DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Harar Grocery, LLC,
t/a Rainbow Market Beer
& Wine Grocery Market : Fact-Finding
626 Kennedy Street NW : Hearing
Retailer B - ANC 6C :
License #116536 :
(Application for a New License)

Wednesday
March 31, 2021

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met via WebEx videoconference, Chairperson Donovan W. Anderson presiding.

PRESENT:
DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson
BOBBY CATO, JR., Member
RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member
JENI HANSEN, Member
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff
ALEMESHET GEBRE, Applicant
EARL JONES, DC ABRA Lead Investigator
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1:38 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. The next case on our calendar now is Case No. 19-CIT-00467. Rainbow Market Beer and Wine Grocery Market. License No. 116536.

This is an application for a new license. This is a fact-finding hearing. So, Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of the licensee, please, and the Board investigator -- supervisor and lead investigator Earl Jones.

MS. ANDREWS: Ms. Begre, your rights have been elevated.

Investigator Jones, your rights have been elevated.

That's all, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

Can I have both parties open their microphone and, if they have a camera, please turn the camera on, please.

(Pause.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. or Mrs. Gebre, do you have a camera on? I'm still waiting to see if you're there.

MS. GEBRE: Hello.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Alright.
I can see you, ma'am. Alright. You can pull the
camera a little away from your face.
I didn't say move away, I just said
you can just pull the camera a little away from
your face, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think you're
now having some connection issues.

MS. GEBRE: You can see me now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can see
Thank you.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. I
would like everyone -- alright. Let me have the
parties introduce themself for the record. Let's
start with the investigator.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, hold on,
ma'am. Go ahead, sir.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon. I am lead
investigator Earl Jones with the Alcoholic
Beverage Regulation Administration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank
you, Mr. Jones.

    Ma'am, can you please spell and state your name for the record, please.


    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Gebre, good afternoon, ma'am.

    MS. GEBRE: Good afternoon.

    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. This is a fact-finding hearing and the purpose of the fact-finding hearing, ma'am, is that -- you had requested for a license, the Board has certain issues, and so the purpose of this hearing is just to gather some further information from you in order for us to make a determination and (inaudible) here.

    At some point, the Board will make a decision whether or not you can move forward with the process.

    So, we're not going to approve or disapprove your license at this juncture. So, that's not a decision that we're going to make. We're still gathering information and -- hold on.

    (Pause.)

    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're still
gathering information and once the Board -- once this hearing is concluded, we will make a decision and let you know what our decision is.

So, it's just a fact-finding. So, we're finding information. It's -- the Board -- we might have lots of questions and it helps to answer the questions that the Board asks so we'll have enough information so we can make whatever decision that we're going to make and then pass it on to you. Okay?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any questions before we start, ma'am?

MS. GEBRE: No.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank you.

Alright. Mr. Jones, again, please identify yourself for the record, please.

(Pause.)

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Please again identify yourself for the record, please.

MR. JONES: My name is Lead Investigator Earl Jones with the Alcoholic
Beverage Regulation Administration.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, are you familiar with this establishment, Rainbow Market Beer and Wine Grocery Market?

Are you familiar with this establishment?

MR. JONES: Yes, I am, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And how are you familiar with this establishment, sir?

MR. JONES: I previously had cases at the establishment before this owner. And at this juncture now doing the report that I had just completed, this is how I became recently familiar with the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, approximately how many times did you -- have you visited this establishment, sir?

MR. JONES: About five times, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, why did you have to visit this particular establishment during these five times?

MR. JONES: I was originally -- I was sent an email from one of our supervisor investigators requesting a visit to the establishment to determine if they were operating
as a full-service grocery store.

Also, to make sure that their licenses
were current and up to date and to see if they
were currently selling alcohol.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what is it
that -- as a result of your visit, what
information were you able to gather?

MR. JONES: So, on my first visit,
which was -- which was Friday, January 29th, 2001
-- excuse me, January -- yeah, January 29th, I
visited the establishment, the -- they carry an
array of products.

They had a large (inaudible) of canned
goods, dry grocery goods, baked goods, frozen
foods, nonalcoholic beverages, dairy products.

I met with the owner, Ms. Gebre, who
is the one with us, and spoke with her and talked
to her about the requirements of a full-service
grocery store and what that means.

And I mentioned that to her because
there were some products that were just either
out of stock or either very low, and that was
like poultry, a lot of dairy, those types of
things, some of the dairy products and the
poultry and fruits and vegetables.
And so, I spoke with her about that and told her, at that point in time, you know, if this is something that she wants to do, if she wants to be a full-service Class B grocery store through us, through ABRA, if you-all are to allow her to have that class license, she's going to have to maintain and have a stock of inventory of these products.

She needs to have at least six out of seven of the required items that I mentioned to her.

And if I need to mention that to you-all, I will right now, but I mentioned those items.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I need you to state what the items were, sir.

MR. JONES: Okay. So, according to the District of Columbia Official Code Title 2510522(a) (phonetic) in the case that in order to be a full-service grocery store you have to have the following items for sale:

And that's fresh fruits and vegetables; fresh and uncooked meats, poultry and seafood; dairy products; frozen foods; dry groceries and baked goods or nonalcoholic
beverages.

And out of what I saw on my initial visit she had most of these products, like I said, short of -- she was short on dairy products. There were no meats, no poultry.

And so, I mentioned to her about having these items on stock and maintaining this stock if this is what she wants to do as far as being a full-service Class B grocery store.

I also mentioned to her because she had some fruits -- frozen fruits that were stored in a -- like a small ice cream cooler and I told her, can we separate those items because, for me and for the public, you know, you don't want any kind of cross-contamination.

You don't want any -- the presentation doesn't look good, I said, so let's kind of change that up as well. Let's get these in a separate item -- or a separate place.

And so, that was my -- that was my initial meeting when I first met with her.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, did there come a time that you -- so, tell me about the subsequent times that you went and visited the establishment.
MR. JONES: So, on the subsequent visits, which were Friday, February 5th, 2021 -- it was Friday, February 10th, 2021; Wednesday, February 19th, 2021; and on Thursday, March 18th, 2021, I entered the store -- and at no point in time during my first visit did I advise Ms. Gebre that -- you know, I advised her that I would return for a re-inspection, but I never told her when I was coming back or how many times I would come back. 

So, she was fully unaware whenever I did show back up and on each subsequent visit the items that I observed to be extremely low or either out of stock were stocked.

She did have -- on each of those visits she had bacon, she had hotdogs, she had deli meats, uncooked packaged poultry, cabbage, frozen vegetables and fruits.

She did have these on hand each of the subsequent times that I did show up. And that was on top of she still had a large array of -- the canned dry goods were there. All of the other grocery products were still there as they were when I went the first time.

And she also separated the frozen
fruits from the ice cream cooler and had them in
a different area in a separate cooler as well.

So, she did the things that I asked
her to do and, like I said, on my subsequent
visits I didn't advise to her when I was coming
back, how many times I was coming back. So, it
appeared that she was trying to do -- that she
adhered to what we asked of her.

The only thing that I didn't see that
she had was seafood. She had -- I didn't see any
seafood.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anything else
you want to add?

MR. JONES: The other thing is that all
of the licenses were current and up to date.
They weren't selling any alcohol nor was alcohol
on the premises.

The place is pretty small. It's
between 650 to 700 square feet. So, a lot of the
area where she had items stored, mainly the
frozen products and the refrigerated products,
were kind of condensed because it's such a small
space, but, you know, for me out of the six --
she had six out of the seven items.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what was the
seventh item that they didn't have?

MR. JONES: For me, it was along the lines with the -- when you go with the fresh and uncooked meats, poultry and seafood, that's what I mentioned about she didn't have any seafood.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright.

MR. JONES: And it's not that it was necessary, but, you know, it was part of the requirement.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, how long had you been working at ABRA, Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: About nine years, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's your role at ABRA?

MR. JONES: I'm sorry?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What is your role at ABRA over the nine years? What's your job duties and responsibilities?

MR. JONES: I'm the lead investigator and primarily what I do is investigate and, you know, license ABC establishments within the District of Columbia.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, approximately in the nine years, can you quantify, like, how many Class B Retailer C
grocers have you entered?

MR. JONES: It's been quite a few.

They're in different areas, but, again, it --
most of them have been on the larger scale.

This was a smaller one and it's, you
know, it's pretty much a market if you want to, you
know.

It's not a huge store by any means,
but, for the most part, it's been the larger ones
that I've been into, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You said this is
a market.

What do you mean by this is a market?

Explain your --

MR. JONES: Well, I mean, as far as --
like a storefront. Kind of a -- it's a smaller
storefront. So, you know, compared to the larger
chains is what I'm kind of saying.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, if I was to
walk in off the street, what would I see when I
walked into this establishment? What do I see?

MR. JONES: So, when you immediately
walk into the establishment, if you look straight
ahead you have shelving units that are in the
middle of the establishment that are carrying all
of the dry goods, all of the canned goods.

You have toilet paper. You have paper
towels. You have kitchen cleaning equipment.
You have -- to the left of you, you have the
booth where the owner or manager would be.

And at that area there's a lot of
candies and kind of assortment of things that you
can buy just like a regular little corner store.

To the rear of the establishment and
to the right of the establishment are all
coolers.

The rear of the establishment is where
the alcohol used to be positioned. It's no
longer there. There's no alcohol in the rear --
in those rear coolers.

All of the coolers to the right are
where the frozen and refrigerated grocery
products are along with -- along that wall are,
you know, nonalcoholic beverages, water, fruits,
fresh fruits and vegetables and those types of
things.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you stated
that you had visited this building, this location
before under a different licensee; is that
correct?
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, just -- you said that at least when you look here, you don't see the alcohol.

So, in comparison to the old licensee and then the new licensee --

MR. JONES: Um-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- because --

I mean, just what -- in your view, at least, when you've visited the old establishment --

MR. JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- is this the same type of business or is it a different business, in your view?

MR. JONES: It doesn't look to be the same type of business. And I'm only -- I'm only saying that because, mind you, prior to me coming to the establishment on these last few occasions there was a liquor license involved.

And so, you had -- you had other people coming into that establishment that were of the neighborhood that were, I guess, frequent, you know, frequent customers.

Right now, every time I went, there may have been one customer that would come in
and, you know, I'm assuming that may be because
of the alcohol -- not having an alcohol license,
I'm not sure; but when I was there, there were
very few customers that came in.

So, I can't really -- the aesthetics
of the place looks about the same, but the
products are totally different.

That's all I can really say. I can't
really say anything about the clientele because I
didn't notice anyone coming in on my
visits.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I guess what I
was trying to find out is that you said that
where the alcohol used to be --

MR. JONES: Um-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- is in the
previous space because there's no alcohol. So,
is that -- now, in your view, and I'm not asking
-- you're not an expert. I'm saying you went to
-- you've been to the old establishment --

MR. JONES: Um-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- and you have
been to the new establishment.

So, is there food now -- is there
grocery food now where alcohol used to be? I'm
trying to figure out is -- are we -- if we were

to grant an alcohol license, would the alcohol be

placed where there is now food or -- I'm just

trying to figure out at least from your view from

what you saw.

MR. JONES: Right. So, that's what I

had mentioned a little earlier about when you

look directly to the rear of the establishment,

there are probably about four coolers in the

back. Could be one less, one more, but that's

where all the alcohol used to be kept.

And then there were a couple of

coolers that were on the right-hand side of the

space where alcohol was kept. Those coolers are

empty. There's no alcohol on the premises.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there any

food in those coolers?

MR. JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there now

food in those coolers?

MR. JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, where would

the --

MR. JONES: There is food in the

coolers to the right of the establishment. There
is no food in the coolers to the rear. Those
coolers are completely empty where the alcohol
used to be.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. So,
there's no food in those coolers?

MR. JONES: No, sir. No, sir, but
there's food throughout the rest of the
establishment.

When you look at the center shelves,
there's -- like I said, there's dry canned goods,
there are canned goods, there is -- there's --
they have a large array of grocery products just
in the main aisles of the establishment.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And was that
consistent throughout what -- I know that your
first visit certain things were missing, but for
the subsequent four visits was that consistent?

MR. JONES: That was consistent, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Are
there any questions that the Board Members want
to ask Mr. Jones?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short would like to
ask a question.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr.
Short.
MEMBER SHORT: Go afternoon, Investigator Jones.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon, sir.

How are you?

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Just fine.

You mentioned coolers.

MR. JONES: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: And in a regular grocery store they would have refrigeration units keeping them cool.

What cools these coolers?

MR. JONES: I would assume it's the same -- it's the same process. I know that each time that I had gone in, I opened the coolers. All of them were cold.

I mean, so to me -- I'm not a professional at that, but I would say that it's the same process.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, you would say it's commercial-type refrigeration?


MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, how much space does she have? You say 5900 square feet, correct?
MR. JONES: I didn't say that, but I said --

MEMBER SHORT: How many square feet again? I must have missed that.

MR. JONES: I would say I think it's between 650 and 700.

MEMBER SHORT: 600 to 700 feet. Okay. And I think the Chairman alluded to this that at the current time are all of the shelves and refrigeration units pretty much being utilized?

Are they full of food or full of product?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir, they are with the exception of the rear coolers where the alcohol used to be stored, yes, sir.

Those coolers in the back are completely off. There's no lights. There's no nothing going on in the back.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, how much space do they take up and how much space do they have within them approximately?

MR. JONES: I would say the middle shelving units, everything in the middle of the establishment, the right coolers where food is
being stored, frozen and refrigerated food is
being stored, that takes up probably 50 percent
of the store.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, you
mentioned canned goods and regular staples like
beans, rice?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Where are they stored?

MR. JONES: Those are stored on the
middle shelving units in the middle of the store.

MEMBER SHORT: In that 50 percent that
you had just mentioned?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Now, I know that
normally in your -- in your investigations into
ABRA and ABC Board issues, you don't normally run
into health inspectors dealing with food.

Probably you would run into health
inspectors dealing with smoking, but we're going
to leave that alone because we know she's not
going to be doing any of that if allowed this
license --

MR. JONES: Correct.

MEMBER SHORT: -- but for full-service
grocery stores DCRA and the Department of Health
have to validate them.

Did you ask any questions of this licensee regarding her permission from the Department of Health, or from DCRA, dealing with a full-service grocery store?

MR. JONES: So, I mentioned it to her because when I checked her -- all of her government documentation that includes the BBL, which is the basic business license, that includes the Certificate of Occupancy, those types of things, I did ask questions about her visiting DCRA, her talking to the Department of Health because when I had mentioned about -- specifically about -- when I talked about merging products, you know, like the fruits and the ice cream together, you know, I said those types of things you got to kind of be careful of not that it's a huge issue, but you never know when items could be, you know, broken there's cross-contamination not to mention just the presentation of things altogether.

But the thing is is that -- and she assured me that she had -- she was speaking with them, she was getting cleared with everything through both departments.
So, at that point, I just left it alone, but I did speak to her about those two entities.

MEMBER SHORT: So, your representation or your testimony is you mentioned it to her and she said she was working on this?

MR. JONES: Yes. She said that she had already been dealing with them because I had mentioned to her about -- because initially there was an issue with her blueprinting as far as what her true square footage was.

And so, that's how a lot of the other questions started to come about. So, she said she was dealing with all of those things at that point in time, yes, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: How many clients or customers could she get into that store at one time, in your estimation?

Seems like a small area that --

MR. JONES: It is. It is. I would say probably -- I would say comfortably maybe 20.

MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Alright. I'll get away from that questioning and that line anyway, but, at any rate, what I'd like to know now is -- I'm very familiar with the 600 block of
1 Kennedy Street.
2
3 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
4
5 MEMBER SHORT: You know that.
6
7 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
8
9 MEMBER SHORT: (inaudible). I know the city quite well. I've been here over 70 years
10 and I don't mind it being on the record. I hope nobody else does.
11
12 But the bottom line is the 600 block of Kennedy Street, can you tell me from the 700 block
13 to the 400 block, how many other ABC establishments are approximately on Kennedy Street?
14
15 MR. JONES: Between the 400 block and the 700 block.
16
17 MEMBER SHORT: Yes.
18
19 MR. JONES: I would say probably five or six.
20
21 MEMBER SHORT: At least two A stores, correct?
22
23 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
24
25 MEMBER SHORT: So, you have (inaudible) doesn't have any problem buying alcohol.
26
27 MR. JONES: Not at all.
28
29 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. How many other
markets or full-service grocery stores in that same vicinity?

MR. JONES: So, this is one of the issues that I ran into and that was something that I wanted to check into, sir.

I'm going to be honest with you. I wasn't able to do it because I had a death in my family and I'm just coming back to work not too long ago.

MEMBER SHORT: Sorry to hear about your family issues.

MR. JONES: Yeah, but that was one of the things that -- I wanted to check into other B stores in the area and I just didn't -- I just wasn't able to, sir. So, I apologize for that.

MEMBER SHORT: Are there other B stores in that particular area?

MR. JONES: Yes, there are other B stores. I'm not sure if they'd be groceries, though, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: No, let's just go with B stores, period. B ABC licenses.

MR. JONES: I believe that there area.

MEMBER SHORT: How many, approximately?

MR. JONES: Maybe three.
MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So, the area is pretty much commercial?

MR. JONES: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: I know you have a few residents still left.

MR. JONES: You do have sprinkled in, yes, in between, yes, and on the side streets.

MEMBER SHORT: You have barber shops. You have --

MR. JONES: Funeral home.

MEMBER SHORT: Yeah, funeral home.

Well, listen, and they're busy in there, so I won't get to that.

But, at any rate, I am -- I think you've given me a lot of information that I wanted to hear and, like I said, I'm very familiar with the area.

And, again, there was a B store prior to this applicant applying, correct?

MR. JONES: Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: And it's been discussed and pretty much the reason why the community asked for and was granted a moratorium on B stores was for what reason?

There is a moratorium in that area,
correct?

MR. JONES: I can't -- honestly I can't tell you. I don't know that, sir.

MEMBER SHORT: You're not familiar with the Ward 4 sales? Is there a moratorium in Ward 4? If you don't know, that's okay.

MR. JONES: No, I -- that's what I -- I just mentioned to you I have no idea if there's a moratorium on the -- well, I know that there is a store on the -- which is the reason why I guess we're having the hearing because of the B -- is it the B or the B grocery for that area?

MEMBER SHORT: Yeah.

MR. JONES: Yeah. So, that's why.

MEMBER SHORT: There cannot be any more B stores there by the moratorium.

MR. JONES: In that area, yes. Yes.

MEMBER SHORT: So, the only way you can sell alcohol, if you were a small business, is to become a full-service grocery store.

MR. JONES: Yes. So, I am familiar with that. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. That is correct.

MEMBER SHORT: I just wanted that on the record and, again, I thank you for your
1 report, sir, and thank you for your testimony.
2 Mr. Chair, that's all I have of this
3 witness at this time.
4 MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.
5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
6 Short.
7 Are there any other questions by any
8 other board members?
9 (Pause.)
10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Ms. --
11 pronounce your name one more time, ma'am. Your
12 last name, please.
14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Gebre. Alright,
15 Ms. Gebre, tell me about -- tell me a little
16 about you.
17 Have you -- how long have you -- when
18 did you purchase this property or when did you --
19 when did you purchase this property?
20 MS. GEBRE: One year.
21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what month?
22 MS. GEBRE: Last year November.
23 November 29 last year 2020.
24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright.
So, what did you do prior to purchasing -- tell me about your history, your business history.

MS. GEBRE: Business history, I just rent for five years (inaudible) from lady. So, I just -- I have license for grocery and then I just apply for beer and the wine and that's it. I just waiting, waiting.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no. Tell me about you. What type of business -- you bought this business in November.

Have you ever --

MS. GEBRE: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever owned a business before?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am. Ma'am, you're testifying. I don't know who's in the background and you're not under oath. You're the owner of this establishment.

I need you to tell me -- whoever that other person is who is whispering to you, I don't want to hear him anymore, okay, ma'am?

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have
presented yourself to the Board as the owner of this business --

MS. GEBRE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- and I'm asking you to tell me about your history about what did you own before you decided -- you told me you bought this business in November.

So, just tell me about, okay, what type of business -- what do you know about running a business, a grocery store?

Have you ever owned a grocery store before? I'm just asking -- give me some information about you and your business sense, ma'am. That's all.


CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, yes, yes to what? So, tell me what did you --

MS. GEBRE: I was having the 503 Kennedy Street. I have only grocery (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your internet connection is poor. So, I'm not -- your internet connection is poor.

So, you're saying that at 530 Kennedy -- what did you own there?
MS. GEBRE: Yes, I'm the owner over there. Kennedy Street, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what is 530 Kennedy Street? What sort of business is that?

MS. GEBRE: Just grocery store.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, do you still own that grocery store or do you no longer own it?

MS. GEBRE: No, I put -- that's when I close it. When I found this one, I just the license put it back.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, were you able -- did you have a liquor license in that other establishment?

MS. GEBRE: No.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, how long did you own the other business for?

MS. GEBRE: Two year.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Two years?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, why did you decide to move to this one? Why did you close that one and decide to open this one?

MS. GEBRE: Okay. That was a smaller store. And when the second my lease it was I
just rent for -- is to finish my rent, my lease was done.

And then when I looking another store, I found this one. Bigger store. And the (inaudible) the wine license. I just want come to this store to try to own a business.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, did you know that this liquor store -- I'm sorry, did you know that this establishment had a license before to sell liquor, the one --

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --

MS. GEBRE: This --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, go ahead.

MS. GEBRE: What you say? Say again, please.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I said, did you know that the business that you bought previously had a license to sell liquor? Did you know that?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, why did you not buy the liquor license? Why did you not buy the liquor license?
MS. GEBRE: I know the lady before -- she put it back before I come here. When I ask her, she say, I return that license. So, I just -- I know I get it if I apply a new one because the lady she put -- she send it to back.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. So, what's the difference between -- alright. So, the store you own at 530, what did you sell?

You said you owned a business for two years at 530 Kennedy Street. What products did you sell in that business?

MS. GEBRE: I have bring candy, ice cream, ice, chips. That's what --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you're talking -- I'm asking about this business that you owned. I was asking you what were you selling in that business.

MS. GEBRE: Well, this is for now this one?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, the one you owned before. What did you sell in there?

MS. GEBRE: Is the grocery. I mean, I told you, like, a candy cart, like, ice cream cart and the chips, like, drink a little with the
soda or something. That's all I say it was.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did you sell any fruits or vegetables before?

MS. GEBRE: Yes, I have fruits.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no. Listen. I'm talking to you about your old business. The old business that you owned. I'm asking you, did you sell fruits in your old business?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did you sell any type of meats? What type of meats did you sell, if you sell them? What types of meats did you sell?

MS. GEBRE: I have the hotdog, milk, egg and bacon. That's all I have (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, as far as meat is concerned, you just sold milk, eggs and bacon.

You didn't sell, like, any chicken or beef or anything like that?

MS. GEBRE: Not over there, no.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what do you
now sell in this establishment? Tell me this business that you're standing now in, what do you sell?

MS. GEBRE: For right now here?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

MS. GEBRE: Chips, candy, dry product

---

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're breaking up. I'm sorry, hold on.

MS. GEBRE: -- (inaudible).


MS. GEBRE: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright.

MS. GEBRE: Now okay?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. Tell me what you sell in the store you have now. What do you sell?

Tell me everything that you sell in the store that you have now.

MS. GEBRE: Okay. I have, like, dry product, like, (inaudible), pasta, cookies, like, hotdog, cake, everything.

I have food product, oil and drink
something like soda pop. Any kind of soda and
dry good like soap for kitchen, Clorox or what
I'm saying. Everything I have it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what type of
fruits do you sell?

MS. GEBRE: Bananas, apple, orange, and
avocado and onion, sweet potato. That's all I
have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what type of
meats do you sell in there?

MS. GEBRE: Chicken, hotdog, cheese,
butter, eggs.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, start
again for me, please.

MS. GEBRE: Egg.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. What
else?

MS. GEBRE: Hotdog.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

MS. GEBRE: Chicken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what?

MS. GEBRE: Chicken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Chicken?

MS. GEBRE: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What else?
MS. GEBRE: Butter, milk.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What else?

MS. GEBRE: Okay. That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --

MS. GEBRE: Milk, egg, um-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, like, what type of chicken are you selling?

MS. GEBRE: Breast chicken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You sell what?

MS. GEBRE: Breast chicken.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Just chicken breasts?


CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what about, say, if I want some legs or thigh, you don't sell that?

MS. GEBRE: I sell them, but I don't have that much customer they asking me. That's why I don't bring it.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I mean, how many packages of chicken breasts do you have in the store?

So, when you order chicken breasts, how many packages do you buy?
MS. GEBRE: Like, seven, eight pack.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, why don't you sell beef?

MS. GEBRE: Beef?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

MS. GEBRE: Well, I have hotdog. Beef hotdog.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but I'm saying what other type of -- I mean, if I go into a market, I can buy -- if I go into a grocery store, I can buy -- if I go to a supermarket, I can buy beef, I can buy fish, I can buy pork, I can buy turkey.

MS. GEBRE: I can stock that, you know. When I have a customer, I get for that when they ask me.

I don't bring it. That's why they keep going to (inaudible). That's why.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what about seafood? Any seafood?

MS. GEBRE: Not right now.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, I know you have owned this business since November of 2020.

So, have you bought any seafood since
November that you've been there?

MS. GEBRE: No.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what type of frozen food do you sell?

MS. GEBRE: I sell ice cream. Frozen food is ice cream.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The only frozen food that you sell is ice cream? You don't have any other frozen food?

MS. GEBRE: Frozen food that I do now like beef and (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't --

MS. GEBRE: -- tortilla food.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're breaking up, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: Tortillas.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, start it again. You're breaking up because of your internet connection. You're breaking up.

What type of frozen food do you sell?

MS. GEBRE: Mexican tortilla.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tortilla?

MS. GEBRE: Yeah. They have three kind tortilla.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, where do you
1. go buy your food from to sell in the store?

2. MS. GEBRE: Most the time I have Cash & Carry.

3. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, who --

4. MS. GEBRE: Cash & Carry, Aldi.

5. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you go to the supermarket --

6. MS. GEBRE: Cash & Carry.

7. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's Cash & Carry?

8. MS. GEBRE: (inaudible).

9. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on. You're breaking up. I don't know why your internet connection is going in and out.


11. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you using a phone? What are you using to connect? Are you using a telephone?

12. MS. GEBRE: Yeah.

13. CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Are you able to just put the phone down on one -- for it to be stationary because the phone is moving and you're moving and I can't -- and then you -- so, are you able to --
MS. GEBRE: Um-hmm. Yeah, I don't know. Just --

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Where is your router? I need you to go somewhere that you have the best signal.

Where is your internet connection?

MS. GEBRE: Here. Okay. Internet connection inside. Here we go.

Now, you see me?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can see you.

MS. GEBRE: What about now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can see you, ma'am. I want to make sure I see you and I hear you.

MS. GEBRE: Now, you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear you. This is where I need you to do it. Stay right here.

Alright. Don't move the phone. Let it stay -- just let it stay so you can talk so I can hear you.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. You said you buy from Cash & Carry.

What's that?
MS. GEBRE: The store.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ma'am, can you
tell that person who is telling you information
that I don't want to hear him one more time.

I'm asking you a question, ma'am. I
don't know what Cash & Carry is. I need you to
tell me. I don't need somebody to tell you for
you to tell me.

So, you tell that person -- can you
tell that person to get out of the room, please,
ma'am?

MS. GEBRE: Okay. Okay. Okay. The
name of Cash & Carry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know
what that is. What is that?

MS. GEBRE: 9212 Cash & Carry DC
Grocery.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright.

MS. GEBRE: Big grocery, sir. 9212 the
address in D.C.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. I
mean, this is a different store from the store
that you owned before; is that correct?

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I know you
said that this was a larger -- your lease expired
and this was a larger distance.

So, do you know what it is to own a
grocery store? Do you know what that means to
own a grocery store, ma'am?

MS. GEBRE: I just go in the address,
you know, go all the way, every day at 9212 to
the address.

They just (inaudible). The store is
(inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no, no, no,
no. I'm not asking you where you buy your stuff.
I'm not talking to you about your distance.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking you,
do you know what it is to own a grocery store?

MS. GEBRE: Everything they have over
there, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you
said what?

MS. GEBRE: Everything what I'm going
to bring it here, I have stock, they have it over
there.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Over where?

MS. GEBRE: They making delivery also.
When I order from here more than 500, they
deliver it for me also here, Cash & Carry.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, how often do
they deliver stuff to you?

MS. GEBRE: They have driver coming
here all the time. The truck they bring for me.
When I order more than 500 when I order, they
bring the stuff. Little car.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I mean, the
reason why I'm asking these questions, ma'am, is
because --

MS. GEBRE: Hm.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- in order for
you to qualify for a license, you have to be a
grocery store.

MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, I'm
trying to make sure that you're actually a
grocery store, that you're not a regular -- I'm
trying to make sure that you're not just a store
selling liquor.

I mean, you're saying that you don't
have a whole lot of business. I don't know if
you don't have a whole lot of business because
you're not selling liquor --
MS. GEBRE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- but a
grocery store, I mean, the main purpose of a
grocery store is not to sell liquor. The main
purpose of a grocery store is to sell groceries.

If I'm home, I'm hungry, I can come
shopping to your store so I can cook food to eat.
That -- I mean, in the sense that not necessarily
I want to go eat a hotdog, but I want to buy some
chicken, and not just that I want to buy chicken
breast, I want chicken legs, chicken wings, a
whole chicken, not just you only sell chicken
breasts.

So, if you don't sell -- you don't
sell fish, you don't sell seafood, you don't sell
pork -- you're gone, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: We go buy stuff. It's
okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, what?
I can't see you anymore. I don't know what
happened.

MS. GEBRE: We go again?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. I can't see
you.

MS. GEBRE: What happen? I didn't
touch anything. Okay. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. I can see you, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, what I'm trying to say to you is that you're asking us to approve a license to say you're a grocery store, and a grocery store is a place -- your corner grocery store is I can go -- I mean, so I can go to Safeway, but a smaller version, or I go to Aldi's. I think you mentioned Aldi.

You go to Aldi to buy stuff, so what you're supposed to be is that I need to go shopping and I -- the Safeway is too far, the Safeway is at Piney Branch -- so I'm familiar with the area, the 600 block of Kennedy.

So, I don't want to go all the way to Piney Branch and Georgia Avenue or go all the way down to Georgia and New Hampshire to the Safeway. So, where do I -- I'm going to go to your store to go shopping.

So, tell me why should I -- tell me that you are a grocery store that rather than -- since I don't have a car to go to the Safeway up at Piney Branch and Georgia or go down to the
Safeway at Georgia Avenue and New Hampshire, why
would I come to your store to -- do you own -- is
your store a grocery store so I can come and buy
my food so I can cook dinner?

MS. GEBRE: I'm going to bring more
stuff. You know that situation, sir, but I don't
have about that (inaudible) maybe everybody
looking when he come beer maybe is going to be
business is fast, is very slow, my business.

That's why if I bring everything, you
know, I'm going to -- my business is very slow.
That's why I don't bring it.

So, if I have this license, definitely
I'm going to bring everything because customer is
coming for that one, too, you know?

That's why little customer I have,
whatever they need, the customer, what they
interest in, that's why I'm going to bring a
little bit what need.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, you're
saying if we were to grant you -- so, you are
saying if we were to give you a liquor license,
then that's going to generate more -- that's
going to bring more customers into your store.

Is that what you're saying?
MS. GEBRE: I didn't say that, but, you know, the -- I need it, of course, that thing, you know.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But what?

You're gone, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: I have to bring more stuff, I mean, produce, but right now I can't buy a lot of stuff because I don't have customer, you know. They put it back. They need another. When don't have beer, they go back another store. You don't have beer -- a lot of people asking beer and wine, something, you know.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, but I can't -- I know, ma'am. I mean, I can't see you anymore. You have disappeared. I can't see you.

MS. GEBRE: Oh, my God, what happened? This thing, I don't know. Okay. I don't know -- sorry, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'll wait a couple of minutes until I can see you, ma'am.

MS. GEBRE: Yes. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I know we're having a storm outside. At least out of my window I see there's a storm.

So, I'm not sure if in Ward 4 if
there's storm up there also. So, maybe that's what's messing with your internet connection.

MS. GEBRE: I have internet. I don't know what happen. Oh, my God. The connection is really -- again connection gone.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The reason why I prefer to see you, because at least I'll know you're there.

I don't know -- if I can't see you, I'm not sure if you're there. So, that's why I'm insisting on seeing you because I can't tell whether or not you're connected.

So, I don't want to be having a conversation with you and then we've lost internet connection.

So, that's why I'm trying to make sure that I can see you so I will always know that you are there.

MS. GEBRE: You can see me now?

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can see you now, ma'am. Alright. So, you're saying that you need us to give you a license as a grocery store so that it can generate more business in your store; is that what you're saying?

MS. GEBRE: Yes, please.
CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Does anyone have any questions for her, please. Any questions by any of the Board Members?

MS. GEBRE: For me, no.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, no. I was asking about the Board Members.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. So, again, do you have any last statements you want to say, ma'am?

Anything that you want to say about why we should give you an opportunity to give you a grocery store license?


CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell us why the Board should consider granting you a license to operate a grocery store, ma'am.

Did you hear me?

MS. GEBRE: Yeah. I can't say. I don't know what I'm saying. I need definitely this beer and the wine license to help me, guys. I need -- because of -- almost -- I waiting this one year almost, you know. I apply, apply, apply long time, you know.
It's long time. I pay $4,500 for this place to rent. And this establishment was working 45 years. When I (inaudible) with the lady, she told me, you have license, I'll give it to you, license, and then I give you with the lease, everything.

That's why I was coming (inaudible) with her so -- but I still now when I (inaudible) four times, five times it pass because different agent. All of them changing, changing, changing the store plan.

Now, I don't know really just -- I need help for this thing, you know. The thing is now right now too much problem. No business also.

I am going to go ahead with that and with this and I just -- I ask the Board to excuse me and please just let me get my license, please, if you don't mind, guys.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I mean, ma'am --

MS. GEBRE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- it's not a matter that the Board doesn't want to give you a license, ma'am.
The way it is, the only way you can get a license currently in the area we live in, ma'am, is if you're a grocery store. Okay?

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, that's the thing whether you can get a license. Because of the ward you live in, the only way you can get a license is that you have to be a grocery store.

And the purpose of this hearing -- are you there? I'm not sure if you're frozen. Do you hear me?

MS. GEBRE: I hear you. I hear you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright.

MS. GEBRE: I hear you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, the purpose of this hearing, ma'am, is to make sure that you are really a grocery store. Because if you're not a grocery store, you cannot get a license.

So, it's not a matter of -- you're saying that we need to get you a license so you can sell beer and wine.

The only way you can get a license is if you are a grocery store. So, you have to sell fresh fruits and vegetables. You have to sell
fresh and uncooked meats, poultry and seafood. You have to sell dairy products. You have to sell canned goods. You have to sell frozen goods. You have to sell dry goods and baked goods.

So, these are things that you have to sell. These are things that if an investigator comes to your place, these are the things that needs to be there every time they come there.

I know the first time the investigator came you did not have -- you didn't have all the stuff that was necessary.

And the investigator said he came back four other times and I think you said to him that the supplies didn't come in.

So, he came back to make sure that you had supplies, but it can't -- hello?

MS. GEBRE: Yes, yes. I hear you. I hear you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The reason why, ma'am, because it appeared to me that you didn't have internet connection. So, that's why. Okay?

MS. GEBRE: Okay. I hear you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so, therefore, as I'm saying, ma'am, it's not that the Board doesn't want to give you a license.
It's that the only way you can get a license is you have to be a grocery store.

    And so, that's why I'm asking you all these questions to ask you what you sell.

    MS. GEBRE: Oh.

    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And the store needs to be stacked with -- you can't basically say that, well, I want to sell chicken breasts because I don't have enough customers.

    So, you have -- you don't have enough customers because you're not a grocery store and you're not selling what they need.

    So, I want chicken wings and I come in your store and you don't have the chicken wings, you only have two chicken breasts, or I want to buy some seafood and you don't have any, or I want -- therefore, you're not a grocery store because you don't have all the stuff that people would go to buy in a grocery store. That's what this is about, ma'am.

    MS. GEBRE: I understand, but I try to rev up my business, you know. This Corona time is -- I have to be upgrade.

    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I hear you, ma'am. I hear you that the Coronavirus has made
a lot of difference in what is going on; however, you want to be a grocery store.

MS. GEBRE: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I know that people still eat. I know --

MS. GEBRE: I know.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- the grocery stores, they do well because people have to eat. They go buy food.

So, maybe if you're saying you don't have enough business, maybe it's because you're not -- maybe because people don't think about you as a grocery store that I need to go in your store and buy food or maybe you don't have the proper food.

So, that's what I'm trying to find out from you what is it that you're selling and so, therefore, if we were to grant you a liquor license, that you would have to sell -- consistently sell fresh fruits, sell food, not just chicken breasts, but -- and that when I ask you if frozen foods is here, you said, yes, sir, you sell frozen hotdogs.

That's not frozen food. I mean, I'm sorry, that's not really -- I know, that's just
my -- I'm sorry, I apologize. Let me not say
that, but I'm just saying, though, when someone
comes into your store, they have to believe that
this is a grocery store that I'm coming to shop
for food and I'm not coming here to buy -- the
question that was asked earlier by Mr. Short, it
appears that there are plenty of other businesses
on the street where you can buy liquor, but
people shouldn't be coming to your establishment
just to buy liquor.

They should be buying grocery. And
when they're buying their grocery, you also sell
liquor, but it's not -- people shouldn't be
coming to your business to buy liquor.

Because if people just come to your
business to buy liquor, then you're not a grocery
store, ma'am. Okay?

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. So, if
you don't have anything else to say, then I'm
going to bring this hearing to a close.

Any final comments that you want to
make, ma'am?

MS. GEBRE: No, I just try to get my
business up around and I try to bring everything,
sir. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank you, ma'am. The Board will make -- we will take this matter under advisement and we'll make a decision and we'll let you know what our decision is.

MS. GEBRE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Basically, ma'am, this is not -- the process now is whether or not we're going to allow the license to go through the process.

It's not that we're going to say yes or no you're going to get a license tomorrow. It's whether or not we're going to allow the process to move.

So, we'll move forward -- if we're going to move forward, we'll move forward. Then the Agency will decide -- the Agency will weigh in whether or not you can have a liquor license, ma'am, if -- so, I just want you to know it's a process that's going to be followed.

So, this is not a matter of you believe that whatever the decision -- whatever the decision the Board makes is that the Board is going to decide tomorrow to get a liquor license.
It's still a process, ma'am. I just wanted you to know that. Okay?

MS. GEBRE: Okay. Okay. Thank you so much, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank you, ma'am. So, we'll take this matter under advisement. Alright. Thank you.

MS. GEBRE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Jones. Okay? Alright. Thank you. Have a good day, ma'am. All right.

MS. GEBRE: Okay. You too.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Board Members.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alright. Thank you. Alright. We are at the end of our agenda for the day. And so, let me close the record.

As chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia in accordance with Title 3 Chapter 405 Office of Open Government, I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting on April 1st, 2021, for the purpose of discussing and hearing reports concerning ongoing plans or investigations of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations and seeking
legal advice from our legal counsel on the
Board's investigative agenda, legal agenda and
licensing agenda for April 1st, 2021, as
published in the D.C. Register on March 26, 2021.

Is there a second?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I second.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
seconded the motion. I will now take a roll call
vote on the motion that -- the motion before us
that now has been seconded.

Mr. Short?

MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short. I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato. I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?

MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett. I
agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen. I agree.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
Anderson. I agree. As it appears that the
motion has passed, I hereby give notice that the
ABC Board will hold this aforementioned closed
meeting.

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act,
notice will also be posted on the ABC Board hearing room bulletin board, placed on the electronic calendar on ABRA's website, and published in the D.C. Register in as timely a manner as practical.

We are now adjourned for the day. I would like to thank the public for their participation. I'd like to thank the Board for its participation.

So, since we are now adjourned, I will now ask the Board to now return to executive session for further discussion. Thank you very much and have a great day.

(Whereupon, at 2:44 o'clock p.m. the hearing was adjourned.)
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