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IN THE MATTER OF:	:
	:
Yoef, Inc.,	:
t/a Stanton Liquor	:
1044 Bladensburg Rd, NE	: Protest Hearing
License #71601	: (Status)
Retailer A - ANC 5D	:
Case #21-PRO-00044	:
(Application to Renew	:
the License)	:

Wednesday  
August 18, 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  
EDWARD S. GRANDIS, Member  
JAMES SHORT, JR., Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

SIMONE ANDREWS, DC ABRA Staff  
STEPHEN COBB, ANC 5D07  
RONALD DIXON, Counsel for ANC 5D  
MADISON GIBBS, Counsel for ANC 5D  
YONATHAN HABTESELASSIE, Licensee

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

11:11 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right the next case on our calendar is case number 21-PRO-00044 Stanton Liquor, license number 071601. Ms. Andrews, can you please elevate the rights of the parties in Stanton Liquor, please?

MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by.

(Pause.) Ms. Madison Gibbs, your rights have been elevated. (Pause.) Mr. Cobb, your rights have been elevated. (Pause.) Mr. or Ms. Mahmoud (Phonetic.), I can only unmute you.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Mahood Mahmoun (Phonetic.), I believe, he's the attorney representing, it's my understanding, he's the attorney representing the Licensee.

MS. ANDREWS: Yes, I do see him on line, but whatever device he's using, I'm not able to elevate his rights. I can only unmute him and Mr. Yonathan, your rights have been elevated.

MS. MAHMOUD: Hi, good morning.

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Who's speaking?

MS. MAHMOUD: This is Manalle Mahmoud. (Simultaneous speaking.) I'm actually with Joe

1 Caplan Liquors.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,  
3 you're actually with what?

4 MS. MAHMOUD: Joe Caplan Liquors.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Hold on a  
6 minute. (Pause.) All right, I'm sorry. Okay,  
7 then you can get off the line. Ms. Andrews,  
8 she's not in this case, please. Okay?

9 MS. ANDREWS: Okay, I'll go ahead and  
10 mute her then.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, thanks.  
12 All right so this is Stanton Liquors. All right,  
13 so let's start with the owner. Can you please  
14 spell and state your name for the record, please?

15 MR. HABTESELASSIE: My name is  
16 Yonathan Habteselassie, I'm the president of  
17 Yoef, Inc. t/a Stanton Liquor.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Can you spell  
19 your name, sir, please?

20 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Y-O-N-A-T-H-A-N H-  
21 A-B-T-E-S-E-L-A-S-S-I-E.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Ms.  
23 Gibbs, can you please spell and state your name  
24 for the record and then identify your  
25 relationship, please, ma'am?

1 MS. GIBBS: Yes, good morning.

2 Madison Gibbs M as in Mary-A-D as in dog-I-S as  
3 in Sam-O-N as in Nancy, last name is Gibbs G as  
4 in girl-I-B as in boy-B as in boy-S as in Sam and  
5 I am one of the counsel for ANC 5D.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
7 Mr. Cobb, can you please spell and state your  
8 name for the record, please?

9 MR. COBB: Sure, good morning. My  
10 name is Stephen Cobb, that's Stephen S-T-E-P-H-E-  
11 N Cobb C-O-B-B and I am the Commissioner for ANC  
12 5D07.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, good  
14 morning. All right, are there any preliminary  
15 matters in this case? We'll start with the  
16 Licensee.

17 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
18 we have an announcement that the lease on Stanton  
19 Liquor has expired and we'll be no longer at this  
20 location on September 4.

21 MS. ANDREWS: Chair Anderson? I'm  
22 sorry to interrupt you. We have one more counsel  
23 on the line, whose rights have not been elevated.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And who is  
25 that?

1 MS. ANDREWS: Ronald Dixon.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Andrews,  
3 can you please elevate the rights of Mr. Ronald  
4 Dixon?

5 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by.  
6 (Pause.) Mr. Dixon, your rights have been  
7 elevated.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Dixon, can  
9 you please spell and state your name for the  
10 record, please?

11 MR. DIXON: Good morning, Board and  
12 parties. My name is Ronald Dixon R-O-N-A-L-D D--  
13 I-X-O-N. I am counsel with Madison Gibbs for ANC  
14 5D on this matter. I understand Mr. Cobb has  
15 also joined representing ANC 5D. We're ready to  
16 proceed, Judge.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
18 Hold on. So, Mr. Habteselassie, I'm sorry, I  
19 cannot (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. HABTESELASSIE: You can call me  
21 Yanathan.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Yanathan.

23 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right so  
25 you're saying that your lease expires. When does

1 your lease expire?

2 MR. HABTESELASSIE: September 4th.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what does  
4 that mean then?

5 MR. HABTESELASSIE: We will not be at  
6 this location.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you  
8 identified a new location, sir?

9 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Not yet. On  
10 related matters, I was going to ask you how long  
11 do you have to put the license on safe holding or  
12 transfer the name?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well what you  
14 would do, sir, if your lease is expired, this is  
15 to renew your license. Right, this is to renew  
16 your license, so your license--hold on, hold on.  
17 All right I would suggest that you contact Mr.  
18 Gordy in the licensing division, Mr. Sean Gordy  
19 in the licensing division and he will give some  
20 instruction on what needs to be done to either  
21 surrender the license or to place the license in  
22 safe keeping. Hold on. (Pause.)

23 You can also, so once you speak to Mr.  
24 Gordy, then you can also get some understanding  
25 whether or not you can transfer that to the new

1 location. You can discuss with him what it is  
2 that you want to do. Do you want to abandon this  
3 license? Do you want to put the license in safe  
4 keeping? Do you want to get a new license or do  
5 you want to apply for a new license? And you can  
6 e-mail Mr. Gordy, his first name is Sean S-E-A-N  
7 dot Gordy G-O-R-D-Y the number 2 at DC.Gov  
8 (Sean.Gordy2@DC.Gov).

9 All right. This matter was scheduled  
10 (Pause.) Now this matter was scheduled for a  
11 Protest Hearing on September 30th, 2021, but from  
12 what the Licensee has stated, he will no longer  
13 have this license on, I'm sorry, what date is it  
14 that (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MR. HABTESELASSIE: September 4.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: September 4th?

17 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, I need to  
19 consult our Legal Office, what the next stage is,  
20 because it does not make sense to move forward  
21 with a Protest Hearing if the license will no be  
22 within this jurisdiction, the jurisdiction of ANC  
23 5D. (Pause.) So, hold on. (Pause.)

24 MR. DIXON: Mr. Chairman Anderson?  
25 This is Mr. Dixon.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, go ahead.

2 MR. DIXON: I have a suggestion.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

4 MR. DIXON: What I would suggest is,  
5 this is counsel for ANC 5D, that the Board table  
6 this matter until it consults with its legal  
7 branch. We have a position on what should happen  
8 with the store and the license given what the  
9 Applicant has shared with us and now has shared  
10 publicly with the Board, that the store is  
11 closing because they've lost their lease.

12 Now what happens with his liquor  
13 license in our view, if it's going to come back  
14 in 5D then obviously he would have to pursue the  
15 appropriate measures to open up in 5D or anywhere  
16 else he wants to open.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

18 MR. DIXON: What we would suggest is  
19 that you table the matter and we set another date  
20 or we can send this back to Ms. Fletcher for  
21 further mediation, but our understanding was that  
22 the Applicant was going to close the store.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, all right,  
24 we're moving forward with the Protest Hearing.  
25 It's up to the Applicant, the Applicant needs to



1 contact our Licensing Division and let the  
2 Licensing Division know what it is he wants to do  
3 with the license.

4 Once the Applicant has contacted the  
5 Agency, so if the store is closing September 4th,  
6 prior to September 4th, the Licensee needs to  
7 contact Sean Gordy in our Licensing Division and  
8 let us know what it is that he wants to do with  
9 the license. Whether or not he wants to put the  
10 license in safe keeping, whether or not he wants  
11 to transfer the license to a new location or  
12 whether or not he wants the Agency to cancel the  
13 license.

14 Now, this must renew the license, so  
15 in order to renew the license, the ANC was  
16 protesting the license, so the license has to be  
17 renewed to go into safe keeping. Because the  
18 license cannot be in safe keeping and it expires.  
19 So the Licensee has to take some action, what it  
20 is that he wants and the Agency will address this  
21 matter administratively.

22 So, currently this matter--we're  
23 moving forward with the Protest Hearing on  
24 September 30th at 3:30 p.m. However, the  
25 Licensee needs to speak to Sean Gordy and inform

1 the Licensing Division what is it he wants to do  
2 with the license. Mr. Gordy will provide him  
3 with his options of what he needs to do with the  
4 license, but something has to be done, but it's  
5 incumbent upon the Licensee contacting Mr. Gordy  
6 and let us know what is it that he wants to do  
7 with the license and once he has informed us, we  
8 will inform the ANC what the next step is. Okay?  
9 So that's where we are.

10 So this matter is scheduled for a  
11 Protest Hearing on September 30th; however, the  
12 Licensee is to contact Mr. Gordy in the Licensing  
13 Division to let us know what his intent is with  
14 the license and Mr. Gordy will provide him with  
15 options. Depending on what option he chooses,  
16 then that will determine what happens with our  
17 Protest Hearing on the 30th. Okay? Is it clear?

18 So, Mr. Yanathan, it is up to you,  
19 sir, prior to September 4th, you need to contact  
20 Sean Gordy and let him know what is it that you  
21 want to do. You can discuss with him your  
22 options. You can discuss with him and he will  
23 provide you with some guidance on your options of  
24 what can or should be done with this license.  
25 Okay? Is it clear?

1 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Yes, it's clear.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
3 right, so is everyone clear? So as I said  
4 before, I don't believe that we're going to have  
5 a Protest Hearing on the 30th, but the Agency  
6 will contact all the parties where we are once we  
7 have heard from the Licensee. Okay?

8 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
10 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

11 MR. HABTESELASSIE: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: (Pause.) Ms.  
13 Andrews, I'm going to go out of turn, okay? So  
14 the next case I'm going to call, Ms. Andrews, is  
15 His & Hers, case number 21-PRO-00060, His & Hers,  
16 license number 118224. So, Ms. Andrews, I'm  
17 calling His & Hers, so please elevate the rights.  
18 Ms. Gibbs and Mr. Dixon, you're free to go.  
19 You're excused.

20 MS. GIBBS: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you.

22 MR. DIXON: Chairman?

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes?

24 MR. DIXON: Chairman Anderson?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Dixon.

1 MR. DIXON: We have another  
2 (Simultaneous speaking.) for you today.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What case is  
4 that? I'm sorry.

5 MR. DIXON: That's going to be Food 7  
6 and just give me one moment, I'll get you the  
7 address.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
9 okay.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
11 went off the record at 11:26 a.m.)  
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<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>A-B-T-E-S-E-L-A-S-S...</b> 3:21 a.m 2:2 12:11 abandon 7:2 able 2:19 above-entitled 12:10 ABRA 1:21 action 9:19 address 9:20 12:7 administratively 9:21 Agency 9:5,12,20 11:5 ahead 3:9 8:1,3 Alcoholic 1:2,13 ALIYA 1:17 ANC 1:8,22,23,24 4:5 4:11 5:13,15 7:22 8:5 9:15 10:8 Anderson 1:14,16 2:3 2:13,23 3:2,5,11,18 3:22 4:6,13,21,24 5:2 5:8,17,22,24 6:3,7,13 7:16,18,24 8:1,3,17 8:23 11:2,9,12,21,23 11:24,25 12:3,8 Andrews 1:21 2:6,8,17 3:7,9 4:21 5:1,2,5 11:13,14,16 announcement 4:18 Applicant 8:9,22,25,25 9:4 Application 1:9 apply 7:5 appropriate 8:15 attorney 2:14,16 August 1:11</p>	<p><b>CATO</b> 1:17 <b>Chair</b> 4:21 <b>Chairman</b> 4:17 7:24 11:22,24 <b>Chairperson</b> 1:13,16 2:3,13,23 3:2,5,11,18 3:22 4:6,13,24 5:2,8 5:17,22,24 6:3,7,13 7:16,18 8:1,3,17,23 11:2,9,12,21,23,25 12:3,8 <b>chooses</b> 10:15 <b>clear</b> 10:17,25 11:1,3 <b>close</b> 8:22 <b>closing</b> 8:11 9:5 <b>Cobb</b> 1:22 2:10 4:7,9,10 4:11 5:14 <b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1 <b>come</b> 8:13 <b>Commissioner</b> 4:11 <b>consult</b> 7:19 <b>consults</b> 8:6 <b>contact</b> 6:17 9:1,7 10:12,19 11:6 <b>contacted</b> 9:4 <b>contacting</b> 10:5 <b>Control</b> 1:2,13 <b>counsel</b> 1:23,24 4:5,22 5:13 8:5 <b>CROCKETT</b> 1:17 <b>currently</b> 9:22</p>	<p>4:23 5:7 <b>excused</b> 11:19 <b>expire</b> 6:1 <b>expired</b> 4:19 6:14 <b>expires</b> 5:25 9:18</p> <p><b>F</b></p> <p><b>first</b> 7:6 <b>Fletcher</b> 8:20 <b>Food</b> 12:5 <b>forward</b> 7:20 8:24 9:23 <b>free</b> 11:18 <b>further</b> 8:21</p> <p><b>G</b></p> <p><b>G</b> 4:3 <b>G-O-R-D-Y</b> 7:7 <b>Gibbs</b> 1:24 2:9 3:23 4:1 4:2,3 5:13 11:18,20 <b>girl-I-B</b> 4:4 <b>give</b> 6:19 12:6 <b>given</b> 8:8 <b>Gordy</b> 6:18,18,24 7:6,7 9:7,25 10:2,5,12,14 10:20 <b>GRANDIS</b> 1:18 <b>guidance</b> 10:23</p>	<p><b>Joe</b> 2:25 3:4 <b>joined</b> 5:15 <b>JR</b> 1:17,18 <b>Judge</b> 5:16 <b>jurisdiction</b> 7:22,22</p>
<p><b>B</b></p> <p><b>back</b> 8:13,20 <b>believe</b> 2:14 11:4 <b>Beverage</b> 1:2,13 <b>Bladensburg</b> 1:7 <b>Board</b> 1:2,13 5:11 8:5 8:10 <b>BOBBY</b> 1:17 <b>boy-B</b> 4:4 <b>boy-S</b> 4:4 <b>branch</b> 8:7</p>	<p><b>D</b></p> <p><b>D--</b> 5:12 <b>date</b> 7:13 8:19 <b>day</b> 11:10 <b>DC</b> 1:21 <b>DC.Gov</b> 7:7 <b>Depending</b> 10:15 <b>determine</b> 10:16 <b>device</b> 2:18 <b>discuss</b> 7:1 10:21,22 <b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1 <b>division</b> 6:18,19 9:1,2,7 10:1,13 <b>Dixon</b> 1:23 5:1,4,6,8,11 5:12 7:24,25 8:2,4,18 11:18,22,24,25 12:1,5 <b>dog-I-S</b> 4:2 <b>Donovan</b> 1:14,16 <b>dot</b> 7:7</p>	<p><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H-3</b> 20 <b>Habteselassie</b> 1:25 3:15,16,20 4:17 5:18 5:20,23 6:2,5,9 7:15 7:17 11:1,8,11 <b>happen</b> 8:7 <b>happens</b> 8:12 10:16 <b>heard</b> 11:7 <b>Hearing</b> 1:7 7:11,21 8:24 9:23 10:11,17 11:5 <b>Hi</b> 2:22 <b>hold</b> 3:5 5:18 6:16,22 7:23 <b>holding</b> 6:11</p>	<p><b>K</b></p> <p><b>keeping</b> 6:22 7:4 9:10 9:17,18</p>
<p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C-O-B-B</b> 4:11 <b>calendar</b> 2:4 <b>call</b> 5:20 11:14 <b>calling</b> 11:17 <b>cancel</b> 9:12 <b>Caplan</b> 3:1,4 <b>case</b> 1:8 2:4,4 3:8 4:15 11:14,15 12:3</p>	<p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>e-mail</b> 7:6 <b>EDWARD</b> 1:18 <b>either</b> 6:20 <b>elevate</b> 2:6,19 5:3 11:17 <b>elevated</b> 2:10,11,21</p>	<p><b>I</b></p> <p><b>I-X-O-N</b> 5:13 <b>identified</b> 6:8 <b>identify</b> 3:24 <b>incumbent</b> 10:5 <b>inform</b> 9:25 10:8 <b>informed</b> 10:7 <b>instruction</b> 6:20 <b>intent</b> 10:13 <b>interrupt</b> 4:22</p>	<p><b>L</b></p> <p><b>lease</b> 4:18 5:25 6:1,14 8:11 <b>legal</b> 7:19 8:6 <b>let's</b> 3:13 <b>license</b> 1:7,9 2:5 6:11 6:15,16,21,21 7:3,3,4 7:5,13,21 8:8,13 9:3,9 9:10,11,13,14,15,16 9:16,18 10:2,4,7,14 10:24 11:16 <b>license--hold</b> 6:16 <b>Licensee</b> 1:25 2:16 4:16 7:12 9:6,19,25 10:5,12 11:7 <b>licensing</b> 6:18,19 9:1,2 9:7 10:1,12 <b>line</b> 2:18 3:7 4:23 <b>liquor</b> 1:6 2:5,7 3:17 4:19 8:12 <b>Liquors</b> 3:1,4,12 <b>location</b> 4:20 6:6,8 7:1 9:11 <b>long</b> 6:10 <b>longer</b> 4:19 7:12 <b>lost</b> 8:11</p>
		<p><b>J</b></p> <p><b>JAMES</b> 1:18</p>	<p><b>M</b></p> <p><b>M</b> 4:2 <b>ma'am</b> 3:25 <b>Madison</b> 1:24 2:9 4:2 5:13 <b>Mahmoud</b> 2:11,22,24 2:24 3:4 <b>Mahmoun</b> 2:14 <b>Mahood</b> 2:13 <b>Manalle</b> 2:24 <b>Mary-A-D</b> 4:2 <b>matter</b> 1:5 5:14 7:9,10 8:6,19 9:21 10:10 12:10 <b>matter--we're</b> 9:22 <b>matters</b> 4:15 6:10 <b>mean</b> 6:4 <b>measures</b> 8:15 <b>mediation</b> 8:21 <b>MEETING</b> 1:3 <b>Member</b> 1:17,17,18,18</p>

<b>met</b> 1:13 <b>minute</b> 3:6 <b>moment</b> 12:6 <b>morning</b> 2:22 4:1,9,14 5:11 <b>move</b> 7:20 <b>moving</b> 8:24 9:23 <b>mute</b> 3:10 <hr/> <b>N</b> <b>N</b> 4:11 <b>name</b> 3:14,15,19,23 4:3 4:8,10 5:9,12 6:12 7:6 <b>Nancy</b> 4:3 <b>NE</b> 1:7 <b>need</b> 7:18 10:19 <b>needs</b> 6:20 8:25 9:6,25 10:3 <b>new</b> 6:8,25 7:4,5 9:11 <b>number</b> 2:4,5 7:7 11:15 11:16 <hr/> <b>O</b> <b>obviously</b> 8:14 <b>Office</b> 7:19 <b>once</b> 6:23 9:4 10:7 11:6 <b>open</b> 8:15,16 <b>option</b> 10:15 <b>options</b> 10:3,15,22,23 <b>order</b> 9:15 <b>owner</b> 3:13 <hr/> <b>P</b> <b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S</b> 2:1 <b>p.m</b> 9:24 <b>parties</b> 2:7 5:12 11:6 <b>Pause</b> 2:9,10,11 3:6 5:6 6:22 7:10,23,23 11:12 <b>Phonetic</b> 2:12,14 <b>place</b> 6:21 <b>please</b> 2:6,7 3:8,13,14 3:19,23,25 4:7,8 5:3,9 5:10 11:17 <b>position</b> 8:7 <b>preliminary</b> 4:14 <b>PRESENT</b> 1:15,19 <b>president</b> 3:16 <b>presiding</b> 1:14 <b>prior</b> 9:6 10:19 <b>proceed</b> 5:16 <b>Protest</b> 1:7 7:11,21 8:24 9:23 10:11,17 11:5 <b>protesting</b> 9:16 <b>provide</b> 10:2,14,23 <b>publicly</b> 8:10 <b>pursue</b> 8:14	<b>put</b> 6:11 7:3 9:9 <hr/> <b>Q</b> <hr/> <b>R</b> <b>R-O-N-A-L-D</b> 5:12 <b>RAFI</b> 1:17 <b>Rd</b> 1:7 <b>ready</b> 5:15 <b>record</b> 3:14,24 4:8 5:10 12:11 <b>related</b> 6:10 <b>relationship</b> 3:25 <b>renew</b> 1:9 6:15,15 9:14 9:15 <b>renewed</b> 9:17 <b>representing</b> 2:15,16 5:15 <b>Retailer</b> 1:8 <b>rights</b> 2:6,9,10,19,20 4:23 5:3,6 11:17 <b>Ronald</b> 1:23 5:1,3,12 <hr/> <b>S</b> <b>S</b> 1:18 <b>S-E-A-N</b> 7:6 <b>S-T-E-P-H-E-</b> 4:10 <b>safe</b> 6:11,22 7:3 9:10,17 9:18 <b>Sam</b> 4:4 <b>Sam-O-N</b> 4:3 <b>saying</b> 5:25 <b>scheduled</b> 7:9,10 10:10 <b>Sean</b> 6:18 7:6 9:7,25 10:20 <b>Sean.Gordy2@DC.Gov</b> 7:8 <b>send</b> 8:20 <b>sense</b> 7:20 <b>September</b> 4:20 6:2 7:11,15,16 9:5,6,24 10:11,19 <b>set</b> 8:19 <b>shared</b> 8:9,9 <b>SHORT</b> 1:18 <b>SIMONE</b> 1:21 <b>Simultaneous</b> 2:25 5:19 7:14 12:2 <b>sir</b> 3:19 6:8,14 10:19 <b>sorry</b> 3:2,6 4:22 5:18 7:13 12:4 <b>speak</b> 6:23 9:25 <b>speaking</b> 2:23,25 5:19 7:14 12:2 <b>spell</b> 3:14,18,23 4:7 5:9 <b>Staff</b> 1:21 <b>stage</b> 7:19 <b>stand</b> 2:8 5:5	<b>Stanton</b> 1:6 2:5,7 3:12 3:17 4:18 <b>start</b> 3:13 4:15 <b>state</b> 3:14,23 4:7 5:9 <b>stated</b> 7:12 <b>Status</b> 1:7 <b>step</b> 10:8 <b>Stephen</b> 1:22 4:10,10 <b>store</b> 8:8,10,22 9:5 <b>suggest</b> 6:17 8:4,18 <b>suggestion</b> 8:2 <b>surrender</b> 6:21 <hr/> <b>T</b> <b>t/a</b> 1:6 3:17 <b>table</b> 8:5,19 <b>Thank</b> 11:10,11,20,21 <b>thanks</b> 3:11 <b>today</b> 12:2 <b>transfer</b> 6:12,25 9:11 <b>turn</b> 11:13 <hr/> <b>U</b> <b>understand</b> 5:14 <b>understanding</b> 2:15 6:24 8:21 <b>unmute</b> 2:12,19 <hr/> <b>V</b> <b>videoconference</b> 1:13 <b>view</b> 8:13 <hr/> <b>W</b> <b>W</b> 1:14,16 <b>wants</b> 8:16 9:2,8,9,10 9:12,20 10:1,6 <b>WebEx</b> 1:13 <b>Wednesday</b> 1:11 <b>went</b> 12:11 <hr/> <b>X</b> <hr/> <b>Y</b> <b>Y-O-N-A-T-H-A-N</b> 3:20 <b>Yanathan</b> 5:21,22 10:18 <b>Yoef</b> 1:6 3:17 <b>Yonathan</b> 1:25 2:20 3:16 <hr/> <b>Z</b> <hr/> <b>0</b> <b>00044</b> 2:5 <b>071601</b> 2:5 <hr/> <b>1</b> <b>1044</b> 1:7 <b>11:11</b> 2:2	<b>11:26</b> 12:11 <b>118224</b> 11:16 <b>18</b> 1:11 <hr/> <b>2</b> <b>2</b> 7:7 <b>2021</b> 1:11 7:11 <b>21-PRO-</b> 2:4 <b>21-PRO-00044</b> 1:8 <b>21-PRO-00060</b> 11:15 <hr/> <b>3</b> <b>3:30</b> 9:24 <b>30th</b> 7:11 9:24 10:11,17 11:5 <hr/> <b>4</b> <b>4</b> 4:20 7:15 <b>4th</b> 6:2 7:16 9:5,6 10:19 <hr/> <b>5</b> <b>5D</b> 1:8,23,24 4:5 5:14 5:15 7:23 8:5,14,15 <b>5D07</b> 1:22 4:12 <hr/> <b>6</b> <hr/> <b>7</b> <b>7</b> 12:5 <b>71601</b> 1:7
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Stanton Liquor

Before: DCABRA

Date: 08-18-21

Place: teleconference

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