

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
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MEETING

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
 :
Ermiyas A. Asfaw, on behalf :
of Genius Fix :
Neighborhood: 15 K Street, NE: Fact Finding
Date of Event: July 3, 5 and :
6, 2013 :
Temporary License Application:
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JUNE 26, 2013

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Nick Alberti, Acting Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT

- NICK ALBERTI, Acting Chairman
- DONALD BROOKS, Member
- HERMAN JONES, Member
- MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member
- ALSO PRESENT
- KOFI APRAKU, ABRA

FELICIA MARTIN, ABRA

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

4:35 p.m.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

We are on the record. The next matter before us is a fact finding hearing on a temporary license application for events to occur on July 3rd, 5th and 6th, 2013 at 15 K Street, N.E. And the Applicant is Ermiyas Asfaw. I apologize if I mispronounced that.

So would the parties please come forward and have a seat and introduce yourselves?

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: So we're not fluent in Amharic and if you could help us with your name, we would appreciate it.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Yes.

MR. ASFAW: Yes, no problem. My name is Ermiyas Asfaw. It's like Jeremiah.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Oh, Ermiyas? It sounds like -- okay, kind of like it's spelled. I apologize. Ermiyas. Good.

MR. ASFAW: I mean the English

1 version of it is Jeremiah.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.

3 MR. ASFAW: Which is a Bible name,
4 pretty much.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.

6 MR. ASFAW: So --

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

8 MR. ASFAW: You know, the
9 Ethiopian version of it is Ermiyas.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Ermiyas?

11 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

13 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: It is a
14 Semitic language and we should be much more
15 familiar with it than we are.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Good.

17 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you,
18 sir.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

20 And with you today?

21 MR. PAPPAS: I'm Mike Pappas. I'm
22 Mr. Ermiyas' agent.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Your
2 name again, sir, Ermiyas? Is that your first
3 name or last name?

4 MR. ASFAW: Last name is Asfaw.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Asfaw?

6 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

8 Thank you. Okay. Thank you, gentlemen.

9 And we have with us two
10 investigators. Will you introduce yourself?

11 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Yes, good
12 afternoon, Panel. Felicia Martin,
13 investigator with ABRA.

14 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Investigator
15 Kofi Apraku with ABRA.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Yes.
17 Okay. Well, this is -- we often bring
18 licensees for large events before us to talk
19 about how the event is going to be conducted.
20 You know, we want to know how -- things about
21 crowd security and how things will operate
22 with respect to the service and consumption of

1 alcohol. We have our investigators here as a
2 resource so that -- they may have some
3 questions for you, but they are people you can
4 contact afterwards also if you have any
5 questions about what was said today.

6 So who's going to give the
7 presentation, Mr. Asfaw or Mr. Pappas?

8 MR. ASFAW: No, you can speak.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
10 Before we do that, I think we provided you
11 with a list of questions and concerns before
12 this.

13 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
15 So using that as a jump starting off point,
16 why don't you tell us a little bit about this
17 event?

18 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. It's an annual
19 event for the Ethiopian people and it's once
20 a year. And it's a very attractive thing for
21 the people and a good thing for the Ethiopian
22 people. And it's different parties they have

1 and get together, very peaceful, very
2 peaceful.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

4 MR. ASFAW: I can add some more to
5 that.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Sure.

7 Go ahead, Mr. Asfaw.

8 MR. ASFAW: Its pretty much, you
9 know, as you know, immigrants from Ethiopia.
10 So the one time a year people gather together
11 to pretty much, you know, see faces and have
12 a good time. They do once a year in every
13 different state. So it happened to be -- this
14 is Washington, D.C. this year. Last year they
15 had it at Texas, Dallas.

16 So in the day time people gather
17 by the field, have a good time. There is
18 soccer. People watch the games and stuff.
19 But the night time, since it's a gathering and
20 seeing together, we just going to have people
21 go -- going to be tired at the field and we
22 just want have some get together pretty much.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
2 I'm going to start asking questions. I think
3 maybe that's the best way to proceed here. So
4 this takes place -- okay. So I guess it's not
5 clear to me. Okay. The temporary license is
6 being sought at -- what is this place? All
7 right. 15 K Street. What is that place
8 normally?

9 MR. PAPPAS: That's the old Club
10 Venus, Mr. Chairman.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

12 MR. PAPPAS: Club Venus.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
14 right. But it's no longer a licensed
15 establishment, is that correct?

16 MR. PAPPAS: No, it's not
17 functional, not working. They're not in
18 business anymore.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
20 Great. So when I see on here "restaurant,"
21 that's your temporary restaurant?

22 MR. ASFAW: Temporary hole.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: What do
3 you mean your temporary area? You're looking
4 at me like -- is there a permanent restaurant
5 there already? What's at this location?

6 MR. ASFAW: It used to be a
7 restaurant, but currently it's not. It's been
8 shut down for the past two years, I believe.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Oh, but
10 you're saying the restaurant --

11 MR. ASFAW: It's been shut down
12 for the past three years. We've done the same
13 exact event at that location. Two years ago
14 there was the same event in Washington, D.C.
15 So a group of eight people which including me,
16 myself, we did the same exact event in that
17 location.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
19 So where is the event taking place? What are
20 the boundaries of the event?

21 MR. ASFAW: It's inside the --

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Totally

1 inside the building?

2 MR. ASFAW: Inside the premises.
3 But since it is fenced all the way, you can't
4 get out unless you use the entrance, the main
5 entrance as the schematic shows. So it's all
6 fenced all the way around. And it has like a
7 kind of courtyard kind of deal. When you get
8 out of the premises it has three doors and
9 then when you get out --

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
11 So I go in the front door.

12 MR. PAPPAS: Right.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
14 right?

15 MR. ASFAW: I mean, I could -- can
16 I approach the bench to show you where the
17 geographical -- I --

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Well,
19 can you sort of --

20 MR. ASFAW: -- printed --

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: -- sort
22 of just explain it from there on your --

1 MR. ASFAW: -- kind of Google map-
2 kind of deal. I printed --

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Oh, do
4 you have a copy we can --

5 MR. ASFAW: Yes. Yes.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Ms.
7 Walker will get a copy for me.

8 MR. ASFAW: Yes. So it's kind of
9 dark, but this is the entrance, right? This
10 is the beer pit and then it's all the way
11 fenced.

12 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, it's
13 located between North Capitol and 1st Street,
14 N.E. on K Street.

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

16 MR. PAPPAS: In the middle of the
17 block.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Well, I
19 can't picture it right now, so --

20 MR. ASFAW: This is the
21 information that we have.

22 MEMBER JONES: Okay. Oh, okay.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Wait,
2 wait, wait. Sir, why don't you just give me
3 the picture and then I'll ask.

4 MR. ASFAW: Okay.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
6 So now I'm looking at this and which building
7 are we talking about?

8 MR. ASFAW: Can I approach?

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Sure,
10 come on up here. Come on.

11 MR. ASFAW: So this is the
12 building. This is K Street.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
14 So this is the building?

15 MR. ASFAW: And this is the
16 entrance. This is the building. And then
17 this is the fence all the way around.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
19 So --

20 MR. ASFAW: You can't go there --

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So it's
22 the building. There's a drive to the left of

1 the building and there's like a paved parking
2 lot behind it?

3 MR. ASFAW: Right.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
5 Have a seat. So my Board Members have an idea
6 what we're talking about. Okay? And others
7 want to see this.

8 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, if you
9 remember, the -- not the present DCRA. That's
10 where DCRA used to be at 941 North Capitol
11 Street. But this is right next to it.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.
13 Right. I got you. I got you. This picture
14 is very helpful here. We just want to know
15 what the area looks like. All right?

16 All right. So how is that parking
17 lot fenced behind the building?

18 MR. ASFAW: Behind it there is
19 office, pretty much another piece of building.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So the
21 parking lot up to another building?

22 MR. ASFAW: Right. So --

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Is that
2 the back of the building?

3 MR. ASFAW: Right-hand side there
4 is another building. On the left-hand side
5 there is another building. On the back side
6 of it there is another building.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Well, on
8 the left-hand side, I see a driveway going
9 back.

10 MR. ASFAW: Right. After the
11 driveway it's a building.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.
13 Right. But the edge of that parking lot --
14 okay. I want to know which area you'll be
15 using.

16 MR. ASFAW: Okay. Let me --

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I want
18 to know which area you're going to be using.
19 It's important to me to know which area you're
20 going to be using. So is this area going to
21 be part of the event?

22 MR. ASFAW: No. No. No, it's

1 not.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

3 So what's here?

4 MR. ASFAW: This is --

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: No here.

6 Right here.

7 MR. ASFAW: This is a driveway for
8 the next building.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And is
10 there a fence there?

11 MR. ASFAW: This is a fence here,
12 yes.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: How
14 large is that fence?

15 MR. ASFAW: It's a big fence.
16 It's a very huge fence.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Chain
18 link?

19 MR. ASFAW: It's not. It's a -- I
20 believe it's a concrete fence.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
22 So this is a concrete fence that goes all the

1 way back?

2 MR. ASFAW: You can -- like it's
3 above your height.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
5 And what area in the back?

6 MR. ASFAW: This is a building
7 right here.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

9 MR. ASFAW: A small office
10 building.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And
12 what's to prevent people from coming and going
13 in that building while they're at your event?

14 MR. ASFAW: Oh, it's closed. It's
15 a closed building.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: It's a
17 closed building?

18 MR. ASFAW: Right, there is one
19 door right here and one door right here. Both
20 doors are closed.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Both
22 those are closed? And what's here?

1 MR. ASFAW: This is another
2 building.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And this
4 right here is?

5 MR. ASFAW: A building. It's
6 closed.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: This is
8 a building right here, too?

9 MR. ASFAW: It's pretty much we're
10 talking about --

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
12 So on the right there's buildings all the way
13 back and there's no coming and going here?

14 MR. ASFAW: There is no coming and
15 going, right. It's right here.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
17 Fine. Fine. We're just trying to find out
18 what --

19 MR. ASFAW: Yes, it's right here.
20 You can --

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: -- how
22 it's contained.

1 MR. ASFAW: You can absolutely --

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I
3 understand. I'm just trying to assure myself
4 that this is contained and fenced.

5 MR. ASFAW: Can you see it?

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Yes, I
7 can. All right.

8 MR. ASFAW: So this one is a
9 building.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: That's
11 good. You can have a seat. You can have a
12 seat. All right.

13 So where will people coming and
14 going through this --

15 MR. ASFAW: To the main entrance.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Main
17 entrance of the building or through that
18 driveway?

19 MR. ASFAW: To the driveway.
20 That's the main entrance --

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: That's
22 the main entrance will be through that

1 driveway to the left of the building?

2 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
4 right. So none of them will be coming and
5 going from the entrances of the building in
6 front, right?

7 MR. ASFAW: Well --

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: How will
9 the building be used?

10 MR. ASFAW: The way we plan to
11 operate is that at the entrance they would be
12 100 percent ID checked. We are not going to
13 allow anybody who is under --

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
15 We'll get to that. I'll get to that.

16 MR. ASFAW: Right.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I'll get
18 to that.

19 MR. ASFAW: I was just trying to
20 explain that there is no in and out. Like
21 once people get in, we don't allow people to
22 get out. If they can get out, but they cannot

1 get back in.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

3 That's very helpful. Okay. First we're
4 working on physically controlling entrances
5 and exits now. And we're going to get to the
6 other stuff. All right?

7 So everyone's coming in through
8 that driveway. None of the front entrances to
9 this building will be utilized?

10 MR. ASFAW: There is actually no
11 entrance to the building. That's the only
12 entrance to the building, to the actual --
13 that -- to the actual building. That is the
14 only entrance. The driveway is the only
15 entrance. It is closed.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
17 So the building's closed?

18 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
20 right. How are you using the building for the
21 festival? Are you using the interior at all?

22 MR. ASFAW: The interior, yes.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You are?
2 So people will be getting into the interior?

3 MR. ASFAW: Into the restaurant.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: In from
5 where? From where?

6 MR. ASFAW: Once you get into the
7 parking lot, right? So then when you see the
8 building, there's three big two-door entrances
9 to the main --

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So on
11 the left side of the building?

12 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Or in
14 the back of the building? Because this is K
15 Street out front.

16 MR. ASFAW: Right. So this is the
17 driveway. Once you get into the driveway,
18 there are three entrances.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
20 Got you. Okay. Can I have this?

21 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Because

1 I don't think we have that in our -- I don't
2 know if I have that in my drawings.

3 MR. ASFAW: That's the driveway
4 and then three entrances to the building.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
6 So there are three entrances to the
7 restaurant? Okay. Very good. All right.
8 Cool. All right. Now how many people? Your
9 application is for how many people?

10 MR. ASFAW: We're expecting from
11 100 to 300 per day. So we did 5 to 1,000 for
12 the entire three days.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
14 So maximum of 300 per day?

15 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
17 And will you have food there? What's the
18 nature of the event? Food? Entertainment?
19 What's the nature of the event.

20 MR. PAPPAS: We're going to have a
21 food truck, Mr. Chairman, that will come in
22 with different kind of American food and their

1 Ethiopian, their ethnic food.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

3 And they will be parking in the back, in the
4 parking lot in the back?

5 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

7 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, you
8 know, the restaurant is here on the K Street
9 entrance and then in back there like where
10 your counter is you've got a row of offices
11 over there, two floors, that go with the
12 building.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
14 What do you mean "they go with the building?"

15 MR. PAPPAS: It's all together.
16 You know, it's all together. They're offices
17 with the entrance on the first floor. Okay?
18 But they're strictly offices. But they --

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: But when
20 you say they go with the restaurant, does that
21 mean they're going to be used for this event?

22 MR. ASFAW: We're not going to use

1 them for that event at all, because it's going
2 to be closed. We don't use that --

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. ASFAW: -- property for the
6 event.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Got you.
8 All right. So people are checked where,
9 coming into that driveway?

10 MR. ASFAW: There is a big fence
11 -- I mean like a big gate by the driveway.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

13 MR. ASFAW: One gate will be
14 closed. And then there is going to be -- half
15 gate will be open. And then that's where all
16 the security ID and everything checkpoint will
17 be.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
19 So they come in? And how many people checking
20 IDs?

21 MR. ASFAW: So I hired two
22 different companies. The first one is called

1 The Firm. It's operated by Mr. Alpert. And
2 the second one is Archangel Global Security.
3 That's actually our ID check company. So
4 they're providing four people to check the ID
5 for us. And then we have 10 security guards
6 from The Firm and then two MPDs.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
8 Very good. So people come in. I'm still
9 talking about the entrance. People come in.
10 How do you make sure people just don't -- do
11 they have to -- people have to pay to get in?

12 MR. ASFAW: We going to a \$10
13 cover charge.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Ten
15 dollar cover charge? Okay. So what's the
16 first thing that happens? You pay the cover
17 charge or you get your ID checked? What's the
18 first thing that happens?

19 MR. ASFAW: The first thing is to
20 get the ID checked. Then the first point is
21 to get the ID checked. Once they get into the
22 building -- I mean inside the fence, that's

1 when they going to pay and then they will be
2 entered.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And then
4 they can enter? Okay. So they're going to be
5 checked right at the fence? All right.

6 MR. ASFAW: Right at the gate --

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: At the
8 gate?

9 MR. ASFAW: -- they'll be checked.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
11 So are you allowing people under 21 into this
12 event?

13 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely not.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So it's
15 21 and older?

16 MR. ASFAW: We're foreseeing 25
17 and over, but --

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
19 So --

20 MR. ASFAW: Yes, it's absolutely
21 no under 21.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So

1 unless it's someone with an infant, you know,
2 we have an -- I'll grant you an infant if some
3 parent wants to come in with an infant, but
4 we're not going to see any six, seven and
5 eight-year-olds --

6 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely not.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: -- or
8 teenagers coming in?

9 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely not.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

11 Great. Yes, because we always want to know if
12 parents are allowed to bring their kids.

13 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely not.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And
15 you're saying no. Okay. Great.

16 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, there
17 will be no coming and going. Once they come
18 in and pay the admission at the front door,
19 then they stay there, not like some clubs
20 where they stamp you and then you can go out
21 and come back, you know, and you have the
22 stamp.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: But you
2 have to stay? You can't come and go? Great.
3 Very good.

4 MR. ASFAW: But since we are
5 operating for short period of time, we don't
6 even have people --

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.

8 MR. ASFAW: -- who are trying to
9 get in and out.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right,
11 right.

12 MR. ASFAW: But we strictly
13 enforce there's no in and out.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.
15 So where is alcohol being served in this
16 event?

17 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely inside the
18 premises.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: No, but
20 whereabouts inside?

21 MR. ASFAW: If you could see the
22 new schematics I gave you --

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: It's at
2 the bar? There's a bar in --

3 MR. ASFAW: There are three bars.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Inside
5 the restaurant?

6 MR. ASFAW: Inside the restaurant.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Not
8 outside?

9 MR. ASFAW: No.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: But
11 inside the restaurant?

12 MR. ASFAW: Inside the restaurant.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

14 MR. ASFAW: So then we'll have
15 liquor served on those three bars.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
17 But people will be able to take their drinks
18 outside if they want?

19 MR. ASFAW: That's exactly what
20 we're trying to do so we can have a good time
21 outside/inside.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

1 MR. ASFAW: But we are absolutely
2 not selling any kind of -- serving or giving
3 out any kind of alcohol outside the premises.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And
5 who's doing the service at the bars?

6 MR. ASFAW: Who?

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Who's
8 serving alcohol at the bar?

9 MR. ASFAW: We hired a company.
10 Her name is Alvine. She got the liquor
11 manager's license.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

13 MR. ASFAW: Two people pretty
14 much. And they're the one pretty much
15 bringing all the bartenders and managing the
16 company. So I talked to and signed a contract
17 with her. So she's doing this kind of event.
18 She did events before, so we're dealing with
19 her.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
21 And so what happens if she discovers someone
22 she thinks is underage? What will she do?

1 MR. ASFAW: Well --

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Or one
3 of your security guards does?

4 MR. ASFAW: We have a strict
5 contract with the company I mentioned earlier.
6 They are 1425 K Street, N.E., Suite 350,
7 Archangel Global Security. So we have a
8 strict contract with them not to admit
9 anybody, I don't care who, me, my daughter, my
10 son. We have a strict contract specifying
11 that they cannot allow anybody under 21. So
12 they are taking the responsibility for that.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So what
14 happens if they discover someone whom they
15 think --

16 MR. ASFAW: Well, of course I'm
17 going to be there myself and my assistant,
18 too. So we're going to make sure that nothing
19 is going --

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: What
21 will you do?

22 MR. ASFAW: Oh, if --

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Will
2 they notify you?

3 MR. ASFAW: She would notify me --

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: They
5 would notify you?

6 MR. ASFAW: And what I will do, I
7 will tell my security guards to escort them.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
9 Great. Okay. Hours of operation.

10 MR. ASFAW: We are operating --

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Wait,
12 wait, wait, wait. Let me finish.

13 MR. ASFAW: Oh, I'm sorry.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Let me
15 finish my question. I see from 11:00 a.m.
16 each day until 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday and 3:00
17 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

18 MR. ASFAW: We are operating -- we
19 are opening the door by 9:00 p.m., because
20 like I say, everybody is going to be at the
21 field until we'll say 10:00 p.m. Then we are
22 operating roughly from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

1 on Wednesday and then from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00
2 a.m. --

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Oh,
4 okay.

5 MR. ASFAW: -- on Friday and
6 Saturday.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You know
8 what, and that's fine. I just wanted to make
9 sure. Okay. So it's really not as long as
10 your license is saying?

11 MR. ASFAW: No, not at all.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
13 Now you understand that at 2:00 a.m. on
14 Wednesday and 3:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday
15 that no one's to have drinks in their hand and
16 everyone's to be out?

17 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So
19 you're going to have to let the crowd know
20 that you got to have the place cleared by
21 3:00.

22 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay?

2 And you've got to be prepared to get drinks
3 out of everyone's hands before then.

4 MR. ASFAW: We had a conversation
5 about that matter with -- well, my assistant,

6 me, myself and the people who's doing this.

7 It will be nice if we have some extended

8 hours, not for the liquor, just to have a good

9 time after that. Because there's going to be

10 a food truck parking and selling foods there.

11 And if people want to enjoy, you know, eating

12 and playing around, of course --

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So you

14 want people -- you want the event to go past

15 3:00?

16 MR. ASFAW: It will be nice if

17 it's possible. But if not, then we'll

18 absolutely going to clear it out by 3:00 a.m.

19 But I would like, you know, the Board to

20 consider this if there's any opportunity that

21 we can take this chance to ask this Board.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

1 MR. ASFAW: So then you guys allow
2 us to have that.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Before I
4 address that, do you understand that even if
5 we did allow that, at 3:00 a.m. on Friday and
6 Saturday and on Wednesday 2:00 a.m. alcohol
7 is --

8 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: --
10 completely out of everyone's hands?

11 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI:
13 Everyone.

14 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Nobody
16 standing around finishing their drink. It's
17 gone. So that means you got to start
18 collecting it sometime before then.

19 MR. ASFAW: We're going to have a
20 last call exactly at 45.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
22 So and what time would you want to extend it

1 to?

2 MR. ASFAW: Probably two extra
3 hours.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
5 All right. We'll get back to that. All
6 right. Board Members, questions?

7 MEMBER BROOKS: I have a question.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Mr.
9 Brooks?

10 MEMBER BROOKS: Yes, a couple
11 things: The outside area, is that lit at
12 night?

13 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

14 MEMBER BROOKS: So you have
15 outside lighting there?

16 MR. ASFAW: Oh, yes, absolutely.

17 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And you
18 have a contract with the landlord?

19 MR. ASFAW: Yes. Yes.

20 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay.

21 MR. ASFAW: So I have a lease for
22 that period.

1 MEMBER BROOKS: A lease for that
2 period of time?

3 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

4 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And
5 according to your application you're not
6 having the event on July 4th?

7 MR. ASFAW: No, absolutely not.

8 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay.

9 MR. ASFAW: We were not going to
10 have anything on July 4th because you and me,
11 everybody knows July 4th is a crazy day for
12 Washington, D.C. We don't want to involve in
13 that, you know?

14 MEMBER BROOKS: All right. Thank
15 you, Mr. Chair.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
17 Investigators, I'm going to see if you have
18 any questions.

19 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Yes, I do.
20 Thank you, Mr. Asfaw and Mr. Pappas, for your
21 information. There are a few things that I
22 wanted to clarify. In your application here

1 you state that you're going to have a catered
2 event.

3 MR. ASFAW: The food truck.

4 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: So you're
5 saying the food truck is the catered event?

6 MR. ASFAW: Right.

7 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: How many
8 trucks will you have?

9 MR. ASFAW: We have two trucks.

10 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

11 MR. ASFAW: One American and one
12 Ethiopian.

13 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: So there are
14 two trucks? Not the one as you just
15 represented? So there would be two --

16 MR. ASFAW: Two trucks.

17 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: -- food
18 trucks?

19 MR. ASFAW: One American and --
20 well, pretty much. One is like kind of, you
21 know, cheeseburgers and stuff like that. And
22 the other one is ethnic Ethiopian food.

1 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. And
2 you stated that the food truck would be parked
3 on the parking lot?

4 MR. ASFAW: Yes, on the back of
5 the parking lot.

6 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. And
7 the back of the parking lot, there's no back
8 entrance, correct?

9 MR. ASFAW: There's no back
10 entrance. He gets -- oh, before the event he
11 prepare himself and set into the place where
12 we're going to --

13 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. The
14 lighting for the event, at night you're
15 stating that there's lighting there at night?

16 MR. ASFAW: Enough light, yes.

17 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: The type of
18 lighting, if you had to judge it on good, bad
19 or worse, what level would you put that
20 lighting on?

21 MR. ASFAW: We have a very bright
22 light. I would say good.

1 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: So good
2 lighting?

3 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

4 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

5 MR. ASFAW: We have a hydrogen
6 light. It's very bright, yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. Well,
8 how would you know?

9 MR. ASFAW: Well, you know, street
10 lights, you know, the outside street lights
11 are hydrogen lights. You know, when it lead
12 up, it kind of like look like a yellowish,
13 that's a hydrogen light. It's called a
14 hydrogen light. So that's what the kind of
15 light they have there.

16 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. Well
17 I know exactly where your building is located
18 because our office was once located in the
19 building next to it.

20 MR. ASFAW: Exactly right.

21 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: And my
22 recollection shows that being over there for

1 three years the lighting was poor at night.

2 MR. ASFAW: Oh, no, there is a --

3 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Which was
4 the reason why the transgender prostitutes
5 were able to carry on, because of the lighting
6 back there.

7 MR. ASFAW: Well, we don't use --
8 we don't turn the light on unless there is a
9 event.

10 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

11 MR. ASFAW: Right.

12 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. So we
13 weren't -- that's not what you stated in your
14 testimony.

15 MR. ASFAW: Oh, yes, yes, yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

17 MR. ASFAW: Unless there is some
18 type of event or something going on --

19 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

20 MR. ASFAW: -- there is no light
21 turned on.

22 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

1 MR. ASFAW: So we absolutely going
2 to use all the lights we have.

3 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. And
4 then you mentioned in your testimony that you
5 have authorization from the owner of the
6 building.

7 MR. ASFAW: Yes, pretty much the
8 owner give out to the -- there is somebody is
9 leasing the building right now who has the
10 whole right to give out. And I leased it from
11 Jacques.

12 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Who's the
13 owner of the building?

14 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: U Street --
15 the owner of the building is -- I'm not
16 exactly sure.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You can
18 supply that information later.

19 MR. ASFAW: Okay.

20 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Mr. Asfaw,
21 if you turn to your application, you provided
22 our office with a to-whom-it-may-concern

1 document with --

2 MR. ASFAW: Right. The subleser
3 -- I mean the leaser who lease that property
4 to me --

5 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Which
6 property? Are you speaking -- okay.

7 MR. ASFAW: 15 K Street, N.E.

8 MR. RIVERO: Are you familiar with
9 this document?

10 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. Did
12 you provide this document to us?

13 MR. ASFAW: Yes. Absolutely, yes.

14 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. Your
15 document, the way I interpreted it is that
16 this person, Yared Tesfaye, is the owner of
17 the parking lot, correct?

18 MR. ASFAW: The owner of the
19 parking business who has currently leased that
20 property.

21 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: I want to
22 make sure we're talking about the same parking

1 lot property.

2 MR. ASFAW: Right.

3 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: The parking
4 lot property that your guests will be
5 utilizing is the parking lot that's shared in
6 the back of the building?

7 MR. ASFAW: It is one. It's
8 connected to one building. I mean it's one
9 building that has a parking lot at the back of
10 it.

11 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Right.

12 MR. ASFAW: So it is one pretty
13 much --

14 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: I understand
15 that.

16 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

17 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Is that the
18 parking lot you're speaking of?

19 MR. ASFAW: Right.

20 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: You're not
21 speaking of the parking lot that goes down
22 under the garage?

1 MR. ASFAW: No, no. There, no.

2 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: It's above-
3 ground parking, correct?

4 MR. ASFAW: Right. Yes, right.
5 That's on the same level. Yes, ma'am.

6 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay. I
7 want to share with the Board some information
8 that I pulled from the D.C. Consumer and
9 Regulatory Affairs for the person who owns
10 that parking lot.

11 In your letter you represent Yared
12 Tesfaye as the owner of the property.

13 MR. ASFAW: No, the leaser of --

14 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Let me share
15 this with you and the Board.

16 The information that we see when I
17 went to do my research is that the person you
18 represent in this letter is not the owner of
19 that parking lot.

20 MR. ASFAW: The leaser. The
21 leaser of the parking lot. So the owner give
22 out that property to the person who wrote that

1 letter for --

2 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

3 MR. ASFAW: -- I don't know for
4 how long --

5 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

6 MR. ASFAW: -- but he gave it out
7 -- they gave it out --

8 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

9 MR. ASFAW: -- probably five years
10 ago.

11 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Thank you
12 for the information.

13 MR. ASFAW: Yes, ma'am.

14 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Can I have
15 you look at Exhibit No. 2, please?

16 MR. PAPPAS: U Street parking
17 subleases from --

18 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

19 MR. PAPPAS: -- from the
20 Palestinian family that owns the building and
21 property.

22 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

1 MR. PAPPAS: And he would be the
2 third-party leaser, really.

3 MR. ASFAW: Right. Exactly.

4 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

5 MR. ASFAW: So I'm subleasing from
6 this leaser.

7 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

8 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

9 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: So for full
10 clarification for the record, you stated that
11 this letter here that you submitted to ABRA as
12 prima facie documentation -- that this
13 gentleman here is the one who gave you
14 authorization to use that parking lot?

15 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

16 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

17 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: So this
19 person here on Exhibit No. 2 that you see
20 highlighted --

21 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

22 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: -- have you

1 spoken to Yared Jingo?

2 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Yared? Oh,
3 well, Jingo is the guy who is actually working
4 there now. But the guy who wrote that letter
5 is called Yared Tesfaye. So I don't know how
6 they wrote Yared Jingo. Jingo is the guy
7 works there. Yared is the CFO of that
8 parking.

9 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: The basic
10 business license where you see those initials
11 BBL that's highlighted --

12 MR. ASFAW: Right.

13 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: -- that's
14 who has this business license. That's whose
15 license the Department of Consumer and
16 Regulatory Affairs --

17 MR. ASFAW: Right. Right. Okay.
18 He wants --

19 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: -- who owns
20 that property.

21 MR. ASFAW: He wants to say
22 something.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

2 MR. TESHAYE: I'm sorry, my name
3 is Yared Tesfaye. Okay. I don't understand
4 where did this license come from. I own the
5 parking lot.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You are
7 the leaser of the parking lot? You own the
8 parking lot?

9 MR. TESHAYE: Yes.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

11 MR. TESHAYE: I didn't want to
12 interrupt you guys. I didn't want to get --

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: No, I
14 appreciate that. But we will accept that
15 representation.

16 MR. TESHAYE: Yes, so that's --

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Thank
18 you for clearing that. That's good. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. TESHAYE: The license is under
21 our company name. Jingo is -- he work for us
22 and he probably get a, you know, parking

1 attendant license.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay. I
3 will accept that representation from you.

4 MR. TESFAYE: I have no idea. But
5 we are --

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I
7 understand.

8 MR. TESFAYE: Jingo --

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
10 We're going to accept your word on that one.

11 MR. TESFAYE: I don't know how
12 this --

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Thank
14 you. It's okay. Okay. So let's continue.
15 Let's move on. I think we're okay with that.
16 All right.

17 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: How many
18 parking spaces would be available for your
19 guests?

20 MR. ASFAW: Right now --

21 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: For the
22 parking lot.

1 MR. ASFAW: Right across the
2 street there is MarcParc. We already talked
3 about parking our guests' car to their
4 parking. They already give us that parking.

5 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Thank you
6 for that, but how many people, how many cars
7 will the parking lot that you represented as
8 the place for parking --

9 MR. ASFAW: No, we not parking any
10 car on that property ever.

11 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: No cars will
12 be parked on that back lot?

13 MR. ASFAW: No, absolutely not.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: That's
15 the event. That's the event site.

16 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Oh, that's
17 the event? Okay.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right,
19 that's the event site for the --

20 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely not.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: No, I
22 understand that. I got that.

1 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
3 right.

4 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: All right.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI:

6 Investigator --

7 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Apraku.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: --

9 Apraku? I'm sorry.

10 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: I just
11 wanted to -- you said that there was going to
12 be police there?

13 MR. ASFAW: Right.

14 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: What re
15 going to be the hours that the police are
16 going to be on premises?

17 MR. ASFAW: I spoke with
18 Lieutenant Dykes.

19 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

20 MR. ASFAW: The hours we give are
21 from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

22 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: 10:00 p.m.

1 to 3:00 a.m.?

2 MR. ASFAW: To 3:00 a.m., yes.

3 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Well, you're
4 on for three different days, so that's for
5 each --

6 MR. ASFAW: For each day, yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Wednesday is
8 the day that you guys are closing at 2:00
9 a.m.?

10 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

12 MR. ASFAW: Yes. Yes, sir.

13 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: All right.

14 And just for a clarification, is this
15 Metropolitan Police, or is it Metro Police?

16 MR. ASFAW: 1D.

17 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: 1D? MPD?

18 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

20 MR. ASFAW: MPD, 1D.

21 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: And then on
22 that same note, what are the hours for your

1 security since you have a security -- you have
2 10 security?

3 MR. ASFAW: As long as it starts
4 and ends.

5 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: And then all
6 10 security will be there --

7 MR. ASFAW: Will be there --

8 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: --
9 throughout the course of the entire night?

10 MR. ASFAW: -- as long as it
11 starts and ends.

12 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

13 MR. ASFAW: I told them
14 specifically we going to open the door at 9:00
15 p.m.

16 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

17 MR. ASFAW: And then close as long
18 as we are approved for. So they're going to
19 be there until the closing.

20 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. I'm
21 basically asking this because I want to make
22 sure because, you know, our investigators may

1 be on premises to --

2 MR. ASFAW: Okay.

3 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: -- monitor
4 the event. We want to make sure that --

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.

6 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: -- the
7 appropriate security is there.

8 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

9 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Is it
10 possible that you could provide us -- and, you
11 know, I'll leave you with my card. Is it
12 possible you could provide me a list of -- you
13 know, just a written list of the times that
14 the security and --

15 MR. ASFAW: Yes, let me --

16 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: -- the
17 police are going to be available?

18 MR. ASFAW: Let me -- I can --

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Well,
20 Mr. --

21 MR. ASFAW: -- show you --

22 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Yes, you

1 can --

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Mr.

3 Asfaw?

4 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir?

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Why
6 don't you do that offline after the hearing?

7 MR. ASFAW: Oh, absolutely.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You can
9 provide that to Investigator Apraku.

10 Anything else, investigator?

11 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Yes. Is
12 there any entertainment available during the
13 event?

14 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

16 MR. ASFAW: We going have a DJ on
17 Wednesday and Saturday. We going have kind of
18 you could call it's a band, one band and two
19 singers on Friday.

20 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. And
21 because you initially already stated that this
22 is going to be a over-21 event, will it be

1 safe to assume that anybody who is asked for
2 ID inside the premises will have ID?

3 MR. ASFAW: Once it is checked at
4 the door --

5 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Yes.

6 MR. ASFAW: -- absolutely.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

8 MR. ASFAW: Like I say, we're
9 going have a serious security at the door --

10 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

11 MR. ASFAW: -- to get in.

12 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay.

13 MR. ASFAW: Once we clarify
14 that --

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

16 MR. ASFAW: -- I personally don't
17 believe that we need to check another ID
18 inside the premises.

19 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Okay. And
20 I think I have just one other question.

21 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir.

22 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Is it also

1 safe to assume that all doors in the premises
2 will be open?

3 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

4 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: Like if --
5 you know, at all times during the event?

6 MR. ASFAW: Yes. Yes. Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: You know,
8 and I just want to reiterate, you know,
9 investigators may be coming by and we want to
10 make sure that the doors are open --

11 MR. ASFAW: Everything --

12 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: -- and
13 there's no locked doors inside.

14 MR. ASFAW: All three doors are
15 going to be open.

16 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: All right.

17 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir.

18 INVESTIGATOR APRAKU: That's it
19 for me. Thank you.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
21 Great. Mr. Asfaw?

22 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir?

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
2 So you would like to run the event longer than
3 you have applied for, is that correct? You
4 would like to extend the hours for this event,
5 right?

6 MR. ASFAW: Two hours, if it's
7 possible.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
9 Two hours. So you really want to go 4:00 a.m.
10 on Wednesday and 5:00 a.m. on Friday and
11 Saturday?

12 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.
14 So, question: Will you have MPD starting at
15 10:00 p.m. until the end of the event?

16 MR. ASFAW: We can extend it.
17 Since we don't know if we're allowed from your
18 Board that we going be operating until 5:00
19 a.m., at the present time we acquire polices
20 until 3:00 a.m. in the morning.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So the
22 question is if we allow it, will you have --

1 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: --
3 police, MPD there the entire time that you're
4 operating?

5 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

7 MR. ASFAW: Just for the record, I
8 hired two off-duty police --

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.

10 MR. ASFAW: -- on the top of
11 whatever we just talked right now. We have
12 two off-duty police.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: In terms
14 -- oh, those are MP --

15 MR. ASFAW: Off-duty MPD.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.
17 Right.

18 MR. ASFAW: Personally I hired
19 them.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You've
21 hired them?

22 MR. ASFAW: Right.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

2 MR. ASFAW: So that means you can
3 consider we have 12 security guards.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right,
5 so you have the 10 security guards --

6 MR. ASFAW: Plus two MPDs.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: -- and
8 two MPD? Right. I got that. All right.

9 MR. ASFAW: So those --

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And
11 those 10 security guards will be there through
12 the entire event?

13 MR. ASFAW: The entire event.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
15 right.

16 MR. ASFAW: Yes, sir.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: So the
18 other thing is we have a commitment from you
19 that there will be a maximum of 300 people
20 there.

21 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

1 Each night?

2 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

4 With that, I will ask you if you would like,
5 you can amend your application.

6 Now the hours of consumption and
7 sale of alcohol have to be 2:00 a.m. and 3:00
8 a.m.

9 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And you
11 understand that all the alcohol will disappear
12 and be gone by --

13 MR. ASFAW: Absolutely.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: -- the
15 witching hour? It's 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m.,
16 right?

17 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: We're
19 understanding? Okay. If you would like,
20 well, you can amend your application now.
21 Someone will bring it over to you. You can
22 make the amendment and you can initial.

1 MR. ASFAW: Yes.

2 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, they
3 will only be allowed to serve food the extra
4 hours, right?

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right,
6 but no alcohol. You can serve other beverages
7 during that time --

8 MR. PAPPAS: Okay.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: --
10 but --

11 MR. PAPPAS: No alcohol.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: You
13 know, we may have an investigator go by and
14 they're good at spotting alcoholic beverages.

15 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: That's
17 what they do.

18 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Mr. Alberti,
19 may I enter something on the record?

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Sure,
21 Ms. Martin.

22 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Part of my

1 duties is to ensure --

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Can you
3 just wait one moment, please?

4 Okay. Ms. Martin, continue.

5 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Yes, part of
6 my responsibility is to ensure that these
7 venues have the proper license, not only with
8 ABRA, but with the other agencies that we work
9 with such as DCRA. And one of the -- what I
10 did was I actually ran the property address of
11 15 K Street, N.E. and there were flags that
12 had come up against this establishment. And
13 it stated that there was a condemnation, a
14 stop work issue by the inspector and a zoning
15 hold by the administrator. And that you can
16 find in you Exhibit 1 that I passed out.

17 I did some additional calling to
18 get some clarification as to the understanding
19 of those flags that were on the property. I
20 was able to deduce that the condemnation was
21 not inserted from the District of Columbia
22 Regulatory Administration, however, a

1 condemnation could have been placed on the
2 property from the fire marshall or MPD.

3 In addition, the zoning
4 information, there is a flag as it relates to
5 zoning for some reason. And that was another
6 thing I was trying to flush out prior to the
7 hearing, but unfortunately Mr. Reed of DCRA
8 who handles that area was not available to
9 comment. But I just wanted to put on the
10 record that, you know, with due diligence I
11 was trying to get all the information,
12 pertinent information to ensure that everyone
13 who will be participating in this event will
14 be safe.

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay. I
16 appreciate that, Ms. Martin, and we'll look
17 into that a bit more.

18 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: We may
20 approve this license, but if it turns out that
21 that building is not useable, then we would
22 cancel this license.

1 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Okay.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: But
3 we'll find out.

4 So, Mr. Asfaw, do you want to
5 comment on that?

6 MR. TESFAYE: Can I comment on
7 that?

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Sure,
9 please come forward.

10 MR. TESFAYE: She is right, the
11 building, the owner was trying to get like the
12 last two years ago trying to get the
13 demolition permit, trying to take out the
14 building. So he was going to build brand
15 new --

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Right.
17 Right.

18 MR. TESFAYE: -- buildings. So
19 that's why you probably see that. He was in
20 the process of doing that demolition and
21 rebuilding the whole entire place to a brand
22 new building.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

2 MR. TESFAYE: But that never
3 happened --

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And who
5 is the owner?

6 MR. TESFAYE: -- since the market
7 shifted. So he --

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: And who
9 is the owner?

10 MR. TESFAYE: Jacques Cohen.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: What's
12 his name?

13 MR. TESFAYE: Jacques Cohen.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Coilman?

15 MR. TESFAYE: Cohen.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Cohen?

17 Oh.

18 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Jacques.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Jack
20 Cohen?

21 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Jacques.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Jacques?

1 MR. TESFAYE: Cohen, yes.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay.

3 MR. PAPPAS: Cohen. Cohen.

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Yes,
5 Cohen. I got it. I have it. What we will
6 probably do is have someone contact DCRA to
7 see if there's an existing Certificate of
8 Occupancy.

9 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chairman, he
10 couldn't get any financing. He's been trying
11 to get financing --

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I
13 understand that, but what we will do is we
14 will check with DCRA to see if there's a
15 current Certificate of Occupancy. I mean,
16 that's really what's important here. If
17 there's a current Certificate of Occupancy
18 with DCRA, things will go smoothly. We will
19 let you know if that doesn't happen and then
20 we will pull this license. But just one
21 moment.

22 So I just want to let you know

1 that we're going to be checking with DCRA to
2 make sure that the building has a proper C of
3 O. Okay? But we'll proceed, all right, under
4 the assumption that it does right now. Okay?

5 Okay. So I think we're good.
6 We've got the change of hours in there and
7 we've got it written for 300 per day.

8 Thank you, Ms. Martin, for that.

9 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: Oh, you're
10 welcome.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: I will
12 move that we approve this temporary license.
13 Second? Do I have a second?

14 MEMBER BROOKS: I'll second.

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Thank
16 you, Mr. Brooks. So all in favor, say aye?

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: All
19 opposed?

20 (No audible response.)

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: The
22 motion passes 3-1. So your license is

1 approved.

2 What we will do is we won't issue
3 this until we check with DCRA. You'll have to
4 come back and someone will let you know when
5 it's ready to be picked up.

6 MR. ASFAW: Okay.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Okay?

8 MR. ASFAW: All right.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: But if
10 everything's good to go, we're done. It's
11 good to go with us.

12 MR. ASFAW: Thank you.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ALBERTI: Thank
14 you for coming and thank you for all the
15 information.

16 MR. ASFAW: Thank you, Chairman.

17 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you,
18 Ms. Martin.

19 INVESTIGATOR MARTIN: You're
20 welcome.

21 (Whereupon, the hearing was
22 concluded at 5:19 p.m.)

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