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\begin{gathered}
\text { DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA } \\
+++++ \\
\text { ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD } \\
+++++ \\
\text { MEETING }
\end{gathered}
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$\begin{array}{lr}\text { IN THE MATTER OF: } & \text { : } \\ & \\ \text { Dahlak Restaurant, Inc., } & \text { : } \\ \text { t/a Dahlak Restaurant } & : \\ \text { 1771 U Street, NW } & \text { : } \\ \text { Retailer CR } & \text { : } \\ \text { License No. } 74433 & \text { : } \\ \text { Case No. 14-CMP-00070 } & \end{array}$

NOVEMBER 19, 2014
The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., Chairperson Ruthanne Miller, presiding.

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PRESENT
RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson
NICK ALBERTI, Member
DONALD BROOKS, Member
HERMAN JONES, Member
JAMES SHORT, Member
MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member
HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member
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ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Michael Stern
Mr. Earl Jones
PROCEEDINGS

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(10: 23 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m} .)
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MS. MILLER: Next case is 14-CMP-00070

Dahlak Restaurant located at 1771 U Street Northwest, license number 74433 and ANC 1C. Good morning. If you can sign in when you're ready and we'll start with introductions. Why don't start with Mr. Stern.

MR. STERN: Yes, Michael Stern representing the District of Columbia.

MR. ASNEIOM: My name is Yonas
Asneiom. I'm the president of Dahlak Restaurant.

MS. MILLER: You're the president?
MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Yes, could you repeat your name a little louder?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yonas, Asneiom. Y-O-N-A-S, last name is $A-S-N-E-I-O-M$.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right so this is scheduled today for a hearing but are there any preliminary matters?

MR. STERN: Yes, no, excuse me, no.

There are no preliminary matters.
MS. MILLER: There are no preliminary
matters. Okay, so you're ready to go forward?
MR. STERN: Yes.
MS. MILLER: Okay. Are you familiar with our hearing process by any chance?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: You are.
MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right. If you have any questions feel free to ask. Okay. So whenever you're ready Mr. Stern.

MR. STERN: Yes, in this case, the government's evidence will show that on November 11, 2013, at approximately 2:15 a.m. an investigator; in fact a couple, a few investigators from the Alcohol and Beverage Regulation Authority were responded to the establishment. At that time the investigator noticed 20 to 30 patrons inside the establishment drinking alcoholic beverages. After discussions with the owner and the review of the
establishment's license, the investigator determined that the establishment's hours of operations ended at 2:00 a.m. Because the establishment was fully active after hours the government will ask the Board to find they have substantially changed their establishment operation without prior approval and we will ask for a fine of $\$ 2000$ in this case.

MS. MILLER: Okay, so you have a choice. You can make an opening statement now or you can just wait until it's your turn to present your case.

MR. ASNEIOM: I can represent right now.

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, what?
MR. ASNEIOM: I can represent right
now.

MS. MILLER: You what?
MR. ASNEIOM: yes, I can represent right now but.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Let me know say this, whatever you say right now is not evidence.

Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.
MS. MILLER: Whatever you say later will be evidence. If you want to make a general statement, that's fine. I just want you to understand the rules.

MR. ASNEIOM: In the letters I'm not going to make any change, but at that time $I$ was there myself. Those investigators is even they going to stay for three, maybe three seconds. I am the one who opened the door. I am the one that closed the door. The light was on. The light --

MS. MILLER: Can I tell you, it sounds like what you're giving me, giving us is testimony.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MS. MILLER: And it's not time for that yet.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.
MS. MILLER: He just gave an overview of what his case, what he's going to show.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.

MS. MILLER: So, I think that's confusing sometimes for people who aren't lawyers, so that's why I was saying you can perhaps wait until you go under oath.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. I'll wait.

MS. MILLER: To make sure that everything you're saying is actually evidence in the record.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. I'll wait. Thank you.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Do you have a witness?

MR. STERN: Yes.
MS. MILLER: Okay.
MR. JONES: Good morning.
MS. MILLER: Good morning. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? All right. Thank you. DIRECT EXAMINATION

MR. STERN: Good morning, can you give us your full name spelling your last name for the court reporter?

MR. JONES: Earl Jones, last name J-O-N-E-S.

MR. STERN: Yes and are you employed, Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. STERN: How are you employed?
MR. JONES: With, as an investigator
with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation
Administration.

MR. STERN: And were you so employed in the early morning hours of November 11, 2013?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. STERN: At that time, can you
tell me what your assignment was?
MR. JONES: I was assigned to
monitor the Adams Morgan area for after hour activities. During that time our agency had issued a 2013 holiday extension of hour licenses and that's what we were monitoring for.

MR. STERN: Okay. And during the course of your assignment did you become familiar with the establishment that goes by the
trade name of Dahlak Restaurant?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. STERN: Okay. Can you tell me how that establishment came to your attention?

MR. JONES: The reason that it came to my attention was because as we were passing by we noticed patrons were kind of gathering in front of the front door. We saw some kind of walking in and out and we saw like a nice crowd just in front of the front door.

MR. STERN: Did you note what time that was?

MR. JONES: At that time it was probably about 2, probably about 2:10, 2:12 a.m.

MR. STERN: Okay. And then what happened?

MR. JONES: At that point, found a parking spot, entered the establishment, identified myself and I requested to speak with an ABC manager or owner.

MR. STERN: Okay. And just to go back, that was 2:10, 2:12 in the morning hours?

MR. JONES: A.m., yes sir.
MR. STERN: Okay. What happened when you came to the door and asked to speak with an owner?

MR. JONES: Excuse me, when $I$ first walked in I noticed I would say 20 to 30 patrons drinking alcohol, smoking hookah, it looked like it was full scale party going on at that time.

MR. STERN: Okay. When you say they're drinking alcoholic beverages, how did you determine that they were alcoholic beverages?

MR. JONES: Well, they were beers on the table, they were some cups on the table as well with liquid in them.

MR. STERN: Okay, so they were
labeled as alcoholic beverages?

MR. JONES: Yes sir, yes sir.
MR. STERN: Okay, and then what
happened?
MR. JONES: And then at that point I requested to speak with an ABC manager or owner.

MR. STERN: Okay, and what happened then?

MR. JONES: At that time I was
introduced to an individual by the name of Mr .
Mesifini and I was told that he was the owner of the establishment. I asked him if he had the 2013 holiday extension of hours license and he stated that he did. He directed me to the rear of the bar area where the licenses were posted and when I got to the rear of the bar, he showed me his ABC license.

MR. STERN: Okay.
MR. JONES: And at that point I
asked him again did he get approved by the Board, did he apply for an extension of hours license and then he told me no.

MR. STERN: Okay. And his ABC license, what hours was he allowed to operate on Monday, excuse me, on Sunday into Monday morning?

MR. JONES: On Sunday into Monday morning, his hours of operations were to close
at 2:00 a.m.

MR. STERN: Okay.

MR. JONES: Or ended at 2:00 a.m.

I'm sorry.

MR. STERN: Okay. Did it appear to you when you walked in as though there was any, was it in full operation, the restaurant?

MR. JONES: Yes.

MR. STERN: Yes. Thank you. That's oh, one last thing. I'm going to show you what I'm going to have marked as Government's Exhibit G1.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was marked at Government's Exhibit 1 for identification.)

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. STERN: And ask if you can
identify what that is.

MR. JONES: This is the report that

I wrote.

MR. STERN: I have copies for you as well.

MS. MILLER: Thank you very much.
MR. STERN: And is that your
signature on the report?
MR. JONES: Yes, it is.
MR. STERN: Okay. We move for the admission of Government's Exhibit G1. The Board already has copies of the record.

MS. MILLER: Okay. I'm going to admit Government's Exhibit number 1. This is the investigator's report and there, it's public record, they're always admitted in these cases.
(Whereupon, the above-referred to document was admitted as Government's Exhibit 1.)

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.
MS. MILLER: You'll have a chance to cross-examine him on it, though.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes -
MS. MILLER: Not yet. Oh yes, so you're finished, Mr. Stern, correct?

MR. STERN: Actually we are.
MS. MILLER: Yes, okay. So now you

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can ask him questions on his testimony and on
this report.
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    CROSS-EXAMINATION
    MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. First who was the one who opens the door?

MR. JONES: I'm not understanding your question.

MR. ASNEIOM: All I'm saying is who was opening the door?

MR. JONES: Who was opening the door?

MR. ASNEIOM: Is the light off or on?

MR. JONES: Yes, the lights were off.

MR. ASNEIOM: That's not true.
MS. MILLER: Okay, you'll have a chance to, sir, okay. Let me just tell you the ground rules. You can't

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, I don't have any experience with this one but let me make the testimony.

MS. MILLER: Can I, let me just tell you just that there's a certain procedure and you can get in everything you want to get in, just you have to try to fit it in on procedure, so at this time you can ask him questions and when he's finished then you're going to take the stand and you can make all the statements that you'd like. Okay, but now it's not a back and forth with ask him a question, you make a statement.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. I would like to make a testimony. I don't have any. I was already going to ask him some questions, but.

MS. MILLER: You don't have any other questions for him?

MR. ASNEIOM: I don't. I just want to make my testimony.

MS. MILLER: Okay, so when he's finished, then you'll do your testimony. Okay. Board questions?

MR. ALBERTI: What was Mr. Ganene's last name, sir?

MS. MILLER: It's not Ganane, its

Jones.

MR. ALBERTI: I mean Jones. I'm
sorry. I didn't really hear that, so.
MR. JONES: I'm sorry, sir. What
was that?
MR. ALBERTI: I don't repeat myself on apologies. I'm so sorry.

MR. JONES: That's okay.
MR. ALBERTI: It's early. So what
was your last answer to the question about whether the lights were, when the door was on, whether the lights were on or off?

MR. JONES: The lights were off.
MR. ALBERTI: They were off?
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MILLER: Other questions? Well, so I have a question on that. The lights were off but did I understand you to say that it looked like the establishment was in full operation?

MR. JONES: Yes. There were
patrons, when $I$ walked in there were patrons, many patrons sitting around. They were drinking. They were some walking back and forth to the bar, smoking hookah. The only lights that were on in the establishment were the, I guess the lights that he uses for operational hours, so it wasn't like, you know.

MS. MILLER: Oh, it wasn't like it was shut down and all the lights were off.

MR. JONES: Right, right.
MS. MILLER: Okay. And then the drinks that you saw, can you be specific with respect to how you knew it was alcohol being served?

MR. JONES: Well, there were labeled beers that were on the table and there were also cups that were on the table with liquid in them. I don't know what was in those cups but there were labeled beers that were on the table.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right. Any other questions? Mr. James Short.

MR. SHORT: Good morning, Investigator Jones.

MR. JONES: Good morning, sir.

MR. SHORT: What are the normal
operating hours for this establishment?
MR. JONES: On this date, on Sunday?
MR. SHORT: This date, yes.

MR. JONES: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
MR. SHORT: And what time was your investigation?

MR. JONES: I ended up entering the establishment at 2:15 a.m.

MR. SHORT: Fifteen minutes past their closing time.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. SHORT: And again you had noticed that business was going on as usual is that what you're testifying?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. SHORT: Okay, that you very
much, Mr. Investigator.
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. SHORT: Thank You Madam Chair.

MS. MILLER: And Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Investigator Jones, how long were you at the establishment once you arrived?

MR. JONES: I was there probably about, probably no longer than five minutes.

MR. JONES: No longer than five minutes?

MR. JONES: No longer than five minutes.

MR. JONES: Okay. How long did it take for you to encounter or engage the owner of the establishment?

MR. JONES: As he said, as soon as we got to the door.

MR. JONES: As soon as you go to the door?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. JONES: Did You, I'm assuming, well, did you clearly identify yourself as an ABRA investigator?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. JONES: Okay. At the time that you clearly identified yourself as an ABRA investigator did the owner make any effort to shut down operations or change the nature of what you saw in terms of the operations of the establishment? Did he turn on the light, did he clean up the table, did he ask patrons to leave, did he act in any way different than he was acting prior to your arrival?

MR. JONES: Yes, he did. When, would you want me to elaborate on that?

MR. JONES: Yes. Sorry.
MR. JONES: Okay. No, that's okay. He did because when I advised him when, after I reviewed the ABC license and noticed that the operational hours for closing were 2:00 a.m. you know, I told him that he was in violation of operating after hours in which he responded with I thought that I had a grace period of 15 to 20 minutes. So I told him again he was in
violation. I said at no point in time after your closing hours are patrons to be inside.

MR. JONES: Okay.

MR. JONES: And so at that point that's when he started to conduct the closing procedures.

MR. JONES: Got it. Thank you very much.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. MILLER: Other questions?
MR. ALBERTI: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Okay, go ahead Mr.
Alberti.

MR. ALBERTI: Investigator Jones,
real quick. Thank you for your report.
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. ALBERTI: Was there any other
activities occurring other than people socializing and having drinks, was there any other activities?

MR. JONES: No, sir.

MR. ALBERTI: Okay, thank you.
MR. JONES: Mm-hmm.

MS. MILLER: Anything else? Would you say that the owner was cooperative with you once you told him that he was operating after hours?

MR. JONES: I would. Again, he explained that he thought that he had a grace period and then once I explained to him from my understanding from the law that there is no grace period. It's 2:00 and that's it and at that point that's when he started to conduct the closing procedures.

MS. MILLER: Okay, and are you aware if this is the first time that this establishment has operated after hours?

MR. JONES: From my understanding, ma'am, from my understanding this is the first time that $I$ know of.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.
Okay. Any other questions?
MR. ALBERTI: I'm sorry. Just
really quickly Investigator Jones, so at 2:15, you arrived, is that correct?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. ALBERTI: Okay. And you left at approximately 2:20?

MR. JONES: Around that time.
MR. ALBERTI: Around that time.
There, at no point during, excuse me, prior to you communicating to the owner that he was operating after hours, did you observe him in any way, shape or form comporting himself in a fashion to shut down the operations?

MR. JONES: To me, no, not, not
until I told him about him being after operating after hours and that's when he, again he mentioned about he thought he had a grace period, so to me that tells me that he's still in operation.

MR. ALBERTI: Okay.
MR. JONES: Because he thought he had a grace period.

MR. ALBERTI: So then and only then,


#### Abstract

then being when you communicated to him that your perspective as an ABRA official he was operating after hours, did he take action to shut down his operations?


MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. ALBERTI: And this is at no earlier than 2:15?

MR. JONES: No earlier than then.

MR. ALBERTI: So even if he
understood it to be a 15-minute grace period he still was not acting in a manner that he was going to be shut down by 2:15?

MR. JONES: There was still plenty of alcohol displayed and people drinking and smoking hookah, so no.

MR. AIBERTI: Thank you.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. AIBERTI: Thank you, Madam

Chair.

MS. MILLER: Okay, actually I just want to ask a couple of more. So the people that you observed in front of the establishment,
could you tell if they were leaving the establishment or coming in?

MR. JONES: It appeared that they were leaving.

MS. MILLER: Okay, do you know about how many people that was?

MR. JONES: That was probably a
crowd of maybe 10 to 15 people that were just in front of the door.

MS. MILLER: Okay. And I'm not sure, did you, how many people did you estimate were in the establishment when you came in?

MR. JONES: Between 20 to 30 people.

MS. MILLER: Twenty to thirty,
that's what I thought you said. Okay. Okay. Anything else? All right. Any questions on Board questions?

MR. STERN: Yes.

MS . MILLER: Okay. REDIRECT EXAMINATION

MR. STERN: I just, to clarify a little bit. I'm sorry $I$ don't know this, in your
report, you have page number one.
MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. STERN: And ask you to tell me what that is a picture of?

MR. JONES: This is the front of the establishment. This was taken as we exited the, as I exited the establishment on that morning.

MR. STERN: Okay, so that would have been approximately 2:15?

MR. JONES: That would probably be about 2:25, maybe around that time.

MR. STERN: Do you see an open sign?
MR. JONES: Yes, I do.
MR. STERN: Is it lit up?
MR. JONES: Yes it is.

MR. STERN: And was it lit up at that time that at 2:15?

MR. JONES: Yes it is, yes it was.
MR. STERN: Thank you. Now I want to ask you to look at Exhibit 2 of your report.

Can you explain what that is?
MR. JONES: This is a bottle of beer
along with another, there's a hookah pipe and there is a glass what looks like to be filled with a clear substance that could be alcohol.

MR. STERN :
But the bottle of beer is an alcoholic

## beverage?

MR. JONES: Yes, it is.

MS. MILLER: So, are you finished
with your questions of Board questions?
MR. STERN: If the Board would just give me a second.

MS. MILLER: Okay.
MR. STERN: Now, the owner told you that he believed there was a grace period?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. STERN: Okay. Did that indicate to you that he believed there was a grace period in the past?

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
MR. STERN: Okay. And did that give you any indication that he had previously kept an establishment open past 2:00 a.m. because he
believed he had a grace period?

MR. JONES: If I go about that
belief, yes, sir.

MR. STERN: Okay.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. STERN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. STERN: I don't have any further questions.

MS. MILIER: Okay, so this is questions, okay? All right, based on the Board's questions.

RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION

MR. ASNEIOM: Those pictures, the one from the tavern $I$ bought them to the new bar.

MS. MILIER: Okay that's, you're
testifying.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.

MS. MILLER: You can testify next.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. He just told me about ten people outside. You take the picture within 20 feet of my, where are those people?

MR. STERN: Objection.
Mischaracterizes the evidence. He said when he arrived there were ten people outside. This picture was taken when he left.

MS. MILLER: I think we should have the witness clarify. Can you clarify that, Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: Well, it's like Mr.
Stern said, it was when I initially arrived there were about 10 to 15 people out front.

When I conducted my business and on my way out, there was nobody out front. So, on my way out I took a picture of the front of the establishment.

MR. ASNEIOM: I have a question of the same type.

MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. ASNEIOM: When did you take my
ID's picture?

MR. JONES: Inside I believe.
MR. ASNEIOM: You went outside, you
came back after 15, 20 minutes --

MR. JONES: Yes I came, I came back, yes, it was inside.

MR. ASNEIOM: My picture, but lack of language $I$ have. So much like great which is I don't understand something one does to me. So I just want to testimony and then let me get out of here.

MS. MILLER: Do you have a question about one of the exhibits with the Exhibit 3, the ID?

MR. ASNEIOM: Even $I$ don't know what that mean.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right.

You're not going to ask a question? You're just going to testify?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, I.

MS. MILLER: Okay, you're not required to.

MR. ASNEIOM: Let me make this testify and then --

MS. MILLER: Right, okay. All right so then, Mr. Jones?

MR. JONES: I don't know if this
when or how or what the appropriate time is to address this so $I$ will speak on it. if it's inappropriate, please let me know but I'm concerned the licensee has stated at least twice that he didn't understand a word or didn't understand something and I'm concerned that he is not, does not have enough of a command of the language in order to have the ability to appropriately represent or present his case in this instance. That's what I've heard and if I'm alone in that, that's fine, but $I$ just wanted to raise that as a point of concern.

MS. MILLER: Thank you. Well, actually it is, it sounded like that to me just now. Do you have an, a problem with understanding the language, the English language?

MR. ASNEIOM: Not that much, but some of it, some language, yes.

MS. MILLER: Did, I mean, did you
know you could --

MR. ASNEIOM: Some words, you know.
MS . MILLER: Some words.
MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Words to the extent do you feel that you would need an interpreter to participate in this case?

MR. ASNEIOM: I'm just
MR. STERN: I'm sorry, I would just point out that this is the fifth time the respondent has been before the Board. He's never previously asked, fifth time, fifth case he's been before the Board on and he's never previously asked for an interpreter and he's been on this case three times previously which we had to continue on to the dates and never asked for an interpreter. Normally I do not take a position on it. It's only that we're in the middle of a trial.

MS. MILLER: Right.

MR. STERN: It just seems unfair to me, the government that he would now say he can't follow when he's followed all this time
and not indicated any problem.
MR. ASNEIOM: No, I'm following, but some of this I don't know.

MS. MILLER: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: It's just I don't know, but I can make testimony and then you judge the evidence. I don't have any problem with you doing that.

MS. MILLER: Okay, but you should also, as I told you before in general, feel free to ask me if you have any question, if there's some word you don't follow or something, you can feel free to ask.

MR. ASNEIOM: Let me make any testimony and then you judge me.

MS. MILLER: Okay. So from what I'm hearing is you're prepared to proceed.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MS. MILLER: Okay.

MR. ASNEIOM: I will tell the truth. I been there that night. I been there.

MS. MILLER: Okay, wait. You're
going to testify on the stand. All right, so we're finished with Mr. Jones then. Thank you very much.

MR. JONES: Thank you.
MS. MILLER: Okay, so you need to take the witness stand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

MR. ASNEIOM: I do.
MS. MILLER: Okay. Have a seat. So now is your opportunity to give your testimony, your side of the story.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, I remember that day; it was long weekend. He's saying its 15 minutes past the limit. I was the one cleaning the bottle. I am the one opening and closing the door. I am the one that opened the investigators. I remember three of them even they don't spend three seconds. Those pictures, the one from the table, is from the table to the bar I'm make them.

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Unfortunately the bartender didn't
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take them. Those guys of course they came like it was 2:00 or 2:10. I spent to explain, I take my time to show them the license and then even they don't stay three seconds. They left right away. After three minutes they came, after 15 minutes they came and then they asked me for my ID. I show them; they take the picture. Yes, it was a lot of people, it wasn't the way he say 20 to 30 people. I am glad if I make that business on Sunday. It was long weekend. It was some people which is without any alcohol. I never did any after-hour party. The light was on. I am the one on the door opening and kick them out.

> I never bill after hour. I don't
have energy to do. I am the one sometimes
working the kitchen. I am the one, the bartender. I am the one sometimes I work the door. I don't have any financial to hire or to do anything. All I been, they say there was people inside. Yes, there was people inside. Sometimes I let door open when the winter is
coming. People they want to pee. People sometimes they wait for inside the house or they wait for the waiters that's outside. Sometimes people, drunk people, they need ride. You let them stay. But the rest is I never did after hour intentionally.

I know what's they doing after hour.
The light is dim. They open the back door but I don't do that. If I don't make the daytime money I don't believe that issue, $I$ don't make daytime regular hour, I'm not going to make it after hour. I believe on that. The more you serve alcohol the more you get defrauded. This is my testimony.

MS. MILLER: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: Thank you.
MS. MILLER: No, no, no, no, have a seat. Now you have questions like the other witnesses.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.
MS. MILLER: Okay, starting with Mr.
Stern.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

MR. STERN: So I want to understand what you're saying. There were customers in the store that evening after 12:15.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes. I'm not lying to you but --

MR. STERN: And that was because --

MR. ASNEIOM: I'm not serving them alcohol.

MR. STERN: Right. I understand what you said. I'll ask a question, answer the question that I ask.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay.

MR. STERN: Okay? So there were customers in the store after 12:15?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MR. STERN: Excuse me, 2:15.

MR. ASNEIOM: 2:15.

MR. STERN: And the reason they were there you say is cause they didn't want to leave, it might be too cold or whatever.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, this what happen.

Most of the times I bring in the bouncer, somebody to keep them from outside. Somebody's sometimes mostly I mean I close early and then I let them go out. That time was most likely the people they leave early but that was long weekend.

MR. STERN: Okay. I'm asking about these 20 customers. Why were they there after 2:15 a.m.

MR. ASNEIOM: How many customer?
MR. STERN: Approximately 20.
MR. ASNEIOM: They're not 20 but some people was there.

MR. STERN: Okay. How many ever there were, why were they there after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. ASNEIOM: The night was long, some of them they don't close the tab, some of them is they wait for a ride.

MR. STERN: Okay, so that was tab check.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, but $I$ don't serve any alcohol.

MR. STERN: Okay, but they haven't closed their tabs yet. They were still finishing their food or their drink or whatever?

MR. ASNEIOM: It wasn't food, it wasn't drink.

MR. STERN: So why didn't they close their tab?

MR. ASNEIOM: I mean that's we could be the reason, but $I$ don't know exactly.

MR. STERN: Okay. You understand you had a settlement agreement, is that correct?

MR. ASNEIOM: Settlement, yes, yes.
MR. STERN: Okay, and in that
settlement agreement you agreed that you would start closing a half hour before your closing time, isn't that correct?

MR. ASNEIOM: Some days yes, some days no, but --

MR. STERN: In the settlement agreement it says --

MR. ASNEIOM: I have the settlement
agreements I have for the light entertainment, for the music when $I$ have it.

MR. STERN: I couldn't hear. I'm sorry.

MR. ASNEIOM: For the music that I have settlement.

MR. STERN: You turn the music off a half hour?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MR. STERN: Okay.

MR. ASNEIOM: I have, that time was
I have live band, they close early.

MR. STERN: Okay. I want to show you the settlement agreement here. And it says, this is also part of the Exhibit that was submitted just before. Is this the settlement agreement that you entered into with ANC? Is this the agreement?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, this is it. Yes.

MR. STERN: Now and does it say here that the hours shall be till 2:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MR. STERN: And does it say the last call for alcohol will be a half hour before closing?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, it was.

MR. STERN: Okay, and does it say there's no alcohol to be served within 15 minutes prior to closing?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MR. STERN: Okay. So again, what was your explanation for their not being able to close out their tab?

MR. ASNEIOM: I never sell them alcohol. The only thing is people they wait for the change. People, you know -

MR. STERN: Sir, maybe I'm not hearing or you're not listening to my question. I didn't ask whether you served alcohol. I asked what was the reason they couldn't close out their tab before 12:15 if you can't serve alcohol after 12:45?

MR. ASNEIOM: I'm in, sometimes
people they don't ask right away. People they wait for last minute.

MR. STERN: So they sit there and they have the alcohol on the table during that time.

MR. ASNEIOM: There is no alcohol on the table.

MR. STERN: If you took the alcohol away 15 minutes before 2:00 am, what kept them from closing out their bill?

MR. ASNEIOM: People they get me.

They ask for, you know.

MR. STERN: Did it happen prior to this that there were people who stayed past 2:00 also?

MR. ASNEIOM: I believe some people
was there. I'm telling you some people, some people was there.

MR. STERN: On other dates?

MR. ASNEIOM: But all I say is I don't serve the alcohol.

MR. STERN: I understand that.

MR. ASNEIOM: I will tell you that's why people they stay.

MR. STERN: I'm sorry maybe, maybe you're not understanding my question. My question was on dates other than this, on dates before this, did you also have the same thing happen where people didn't close out their tab until after 2:00 a.m.?

MR. ASNEIOM: No. That was long weekend. That's why these people they stay. Most likely, come today. You don't see is after 12:00 you don't see anybody.

MR. STERN: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: I shut down at 12:00
sometimes 12:30.
MR. STERN: The, when you spoke about Exhibit number 2, the picture of the beer and the glass with the lime in it, you said you took them and put them on the bar.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MR. STERN: They were still out on the bar when the investigators were there?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MR. STERN: Okay. And can you tell me as to the first picture that was Exhibit 1, why was your, why did the sign say open if you were closed?

MR. ASNEIOM: A lot of times I
forget it. I'm telling you a lot of people it was on the whole night.

MR. STERN: Thank you. I don't have any further questions.

MS. MILLER: Okay. More questions?
Yes, Mr. Short.

MR. SHORT: Good morning, sir.
MR. ASNEIOM: Good morning.
MR. SHORT: And I don't want to mispronounce your name, but Daniel is your first name, correct?

MR. ASNEIOM: It was, that's fine.
MR. SHORT: How many years have you been in business there at that location?

MR. ASNEIOM: Since 2006, yes.
MR. SHORT: 2006?

MR. ASNEIOM: 2006 .
MR. SHORT: So you've been pretty successful there over the years.

MR. ASNEIOM: I'm month to month, I
am.

MR. SHORT: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: But I cannot say I'm success, no.

MR. SHORT: Okay. I'll just try to ask these questions as slowly as possible.

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. Thank you, sir.
MR. SHORT: So we don't
misunderstand each other. Since 2006, what hours do you normally shut your business down?

MR. ASNEIOM: Sunday through
Thursdays 2:00. Friday and Saturday until 3:00.
MR. SHORT: What hours?

MR. ASNEIOM: Three.
MR. SHORT: Three o'clock?

MR. ASNEIOM: Usually one half an hour before is last call.

MR. SHORT: So a half an hour before
your last call normally you clear all the alcohol off the tables and everybody's on their way out by the time you close.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MR. SHORT: So what happened on this particular night when Investigator Jones came by?

MR. ASNEIOM: I don't know. Maybe I'm confused with the longer hours. Sometimes people -- if longer hours, you know they stay one hour late, stuff like that.

MR. SHORT: So do you understand when you stay past your normal operating hours it's in violation of the law?

MR. ASNEIOM: I understand.

MR. SHORT: You do understand that?
MR. ASNEIOM: I understand but I didn't serve alcohol. I don't do after hour to make money.

> MR. SHORT: I understand that.
> MR. ASNEIOM: The light was on. The light was on. The music was gone. I am the one

I offered the investigators but when after hours
I was, I didn't serve any alcohol. I didn't serve any alcohol.

MR. SHORT: Okay. Were you right or wrong the night Investigator Jones cited you? Were you right or wrong?

MR. ASNEIOM: I mean I can say I'm wrong.

MR. SHORT: You were wrong?
MR. ASNEIOM: Yes. Fifteen minutes past but the way, it's not the way they say it.

MR. SHORT: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: I mean, yes the law say it's by 2:00 everybody have to leave. I was, it wasn't long. I have a long weekend and extend hours but I was, the light was on. I was about to kicking them, everybody.

MR. SHORT: Okay. My last question for you is have you done that since? Have you allowed people to stay past your opening hours since Investigator Jones came by?

MR. ASNEIOM: People they ask me
sometimes they trying to be waiting for a ride. It wasn't that much people but two, three people least, sometimes, someone --

MR. SHORT: Okay. I'll ask one last time if you will just answer this directly as best you can.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MR. SHORT: Have you had people in
your establishment after closing hours since Investigator Jones cited this particular night?

MR. ASNEIOM: No, except people they, I mean cab drivers, they waiting for a waiter, for the employees, but no, no.

MR. SHORT: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. That's all I have.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Others? I just want to follow up on a couple things. One is it was a long weekend. Monday was a holiday?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Was, do you know if
that was a day that the city allowed for extended hours?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, I know.
MS. MILLER: Okay.
MR. ASNEIOM: That's right.

MS. MILLER: Now, but you didn't, did you apply for extended hours?

MR. ASNEIOM: No, no.

MS. MILLER: And was the reason you didn't apply related to your settlement agreement?

MR. ASNEIOM: I mean the settlement agreement states for the music. I can stop the music but people they can stay late. I didn't apply. I never apply. I mean I'm not kind of late person, you know. I most likely I close every on time, you know.

MS. MILLER: So you didn't apply because you don't like to stay open that late? MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Okay. What's the basis for your understanding that you have a grace period till, I don't know, what did you think
your grace period was? Till 2:15?
MR. ASNEIOM: I don't know what that's mean still.

MS. MILLER: You don't know what that means?

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes. Can you explain to me, please?

MS. MILLER: Oh, I thought you used the word. Okay. It means if closing time is 2:00 --

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.
MS. MILLER: I thought you said that you thought you had like 15 minutes over, you know past 2:00, like to 2:15 to actually close. No?

MR. ASNEIOM: NO, I didn't, no,
actually no. I mean I was thinking
automatically the hours extended, you know, but when he, he explained to me hours I can, do you have extension, extended license for that, I say no. Yes. But my, I know there is extended hour but I was thinking it was for the music, but the
music was stop already. I didn't know. The music was already stop you know.

MS. MILLER: I guess my question
goes to you had people, you had patrons in your establishment.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes, ma'am.
MS. MILLER: At 2:15, 2:20. Did you
have them there because you thought you were allowed to do that or, or, and if so, why?

MR. ASNEIOM: The reason they stay
is I know the music I'm going to stop, the, the same hour, but $I$ was thinking to, they can leave slowly. I wasn't, I was shut down everything. I was long, long, long weekend, they can leave together. I wasn't serving them alcohol. The light was on though I already people's, stopped people, take them out.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Anybody else
have questions? Questions on Board questions?
MR. SILVERSTEIN: Just one thing.
You mentioned that you thought your hours were automatically extended. How long did you think
your hours were automatically extended?

MR. ASNEIOM: One hour.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: One hour. You thought that was --

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. Okay. That's the only question $I$ have.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Okay, so there are no more questions. Do you want to take a seat over there?

MR. ASNEIOM: Okay. Thank you.
MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. And I, you don't have any documents you want to put in the record, do you?

MR. ASNEIOM: No.

MS. MILLER: Okay. All right, and the, so the one document we have is Government's Exhibit number 1, the Investigator's report which is in our record anyway. Okay, good. All right, so and now it's time for closing. Okay.

MR. STERN: The government submits that we have proven our case. In this case even
the respondent testified twice that people stayed late to pay their bills. He's testified more than once that he had done it, they had done it before this. He actually said that they had done this after this and then when questioned a little more closely he said oh, no, no one stayed late except this one night.

But that doesn't ring true when you
compare that to the testimony of the
investigator who, quite frankly, would have no reason to have put this in his report or even added it because it was not a necessary element of the report that the respondent told him he thought he had a grace period of 15 minutes to get people out of there. There's no reason why the investigator would have ever said that, didn't need to say that, not an element of the events except that he heard the respondent tell him that. He may not have used the word grace period. He may have just said that I thought I was allowed another 15 minutes to get people out of there.

Additionally to negate what the respondent says there is the picture taken after the investigators leave which showed the establishment open. While it's true there's only one picture of alcoholic beverages taken by the investigators I guess maybe they should have anticipated but didn't that the respondent would come up here and say, oh, no that one picture was something I did. I would only add that even if that was the only one and the investigator testified that there were other beer bottles out around and that he saw people drinking alcoholic beverages but even if that one picture was accurate, the respondent admitted it was out on the bar when the investigators were there at 2:15. All alcohol isn't away.

The government submits that this is
a pretty clear-cut case. The other thing that the respondent said, $I$ would just point out, regarding how he felt about this was when he talks about I think I have ten or fifteen minutes extra, that's not something that happens
on one day. If his belief is that he has extra time then regularly he takes that extra time. Otherwise, he would have no belief that that was extra time. So the government believes we've proven our case and we ask for a fine of \$2000 for this primary violation.

The respondent as the Board knows
has previous violations though not primary violations before this Board. So he is fully aware of what his responsibilities are. He had the voluntary agreement, which told him what hours it was and, in fact, told him he had to get everything cleaned up before 2:00 and he still refused to do so. Thank you.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you. So, you can make a closing statement as well if you'd like.

> MR. ASNEIOM: I don't want to come back again to respond what he's saying now. I don't have anything to say. Are we going to come back the way it was, you know, but I don't want to come back in that. I don't want to
respond, no, you know. It's going to be back and forth, back and forth.

MS. MILLER: Right. Okay. Okay, you made your full statement in evidence.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you. My favorite question. Do the parties want to file proposed findings of facts. Okay.

MR. STERN: The government would waive.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Would you like an explanation or would you like to just waive? Do you understand what I asked?

MR. ASNEIOM: No, I don't, yes.
MS. MILLER: Okay. It's in the law that you are entitled, if you wish, to file a written statement after you get the transcript based on this record.

MR. ASNEIOM: Yes.

MS. MILLER: You go through the record and you submit to the Board what's called your proposed findings of facts and conclusions
of law which you pull from the record, what you wish the Board to find. It's not any new
evidence. It's just looking at the record. Mr.
Stern is not going to do that and Mr. Stern is an attorney, so it's a difficult thing to do but it's your right if you want to. Very few people do it, but some people do, do it.

MR. ASNEIOM: Oh, it's good to know.
MS. MILLER: What?
MR. ASNEIOM: It's good to know.
Thank you for explain to me.
MS. MILLER: Okay, so would you like to, Mr. Stern has said he's not going to do that.

MR. ASNEIOM: No I, I'm not going to that either.

MS. MILLER: You're not going to do it either? Okay, good. All right, so what we're going to do now is just the Board is going to take a vote about deliberating, discussing this case and deciding it in a closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. All right,
chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control
Board for the District of Columbia and in
accordance with Section 405 of the Open Meetings
Amendment Act of 2010 I move that the ABC Board hold a closed meeting for the purpose of seeking legal advice from our counsel on Case number 14-CMP-00070 Dahlak Restaurant per Section 405B4 of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010 and deliberating upon this case for the reason cited in Section 405B13 of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010. Is there a second?

MR. SHORT: Second.

MS. MILLER: Mr. Short has seconded
the motion. I'll now take a roll call vote on the motion now that it's been seconded. Mr.

Brooks .

> MR. BROOKS: I agree.
> MS. MILLER: Mr. Alberti.
> MR. ALBERTI: I agree.
> MS. MILLER: Mr. Rodriguez.
> MR. RODRIGUEZ: I agree.
> MS. MILLER: Ms. Miller agrees. Mr.

Silverstein.

MR. SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
MS. MILLER: Mr. Short.

MR. SHORT: I agree.
MS. MILLER: Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I agree.
MS. MILLER: It appears that the motion is passed by a 7, 0, 0 vote. I hereby give notice that the ABC Board will hold this closed meeting and will issue a decision within 90 days in writing and it will be sent to the parties.

MR. ASNEIOM: I'm sorry. I didn't hear you so.

MS. MILLER: What?

MR. ASNEIOM: I didn't hear you.
MR. SILVERSTEIN: He didn't hear
what you said.
MS. MILLER: Within 90 days we'll issue a decision and it will be in writing and you will get a copy of it.

MR. ASNEIOM: Thank you so much.

Okay.
MS. MILLER: Okay. So that
concludes this case. Thank you very much.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter concluded at 11:15 a.m.)
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