

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

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IN THE MATTER OF: :  
: :  
TAG Ventures, Inc. :  
t/a Bar 7 : Fact-  
1015 7th Street, NW : Finding  
Retailer CT - ANC-6E : Hearing  
License No. 82350 :  
Case #13-251-00120 :  
: :  
(Incident Inside the :  
Establishment) :  
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December 11, 2013

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

presiding.

PRESENT:  
RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson  
NICK ALBERTI, Member

DONALD BROOKS, Member  
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:  
DEREK BROOKS, ABRA Investigator

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

2 (11:08 a.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We now have a  
4 Fact-Finding Hearing scheduled for 11:00.

5 It's 11:08. I'm going to call Case No. 13-  
6 251-00120, Bar 7 located at 1015 7th Street,  
7 N.W., License No. 82350, in ANC-6E.

8 You can have a seat and actually  
9 I'm not going to swear anybody in, at this  
10 point, because this is what we call a Fact-  
11 Finding Hearing. It's not an evidentiary  
12 hearing. We had some information brought to  
13 our attention that raised certain concerns and  
14 we are here to hear more information about it.

15 And if after hearing all the  
16 information we decide there should be an  
17 evidentiary hearing, then we could actually  
18 have you all return for that, but this is just  
19 fact-finding, gathering more information.

20 So what I want to do is start with  
21 your identifying yourselves for the record.

22 MR. RAMSON: Krishna Ramson, ABC

1           Manager at Bar 7.

2                           CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Commissioner,  
3           your last name is Ramson?

4                           MR. RAMSON:   Ramson, R-A-M-S-O-N.

5                           CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   ANC  
6           Commissioner?

7                           MR. RAMSON:   No.

8                           CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   No,  
9           Commissioner?

10                          MR. RAMSON:   General manager.

11                          CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Oh, general  
12           manager.   Okay.

13                          MR. RAMSON:   I said ABC manager.  
14           I apologize.

15                          CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Oh, ABC  
16           Manager.   Okay.   Thank you very much.   All  
17           right.

18                          MR. ALEMAYEHU:   Taweke Alemayehu,  
19           Bar 7 owner.

20                          CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Okay.

21                          MR. BROOKS:   Derek Brooks,  
22           Investigator, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation

1 Administration.

2 MS. KNIGHT: I'm sorry, Tabitha  
3 Knight.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Tabitha  
5 Knight, okay.

6 MS. GERALD: My name is Camille  
7 Gerald.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm sorry,  
9 what's your name?

10 MS. GERALD: Camille Gerald.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Camille  
12 Gerald?

13 MS. GERALD: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. You  
15 are a witness?

16 MS. GERALD: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Tanya Johnson,  
19 witness also.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.  
21 And did you all sign-in?

22 MS. JOHNSON: Downstairs?

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No. Right  
2 here. There is a piece of paper that goes to  
3 our court reporter, so we get your names right  
4 with your testimony or whatever.

5 Okay. So this case involves an  
6 incident that occurred, I guess, outside of  
7 the establishment. And I think what I'm going  
8 to do is actually -- instead of my talking  
9 about this, I'm going to turn to Mr. Brooks,  
10 our Investigator. If you want to begin with  
11 the description of what was involved?

12 MR. BROOKS: Okay. On, I guess,  
13 September 9th I received an assignment from my  
14 Supervisory Investigator for an incident which  
15 was a sick person to the hospital from Bar 7  
16 on September 6, at approximately 9:14 p.m.

17 What occurred was the victim, Ms.  
18 Knight, apparently consumed something that  
19 made her sick, made her dizzy. She got up.  
20 She went into the restroom. She splashed  
21 water on her face. She came back to the  
22 table. She sits down and then she, basically,

1 passes out.

2 I'm just paraphrasing and just  
3 giving you an overview.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. And  
5 we have the witness.

6 MR. BROOKS: Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: The victim  
8 here as well. Okay.

9 MR. BROOKS: And so then she  
10 passes out. Her friends, she was with several  
11 friends, they come over, they attempt to  
12 revive her, giving her water, trying to  
13 determine what was wrong. They actually  
14 called for medical assistance by calling DC  
15 Fire & Ambulance.

16 And at this point, someone from  
17 the Bar 7 security came over to the group and  
18 said that Mrs. Knight had to be removed from  
19 the establishment. At some point, two of the  
20 security officers lifted Ms. Knight and took  
21 her out of the establishment and placed her  
22 into the backseat of her own vehicle, driven

1 by one of the other witnesses.

2 I could see on the videotape only  
3 her being lifted -- well, not seeing her  
4 lifted. I could only see her being carried  
5 out of the establishment. The video did not  
6 cover that portion of the establishment where  
7 they were seated. It didn't reach all the way  
8 up to that seat.

9 But what I could see is her being  
10 carried out and placed into this vehicle. I  
11 interviewed a few of the people from the Bar  
12 7. They -- a few -- the actual two security  
13 personnel who carried her, they both told me  
14 that friends of Ms. Knight asked them to pick  
15 her up and carry her outside. Contrary to  
16 what they told me was they said that they were  
17 forced to -- they forcefully picked her up and  
18 took her out.

19 So I was unable to substantiate  
20 were they asked or were they just forcefully  
21 doing this. But an interview with Mr. Ramson  
22 and then other security personnel, their

1 policy is that if a person is intoxicated or  
2 unresponsive in such a way, that they are to  
3 take them outside, they said to get some air.  
4 So they said preferably to the back, but they  
5 will take them out front if they have to.

6 And I said all righty. So if they  
7 are intoxicated or if they are impaired or  
8 whatever, they are nonresponsive, I didn't  
9 think that was a good policy to carry them  
10 outside and put them outside.

11 So regardless of if it was an  
12 intoxicated person or a sick person, I didn't  
13 -- but there was nothing in the code that I  
14 could mark as a violation, so I wanted to be  
15 sure that that particular point got across.

16 And that's pretty much the gist of  
17 what took place.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. I  
19 think we are going to hear from everybody, so  
20 I think we can proceed to the witness, unless  
21 anyone has burning question for Mr. Brooks  
22 right now?

1 MEMBER BROOKS: I'll wait.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you would  
3 like to?

4 MEMBER BROOKS: I'll wait.

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: I just want to  
6 thank Mr. Brooks for a thorough --

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- presentation  
9 and report. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. How  
11 about Ms. Knight? Do you have -- did you want  
12 to say something right now?

13 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 MS. KNIGHT: I actually had  
16 bruises on my back. Once I was revived, the  
17 doctor came in and spoke to me and informed me  
18 that something was placed in my drink that my  
19 alcohol level was low and then he proceeded on  
20 to tell me -- you know, asked me did I see who  
21 made my drink and went on to tell me, you  
22 know, from this point on make sure I watch who

1 makes my drink because whatever they gave me,  
2 it was a bit too much and that's why I was  
3 totally unconscious and had to be revived  
4 back.

5 And I was actually in the hospital  
6 all night and I wasn't released until that  
7 morning. So I was forcefully removed, because  
8 I had scratches all along the backside of my  
9 back.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I  
11 would like to ask you a question. I just want  
12 to make sure I understand. Did the doctor say  
13 that something had been placed in your drink  
14 or that you got too much alcohol?

15 MS. KNIGHT: No, he said my  
16 alcohol level was low, that something was  
17 placed in my drink. And he gave me -- I guess  
18 from my blood work and it showed the levels,  
19 different levels and then after they -- I  
20 guess whatever they did to flush my system,  
21 I'm not sure exactly what they did, like four  
22 hours later everything was back to normal.

1                   But he said my alcohol level was  
2                   low.

3                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Okay.  So  
4                   four hours later, everything was back to order  
5                   because --

6                   MS. KNIGHT:   Just about, yeah.

7                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  -- they had  
8                   given you certain procedures?

9                   MS. KNIGHT:   Yes.

10                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  They had  
11                  flushed your system or done something?

12                  MS. KNIGHT:   Yes.

13                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Not just by  
14                  itself.

15                  MS. KNIGHT:   Yes.

16                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  And you  
17                  passed out, correct?

18                  MS. KNIGHT:   Yes, I was -- he told  
19                  me I was totally unresponsive.

20                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  Just  
21                  for the record, I've got to go -- I'm going to  
22                  get to you, but you were breathing, but you

1 passed out?

2 MS. KNIGHT: I'm assuming.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, right,  
4 okay.

5 MS. KNIGHT: I have no idea.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you had --  
7 did you get sick any other way besides being  
8 passed out?

9 MS. KNIGHT: No. Well, actually,  
10 when I consumed the second drink, my face  
11 totally went numb instantly.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay.

13 MS. KNIGHT: And I went to the  
14 restroom, put some water on my face, then I  
15 came out and I informed the girls I was like  
16 something is wrong, I'm not feeling right. So  
17 I sat down. I removed my shoes and that's all  
18 I remember. When I woke up, I was at Howard  
19 Hospital.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And I guess  
21 my last question is the doctor didn't know --  
22 he couldn't identify what kind of a drug or

1           what kind of --

2                       MS. KNIGHT:  No.  He says --

3                       CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  -- substance  
4           would cause it?

5                       MS. KNIGHT:  -- that the hospital  
6           didn't budget for it.

7                       CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.

8                       MEMBER ALBERTI:  A tox screen she  
9           means.

10                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  And so you  
11           were passed out, so you didn't know what  
12           exactly happened to you, but you knew you woke  
13           up and you had scratches on your body?

14                      MS. KNIGHT:  Yes.

15                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  Do  
16           other Board Members have questions?  Mr.  
17           Brooks?

18                      MEMBER BROOKS:  Yes.  Thank you,  
19           Madam Chair.  Ms. Knight, how many drinks did  
20           you consume at the bar?

21                      MS. KNIGHT:  Two.  Two.  The first  
22           drink I purchased myself.  It was a shot.  And

1 I watched them make it myself and Ms. Johnson.  
2 The second drink I remember we were all  
3 standing together and someone handed me -- us  
4 a small shotglass. I didn't even consume the  
5 whole shot, just half of it, because like I  
6 said as I began to drink it, my face started  
7 to go numb.

8 So I instantly went to the  
9 bathroom.

10 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. So these  
11 were two shots?

12 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

13 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And you say  
14 you saw them prepare the first shot?

15 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

16 MEMBER BROOKS: Saw the bartender.  
17 Is that --

18 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

19 MEMBER BROOKS: -- what you are  
20 saying? Okay. And the second shot was the  
21 same bartender or same person prepared it?

22 MS. KNIGHT: I'm not sure who

1 prepared it. Someone of a Hispanic descent  
2 brought them over.

3 MEMBER BROOKS: Oh, I see.

4 MS. KNIGHT: Brought them over on  
5 a tray and I'm not sure who handed -- at the  
6 time, I can't even remember who handed me the  
7 drink.

8 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. So you were  
9 sitting at a table?

10 MS. KNIGHT: Actually, I was  
11 standing up and I was on the dance floor. I'm  
12 standing on the dance floor. So and it was  
13 like a little lounge area and some of the  
14 girls were sitting and some of us were  
15 standing.

16 MEMBER BROOKS: I see. Okay.

17 MS. KNIGHT: Which was purchased  
18 for the whole group.

19 MEMBER BROOKS: Right. Okay. And  
20 before -- what time did you arrive at the bar?

21 MS. KNIGHT: I want to say --

22 MEMBER BROOKS: Approximately.

1 MS. KNIGHT: -- it was probably  
2 about like 8:40, 8:45. I went in and stood in  
3 for a little bit, but then I came back outside  
4 waiting for Ms. Johnson and Ms. Gerald,  
5 because they told me they was getting off the  
6 subway, but they were taking a long time, so  
7 I went and stood outside, you know, because it  
8 was dark to look out for them to see. They  
9 said they had got off at the wrong stop. So  
10 I just stood outside and waited for them.

11 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay.

12 MS. KNIGHT: And we were not in  
13 there that long.

14 MEMBER BROOKS: Now, had you been  
15 drinking before --

16 MS. KNIGHT: No.

17 MEMBER BROOKS: -- arriving at  
18 this -- at the bar?

19 MS. KNIGHT: No.

20 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And  
21 medication, are you -- were you taking any  
22 medication?

1 MS. KNIGHT: None.

2 MEMBER BROOKS: None at all.

3 Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

5 Others? I just want to clarify one thing  
6 also. You were served the shot by an employee  
7 of --

8 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- the  
10 establishment. Okay. All right. Why don't  
11 we move to the next witness here. And I'll  
12 say that, you know, the licensee will have a  
13 chance to also have some questions, if you  
14 need to. If you want to wait until they are  
15 all done or you --

16 MR. RAMSON: I'll just wait.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

18 MR. RAMSON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

20 I'm sorry, what was --

21 MS. GERALD: Camille Gerald.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, okay.

1 Ms. Gerald, did you want to say something?

2 MS. GERALD: I mean I was at the  
3 Bar 7 that night also and I also had --

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, the  
5 microphone may be --

6 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Could you  
7 move the microphone, please?

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

9 MS. GERALD: I also had two drinks  
10 that night also. The first one that Ms.  
11 Johnson and Ms. Knight brought, I had that one  
12 and I also had the second one, because it was  
13 given to the whole group. So I had one also,  
14 but I witnessed Ms. Knight going in the  
15 bathroom and then she came out and she was  
16 saying I'm not feeling good, something is not  
17 right. And then she sat down, but then next  
18 thing you know, I turned around and she was  
19 out. I mean, slouched down and passed out.

20 And at the time that the security  
21 came over, they were just like -- well, I  
22 think they got us some water, because we were

1 asking for water and we were trying to, you  
2 know, just put it like, you know, on her, you  
3 know, neck trying to see if -- but she was not  
4 coming to.

5 I was actually really afraid,  
6 because to me her disposition, I was thinking  
7 she may have had a stroke or something,  
8 because to me I felt her -- like she was  
9 drooling from her mouth and I mean, I was just  
10 like we need to call the ambulance. But the  
11 personnel that worked there was just like she  
12 has to go. She has to go.

13 And I'm just like we shouldn't  
14 move her. I'm like I'm not sure what is going  
15 on, because I was just really afraid. And  
16 even at one point, they tried to -- this was  
17 before they carried her out, they went to try  
18 to move her and she actually like fell off the  
19 -- because it's like kind of like a sofa like  
20 chair. It's not chairs like we are sitting  
21 in. It's like a sofa and she kind of like  
22 just fell down.

1                   And so then they got her back up  
2                   and all they kept saying was she has to go.  
3                   She has to go. And I'm like I don't think we  
4                   should move her, because again, I was really  
5                   concerned. I didn't know what was going on  
6                   with her. But against our wishes, one of the  
7                   security guards took her by her arms back here  
8                   and the other one had her by her legs and  
9                   carried her out.

10                   But we already called the  
11                   ambulance. The ambulance was coming, so  
12                   again, why would you bring her out before the  
13                   ambulance come. They would come and take her  
14                   out. And so somebody had gone around to get  
15                   her car, because we were all going to go to  
16                   the hospital, which we did. But her car was  
17                   in front and so they put her in the backseat  
18                   of the car and went to close the door. She  
19                   wasn't even all the way in the car and I'm  
20                   like she is not even all the way in the car.

21                   The door like hit her and but it  
22                   was like she is in the car, we are done with

1 the situation. And they went to turn around  
2 and go back inside the establishment and then  
3 the ambulance -- we heard the ambulance and  
4 the ambulance was coming. And they came and  
5 took her out of the car, back of the car and  
6 put her on the stretcher.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any  
8 questions?

9 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Yes, I have.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.  
11 Silverstein?

12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: First, Mr.  
13 Brooks, is there -- does what Ms. Johnson say  
14 comport with what you saw on the video? Is  
15 there anything that she said that adds to or  
16 conflicts with?

17 MR. BROOKS: It's exactly -- like  
18 I said, the part about the lifting her,  
19 initially you can't see it, it's not on the  
20 video. But taking her out to the car, all of  
21 that is on the video. And they did actually  
22 put her in the backseat of the car.

1                   MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Did it appear  
2                   on the video that her friends were trying to  
3                   stop this or were --

4                   MR. BROOKS: It didn't. Someone  
5                   pulled the car up and opened the back door.  
6                   Then the two guys brought her out and put her  
7                   in and the one security officer ran around the  
8                   other side and opened the door and pulled her  
9                   all the way in the rest of the way.

10                  MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Ms. Jones --  
11                  Ms. Gerald, please, help me by walking me  
12                  through your conversations with security.  
13                  What -- Ms. Knight said she didn't fell well.  
14                  She exhibited this paralysis. She was  
15                  probably sweating. And she said something is  
16                  not right. What did you see? What did you  
17                  say? What did you do?

18                  MS. GERALD: I just -- I mean, I  
19                  was just saying we need to call the ambulance  
20                  and I mean I was just like I'm afraid that all  
21                  the --

22                  MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Did --

1 MS. GERALD: -- like it wasn't a  
2 specific conversation, me, one-on-one, because  
3 there were several of us all surrounding her.

4 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: In terms of  
5 your interaction with security, did they come  
6 to you and say get her out of here? What went  
7 on between you and security?

8 MS. GERALD: Security appeared. I  
9 don't remember anybody going to get them,  
10 because clearly it was probably 10 of us. So  
11 we are all standing around and so they came  
12 over and like I said after we got the water  
13 and placed it on her neck, they were just  
14 saying she has got to go. She has got to go.  
15 She has got to get out.

16 And I'm like I know I just kept  
17 saying I don't think we should move her. I  
18 mean, because my personal opinion, I'm not a  
19 health person, but I'm like I don't know if  
20 she is having a stroke or what is going on.

21 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Did you  
22 specifically say to the security that she may

1 be having a stroke or that she was partially  
2 paralyzed? Did you tell them anything of that  
3 sort?

4 MS. GERALD: No, I didn't say to  
5 security I think she is having a stroke. I  
6 just said I don't think we should move her.

7 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay.

8 MS. GERALD: And they continued to  
9 say the only thing they were saying, she has  
10 got to go.

11 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. No  
12 further questions.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Mr.  
14 Alberti?

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Hi, Ms. Gerald.  
16 I'm sorry to put you through this, but I'm  
17 going to make you walk us through it again.  
18 But I want to do it sort of step-by-step. All  
19 right? So Ms. Knight comes back and you  
20 realize that something is not right. All  
21 right. What's the first thing you or your  
22 party did? What's the very first thing you

1 did?

2 MS. GERALD: It wasn't me, but  
3 somebody asked for some water.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So  
5 somebody asked for some water. They went to  
6 the staff members. Ms. Johnson was it you?  
7 I'll let you say. Was it you who went and --

8 MS. JOHNSON: It was me. I  
9 immediately asked. I kind of went to the bar  
10 and said give me some water, give me some  
11 water quick. They gave me a glass of ice  
12 water and I kind of took a right and --

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you  
14 came back and you patted her down. All right.

15 MS. JOHNSON: I put it on her  
16 forehead and her back.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. What's the  
18 next thing that you and your group did?

19 MS. GERALD: The next thing we did  
20 was everybody -- of course, at that point, it  
21 drew a lot of attention.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right.

1 MS. GERALD: So everybody in our  
2 group we in this one little section, it's not  
3 that big, we all came over and I said  
4 everybody started yelling call 911. Somebody  
5 said I've already called 911.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

7 MS. GERALD: In the mean --

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: So 911 was called  
9 at that time.

10 MS. GERALD: Yes.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.  
12 So continue. So what --

13 MS. GERALD: Yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Then what  
15 happened?

16 MS. GERALD: Then at that point,  
17 the bartenders -- or not the bartenders.  
18 Correction, the bouncers or the security came  
19 over and said she needed to leave.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So  
21 the security comes over. Was there a  
22 conversation that preceded them saying she

1 needs to leave.

2 MS. GERALD: No.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: What do you --  
4 either one of you, do you remember what was  
5 said?

6 MS. JOHNSON: I think there was no  
7 dialogue between us and them, as far as  
8 communicating. It wasn't -- it was -- we were  
9 panicking. We -- I saw my friend helpless.  
10 I was more concerned about her than having a  
11 conversation --

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I  
13 understand. I understand that. I'm just  
14 trying to understand what transpired.

15 MS. GERALD: My first concern was  
16 that 911 was being called and, you know, back  
17 up, give her some water, give her some air and  
18 let her lay there. But they were more  
19 concerned about getting her out that they even  
20 took one point that --

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Wait, wait, wait.  
22 So they came over. I want to take this step-

1           by-step. All right. So they came over and  
2           did they say she needs to go?

3                       MS. GERALD: Yes.

4                       MEMBER ALBERTI: Or something to  
5           that effect?

6                       MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

7                       MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

8                       MS. GERALD: She needs to get out.

9                       MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. What  
10          did your party say or do you remember if  
11          anyone in your party responded to that?

12                      MS. JOHNSON: I know that I did.  
13          I was yelling.

14                      MEMBER ALBERTI: And what did you  
15          say?

16                      MS. JOHNSON: I kept saying --

17                      MEMBER ALBERTI: What did you say  
18          to them?

19                      MS. JOHNSON: -- leave her alone.  
20          Leave her alone. If you could see the tape,  
21          you could seem me saying leave her alone.  
22          Don't touch her. Don't touch her. And I

1 reached to pick up her purse, because her  
2 purse had fallen on the other side, so I went  
3 to reach to pick up her purse.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

5 MS. JOHNSON: And Camille grabbed  
6 her shoes. And I said put all this in your  
7 purse, because she had a bigger bag. I had a  
8 little small bag.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

10 MS. JOHNSON: She went to stuff it  
11 in her bag and I'm still attending to her.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And then  
13 what happened?

14 MS. JOHNSON: And then the  
15 security guard came over to forcefully pick  
16 her up and when they picked her up, if I can  
17 demonstrate --

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: And so you told  
19 them leave her alone, leave her alone. But  
20 they proceeded to pick her up anyway. Is that  
21 correct?

22 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, they stood in

1 front of her like this to pick her up under  
2 her arms. And when they picked her up, she  
3 was lifeless. She went down like this. They  
4 scooted her back as Ms. Gerald said in the  
5 chair. And then once he -- another one came  
6 behind and one grabbed her by her foot and  
7 dragged her out of the club.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. At what  
9 point, maybe I am getting ahead of myself  
10 here, but at what point did someone go and get  
11 the car?

12 MS. JOHNSON: At the point that we  
13 were calling 911, because we all wanted to  
14 follow her to the hospital.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. There we  
18 go.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: How is that? All  
21 right. So all right. So now they carry her  
22 out and someone has gone to get the car and

1 the car is in front.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Were you at all  
4 telling them -- resisting her being taken out,  
5 at that point?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Absolutely,  
7 absolutely.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: In what way?

9 MS. JOHNSON: Verbally. I mean, I  
10 couldn't possibly --

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: Do you remember  
12 what you said to them?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Leave her alone.  
14 Leave her alone.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Do not touch her.  
17 Leave her alone. She needs to be here until  
18 the ambulance comes.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So now  
20 they get outside the door.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Um-hum.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: And what

1           transpired then? Why did they decide to put  
2           her in the car?

3                   MS. JOHNSON: Because they had her  
4           outside. Where else where they going to put  
5           her? It was either do that or throw her on  
6           the curb.

7                   MEMBER ALBERTI: I mean, did you  
8           tell them that was her car?

9                   MS. JOHNSON: Yes. They asked.

10                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I know.  
11           These are --

12                   MS. JOHNSON: I know, I know.

13                   MEMBER ALBERTI: I know these  
14           sound like silly questions, but it's --

15                   MS. JOHNSON: I know.

16                   MEMBER ALBERTI: -- important for  
17           me to get all the details.

18                   MS. JOHNSON: They were like is  
19           this her car? Yes, that's her car. Put her  
20           in. They were going to either do that or put  
21           her out on the curb.

22                   MEMBER ALBERTI: That was your

1 impression?

2 MS. JOHNSON: That was my  
3 impression, yes.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

5 MS. JOHNSON: I mean, you're out  
6 there with them in her hand. What was they  
7 going to do? We were waiting for the  
8 ambulance to come. You could hear the  
9 ambulance, but they wasn't actually there.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

11 MS. JOHNSON: They were far.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Ms.  
13 Johnson, were you there through all of this?

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: I mean, Ms.  
16 Gerald. Were you there through all of this?

17 MS. GERALD: Yes. As they were  
18 carrying her out, we all -- we just proceeded  
19 to follow them out.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Do you have  
21 anything to add to what Ms. Johnson has just  
22 said or is she pretty much on-spot in the way

1 she described it?

2 MS. GERALD: Yeah. And like I  
3 said either the curb or the car, because it  
4 was like once she was in the car, there was no  
5 other conversation. It was like in the car  
6 and we're done with this situation.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. I'm going  
8 to ask one more stupid question.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Because obviously  
11 you were concerned, so it's going to sound  
12 stupid. Was it completely obvious to you that  
13 Ms. Knight was -- needed medical assistance?

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: There is no  
16 question?

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Others?

1                   MEMBER BROOKS: I have one more  
2 question.

3                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.  
4 Brooks?

5                   MEMBER BROOKS: Yes. I just want  
6 to be clear. Who called 911?

7                   MS. JOHNSON: That's a good  
8 question. It was like nine of us together.

9                   MEMBER BROOKS: Okay.

10                  MS. JOHNSON: A lot of ladies. I  
11 don't know in specific, because, at that  
12 point, my focus was more on her as far as I  
13 was the one attending to her and kind of  
14 yelling stuff out, call 911, someone came back  
15 and said we called 911.

16                  MEMBER BROOKS: So you couldn't be  
17 sure that it was one of the group of nine who  
18 called 911?

19                  MS. JOHNSON: Repeat yourself.

20                  MEMBER BROOKS: There was nine of  
21 you, approximately, 9 or 10?

22                  MS. JOHNSON: It was quite a few

1 of us, yes.

2 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. Are you  
3 sure that one of you all called 911?

4 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

5 MEMBER BROOKS: Not the  
6 establishment?

7 MS. JOHNSON: I'm more than  
8 certain, yes.

9 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. Good. All  
10 right. Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I just  
12 have a couple of other questions either, I  
13 guess, for Ms. Johnson then or Ms. --

14 MS. GERALD: Gerald.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- Gerald.  
16 Okay. Do you have any idea what the time  
17 frame was between when Ms. Knight passed out  
18 and when she was dragged out? I'm sorry, I  
19 don't want to characterize it. When she was  
20 carried out of the establishment?

21 MS. JOHNSON: When you are in  
22 crisis time --

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Um-hum.

2 MS. JOHNSON: -- the sense of time  
3 changes. I want to say within 5 or 10  
4 minutes.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Remember, we arrived  
7 between 7:30 and 7:45. She came and met us  
8 outside.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

10 MS. JOHNSON: This is only an hour  
11 that we were actually in there.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That you were  
13 there total. Okay. Did one of you and the  
14 group of friends go get the car and bring it  
15 up?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So  
18 somebody agreed to do that for security?

19 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It wasn't  
21 either --

22 MS. GERALD: For security or for

1 us?

2 MS. JOHNSON: No, no, we was going  
3 to follow the ambulance.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You wanted  
5 the ambulance.

6 MS. JOHNSON: We were all going  
7 with the ambulance.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You were  
9 going to have the car brought up for you?

10 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Because we all  
13 carpooled.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 MS. GERALD: Yes, it was more than  
16 her car. Other people's cars as well.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Them two  
18 caught the subway, but they were going to ride  
19 back with me and Angie.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. Okay.  
21 And when the ambulance got there, did they  
22 take Ms. Knight out of the car and put her in

1 the ambulance?

2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And did they  
4 say anything about her being placed in the  
5 car?

6 MS. JOHNSON: No.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So,  
8 Ms. Johnson, we kind of jumped to you.

9 MS. JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, no, no,  
11 it's fine. I mean, Mr. Alberti asked you  
12 questions. I just want to make sure, was  
13 there anything else that you wanted to say  
14 before we go and hear from the licensee?

15 MS. JOHNSON: I just wanted to add  
16 if we were going to call 911, we would not by  
17 all means agree to have our friend put out of  
18 the club while we are calling 911. It was  
19 either or. If we thought -- I have been doing  
20 this night for years and we have been to many  
21 social events together. I have never  
22 experienced nothing like this in my life. It

1 was scary and frightening.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Was it hot in  
3 there?

4 MS. JOHNSON: Normal temperature.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All  
6 right. I'm just curious at what the  
7 temperature outside was, was it --

8 MS. JOHNSON: Well, it was warm,  
9 because we didn't have coats.

10 MS. GERALD: Yeah, we didn't have  
11 any jackets that night.

12 MS. JOHNSON: It was comfortable.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It was  
14 comfortable. Okay. But were you of the view  
15 that the air was -- the fresh air wasn't going  
16 to be better out there to make it a better  
17 place for her?

18 MS. JOHNSON: It was obvious it  
19 was beyond fresh air.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All  
21 right. Thank you. Okay.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Obvious. Even when

1           they picked her up, they should have known by  
2           the way she fell to her knees that it was  
3           beyond fresh air.

4                         CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.  
5           So why don't we now hear from the licensee.  
6           If you would, do you have anything you want to  
7           say with respect to what happened that night?

8                         MR. RAMSON: Yes. My name is  
9           Krishna Ramson. Kris Ramson. We are truly  
10          sorry that this occurrence had taken place.  
11          You know, we do always wish for all of our  
12          patrons to arrive and go home safely. There  
13          are some of the things that are in question  
14          that I feel might not necessarily be -- I  
15          won't say not accurate, but I think more so in  
16          the sense of, you know, our policy of bringing  
17          individuals out if they have had too much to  
18          drink or they have indeed fallen sick, which,  
19          you know, in our line of work it does happen.

20                         You know, I won't say it happens  
21          every week or every day, which is a --  
22          however, it does happen. And in our

1 experiences more so it has been more  
2 beneficial for us from the establishment to  
3 try to get the patron outside to get some air.

4 A lot of times whether it is the  
5 air inside, they have had too much to drink,  
6 maybe their stomach hasn't been coated with  
7 some food, you know, there is -- there are  
8 situations where people pass out, they do have  
9 those symptoms that the victim had said she  
10 had suffered from.

11 And a lot of times when we do  
12 place them outside, whether it is in the back,  
13 preferably in the back, if not to the front,  
14 you know, we put them to the side and we just  
15 try to get them some water, you know, lean  
16 their head up and just try to get everyone in  
17 the party calm.

18 Now, a lot of times, too, in our  
19 experience, when there is large parties, there  
20 is always going to be an excited person or two  
21 that is going to kind of inflame the situation  
22 more at that point. Where our job really is

1 just to try to calm everybody down. You know,  
2 we never just forcefully take somebody out in  
3 a situation where somebody is feeling bad.

4 You know, we try to access it.  
5 You know, we try to observe it from afar  
6 before we sit there and say you've got to come  
7 out.

8 Now, if the gentleman that I know  
9 that approached the victim, Ms. Knight, he did  
10 say that he saw her from afar. He said it  
11 looked like she was slumped over. You now, he  
12 just kind of watched to make sure she is okay.  
13 Her friends were around and they seemed  
14 excited. We needed to act accordingly to get  
15 them outside.

16 Now, there was never a point where  
17 they said they were -- and are you mistaken or  
18 said -- you used the word dragged. I never  
19 even heard Investigator Brooks when he  
20 interviewed several of us said that we dragged  
21 her out. We never did drag her out or  
22 forcefully try to move her out. It's just we

1           were trying to assist her, at this point.

2                       As far as who called 911, 911 was  
3           coming from the front door. In the event that  
4           we feel like a situation is worse off than it  
5           could be handled from a personnel standpoint,  
6           that's when we do that, we call 911 to assist  
7           in a situation. Someone from the front door  
8           did, yes.

9                       CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Someone from  
10          the front door did what?

11                      MR. RAMSON: Called 911.

12                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, how do  
13          you know that?

14                      MR. RAMSON: Because when I spoke  
15          to the manager on duty, he said we went ahead  
16          and had called 911 because we weren't sure  
17          what had happened at that point.

18                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER: He said what?

19                      MR. RAMSON: We had called 911.

20                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We had? Do  
21          you have a log? Do you keep a log of  
22          incidents?

1 MR. RAMSON: We do keep an  
2 incident log. I did not log this situation  
3 just because this was more so -- the incident  
4 is more so if we had like an altercation of  
5 some sort or a fight. But this sometimes --  
6 like I said, it does happen every now and then  
7 and we allow it sometimes just -- or bring  
8 people outside, get them to their car or in  
9 that fact if 911 is called, we let 911 take  
10 its course at that point.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you  
12 weren't on duty?

13 MR. RAMSON: I didn't arrive at  
14 the time. I arrived probably about a half  
15 hour later.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And I'm  
17 sorry, could you refresh my memory, you are?

18 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Taweke Alemayehu.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And you are  
20 the owner?

21 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Were you

1           there that night?

2                       MR. ALEMAYEHU:  No, I wasn't.

3                       CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Okay.  So  
4           neither of you were there.  Okay.  So do you  
5           contest that -- you weren't there, but you  
6           heard from your employees what happened?

7                       MR. RAMSON:  Right.  The ABC  
8           manager, which is noted in the report, had  
9           called me and he asked me what should we do.  
10          You know, this is what the situation has taken  
11          place, at this point.  I said okay, well, we  
12          will just have to let it run its course and --  
13          after he said 911 had arrived.  This is after  
14          he told me 911 had arrived.

15                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Right.  Okay.

16                      MR. RAMSON:  Our standard  
17          procedure as far as when a patron is ill, we  
18          observe it, try to assess it at that moment,  
19          then, like I said, if we have to, we will try  
20          to escort them outside.

21                      CHAIRPERSON MILLER:  Why did you  
22          have to?  You didn't -- they didn't escort

1           this person out. This person couldn't walk,  
2           right? They had to forcibly carry the person  
3           out and it's on video, right?

4                   MR. RAMSON: Yes, it is on video.

5                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So why  
6           did they have to take her outside?

7                   MR. RAMSON: At that point, they  
8           assessed that they -- she was just laying  
9           there or she wasn't responsive and they  
10          thought maybe they needed to get some air,  
11          need to get her outside to get some air versus  
12          being inside the venue.

13                   One of the things we try to keep  
14          mindful of, too, is that, you know, with it  
15          being loud, you know, it's a little  
16          disorienting. Sometimes there is people  
17          getting outside to get them in a situation, it  
18          kind of helps revive them as well.

19                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So do you  
20          contest that her friends didn't want her to be  
21          taken outside?

22                   MR. RAMSON: I was not there, so I

1 can't contest it.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you don't  
3 know.

4 MR. RAMSON: No.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did --

6 MR. RAMSON: But it was no -- one  
7 of the guys, my employees, he did say he is  
8 like they said no, no, they want to leave her  
9 inside here, but he says there is no way we  
10 can kind of help her by leaving her here and  
11 that's why we did bring her outside. So they  
12 agreed that the -- the fact that the friends  
13 did ask .

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did they see  
15 any risk to bringing her outside? I mean,  
16 sometimes, you know, you hear when you don't  
17 know what is wrong with somebody, you are not  
18 supposed to move them. Did you ever hear  
19 that?

20 MR. RAMSON: I've heard it, yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you take  
22 that into consideration?

1 MR. RAMSON: We do take it into  
2 consideration.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did they that  
4 night?

5 MR. RAMSON: No, they felt like  
6 they had to take her outside. No.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So you  
8 actually have a policy, is it written, that  
9 you take people outside whenever they have had  
10 too much to drink or they get sick?

11 MR. RAMSON: No, that's not a  
12 written policy. No. It's a verbal policy.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.  
14 Silverstein, go ahead.

15 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Ramson,  
16 is there something about the air in the  
17 backseat of a car that helps revive a person  
18 versus simply taking them outside?

19 MR. RAMSON: Well --

20 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Apparently,  
21 they dump -- they placed her in the backseat  
22 of her car.

1                   MR. RAMSON: We normally do take  
2                   people outside. If their party does bring  
3                   their car up, again, 911 was called. They  
4                   brought that car out to follow an ambulance.  
5                   It wasn't brought to put him in the car. So,  
6                   you know, if the individual -- if the parties  
7                   request that they go in the back, that's fine,  
8                   but at this point, that car was brought out to  
9                   follow that ambulance. And we normally just  
10                  take you outside.

11                  MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Are your  
12                  security people trained to recognize the  
13                  symptoms of stroke, heart attack or  
14                  barbiturate poisoning?

15                  MR. RAMSON: No, just in host  
16                  training, but not in those symptoms, no.

17                  MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: So someone  
18                  could either have a stroke, a heart attack or  
19                  be slipped a roofie and they might not know  
20                  the difference between that and somebody who  
21                  simply has had way too much to drink?

22                  MR. RAMSON: That could be true,

1           yes.

2                           MEMBER SILVERSTEIN:   And you don't  
3           have -- and you do not have a policy on how to  
4           handle -- a written policy on how to handle a  
5           case where someone is in need of either  
6           medical attention or is horrifically drunk?

7                           MR. RAMSON:   Other than call 911,  
8           no.

9                           MEMBER SILVERSTEIN:   Well, I have  
10          some things to say about that when we finish,  
11          but go ahead.

12                          CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Oh, are there  
13          other questions?

14                          MEMBER ALBERTI:   Yes.

15                          CHAIRPERSON MILLER:   Go ahead.

16                          MEMBER ALBERTI:   Okay.   So we have  
17          established that your -- the staff is usually  
18          there.   Your staff, I think you answered that  
19          they don't have any EMS training.   Is that  
20          correct?

21                          MR. RAMSON:   Yes, sir.

22                          MEMBER ALBERTI:   So I think the

1 point was made that they couldn't really tell  
2 whether this person had a stroke or what was  
3 wrong with them and they couldn't really --  
4 the are not trained. They do not know, like  
5 you wouldn't know, whether it was safe to  
6 bring someone out or not, whether it was safe  
7 to move someone or not. Is that correct?

8 MR. RAMSON: No, we are not  
9 formally trained, no.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. So  
11 they wouldn't know whether it was safe. They  
12 just took it upon themselves to assume it was  
13 safe to move her. Is that correct?

14 MR. RAMSON: Correct.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. Do  
16 you have a security agreement?

17 MR. RAMSON: We do not.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you ever  
19 thought about getting one and putting one in  
20 place to assist in making clear how staff  
21 should handle situations such as this?

22 MR. RAMSON: A voluntary agreement

1 or a security agreement?

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Security  
3 agreement.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Security  
5 plan, plan.

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Security plan.

7 MR. RAMSON: Yes, we have a plan,  
8 yes.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: You have a  
10 security plan? Is it on file with --

11 MR. RAMSON: Yes, it's --

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- ABRA?

13 MR. RAMSON: -- with --

14 Investigator Brooks had a copy with him.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Investigator  
16 Brooks, do you want to clarify that? You are  
17 shaking your head.

18 MR. BROOKS: Yes, sir. They have  
19 a voluntary plan that they created. It is not  
20 one that is filed with ABRA.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So it's  
22 not filed with ABRA. Okay.

1                   MR. BROOKS: But I did include it  
2                   in the statement.

3                   MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. It may or  
4                   may not be here. Oh, it is. I'm sorry. I  
5                   missed it. Okay. Mr. Alemayehu, I'm going to  
6                   tell you this. From what I'm hearing here,  
7                   you did one thing right. You called 911.  
8                   That's about the only thing you did right.

9                   Now, you have a responsibility for  
10                  the safety of your patrons. All right. I  
11                  don't care whether you think they are drunk or  
12                  they are having a stroke or they are, you  
13                  know, drugged. I don't care. If someone  
14                  passes out, the safest thing to do is to keep  
15                  them in the establishment, call 911 and let  
16                  911 deal with it.

17                  I understand this disrupts your  
18                  business. It causes you trouble for the  
19                  night, because it disrupts the other patrons  
20                  and you've got to wait for 911. I understand  
21                  that. It's the cost of doing business.

22                  But this Board frowns, all right,

1 on the actions you took that evening of just  
2 removing someone who was, obviously,  
3 incapacitated and, obviously, needed medical  
4 assistance.

5 By your own admission, you called  
6 911. You recognized she needed medical  
7 assistance. You weren't surprised when the  
8 ambulance showed up and you just carried a  
9 person out.

10 You have to rethink your policy.  
11 I have nothing else to say.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Brooks?

13 MEMBER BROOKS: Yes. Thank you,  
14 Madam Chair, again. Mr. Ramson, I just want  
15 to be clear. You said that your ABC manager  
16 who was on duty called you while this was  
17 going on.

18 MR. RAMSON: Yes.

19 MEMBER BROOKS: So whenever you  
20 have an incident like this, does he always  
21 pick up the phone and call you if you are not  
22 there?

1 MR. RAMSON: If I'm not there.

2 Yeah, I mean we have only -- this is probably  
3 like the second one, but, you know, it's just  
4 keeping me in the loop with what's going on.  
5 I mean, I'm normally on-site. I just had a  
6 child care issue that day.

7 MEMBER BROOKS: You said he called  
8 you. What did he say to you?

9 MR. RAMSON: He said we had a  
10 patron that is -- that was -- I think he used  
11 the word knocked out, seemed knocked out by  
12 the -- at the table they were sat at. They  
13 were unresponsive and they brought her outside  
14 to get some air. He said if she is not  
15 revivable --

16 MEMBER BROOKS: Did he -- what did  
17 you tell him?

18 MR. RAMSON: If she is not  
19 responsive, then we need to call 911.

20 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. So he  
21 called 911 after he talked to you?

22 MR. RAMSON: Somebody called 911,

1           yes.

2                         MEMBER BROOKS: Well, they said  
3           that they did.

4                         MR. RAMSON: No, he said -- no,  
5           they didn't say that. They said they weren't  
6           sure. I said but it was someone --

7                         MEMBER BROOKS: They said one of  
8           their group called 911, if I'm not mistaken.

9                         MR. RAMSON: I don't think that's  
10          what they said.

11                        MEMBER BROOKS: They did say that.

12                        MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

13                        MR. RAMSON: Okay.

14                        MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. And you're  
15          saying that your guy at the front door called  
16          911.

17                        MR. RAMSON: One of our guys at  
18          the front door called 911.

19                        MEMBER BROOKS: So 911 got two  
20          calls?

21                        MR. RAMSON: Whoever called, yeah,  
22          I would assume so.

1 MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Madam Chair.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.  
4 Others? Mr. Silverstein?

5 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. I  
6 think I have -- I think we have heard a good  
7 representation of what happened here. And I  
8 want the licensees to know that we have no  
9 greater responsibility than to the safety of  
10 the public. That we don't deal here in  
11 hypotheticals. We deal with dead people and  
12 we have had people die in establishments this  
13 year. And all of us know of these cases and  
14 all of us know of cases where people have been  
15 hurt.

16 And our primary responsibility  
17 whether it is in Adams Morgan or 7th Street or  
18 right out in front of a place on Connecticut  
19 Avenue is to make sure that we do everything  
20 we can to make sure that these tragedies,  
21 these horrific things don't happen.

22 We have an imminent danger

1 standard that is there for that reason. But--  
2 and what happened here is, you know, clearly  
3 to me, an act of not having the proper  
4 training, not knowing what to do and not  
5 requiring your staff to do so.

6 The Statute 25-113(c)(4) says that  
7 the Board, that's us, in its sound discretion  
8 may require that a tavern licensee file a  
9 security plan with the Board. A tavern  
10 licensee so required shall comply with the  
11 terms of its security plan.

12 These plans tell you -- they  
13 always have a 911 in them. They always  
14 require a certain level of awareness, a  
15 certain level of training, so that things like  
16 this don't happen. There is no one in this  
17 room that wants to see any repeat of this type  
18 of thing.

19 This will put -- if something had  
20 happened to her that had caused permanent  
21 disability or God forbid her death, you would  
22 be out of business and you would be out of

1 business forever.

2 The safety of the people who enjoy  
3 the nightlife of our city is paramount to all  
4 of us, because nobody wants to kill the goose  
5 that lays the golden egg. There is jobs,  
6 there is taxes, there is everything good in  
7 the city about the opportunity to go out, but  
8 you have to be safe.

9 What I would urge you as strongly  
10 as possible, before this Board acts, is to get  
11 together with folks from maybe our legal, but  
12 to put together a security plan that addresses  
13 these and other issues and file that plan  
14 before we demand that you do so.

15 Everyone in this room wants safety  
16 and security and nobody wants something like  
17 this to happen again to Ms. Knight or to  
18 anyone else. No further comments.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. I  
20 want to add to that that as Mr. Silverstein  
21 said, safety really is paramount for all of  
22 us. And I'm very sorry for what happened to

1 Ms. Knight. And the next incident could be  
2 worse. The next incident someone could die  
3 and there is likely to be more incidents,  
4 because these aren't particularly unusual  
5 situations.

6 And it is clear that you don't  
7 really know how to handle these situations.  
8 And you need to learn how to handle them and  
9 you need to instruct your employees how to  
10 handle them. And that information is  
11 available and our staff will help you as well.  
12 You can get from the Nightlife Association or  
13 our general counsel, what are the best  
14 practices for dealing with, you know, medical  
15 situations in your establishment or  
16 altercations that can lead to violence or all  
17 those kind of incidents that occur in your  
18 types of establishments.

19 So you know, I second what Mr.  
20 Silverstein said. You need to take this  
21 opportunity and find out what your procedure  
22 should be, get them in writing and file them

1 with the Board and then you will have  
2 addressed this kind of safety problem.

3 MR. RAMSON: We will.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Alberti?

5 MEMBER ALBERTI: I have a  
6 question. I think Mr. Bashir said they would.  
7 So, Mr. Alemayehu?

8 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Yes, sir.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm curious,  
10 would you, at this time, be willing to commit  
11 to filing a security plan with the Board that  
12 comports with the requirements of the DC  
13 Statutes? And our legal counsel can tell you  
14 what those -- can give you the guidelines of  
15 what needs to be in the security plan. But  
16 would you be willing, at this time, to commit  
17 to creating a security plan and filing it with  
18 the Board?

19 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Yes, sir.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you.  
21 And I appreciate that. I mean, that's an  
22 indication that you take this seriously and

1 want to be a responsible owner, so I  
2 appreciate that. And we will get this like  
3 in, how long? 30 days. Can you commit to  
4 doing that in 30 days?

5 MR. RAMSON: You'll have it before  
6 the end of the year.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Great.  
8 Very good.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.  
11 You'll have 30 days. Thank you, Mr.  
12 Alemayehu.

13 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Anything  
15 else?

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: No. I just --

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: There is one  
19 point.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: I want to thank  
22 the witnesses for coming forward.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, thank  
2 you.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Taking the time  
4 out of your day to come forward, not everyone  
5 does, and the Board -- it's very helpful to  
6 the Board. And I think in the end it will be  
7 helpful to the licensee. So we do appreciate  
8 your time and efforts. Thank you. Thank you  
9 all.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Is  
11 there anything else? Okay. Then that  
12 concludes this hearing. The licensee has  
13 agreed to file a security plan within 30 days.

14 MR. RAMSON: Yes, you'll have it  
15 before the end of the year.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

17 MR. RAMSON: Madam Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank  
19 you very much. Okay. Then that concludes the  
20 hearing. Have a good day.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you. Happy  
22 Holidays, everyone.

1 MR. RAMSON: Okay. Thanks. May I  
2 approach the Board?

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, not  
4 really.

5 MR. RAMSON: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you want  
7 to say anything else from there?

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Ramson, you  
9 can always contact our general counsel if you  
10 have questions. That would probably be the  
11 best avenue. Do you have Ms. Jenkins' card?

12 MR. RAMSON: I do not.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: We will give you  
14 contact information for Ms. Jenkins, our  
15 general counsel. That's the best conduit to  
16 the Board is to discuss it with Ms. Jenkins.

17 MR. RAMSON: Gotcha.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

19 MR. RAMSON: Thank you.

20 MR. ALEMAYEHU: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you for

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coming.

(Whereupon, the Fact-Finding  
Hearing in the above-entitled matter was  
concluded at 11:57 a.m.)

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