

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Pub Crawl

Applicant: Ryan C. Karp	Fact-
Date of Event: 10/18/14	Finding
Event: United Social Sports	Hearing
Neighborhood: Multiple Licensed Premises	
Size of Event: 500-600	

(The names of Establishments  
Participating in the Pub  
Crawl are Available Upon  
Request)

October 8, 2014

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  
HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member  
JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOHN SUERO/ZACHARY VICK, ABRA Investigators

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

(10:00 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. We have a Fact-Finding Hearing for a pub crawl and the applicant is Ryan Karp. What?

MEMBER ALBERTI: Do you need to announce?

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So would you identify yourself for the record?

COURT REPORTER: Madam Chair?

MR. KINSLER: Yes, my name is actually Robert Kinsler. Ryan Karp is one of my employees.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh.

MR. KINSLER: He signed the application but he put it in our company name as well as my own at the top.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You are Robert Kinsler?

MR. KINSLER: Yes, I am.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And you are partners?

1 MR. KINSLER: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay.

3 And we have our Investigator here.

4 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Investigator

5 John Suero of the Alcoholic Beverage

6 Regulation Administration. My last name is

7 spelled S-U-E-R-O. And John is common

8 spelling.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So

10 this is for a pub crawl and it is to take

11 place October 18th. Is that right?

12 MR. KINSLER: No, the date has

13 been changed. We sent in a new application

14 and more formal packet about a week and a half

15 ago. The date is actually for this Saturday,

16 the 11th.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Got

18 it. Okay. And is this your first pub crawl?

19 MR. KINSLER: It's the first pub

20 crawl that we have come in front of ABRA Board

21 to kind of be the lead on. We have been

22 involved in other pub crawls over the last

1 four or five years that we have been in  
2 business marketing and promoting other  
3 organizers' crawls.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: In D.C.?

5 MR. KINSLER: D.C. and Arlington.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Good.

7 So you are familiar with our procedures?

8 MR. KINSLER: Relatively familiar.

9 This is the first time I've been in the hot  
10 seat, but --

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

12 We will --

13 MR. KINSLER: -- I generally have  
14 an understanding of what usually happens.

15 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Can we ask  
16 which ones he has helped with?

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Oh,  
18 which ones have you been involved with?

19 MR. KINSLER: Several from Lindy  
20 Promotions.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

22 MR. KINSLER: They have done

1 several from On Tap Promotions that they have  
2 been involved with. And then also the Snow  
3 Day and Bunny Hop, we helped to promote that  
4 as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All  
6 right. So this may not take that long then.  
7 All right. I see from the application it's  
8 going to be in the Penn Quarter area?

9 MR. KINSLER: Correct.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And 3:00 to  
11 10:00?

12 MR. KINSLER: 3:00 to 10:00.  
13 Check-in will be 3:00 to 6:00. Specials will  
14 end at 10:00. Some establishments have  
15 specials ending earlier than 10:00, but 10:00  
16 would be the latest.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.  
18 Specials end at 10:00 when the event ends.

19 MR. KINSLER: I'm sorry?

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you say  
21 some specials will end at 10:00?

22 MR. KINSLER: Correct.

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That's the  
2 end of the event, right?

3 MR. KINSLER: Officially.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That's the  
5 last one? Okay. All right. So I'm just  
6 going to ask you about a couple of areas and  
7 then other Board Members may as well.

8 But why don't you go through,  
9 first of all, are you -- how are you -- are  
10 you selling tickets on the Internet?

11 MR. KINSLER: We are on-line.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
13 how much do they cost?

14 MR. KINSLER: So tickets are \$25  
15 to the general public. We have our own group  
16 of individuals that are associated with our  
17 company, United Special Sports, and so they  
18 have a promo code that they can get it for  
19 \$15.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

21 MR. KINSLER: There is a few other  
22 small promo codes out there as well.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Do you have a  
2 limit on the number of participants?

3                   MR. KINSLER: Yes, we are capping  
4 this event at 450. As of today, we are at 27  
5 sold, so I think we will be well under that  
6 number. I expect we will end somewhere around  
7 150 people.

8                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. How  
9 many participants do you have as far as  
10 establishments go?

11                  MR. KINSLER: We have four  
12 establishments.

13                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Four? Okay.  
14 Well, who are they?

15                  MR. KINSLER: Penn Social,  
16 Jackpot, Fado Irish Pub and RFD Washington.

17                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
18 have you checked with our Investigator or ABRA  
19 to make sure that all those four qualify to  
20 participate?

21                  MR. KINSLER: I have not had an  
22 opportunity to interact with the Investigator,

1 but I have had conversations with each of the  
2 four bars. They are active participants in  
3 other bar crawls and there haven't been any  
4 issues.

5 I am aware of one violation within  
6 the last few months of an underage issue with  
7 one of them, but that has been resolved in  
8 front of the Board.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Well,  
10 I'm sure our Investigators will let us know,  
11 because some establishments in the city have  
12 settlement agreements, they can't participate  
13 or whatever.

14 MR. KINSLER: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
16 how are you doing your ID checking?

17 MR. KINSLER: So there is really  
18 several layers. The first part of the process  
19 is our on-line ticketing system. Then at the  
20 site, we have got our check-in running at Penn  
21 Social. They are going to have their ID  
22 checkers at the front door. And then we will

1 also be checking IDs at the actual check-in  
2 and registration desk before they receive  
3 their wristband. So there is really three  
4 levels.

5 Then from there each of the bars  
6 will still be checking anyone that they deem  
7 may not seem to be 21. So there is really  
8 four levels of ID checks.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. How do  
10 you check on-line?

11 MR. KINSLER: Our on-line system  
12 asks them to declare their age. They sign.  
13 It's an on-line waiver. They are putting  
14 their initials on so it's more of a  
15 declaration, but it's that first step and it's  
16 also part of the process that says 21 and  
17 over.

18 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I heard up to  
19 it's a first step. Will you repeat what you  
20 said after that? I didn't hear it.

21 MR. KINSLER: Yes. So it's an on-  
22 line waiver where they declare their age.

1 They sign their initials and so it's just the  
2 first step of the process and then they are  
3 verified at multiple checkpoints after that.

4 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Fair enough.  
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And what kind  
7 of wristbands are you using?

8 MR. KINSLER: So the wristbands  
9 that we are using I brought with me. I can  
10 bring them up or I can just hold them up for  
11 the Board to see. These are the wristbands.  
12 There is a few other colors that will be  
13 given, but they have the tickets that are  
14 associated with the complimentary or the  
15 included price of drinks.

16 And so these would be torn off and  
17 given to the bartender as they are used.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay,  
19 that's cute. Okay. What are the other  
20 colors? Just for different deals?

21 MR. KINSLER: Orange, I believe we  
22 have, red and green. And there is no meaning

1 behind them.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay.

3 MR. KINSLER: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you  
5 check their IDs before they get a wristband  
6 obviously, right?

7 MR. KINSLER: Correct.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

9 MR. KINSLER: And Penn Social will  
10 also check before they even come into the  
11 establishment to reach our desk, which we will  
12 then check as well again.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And do  
14 they get anything else with the --

15 MR. KINSLER: No. We don't have  
16 any additional --

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Cups or  
18 anything like that?

19 MR. KINSLER: -- swag. There may  
20 be some beads on the table, things of that  
21 nature, but there wouldn't be anything  
22 substantial that they would receive. We are

1 not doing the mug-style or any of those  
2 container methods that some of the crawls use.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
4 how about security? Are you doing any kind of  
5 security?

6 MR. KINSLER: So Penn Social and  
7 each of the establishments are going to have  
8 appropriate security. Four security guards  
9 will be on staff for Penn Social. If we go  
10 over 250 on-line registrations, we will be  
11 contracting additional security to  
12 specifically work at the desk as well.

13 Outside of that, because of the  
14 low numbers of the event, we are coordinating  
15 with the appropriate staffing from each of the  
16 four venues that are involved.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And  
18 when you say low numbers, what are you  
19 referring to exactly?

20 MR. KINSLER: So just the total  
21 numbers of people we anticipate at the event.  
22 Expecting it to land somewhere around 150.

1 It's well-below the capacity of all the  
2 establishments and the traditional pedestrian  
3 traffic.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

5 MR. KINSLER: I would like it to  
6 be larger, but it's our first year.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay. So  
8 when you filled this out you said anticipated  
9 200 to 250.

10 MR. KINSLER: That was what we had  
11 hoped --

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. Okay.

13 MR. KINSLER: -- two weeks ago.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay.

15 All right.

16 MR. KINSLER: And it is being  
17 revised each day.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.

19 Other questions by Board Members? Yes, Mr.  
20 Rodriguez?

21 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir. You  
22 mentioned you had some pub crawls before.

1 MR. KINSLER: Yes.

2 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Were they in  
3 D.C.?

4 MR. KINSLER: Yes.

5 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Did you have  
6 any problems?

7 MR. KINSLER: So we weren't the  
8 lead organizers on those events. We have been  
9 involved in various degrees, either hosting a  
10 specific bar location or marketing and  
11 promoting it.

12 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

13 MR. KINSLER: Of all those that we  
14 have been involved, we have had no issues. I  
15 have none -- known of no issues that have been  
16 either brought up to ABRA or anything that  
17 happened after the fact.

18 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

19 MR. KINSLER: We were not involved  
20 in the most recent pub crawl in Arlington that  
21 did have several issues. That was not our  
22 group.

1 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

2 MR. KINSLER: Fortunately.

3 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I'm glad it was  
4 in Arlington and not here. Thanks.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I want to  
6 note for the record that we have another  
7 Investigator here in addition to Mr. Suero.  
8 Do you want to introduce yourself for the  
9 record?

10 INVESTIGATOR VICK: Yes,  
11 Investigator Zachary Vick, ABRA.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.  
13 Okay. Any other Board questions? Okay. Any  
14 questions or issues that the Investigators  
15 want to raise?

16 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Just a  
17 couple.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

19 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Good morning.

20 MR. KINSLER: Good morning.

21 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Can an  
22 individual purchase tickets at the door?

1 MR. KINSLER: Yes, they will be  
2 able to.

3 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: They will.  
4 Also, does your wristbands have any type of  
5 wording on them? Do they identify  
6 specifically as part of this pub crawl?

7 MR. KINSLER: No, just the  
8 detachable stubs that say one, two, three.  
9 They are not that popular. A lot of people  
10 don't have these type, so it isn't something  
11 you can purchase just at a CVS or at a local  
12 party store. They are ordered special order.

13 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: But someone  
14 having a wristband of some kind could probably  
15 get in and show the band?

16 MR. KINSLER: Well, the band  
17 wouldn't be the style and it would be more of  
18 the traditional bands that you see for sale at  
19 staples. So these -- typically I haven't seen  
20 them for retail outside of special on-line  
21 stores. And I don't think -- we haven't  
22 publicized that this will be what we are

1 using.

2 But theoretically, I guess it is  
3 possible that somebody may have in their  
4 possession a band of this nature that they  
5 could produce, but I would say the probability  
6 is very low.

7 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. What  
8 security firm are you using for this event?

9 MR. KINSLER: So On Tap is a  
10 company that we have done several bar crawls  
11 with. We have worked with them and they have  
12 a security company that they have worked with  
13 and they said if we hit that number that they  
14 will connect us and we will make that. I  
15 don't anticipate hitting 250, so I don't  
16 anticipate the need for the additional  
17 security people.

18 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: All right.  
19 And who is checking the age identification at  
20 the door? Just an average person?

21 MR. KINSLER: So Penn Social has  
22 four security guards that run all of their

1 events. That will be the first level. And  
2 myself and my staff will be checking IDs at  
3 the second entry site. And then each  
4 additional bar will have their in-house  
5 security additionally checking as well as  
6 bartenders if they feel anyone looks under 21.

7 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. Also,  
8 is this also a costume event by any chance?

9 MR. KINSLER: It is, yes.

10 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay.  
11 Sometimes with costume events, people bring  
12 fake weapons. Have you had -- are you making  
13 some kind of contingency for that?

14 MR. KINSLER: No, but we can.  
15 It's a zombie crawl, so I think the weapons  
16 are more teeth and bites.

17 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Well, there  
18 may be something.

19 MR. KINSLER: It could be  
20 possible. If anyone were to bring that, I can  
21 definitely write up and establish that in our  
22 plan for training for all of our staff to --

1                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: And have you  
2 considered maybe communicating with MPD and  
3 see what their policy is on that, so at least  
4 you all know?

5                   MR. KINSLER: Absolutely. And we  
6 have been in contact with MPD. And they are  
7 aware of the event. I have another call with  
8 Lieutenant Murphy as well that I need to make  
9 this week, but they are aware and I can  
10 definitely specifically ask about policies  
11 surrounding fake weapons.

12                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. And so  
13 you said your total is 450, that's the maximum  
14 that you would sell?

15                   MR. KINSLER: That would be the  
16 maximum. If this thing caught on fire and we  
17 had a viral hit, we would cap it at 450.

18                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: And what is  
19 MPD's understanding as to the number of  
20 people? What have you told them?

21                   MR. KINSLER: We have told them  
22 exactly what is in this form. Actually, I

1 think we -- our first application said as high  
2 as 700. We have revised that down, but that  
3 was what we initially communicated. So there  
4 were being even possibly larger than that.

5 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Do you know  
6 how many MPD Officers will be assigned to  
7 this?

8 MR. KINSLER: They don't believe,  
9 at this point, that they need to assign any  
10 given the nature and the size of the event.

11 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. And,  
12 Madam Chairwoman, this morning I checked and  
13 the only establishment out of the four  
14 participating bars that actually has a  
15 settlement agreement is Penn Social. And it  
16 does not prohibit them from being involved in  
17 a pub crawl.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.

19 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.

21 Did I hear you correctly asking about whether  
22 they need to have screening for weapons?

1                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Well, what I  
2 asked was, because this is a costume event,  
3 sometimes people --

4                   MR. KINSLER: Right.

5                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: -- bring fake  
6 weapons.

7                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, that's  
8 why you asked.

9                   INVESTIGATOR SUERO: And I wanted  
10 to know if he, in fact, had spoken with MPD to  
11 see what their policy is on that and if they  
12 have a contingency plan in case they bring  
13 something they probably shouldn't have.

14                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay.  
15 Thank you. Okay. So you are going to talk to  
16 MPD about that?

17                   MR. KINSLER: Well, I will bring  
18 that specific concern up with Lieutenant  
19 Murphy and make sure that I understand their  
20 policy and then I will work that into the  
21 training for our check-in and registration  
22 desk.

1                   There shouldn't -- with this being  
2                   a very specific costume-focused event, it's  
3                   zombies.

4                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh.

5                   MR. KINSLER: It's to celebrate  
6                   the return of the Walking Dead TV show.

7                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

8                   MR. KINSLER: I wouldn't  
9                   anticipate any issues more like maybe a  
10                  traditional Halloween with cops and robbers or  
11                  Vikings or fake swords, but I will definitely  
12                  work it into our plan and I think we will just  
13                  take a blanket approach that no fake weaponry  
14                  will be allowed.

15                  INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Right.

16                  MEMBER SHORT: Madam Chair?

17                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, yes, Mr.  
18                  Short?

19                  MEMBER SHORT: So will we get  
20                  something here at the Board stating that the  
21                  policies are going to be in place about  
22                  weaponry or fake weaponry?

1 MR. KINSLER: I'm sorry, sir?

2 MEMBER SHORT: Can you provide the  
3 Board with whatever agreement you get or what  
4 conditions you have about no weaponry?

5 MR. KINSLER: Absolutely. We can  
6 send in a copy of the email message that goes  
7 out to all participants for the event  
8 reflecting the updated information about no  
9 fake weaponry.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Thank  
11 you, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.  
13 Anything else? Okay. Then I think if you are  
14 going to submit that, I just thought I would  
15 be interested then in just hearing what MPD  
16 said about that.

17 MR. KINSLER: Sure.

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you don't  
19 mind just accompanying it, you know. MPD said  
20 no problem. MPD said tell them not to bring  
21 anything or it's always nice, I think, for us  
22 to hear or find out what MPD is telling you

1 all with respect to security issues, so we can  
2 be on the same page.

3 MR. KINSLER: Not a problem.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Great.  
5 All right. Any other questions? Okay. Then  
6 not hearing any, I would move that we approve  
7 this pub crawl application.

8 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.  
10 Silverstein seconded the motion.

11 All those in favor say aye.

12 ALL: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those  
14 opposed? All those abstaining? The motion  
15 passes 6-0-0. Okay. We are just going to  
16 sign-off on this.

17 MR. KINSLER: I have one question  
18 for the Board.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

20 MR. KINSLER: In the future, I  
21 hopefully plan to have other bar crawls.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

1 MR. KINSLER: And events of this  
2 nature. Is there a process or method of  
3 connecting with the Investigator prior to the  
4 hearing just to go over concerns or to find  
5 out who has been assigned to my case?

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So we  
7 have an Investigator here who is going to  
8 actually talk to you about that right now. He  
9 will help you with that for the future.

10 MR. KINSLER: Okay.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

12 MR. KINSLER: Do I need to get a  
13 copy?

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: that's  
15 coming. We are still signing off.

16 MR. KINSLER: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's a very  
18 good question though. It's a good idea.  
19 Okay.

20 MR. KINSLER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's Mr.  
22 Stewart in the green shirt. Okay. All right.

1 That completes that Fact-Finding Hearing.

2 (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding  
3 Hearing in the above-entitled matter was  
4 concluded at 10:17 a.m.)

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<b>A</b>	<p><b>asks</b> 10:12</p> <p><b>assign</b> 21:9</p> <p><b>assigned</b> 21:6 26:5</p> <p><b>associated</b> 7:16 11:14</p> <p><b>Available</b> 1:10</p> <p><b>average</b> 18:20</p> <p><b>aware</b> 9:5 20:7,9</p> <p><b>aye</b> 25:11,12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>band</b> 17:15,16 18:4</p> <p><b>bands</b> 17:18</p> <p><b>bar</b> 9:3 15:10 18:10 19:4 25:21</p> <p><b>bars</b> 9:2 10:5 21:14</p> <p><b>bartender</b> 11:17</p> <p><b>bartenders</b> 19:6</p> <p><b>beads</b> 12:20</p> <p><b>believe</b> 11:21 21:8</p> <p><b>Beverage</b> 1:2,13,14 4:5</p> <p><b>bites</b> 19:16</p> <p><b>blanket</b> 23:13</p> <p><b>Board</b> 1:2,14 4:20 7:7 9:8 11:11 14:19 16:13 23:20 24:3 25:18</p> <p><b>bring</b> 11:10 19:11 19:20 22:5,12,17 24:20</p> <p><b>BROOKS</b> 1:19</p> <p><b>brought</b> 11:9 15:16</p> <p><b>Building</b> 1:14</p> <p><b>Bunny</b> 6:3</p> <p><b>business</b> 5:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>C</b> 1:6</p> <p><b>call</b> 20:7</p> <p><b>cap</b> 20:17</p> <p><b>capacity</b> 14:1</p> <p><b>capping</b> 8:3</p> <p><b>case</b> 22:12 26:5</p> <p><b>caught</b> 20:16</p> <p><b>celebrate</b> 23:5</p> <p><b>Chair</b> 3:10 23:16</p>	<p>24:11</p> <p><b>Chairperson</b> 1:15 1:18 3:3,8,14,18 3:21 4:2,9,17 5:4 5:6,11,17,21 6:5 6:10,17,20 7:1,4 7:12,20 8:1,8,13 8:17 9:9,15 10:9 11:6,18 12:2,4,8 12:13,17 13:3,17 14:4,7,12,14,18 16:5,12,18 21:18 21:20 22:7,14 23:4,7,17 24:12 24:18 25:4,9,13 25:19,22 26:6,11 26:14,17,21</p> <p><b>Chairwoman</b> 21:12</p> <p><b>chance</b> 19:8</p> <p><b>changed</b> 4:13</p> <p><b>check</b> 10:10 12:5 12:10,12</p> <p><b>check-in</b> 6:13 9:20 10:1 22:21</p> <p><b>checked</b> 8:18 21:12</p> <p><b>checkers</b> 9:22</p> <p><b>checking</b> 9:16 10:1 10:6 18:19 19:2,5</p> <p><b>checkpoints</b> 11:3</p> <p><b>checks</b> 10:8</p> <p><b>city</b> 9:11</p> <p><b>code</b> 7:18</p> <p><b>codes</b> 7:22</p> <p><b>colors</b> 11:12,20</p> <p><b>COLUMBIA</b> 1:1</p> <p><b>come</b> 4:20 12:10</p> <p><b>coming</b> 26:15</p> <p><b>common</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>communicated</b> 21:3</p> <p><b>communicating</b> 20:2</p> <p><b>company</b> 3:16 7:17 18:10,12</p> <p><b>completes</b> 27:1</p> <p><b>complimentary</b> 11:14</p>	<p><b>concern</b> 22:18</p> <p><b>concerns</b> 26:4</p> <p><b>concluded</b> 27:4</p> <p><b>conditions</b> 24:4</p> <p><b>connect</b> 18:14</p> <p><b>connecting</b> 26:3</p> <p><b>considered</b> 20:2</p> <p><b>contact</b> 20:6</p> <p><b>container</b> 13:2</p> <p><b>contingency</b> 19:13 22:12</p> <p><b>contracting</b> 13:11</p> <p><b>Control</b> 1:2,13,14</p> <p><b>conversations</b> 9:1</p> <p><b>coordinating</b> 13:14</p> <p><b>cops</b> 23:10</p> <p><b>copy</b> 24:6 26:13</p> <p><b>Correct</b> 6:9,22 12:7</p> <p><b>correctly</b> 21:21</p> <p><b>cost</b> 7:13</p> <p><b>costume</b> 19:8,11 22:2</p> <p><b>costume-focused</b> 23:2</p> <p><b>couple</b> 7:6 16:17</p> <p><b>COURT</b> 3:10</p> <p><b>crawl</b> 1:5,10 3:4 4:10,18,20 15:20 17:6 19:15 21:17 25:7</p> <p><b>crawls</b> 4:22 5:3 9:3 13:2 14:22 18:10 25:21</p> <p><b>Cups</b> 12:17</p> <p><b>cute</b> 11:19</p> <p><b>CVS</b> 17:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>D.C</b> 1:15 5:4,5 15:3</p> <p><b>date</b> 1:6 4:12,15</p> <p><b>day</b> 6:3 14:17</p> <p><b>Dead</b> 23:6</p> <p><b>deals</b> 11:20</p> <p><b>declaration</b> 10:15</p> <p><b>declare</b> 10:12,22</p> <p><b>deem</b> 10:6</p> <p><b>definitely</b> 19:21</p>	<p>20:10 23:11</p> <p><b>degrees</b> 15:9</p> <p><b>desk</b> 10:2 12:11 13:12 22:22</p> <p><b>detachable</b> 17:8</p> <p><b>different</b> 11:20</p> <p><b>DISTRICT</b> 1:1</p> <p><b>doing</b> 9:16 13:1,4</p> <p><b>DONALD</b> 1:19</p> <p><b>door</b> 9:22 16:22 18:20</p> <p><b>drinks</b> 11:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>earlier</b> 6:15</p> <p><b>either</b> 15:9,16</p> <p><b>email</b> 24:6</p> <p><b>employees</b> 3:13</p> <p><b>ends</b> 6:18</p> <p><b>entry</b> 19:3</p> <p><b>establish</b> 19:21</p> <p><b>establishment</b> 12:11 21:13</p> <p><b>establishments</b> 1:9 6:14 8:10,12 9:11 13:7 14:2</p> <p><b>event</b> 1:6,7,8 6:18 7:2 8:4 13:14,21 18:8 19:8 20:7 21:10 22:2 23:2 24:7</p> <p><b>events</b> 15:8 19:1,11 26:1</p> <p><b>exactly</b> 13:19 20:22</p> <p><b>expect</b> 8:6</p> <p><b>Expecting</b> 13:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>fact</b> 1:6 15:17 22:10</p> <p><b>Fact-Finding</b> 3:4 27:1,2</p> <p><b>Fado</b> 8:16</p> <p><b>Fair</b> 11:4</p> <p><b>fake</b> 19:12 20:11 22:5 23:11,13,22 24:9</p>
----------	---	--	--	---



4:17,18 5:6,17,21 6:5,17 7:5,12,20 8:8,13,17 9:9,15 10:9 11:18,19 12:2,4,8,13 13:3 13:17 14:4,7,12 14:14,14 16:1,13 16:13,18 18:7 19:7,10 20:12 21:11,19 22:14,15 23:7 24:12,13 25:4,5,15,19,22 26:6,10,11,16,19 26:22 <b>on-line</b> 7:11 9:19 10:10,11,13 13:10 17:20 <b>ones</b> 5:16,18 <b>opportunity</b> 8:22 <b>opposed</b> 25:14 <b>Orange</b> 11:21 <b>order</b> 17:12 <b>ordered</b> 17:12 <b>organizers</b> 5:3 15:8 <b>outside</b> 13:13 17:20	17:9 18:17 19:11 20:20 22:3 <b>person</b> 18:20 <b>place</b> 4:11 23:21 <b>plan</b> 19:22 22:12 23:12 25:21 <b>point</b> 21:9 <b>policies</b> 20:10 23:21 <b>policy</b> 20:3 22:11 22:20 <b>popular</b> 17:9 <b>possession</b> 18:4 <b>possible</b> 18:3 19:20 <b>possibly</b> 21:4 <b>Premises</b> 1:8 <b>PRESENT</b> 1:17,21 <b>presiding</b> 1:16 <b>price</b> 11:15 <b>prior</b> 26:3 <b>probability</b> 18:5 <b>probably</b> 17:14 22:13 <b>problem</b> 24:20 25:3 <b>problems</b> 15:6 <b>procedures</b> 5:7 <b>process</b> 9:18 10:16 11:2 26:2 <b>produce</b> 18:5 <b>prohibit</b> 21:16 <b>promo</b> 7:18,22 <b>promote</b> 6:3 <b>promoting</b> 5:2 15:11 <b>Promotions</b> 5:20 6:1 <b>provide</b> 24:2 <b>pub</b> 1:5,10 3:4 4:10 4:18,19,22 8:16 14:22 15:20 17:6 21:17 25:7 <b>public</b> 7:15 <b>publicized</b> 17:22 <b>purchase</b> 16:22 17:11 <b>put</b> 3:16 <b>putting</b> 10:13	<hr/> <b>Q</b> <hr/>	<b>qualify</b> 8:19 <b>Quarter</b> 6:8 <b>question</b> 25:17 26:18 <b>questions</b> 14:19 16:13,14 25:5	<hr/> <b>R</b> <hr/>	<b>raise</b> 16:15 <b>reach</b> 12:11 <b>really</b> 9:17 10:3,7 <b>receive</b> 10:2 12:22 <b>record</b> 3:9 16:6,9 <b>red</b> 11:22 <b>Reeves</b> 1:14 <b>referring</b> 13:19 <b>reflecting</b> 24:8 <b>registration</b> 10:2 22:21 <b>registrations</b> 13:10 <b>Regulation</b> 4:6 <b>Relatively</b> 5:8 <b>repeat</b> 10:19 <b>REPORTER</b> 3:10 <b>Request</b> 1:11 <b>resolved</b> 9:7 <b>respect</b> 25:1 <b>retail</b> 17:20 <b>return</b> 23:6 <b>revised</b> 14:17 21:2 <b>RFD</b> 8:16 <b>right</b> 4:11 5:11 6:6 6:7 7:2,5 12:6 14:15,18 18:18 21:18 22:4 23:15 25:5 26:8,22 <b>robbers</b> 23:10 <b>Robert</b> 3:12,19 <b>Rodriguez</b> 1:20 14:20,21 15:2,5 15:12,18 16:1,3 <b>Room</b> 1:14 <b>run</b> 18:22 <b>running</b> 9:20 <b>Ruthanne</b> 1:15,18 <b>Ryan</b> 1:6 3:5,12	<hr/> <b>S</b> <hr/>	<b>S-U-E-R-O</b> 4:7 <b>sale</b> 17:18 <b>Saturday</b> 4:15 <b>says</b> 10:16 <b>screening</b> 21:22 <b>seat</b> 5:10 <b>second</b> 19:3 25:8 <b>seconded</b> 25:10 <b>security</b> 13:4,5,8,8 13:11 18:8,12,17 18:22 19:5 25:1 <b>see</b> 6:7 11:11 17:18 20:3 22:11 <b>seen</b> 17:19 <b>sell</b> 20:14 <b>selling</b> 7:10 <b>send</b> 24:6 <b>sent</b> 4:13 <b>settlement</b> 9:12 21:15 <b>shirt</b> 26:22 <b>Short</b> 1:20 23:16 23:18,19 24:2,10 <b>show</b> 17:15 23:6 <b>sign</b> 10:12 11:1 <b>sign-off</b> 25:16 <b>signed</b> 3:15 <b>signing</b> 26:15 <b>Silverstein</b> 1:19 5:15 10:18 11:4 25:8,10 <b>sir</b> 14:21 24:1 <b>site</b> 9:20 19:3 <b>size</b> 1:8 21:10 <b>small</b> 7:22 <b>Snow</b> 6:2 <b>Social</b> 1:7 8:15 9:21 12:9 13:6,9 18:21 21:15 <b>sold</b> 8:5 <b>somebody</b> 18:3 <b>sorry</b> 6:19 24:1 <b>special</b> 7:17 17:12 17:20 <b>specials</b> 6:13,15,18 6:21	<b>specific</b> 15:10 22:18 23:2 <b>specifically</b> 13:12 17:6 20:10 <b>spelled</b> 4:7 <b>spelling</b> 4:8 <b>spoken</b> 22:10 <b>Sports</b> 1:7 7:17 <b>staff</b> 13:9 19:2,22 <b>staffing</b> 13:15 <b>staples</b> 17:19 <b>stating</b> 23:20 <b>step</b> 10:15,19 11:2 <b>Stewart</b> 26:22 <b>store</b> 17:12 <b>stores</b> 17:21 <b>Street</b> 1:15 <b>stubs</b> 17:8 <b>style</b> 17:17 <b>submit</b> 24:14 <b>substantial</b> 12:22 <b>Suero</b> 4:4,5 16:7,16 16:19,21 17:3,13 18:7,18 19:7,10 19:17 20:1,12,18 21:5,11,19 22:1,5 22:9 23:15 <b>SUERO/ZACHA...</b> 2:9 <b>Suite</b> 1:15 <b>sure</b> 8:19 9:10 22:19 24:17 <b>surrounding</b> 20:11 <b>swag</b> 12:19 <b>swords</b> 23:11 <b>system</b> 9:19 10:11	<hr/> <b>T</b> <hr/>	<b>table</b> 12:20 <b>take</b> 4:10 6:6 23:13 <b>talk</b> 22:15 26:8 <b>Tap</b> 6:1 18:9 <b>teeth</b> 19:16 <b>tell</b> 24:20 <b>telling</b> 24:22 <b>Thank</b> 11:5 16:12 21:20 22:15 24:10
<hr/> <b>P</b> <hr/>										
<b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-...</b> 3:1 <b>packet</b> 4:14 <b>page</b> 25:2 <b>part</b> 9:18 10:16 17:6 <b>participants</b> 8:2,9 9:2 24:7 <b>participate</b> 8:20 9:12 <b>participating</b> 1:10 21:14 <b>partners</b> 3:22 <b>party</b> 17:12 <b>passes</b> 25:15 <b>pedestrian</b> 14:2 <b>Penn</b> 6:8 8:15 9:20 12:9 13:6,9 18:21 21:15 <b>people</b> 8:7 13:21										

24:10 26:20	<b>W</b>	<b>18th</b> 4:11		
<b>Thanks</b> 16:4	<b>waiver</b> 10:13,22	<b>2</b>		
<b>theoretically</b> 18:2	<b>Walking</b> 23:6	<b>200</b> 14:9		
<b>thing</b> 20:16	<b>want</b> 16:5,8,15	<b>2000</b> 1:14		
<b>things</b> 12:20	<b>wanted</b> 22:9	<b>20009</b> 1:15		
<b>think</b> 8:5 17:21	<b>Washington</b> 1:15	<b>2014</b> 1:12		
19:15 21:1 23:12	8:16	<b>21</b> 10:7,16 19:6		
24:13,21	<b>weaponry</b> 23:13,22	<b>250</b> 13:10 14:9		
<b>thought</b> 24:14	23:22 24:4,9	18:15		
<b>three</b> 10:3 17:8	<b>weapons</b> 19:12,15	<b>27</b> 8:4		
<b>ticketing</b> 9:19	20:11 21:22 22:6	<b>3</b>		
<b>tickets</b> 7:10,14	<b>week</b> 4:14 20:9	<b>3:00</b> 6:10,12,13		
11:13 16:22	<b>weeks</b> 14:13	<b>4</b>		
<b>time</b> 5:9	<b>well-below</b> 14:1	<b>400S</b> 1:15		
<b>today</b> 8:4	<b>weren't</b> 15:7	<b>450</b> 8:4 20:13,17		
<b>told</b> 20:20,21	<b>wording</b> 17:5	<b>5</b>		
<b>top</b> 3:17	<b>work</b> 13:12 22:20	<b>500-600</b> 1:8		
<b>torn</b> 11:16	23:12	<b>6</b>		
<b>total</b> 13:20 20:13	<b>worked</b> 18:11,12	<b>6-0-0</b> 25:15		
<b>traditional</b> 14:2	<b>wouldn't</b> 12:21	<b>6:00</b> 6:13		
17:18 23:10	17:17 23:8	<b>7</b>		
<b>traffic</b> 14:3	<b>wristband</b> 10:3	<b>700</b> 21:2		
<b>training</b> 19:22	12:5 17:14	<b>8</b>		
22:21	<b>wristbands</b> 11:7,8	<b>8</b> 1:12		
<b>TV</b> 23:6	11:11 17:4			
<b>two</b> 14:13 17:8	<b>write</b> 19:21			
<b>type</b> 17:4,10				
<b>typically</b> 17:19	<b>X</b>			
<b>U</b>	<b>Y</b>			
<b>underage</b> 9:6	<b>year</b> 14:6			
<b>understand</b> 22:19	<b>years</b> 5:1			
<b>understanding</b>	<b>Z</b>			
5:14 20:19	<b>Zachary</b> 16:11			
<b>United</b> 1:7 7:17	<b>zombie</b> 19:15			
<b>updated</b> 24:8	<b>zombies</b> 23:3			
<b>use</b> 13:2	<b>0</b>			
<b>usually</b> 5:14	<b>1</b>			
<b>V</b>	<b>10/18/14</b> 1:6			
<b>various</b> 15:9	<b>10:00</b> 3:2 6:11,12			
<b>venues</b> 13:16	6:14,15,15,18,21			
<b>verified</b> 11:3	<b>10:17</b> 27:4			
<b>Vick</b> 2:9 16:10,11	<b>11th</b> 4:16			
<b>Vikings</b> 23:11	<b>14th</b> 1:14			
<b>violation</b> 9:5	<b>150</b> 8:7 13:22			
<b>viral</b> 20:17				