
18 I mean, why have people there past that hour  
19 up until 6:00 a.m.?

20 MR. ETANA: See, it's -- it became  
21 kind of sort of like traditions lately, the  
22 soccer tournament and the Eritrean. Usually

1 when they coming from throughout the states,  
2 they come late and they just like to sit and  
3 just mingle, just sort of meet and greeting  
4 and just -- also, we're going to have an  
5 appetizer that we're going to serve all night  
6 just for people interested. And on top of  
7 that, I don't know if -- I know I'll find out  
8 we can serve non-tobacco hookah, if we can  
9 serve it to that late pretty much.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: You'll have to  
11 check with DCRA on that one. That's not us.

12 MR. ETANA: Yes, I did checked  
13 that. They say they could check it.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, you check  
15 that with them.

16 MR. ETANA: Okay.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I have no  
18 other questions. Wait, wait, wait. What's  
19 non-tobacco hookah? I thought hookah was  
20 tobacco. No?

21 MR. ETANA: No, they have a non-  
22 tobacco hookah, which actually allowed to --

1 MEMBER ALBERTI: What's it made  
2 of?

3 MR. ETANA: They have fruits. All  
4 kind of fruits. Apple, orange, all that  
5 stuff.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: But the base  
7 isn't tobacco? It's not flavored tobacco?

8 MR. ETANA: No.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

10 MR. ETANA: The other one has it.  
11 Regularly what they serve is -- I guess it has  
12 tobacco, but this particular one you -- we are  
13 interested in, which they are saying that you  
14 can serve with non-tobacco hookah.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I'll leave  
16 that to DCRA.

17 MR. ETANA: Yes.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I have no  
19 further questions.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr.  
21 Rodriguez?

22 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Mr.

1 Etana, it sounds like you're going to have a  
2 great time there. I wanted to ask you, you're  
3 going to make special efforts to make sure  
4 that alcohol is not served to minors, right?

5 MR. ETANA: Absolutely.

6 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: It's very --

7 MR. ETANA: Yes.

8 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: -- important to  
9 us and we'll protect your business.

10 MR. ETANA: Yes.

11 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And no  
12 relationship then with the business  
13 downstairs?

14 MR. ETANA: I know them. I just  
15 -- for some reason I couldn't give the name of  
16 it, but the people are very cool people. We  
17 do have a very --

18 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Good to you  
19 know your neighbors sometimes, you know?

20 MR. ETANA: Yes, definitely.

21 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Especially if  
22 you're in the alcohol business.

1 MR. ETANA: I'm just so bad at  
2 names.

3 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Okay, Mr.  
4 Etana. No more questions for me.

5 MR. ETANA: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Others?

7 MEMBER BROOKS: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.  
9 Brooks?

10 MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chair.

12 Are you leasing the second floor?

13 MR. ETANA: Yes.

14 MEMBER BROOKS: And who's your  
15 landlord? The name.

16 MR. ETANA: His name is Sampson  
17 Meskel.

18 MEMBER BROOKS: I'm sorry?

19 MR. ETANA: Sampson.

20 MEMBER BROOKS: Sampson?

21 MR. ETANA: Yes.

22 MEMBER BROOKS: S-A-M-P-S-O-N?

1 MR. ETANA: Yes, Sampson.

2 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And he's  
3 the owner of the building?

4 MR. ETANA: Yes.

5 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. ETANA: You're welcome.

7 MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you, Madam  
8 Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.  
10 Others?

11 (No audible response)

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.  
13 Investigators?

14 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: I just want  
15 to ask, who are your business partners?

16 MR. ETANA: Betty.

17 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Betty Etena?

18 MR. ETANA: Yes, that's my sister.

19 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

20 That's your sister? Okay. And did you have  
21 any -- and who else also?

22 MR. ETANA: Nobody else. Just my

1 sister.

2 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Just your  
3 sister Betty Etena? And did you have any  
4 other interests -- did you have any interest  
5 in G2?

6 MR. ETANA: No.

7 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: G2, the  
8 restaurant before.

9 MR. ETANA: No. The place called  
10 Peace Lounge. I change it to Peace Lounge.

11 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

12 MR. ETANA: More about peace.

13 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. Did  
14 you have any interest in Betty's Dream?

15 MR. ETANA: Oh, no.

16 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Your  
17 sister's place?

18 MR. ETANA: No, no.

19 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. You  
20 didn't have any interest in that? You weren't  
21 a partner or owner or anything like that?

22 MR. ETANA: No.

1                   INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:   Okay.   And  
2   do you have any other businesses in D.C.?

3                   MR. ETANA:   Well, I'm a -- I have  
4   my own entertainment company called Minos  
5   Entertainment.   I'm actually working on  
6   cultural performance of Ethiopian culture,  
7   dancers, musicians, in downtown Silver Spring  
8   for the last three years.   I don't know if you  
9   guys heard about it.

10                  INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:   No, I meant  
11   like liquor or hookah businesses, like any  
12   other restaurants, clubs?

13                  MR. ETANA:   No.

14                  INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:   Lounges?

15                  MR. ETANA:   No, never.   This is  
16   just my first.

17                  INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:   Okay.

18                  MR. ETANA:   Yes.

19                  INVESTIGATOR APRAKU:   I guess what  
20   I really wanted to ask is I guess were you  
21   aware that -- so you're not in business with  
22   Sampson Meskel?

1 MR. ETANA: No.

2 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: He's not --  
3 okay.

4 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Just to  
5 follow up with Investigator Apraku, so you're  
6 open now currently?

7 MR. ETANA: Softly, but not quite  
8 really. I mean --

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: What does  
10 that mean?

11 MR. ETANA: I did it like Friday.  
12 Last Friday was open.

13 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. So  
14 you are open?

15 MR. ETANA: Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So  
17 typically what nights are you open?

18 MR. ETANA: So far it's just  
19 Fridays.

20 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Friday and  
21 Saturday?

22 MR. ETANA: No, I haven't opened

1 Saturdays.

2 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Oh, Just  
3 Friday? Okay.

4 MR. ETANA: Just Friday lately,  
5 yes.

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And  
7 you're serving --

8 MR. ETANA: I'm honestly just  
9 working on building the place --

10 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I  
11 understand.

12 MR. ETANA: -- to the quality that  
13 I wanted to do.

14 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: You're  
15 serving alcohol though?

16 MR. ETANA: During that time?  
17 Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. Do  
19 you have a Department of Health smoking  
20 exemption for the hookah?

21 MR. ETANA: I haven't do the  
22 hookah yet. Just --

1                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Oh, so  
2 there's no hookah?

3                   MR. ETANA: Yes, but I'm --

4                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Are you --

5                   MR. ETANA: -- during this soccer  
6 tournament that I was telling you, if it's  
7 okay, I don't know. I did ask the Regulation  
8 can do a non-tobacco hookah.

9                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Who told  
10 you you could do that? DCRA?

11                  MR. ETANA: DCRA.

12                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Who told  
13 you that at DCRA? Do you know the name?

14                  MR. ETANA: The people -- I went  
15 to the meeting one time for hookah. So they  
16 say -- supposed to be all D.C. Nobody's had  
17 the license pretty much, but they doing on the  
18 street. Supposed to serve no-tobacco by  
19 hookah.

20                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So have you  
21 applied for a smoking exemption?

22                  MR. ETANA: Yes.

1                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    So you  
2    have?

3                   MR. ETANA:    Yes.

4                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    So you're  
5    aware of them?   Okay.   And with this non-  
6    tobacco hookah, do you light it?   How does  
7    it --

8                   MR. ETANA:    Pretty much the same  
9    thing as just the flavor part doesn't have --

10                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    I  
11    understand.

12                  MR. ETANA:    Yes.    But it's more of  
13    the same thing.

14                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    Okay.

15                  MR. ETANA:    I don't really see the  
16    difference.

17                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    You  
18    mentioned that there's going to be one of your  
19    staff members with the security guard checking  
20    IDs.

21                  MR. ETANA:    Yes.

22                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:    What's that

1 person's name?

2 MR. ETANA: Dani. Dani. Daniel.

3 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Can you  
4 spell it?

5 MR. ETANA: D-A-N-I.

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: And his  
7 last name?

8 MR. ETANA: Brahune, B-R-A-H-U-N-  
9 E.

10 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. And  
11 what's their position in your company?

12 MR. ETANA: So far the last three  
13 Fridays I've used him to, you know, just pay  
14 him \$100 just to deal with the security  
15 aspect.

16 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So is he  
17 only there to check IDs? He does nothing  
18 else?

19 MR. ETANA: Not really. Nothing.

20 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay. So  
21 he's just an ID guy?

22 MR. ETANA: Yes, ID guy.

1                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:   Okay.  And  
2   I mean I've been to that building before.

3                   MR. ETANA:   Okay.

4                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  And I know  
5   of that area in the back where there's a  
6   patio.  Are you planning on using that, too?

7                   MR. ETANA:  The back side of it?  
8   No.

9                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  Yes, the  
10  outside.

11                  MR. ETANA:  At the back?

12                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  Wherever.  
13  Are you going to use anything outside?

14                  MR. ETANA:  No, I'm just -- for  
15  this particular day I don't use nothing.

16                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  Okay.

17                  MR. ETANA:  No outside at all.

18                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  Okay.

19                  MR. ETANA:  Just only for indoor.

20                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  No outside?

21                  MR. ETANA:  Yes, only indoor.

22                  INVESTIGATOR GHENENE:  No outside?

1 MR. ETANA: Yes.

2 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: And I  
3 haven't seen the liquor license, but do you  
4 have a summer garden endorsement?

5 MR. ETANA: Yes, summer garden.  
6 Yes.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: They do.

8 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: They do?

9 MR. ETANA: Yes.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: We'll take a look  
11 at it.

12 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: What the hours  
14 run.

15 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.  
16 That's all I have. Oh, I'm sorry. One last  
17 question. Do you guys have video cameras  
18 inside?

19 MR. ETANA: Yes, we do have one.  
20 We do camera inside.

21 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: And how  
22 long can it record for?

1 MR. ETANA: Twenty-four hour.

2 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Twenty four  
3 hours?

4 MR. ETANA: Yes.

5 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So every 24  
6 hours it resets?

7 MR. ETANA: I think so.

8 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Or you keep  
9 it for how long?

10 MR. ETANA: I have to check that.  
11 It stays -- every 24 hour, reset it.

12 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: So it  
13 records 24 hours and then what happens? It  
14 starts over?

15 MR. ETANA: I think so. I'm not  
16 sure about that. I can check. Also we have  
17 camera outside, too.

18 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Do you have  
19 more than one camera?

20 MR. ETANA: Yes, more than one.  
21 But the inside is only one camera just towards  
22 the entrance.

1 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just want  
4 to ask you a follow-up question on the  
5 security personnel.

6 MR. ETANA: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did I hear  
8 you correctly that -- I thought that one  
9 person who you called security actually only  
10 checks ID in the front. Is he security or is  
11 he just checking ID?

12 MR. ETANA: One security is the  
13 regular security --

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

15 MR. ETANA: -- that stays outside  
16 checking ID. And also have a guy named --  
17 called Dani just to make sure. He stay with  
18 him and probably knows most people and there's  
19 people, young kids coming with the fake ID and  
20 all that. So he pretty much know a lot of --

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you have  
22 one of your employees with the person who

1 checks ID?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes, along with the  
3 security.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Is he  
5 a security officer who checks ID, or is that  
6 just --

7 MR. ETANA: Yes, the security  
8 officer is the main guy that ask for ID.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm sorry.  
10 What?

11 MR. ETANA: He's the one who ask  
12 for ID as they come in.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Would  
14 he also respond to fights or anything like  
15 that?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes, is also one  
17 security inside if there's anything over  
18 there.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well,  
20 that's --

21 MR. ETANA: We got two security.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I know

1       there's one inside.

2                   MR. ETANA:   Yes.

3                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   That's what  
4       he does only, security?

5                   MR. ETANA:   Yes, what I do is  
6       every two, three hour, then I switch them  
7       around and one -- I take him inside to back  
8       and the other one coming --

9                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Okay.

10                  MR. ETANA:   Yes.

11                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   But the one  
12       that checks IDs, does he do other things  
13       related to security?

14                  MR. ETANA:   Yes, he does all.

15                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   He does it  
16       all?

17                  MR. ETANA:   Yes.

18                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Okay.   Are  
19       there other questions?

20                               (No audible response)

21                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   How many  
22       employees do you have?

1 MR. ETANA: Three so far.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Three  
3 employees? Okay.

4 I just want to ask our  
5 investigators if you have any concerns.

6 You've been to the place. With respect to  
7 number of security, does this sound sufficient  
8 to you all? Do you have an opinion?

9 (No audible response)

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And I know  
11 you probably haven't even been when it's been  
12 operating maybe.

13 Because you've only been operating  
14 like on Fridays, right?

15 MR. ETANA: Yes. When I did first  
16 actually three weeks ago, I have three  
17 securities. When I felt like more people will  
18 come, I always have security. My main concern  
19 is always safety for everybody. So just to  
20 make sure when I feel like the crowd is going  
21 to be more crowd, I always add extra security  
22 just to be cautious.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But you  
2 haven't had reason to do that yet, have you?

3                   MR. ETANA: Well, like I say, when  
4 I have event that I feel like is going to get  
5 crowded.

6                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, that's  
7 this one. Are you going to add more security?

8                   MR. ETANA: For this one, I don't  
9 accepted it -- I don't -- until maybe Saturday  
10 I'm going to probably do that. I'm going to  
11 see how's it goes. If I starting Thursday,  
12 Friday.

13                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

14                   MR. ETANA: If it get crowded, and  
15 I'm going to security.

16                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And do you  
17 add security? Do you have a relationship with  
18 the --

19                   MR. ETANA: Yes, the same guy that  
20 bring -- he's going to call them.

21                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Bring more?

22                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So let  
2 me turn back to my investigators to see, do  
3 you have any concerns or recommendations?

4                   INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: No.

5                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I haven't  
6 been to it since he's had it and I don't know  
7 if there's been renovations, but I do know  
8 that the way it was situated before that the  
9 bottom of the entrance on Georgia Avenue, to  
10 go upstairs, sits at the bottom of some  
11 stairs. And it's not six stairs. It's a very  
12 long flight of stairs. So that if a security  
13 guard was responding to something that was  
14 happening upstairs, it would take some time.  
15 So that would be my concern, is that this  
16 security guard downstairs wouldn't be able to  
17 respond if needed --

18                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

19                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: -- rapidly.  
20 And then I guess in line with that I have  
21 concerns about how -- if something happened  
22 upstairs, how they're getting downstairs.

1 Because like I said, it's a very long --

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.

3 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: -- flight  
4 of stairs.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is it steep?

6 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I'm not  
7 sure if it's -- I don't know what the code is  
8 and I'm --

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Okay.  
10 I was just wondering if there's also an issue  
11 of people falling downstairs.

12 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: It's a long  
13 flight of stairs.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: And in  
16 addition to that, just piggybacking off of  
17 what he said -- and we didn't address this,  
18 but as he said -- and I have been there once  
19 before, and it is a long flight of stairs. I  
20 don't know how they contact each other. Is  
21 there a walkie-talkie or does somebody have to  
22 come all the way from upstairs to downstairs

1 to come and say come upstairs and come help  
2 out? So again, I didn't address that. I  
3 didn't ask that question.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.

5 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: So how do  
6 you guys contact each other? Do you have  
7 walkie-talkies? What is the means of contact?

8 They do use the phone. They have  
9 a phone. They call each other. But I don't  
10 think -- so far I haven't experience anything  
11 like that that create any incident for them to  
12 -- you know, it's not too far from downstair  
13 to upstairs because the security is upstairs  
14 already. And for 30 to 40 people, I don't  
15 think -- I don't know how many extra camera or  
16 anything that I need to do. I don't know.  
17 But I know for sure so far I haven't  
18 experienced anything like that that I need a  
19 security for upstairs.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. It  
21 sounds like you haven't been open very much  
22 though and --

1 MR. ETANA: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- this is  
3 more a special event.

4 MR. ETANA: Right. Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So --

6 MR. ETANA: I can add, if you guys  
7 command, extra security. I can do three  
8 security. No problem.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

10 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Well, that's  
11 what he applied for initially anyway. I mean,  
12 he said he was going to put three security.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Isn't that  
14 what you have, three security? Or you only  
15 have two?

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: You have three  
17 security on your application.

18 MR. ETANA: Three?

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's what you  
20 have on your application.

21 MR. ETANA: Yes, but seeing the  
22 event, I don't anticipate more than 30 to 40

1 people. That's why I thought maybe it should  
2 be good enough. I see that every 50 security  
3 -- people you need one security. That's the  
4 regulation. But I mean, if you guys are  
5 command it, I can do three security.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I just want  
7 to ask one question. Then I'm going to go to  
8 Mr. Short. But could you just refresh my  
9 memory, do you have two security currently or  
10 three?

11 MR. ETANA: Currently two, but I  
12 did work with three security in the past,  
13 during the birthday that I hosted.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 MR. ETANA: So I have a  
16 relationship with those three security. If I  
17 needed to, he can just add it for me extra on  
18 security.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. And  
20 how many people have you had basically at a  
21 time?

22 MR. ETANA: The attendance?

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Patrons.  
2                   That you've been open. How many people have  
3                   -- attendees? How many people?

4                   MR. ETANA: The biggest crowd I  
5                   had is the birthday. Is about 45 to 50  
6                   people. And that's the biggest crowd so far  
7                   we have.

8                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Was  
9                   that --

10                  MR. ETANA: And that time, that's  
11                  when I have three securities.

12                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But  
13                  you don't expect that number, or you do? Or  
14                  you would like that number of people?

15                  MR. ETANA: I think on Saturday,  
16                  hopefully, if we promote it, we can get that  
17                  number Saturday.

18                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr.  
19                  Short?

20                  MEMBER SHORT: Yes, I'm a little  
21                  concerned about the contact between the  
22                  security as one of the investigators already

1 brought up. Do you have a security plan?

2 MR. ETANA: I think they -- and I  
3 see they concern me, and I just never thought  
4 of the communication part, but I'm going to be  
5 there the whole time myself.

6 MEMBER SHORT: I understand that,  
7 but how do the people downstairs on the first  
8 floor at the entrance talk to people upstairs  
9 on the second floor, especially if you got 40  
10 or 50 people and the music playing?

11 MR. ETANA: If there is any kind  
12 of fight or anything, I mean, I can go myself  
13 or call the other security.

14 MEMBER SHORT: But how do you  
15 address -- how do people talk to each other?  
16 How do they communicate?

17 MR. ETANA: They call each other  
18 all the time on the phone. I don't know. Is  
19 that walkie talkie for them? Or they always  
20 call each other.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you don't  
22 know if they use -- excuse me, Mr. Short. You

1 don't know --

2 MR. ETANA: It's not a walkie  
3 talkie. It's just a cell phone.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's not a --  
5 it's a cell phone?

6 MR. ETANA: Yes, a cell phone.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

8 MR. ETANA: But I see the concern,  
9 but definitely I can add three security now.  
10 I never thought about the -- how they  
11 communicate from upstairs to downstairs. He's  
12 -- they right. So I can add three securities.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you would  
14 have one at the bottom of the stairs, one at  
15 the top of the stairs and then one inside  
16 roaming?

17 MR. ETANA: Yes. Well, it's just  
18 one open big room.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: One big room?  
20 Okay.

21 MR. ETANA: So one can sit by the  
22 exit side and then one by the stairs.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, by the  
2 exit? Okay.

3                   MR. ETANA: So that way i

4                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr.  
5 Short?

6                   MEMBER SHORT: Again, the security  
7 plan --

8                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

9                   MEMBER SHORT: -- if we had a  
10 security plan, we'd have a lot of this  
11 information in front of us. What you do if  
12 someone gets sick or what you do if someone is  
13 injured. What do you do? What plan do you  
14 have in place?

15                   MR. ETANA: Well, if someone is  
16 sick, we call immediately the 911, try to  
17 get --

18                   MEMBER SHORT: Well, as I said,  
19 suppose someone falls out of the first -- at  
20 the floor at the door and everybody up on the  
21 second floor doesn't know it yet. Who calls  
22 then? You need a plan.

1 MR. ETANA: Okay.

2 MEMBER SHORT: You need a plan.

3 MR. ETANA: Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.

5 Silverstein?

6 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Do you have a  
7 written plan?

8 MR. ETANA: I don't have it, but I  
9 can prepare it. I mean, I see the concern, so  
10 I can prepare. But I don't have it at this  
11 moment.

12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Our primary  
13 concern above all others is the safety of  
14 people who come here to enjoy our hospitality.

15 MR. ETANA: Yes.

16 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And I'd feel  
17 a lot better and I think I can probably speak  
18 for the Board on this, although I hesitate to  
19 do most of the time, we'd feel better if we  
20 had a written security plan from you and if  
21 you brought it in here.

22 MR. ETANA: Okay.

1 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.

2 MR. ETANA: Knowing first time for  
3 me and definitely now I know what you guys  
4 need -- request and needed. So but for me  
5 right now, I'm sorry, I just never --

6 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: If you could  
7 perhaps work with the two gentlemen, Mr.  
8 Apraku and Mr. --

9 MR. ETANA: Okay. Okay.

10 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: -- Ghenene,  
11 they're very, very helpful, very skilled on  
12 this.

13 MR. ETANA: Wonderful.

14 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: And they'll  
15 work to help you.

16 MR. ETANA: Okay. Thank you.

17 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: We all have  
18 the same goal here. Safety.

19 MR. ETANA: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

21 Others?

22 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Ms. Miller?

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes?

2 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: May I ask  
3 one last question?

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

5 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Will Mr.  
6 Meskel have any role in any of this business  
7 upstairs outside of being the landlord?

8 MR. ETANA: No.

9 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: He has no  
10 benefit? No profit?

11 MR. ETANA: No.

12 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: He won't be  
13 managing? Nothing?

14 MR. ETANA: Not at all.

15 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Okay.

16 MR. ETANA: Yes. He just -- he  
17 rent to me.

18 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I  
19 understand.

20 MR. ETANA: I just have the leave.

21 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: I  
22 understand.

1                   INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: And not just  
2 in regards specifically to this event. He  
3 doesn't have any interests in your business?

4                   MR. ETANA: Not to the next five  
5 years far as I --

6                   INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. Thank  
7 you.

8                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

9                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Not what?  
10 What did you say? What was your answer?

11                   MR. ETANA: Not to the next five  
12 years. I have a five-year lease, so --

13                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh.

14                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

15                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

16                   MR. ETANA: Yes.

17                   INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: All right.  
18 Thank you, sir.

19                   MR. ETANA: Yes, you're welcome.

20                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

21                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, just one  
22 more housekeeping --

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

2                   MEMBER BROOKS: First of all, sir,  
3 you have three security on your application.  
4 Whatever you put on your application you have  
5 to --

6                   MR. ETANA: Go for it. Okay.  
7 We'll do that.

8                   MEMBER ALBERTI: That's what you  
9 have to do.

10                  MR. ETANA: Okay.

11                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay? So it's  
12 the way the rules are.

13                  MR. ETANA: Okay.

14                  MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. You  
15 just can't put something on your application  
16 and say, oh, well, I really don't need that.  
17 It's on your application. That's what we  
18 expect. One of these guys go into your  
19 establishment, they're going to be looking for  
20 three security.

21                  MR. ETANA: Okay.

22                  MEMBER ALBERTI: And if you don't

1 have it, you may never get a one-day again --

2 MR. ETANA: Okay.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- in the whole  
4 five years. So just remember that. Okay?

5 MR. ETANA: Okay.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'll forewarn  
7 you. All right. Secondly, before we leave  
8 today; I think that we should do this now, you  
9 said you were going to change the hours of the  
10 event to 6:00 a.m. on this, right?

11 MR. ETANA: Yes.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So we'll  
13 have someone come down and have you do that.  
14 And you're going to change the dates --

15 MR. ETANA: Right, from --

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- from July 3rd  
17 to July 6th, right?

18 MR. ETANA: Yes. Yes, sir.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: So I'm going to  
20 have someone come down and you're going to  
21 make those changes and you're going to initial  
22 them.

1 MR. ETANA: Okay.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: And then we'll  
3 take care of that before we do our final  
4 review.

5 MR. ETANA: Okay.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Just so there's  
7 some housekeeping.

8 MR. ETANA: Okay.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay? So, Ms.  
10 Walker, you're going to go down there?

11 Yes. Oh, she's getting it right  
12 now.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I was  
14 just wondering if -- I have it in front of me  
15 now though. When we decide if we're going to  
16 approve it, if we're going to approve it for  
17 those hours or if we're going to approve it  
18 otherwise.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, we haven't  
20 decided if we're going to approve it --

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- but I just

1 want to make sure that that's done --

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- while we  
4 discuss that, so we don't forget.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Who has the  
6 final application? Is this it? Because it  
7 doesn't -- it's not correct.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's not correct?  
9 What do you mean it's not correct?

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, it --

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: So he changed it  
12 to 7:00 instead of -- you really want 7:00  
13 instead of 6:00, is that right?

14 MR. ETANA: 7:00 is --

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: 7:00 a.m.?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes, I had to leave it  
17 by 7:00 or they had to leave by 7:00. I did  
18 it for me to leave --

19 (Simultaneous speech)

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So he's  
21 changing this to 7:00 a.m. Contrary to what  
22 he said earlier, it's 7:00 a.m.

1 MR. ETANA: Yes.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay? And he's  
3 serving alcohol until 4:00 a.m., which is --  
4 it's a holiday weekend --

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Okay.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- so it is  
7 permitted.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I guess it  
9 doesn't matter on the bottom he has June --

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: So really what  
11 we're approving --

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- 29th?  
13 He's just requesting --

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- what we are  
15 approving is --

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: The extended hour  
18 to 7:00 a.m. is essentially what we're  
19 approving.

20 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: That's right.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, and the  
22 4:00, correct? I mean, he can't just --

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI:  No, the 4:00  
2                   a.m.  --

3                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  He doesn't  
4                   have extended hours permission yet.

5                   MEMBER ALBERTI:  Oh, do you have  
6                   -- well, you don't have -- right.  So, okay.  
7                   So we're approving the 4:00 a.m.

8                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Right.

9                   MEMBER ALBERTI:  I'm sorry.

10                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  So as  
11                  corrected, this application reflects the days  
12                  that you changed it to here, which would be  
13                  July 3rd through July 6th, correct?

14                  MR. ETANA:  Yes.

15                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  And you want  
16                  to operate until 7:00 a.m.  And you want to  
17                  serve alcohol until 4:00 a.m. on those nights,  
18                  right?

19                  MR. ETANA:  Yes.

20                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  And so it  
21                  seems to me the only other question we had was  
22                  -- well, one of them was the entertainment.

1       Until what hour you could have entertainment.

2       Your license --

3                   MR. ETANA:    Until 2:00 a.m.

4                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  -- limits it  
5       to 2:00 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 3:00  
6       a.m. Friday and Saturday.  And I think you  
7       just said you want us to decide as late as you  
8       can.  Is that it?

9                   MR. ETANA:  Yes, and I have a  
10       question on that.  Is it like even you can't  
11       play any music until 7:00 in the morning?  Or  
12       just the music has to cut off at 2:00?

13                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  It has to  
14       fall under the definition of entertainment, so  
15       I believe if you had like soft recorded music  
16       or something like that, that's not considered  
17       entertainment.

18                   MR. ETANA:  Okay.

19                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  I'll have to  
20       look in the regs to see exactly what is.  But  
21       you could not have a live band.

22                   MR. ETANA:  Okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Or you could  
2 not have a DJ at that hour.

3 MR. ETANA: Okay. Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are there any  
5 comments by Board Members or investigators on  
6 the time?

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: You remember  
8 three security, right?

9 MR. ETANA: Yes. Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.  
11 Okay. So does anyone -- well, let's just go  
12 and address these issues. Does anybody have  
13 a concern with the operating of this  
14 establishment until 7:00 a.m. in the morning  
15 for those four days?

16 (No audible response)

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Don't  
18 hear that. Okay. How about selling alcohol  
19 until 4:00 a.m.? Their current license allows  
20 them to do it until 2:00 Wednesday and  
21 Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 3:00 a.m.  
22 This is a weekend where other establishments

1 have sought permission for extended hours  
2 because of the holiday until 4:00 a.m.

3 (No audible response)

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
5 that's that. They'll have three security.  
6 Doesn't mean you can have -- you can have more  
7 than three. You just can't have less than  
8 three.

9 MR. ETANA: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
11 then the last question is entertainment,  
12 whether it should be extended beyond the  
13 licensed hours or not.

14 Let me just ask you, are there  
15 other establishments in the area that have  
16 entertainment near you? You know?

17 MR. ETANA: No, I don't know.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You know  
19 some? Yes?

20 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes,  
21 there's one. If it's not on the same block,  
22 it's a block down. And they have

1 entertainment. I know they have live bands  
2 frequently.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

4 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: But it's  
5 not saturated.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: No.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And are there  
9 residences around this -- okay --

10 INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- this  
12 establishment?

13 Okay. Anything else you want to  
14 say with respect to why you need to have  
15 entertainment beyond 2:00 and 3:00?

16 MR. ETANA: Yes, I wanted to ask a  
17 question about the entertainment. Like when  
18 we open -- without having a DJ, can you open  
19 from the laptop or anything and just play soft  
20 music without creating any loud --

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Can you play  
22 soft music on a laptop? Is that

1 entertainment? Is that what you're saying?

2 MR. ETANA: Yes, is that consider  
3 as entertainment? I'm just --

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's like --  
5 my understanding is that recorded music is not  
6 considered entertainment.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Who would be  
8 operating the laptop?

9 MR. ETANA: Well, if -- myself if  
10 the DJ leave the --

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right, you  
12 wouldn't have a DJ, right? You would just --

13 MR. ETANA: DJ is going be at  
14 least until 3:00 a.m.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Pardon?

16 MR. ETANA: Until 3:00 a.m.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

18 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: It sounds like  
19 it's just prerecorded music.

20 MR. ETANA: Yes, just playing soft  
21 music because people just --

22 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Is this

1 background or are people going to be dancing?

2 MR. ETANA: Well, once after 3:00  
3 people just sit and chill and just -- I don't  
4 think there's going to be any dancing  
5 involved, because there's no DJ going to be --

6 COURT REPORTER: Member Rodriguez,  
7 is your microphone on? I'm not picking you  
8 up.

9 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: My apology. I  
10 just asked him with the music if there's going  
11 to be dancing. And he said no, right?

12 MR. ETANA: No, I don't think so.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

14 MR. ETANA: I don't know if I can  
15 control people if feeling they just get up and  
16 dancing, but if certainly not allowed, I can  
17 tell them to just no dancing.

18 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right, but in a  
19 entertainment license that is authorized. If  
20 you don't have an entertainment license, that  
21 is not authorized.

22 MR. ETANA: Okay.

1                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: That's the  
2 difference.

3                   MR. ETANA: But until 3:00 they  
4 allowed to?

5                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right.

6                   MR. ETANA: Well, actually during  
7 the extended hour they can dance until 4:00  
8 a.m.?

9                   MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I'll defer to  
10 the Chair on that one.

11                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Well,  
12 I'm just going to tell you, I don't -- I hope  
13 you have a copy of our regulations and  
14 statute, but entertainment is defined as live  
15 music or any other live performance by an  
16 actual person, including live bands, karaoke,  
17 comedy shows, poetry readings and disc  
18 jockeys. The term "entertainment" shall not  
19 include the operation of a jukebox, a  
20 television, a radio or other prerecorded  
21 music.

22                   MR. ETANA: Okay. Good.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay? So I  
2                   guess I'm inclined just to leave -- I would  
3                   recommend we just leave the hours as they are  
4                   in the license of 2:00 and 3:00, but others  
5                   can tell me what they think. He's asked us  
6                   wide open, but I just haven't heard a good  
7                   reason. And he can do recorded music  
8                   afterwards. And there are residences around.  
9                   But I'm open if somebody has some compelling  
10                  reason.

11                  MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm willing to  
12                  approve the license application as it appeared  
13                  to us just a few minutes ago. That's the one  
14                  I'm considering. I really would not like to  
15                  consider now new changes. We're in the middle  
16                  of the -- we're at the end of this hearing.  
17                  I don't want to spend another half hour  
18                  reconsidering a new application. So I will  
19                  approve what is there currently on that  
20                  license.

21                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But I  
22                  will just -- it needs interpretation, I think,

1 and I don't want him to leave not clear. Same  
2 with our investigators. Because it says we'll  
3 provide DJ music and live band for special  
4 Eritrean festival week. Okay. And it doesn't  
5 say -- put any hours on it. So I interpret  
6 this then as being subject to the hours in the  
7 license if we're not extending it.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes. That's the  
9 way I interpret it, too.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But he  
11 might have interpreted it to later hours if  
12 we're giving him later hours for other things.

13 So is that clear?

14 MR. ETANA: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All  
16 right. Is it okay with Board Members to vote,  
17 or anybody else have any questions?

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So I  
20 move that we approve this application for a  
21 substantial change as reflected on the  
22 application.

1 MR. ETANA: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

3 Is there a second?

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Second.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

6 Mr. Alberti seconded the motion. All those in  
7 favor, say aye?

8 (Chorus of ayes)

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those  
10 opposed?

11 (No audible response)

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those  
13 abstaining?

14 (No audible response)

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Motion passes  
16 7-0-0. Okay. I'll pass it down for  
17 signatures and we'll be done.

18 MR. ETANA: Thank you, ma'am.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Anane?  
20 Is that your name? I just wanted to remind  
21 you to work with our investigators.

22 MR. ETANA: Okay.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You were  
2 going to come up with some kind of a basic  
3 safety plan --

4                   MR. ETANA: Okay.

5                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- all right,  
6 with them. And one of you going to be  
7 dropping in?

8                   INVESTIGATOR GHENENE: Yes.

9                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. So  
10 they'll be monitoring, too.

11                  MR. ETANA: Okay.

12                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And if you  
13 have any questions or any concerns, you should  
14 feel free to ask them. They can be very  
15 helpful.

16                  MR. ETANA: Okay.

17                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

18                  MR. ETANA: Thank you so much.

19                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.  
20 Oh, wait. Wait a second. Wait for your  
21 order, your signed application.

22                  MEMBER ALBERTI: We're going to

1 sign it.

2 MR. ETANA: Okay.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: And then the  
4 office is still open. You can probably pick  
5 it up now, if you'd like, once we sign it.

6 MR. ETANA: Okay.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: It's up to you.  
8 You can come back, if you want.

9 MR. ETANA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. While  
11 we're signing, we're basically finished. So  
12 good luck. I hope everything works out well.  
13 Just wait for your application signed by the  
14 Board and then bring it to the office.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
16 matter went off the record at 3:17 p.m.)

17

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<p><b>2:22</b> 2:2  <b>20</b> 22:18  <b>2000</b> 1:12  <b>2014</b> 1:8,10  <b>21</b> 11:5,7  <b>24</b> 42:5,11,13  <b>25</b> 1:10  <b>2632</b> 1:6  <b>29</b> 5:15  <b>29th</b> 65:12  <b>2nd</b> 5:1 18:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>3:00</b> 6:11 27:9,17          67:5 68:21 70:15          71:14,16 72:2          73:3 74:4  <b>3:17</b> 78:16  <b>3:40</b> 26:15  <b>30</b> 50:14 51:22  <b>30-50</b> 1:9  <b>3rd</b> 18:14 19:15          20:2 62:16 66:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>4:00</b> 6:15 19:20          26:5,10 65:3,22          66:1,7,17 68:19          69:2 73:7  <b>40</b> 50:14 51:22 54:9  <b>45</b> 26:14 53:5  <b>4th</b> 18:14 19:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>50</b> 52:2 53:5 54:10  <b>5th</b> 5:2 18:15 19:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>6:00</b> 6:15,17,18          17:6,8 18:1,5          27:19 62:10 64:13  <b>6th</b> 19:15 62:17          66:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>7-0-0</b> 76:16  <b>7:00</b> 17:15,18 64:12          64:12,14,15,17,17</p>	<p>64:21,22 65:18          66:16 67:11 68:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>8:00</b> 17:17,20  <b>80</b> 15:17,17 16:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <hr/>			
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