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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF: :  
Lindy Promotions, :  
1823 L Street NW :  
Pubcrawls.com, : Fact Finding  
32 Union Square East, NY, NY : Hearing\*  
Project DC Events :  
1214 18th Street NW :  
:

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Wednesday, December 9,  
2015

Whereupon, the above-referenced matter  
came on for hearing at the Alcoholic Beverage  
Control Board, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street,  
N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009.

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3 CHAIRPERSON:

4 DONOVAN ANDERSON, Presiding

5

6 BOARD MEMBERS:

7 NICK ALBERTI

8 JAMES SHORT

9 RUTHANNE MILLER

10 MIKE SILVERSTEIN

11

12 ALSO PRESENT:

13 INVESTIGATOR KEVIN PUENTE,

14 On behalf of ABRA

15 CHRISTINE BENNER,

16 On behalf of Lindy Promotions

17 DUSTIN MANTELL,

18 On behalf of Pubcrawls.com

19 ALEX LOPEZ and MIKE BRAMSON,

20 On behalf of Project DC Events

21 PATRICK POWELL, Director of Operations,

22 On behalf of the Golden Triangle BID

1       ALSO PRESENT, Continued:

2

3       COMMANDER MELVIN GRESHAM,

4           On behalf of the MPD, Second District

5       ERIC HEIDENBERGER and MICHAEL TOBIN,

6           On behalf of Madhatter and Front Page

7       ABIGAIL NICHOLS, Advisory Neighborhood

8       Commissioner,

9           On behalf of ANC 2B05

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1 [10:09 a.m.]

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

3 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The next case on our  
4 calendar is basically a fact finding hearing  
5 review to review the pub crawl events on October  
6 31, 2015; Lindy Promotions, Pubcrawls.com, and  
7 Project DC Events.

8 Are there anyone here from any of these  
9 establishments? If you are, can you please  
10 approach, please.

11 [Pause.]

12 You can pull up some chairs from the  
13 audience and put it at the table. So what I  
14 would like you to do is to identify yourself and  
15 also identify the organization that you are from.  
16 There is a sign-in sheet. Also, sign your name  
17 and also spell your name for the record. So  
18 please do that.

19 MS. BENNER: Christine Benner.

20 MR. KNIESER: Spell it, please.

21 MS. BENNER: C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e. Benner,  
22 B-e-n-n-e-r. Lindy Promotions.

1 MR. MANTELL: Good morning. Dustin  
2 Mantell, Pubcrawls.com.

3 MR. KNIESER: Spell your last name,  
4 please.

5 MR. MANTELL: M, as in Mary, A, as in  
6 apple, N, as in Nancy, T, as in Thomas, E, as in  
7 Edward, L, as in Larry, L, as in Larry.

8 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you repeat your  
9 name, again, sir?

10 MR. MANTELL: No worries. Dustin  
11 Mantell.

12 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And you're from  
13 where?

14 MR. MANTELL: Pubcrawls.com.

15 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And where are you,  
16 again, from, ma'am?

17 MS. BENNER: Lindy Promotions.

18 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: From where?

19 MS. BENNER: Lindy Promotions.

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Lindy, okay.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Alex Lopez, Project DC  
22 Events.

1 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You need to spell  
2 your name for the record.

3 MR. LOPEZ: Alex Lopez, L-o-p-e-z.

4 MR. BRAMSON: Mike Bramson, B-r-a-m-s-o-n  
5 with Project DC Events.

6 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Investigator Kevin  
7 Puente, P-u-e-n-t-e.

8 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Now, Mr. Lopez, what  
9 organization are you from?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Project DC Events.

11 MS. MILLER: What?

12 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Project DC Events.

13 MS. MILLER: Oh, thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
15 Puente, can you enlighten us to why we're here?

16 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Okay. Well, this  
17 investigation was initiated as a result of an e-  
18 mail complaint received at ABRA on Friday,  
19 November 6, 2015, from the Golden Triangle  
20 business district; Executive Director Leona  
21 Agouridis.

22 Ms. Agouridis stated in a letter that in

1 the days following the pub crawl on Halloween  
2 night, the Golden Triangle received numerous  
3 complaints from local businesses, as well as the  
4 residents, about the trash and the vomit on the  
5 ground. On the day of the event Ms. --

6 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Hold on. Hold on one  
7 minute again. Wait for you to start. Is there  
8 anyone else that's in the audience who are here  
9 for the pub crawl hearing? I was told there --  
10 can you -- I need everyone just to come up and  
11 identify yourself so -- they can pull some more  
12 chairs -- so we'll know who is here.

13 We're not swearing anyone in so it's not  
14 -- so I guess you guys can just pull up some more  
15 chairs and then identify. All right. So I'll  
16 know for the easiest. So I'm going to have the  
17 officer of the incident this side with the  
18 investigator. And there's someone from the BID  
19 also can sit on this side. So at least I'll  
20 know. I'm trying to write the names down so when  
21 the Board asks questions, then I'll know what  
22 side of the issue you are on, at least for my own

1 so I can clarify. All right.

2 Now, the folks who just joined a table,  
3 can you also identify yourself for the record.  
4 Also, sign the sheet and spell your name for the  
5 recorder.

6 MR. POWELL: My name is Patrick Powell  
7 from the Golden Triangle. My last name is  
8 spelled P-o-w-e-l-l.

9 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I'm Commander Melvin  
10 Gresham, the commander of the Second District.  
11 My last name is spelled G-r-e-s-h-a-m.

12 MR. HEIDENBERGER: Eric Heidenberger, H-  
13 e-i-d-e-n-b-e-r-g-e-r. I'm a representative from  
14 the Madhatter and Front Page.

15 MR. TOBIN: Michael Tobin, T-o-b-i-n, a  
16 representative of Madhatter and Front Page.

17 MS. NICHOLS: Abigail Nichols, Advisory  
18 Neighborhood Commissioner, 2B05 in which part of  
19 the affected area.

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So everyone who is  
21 here for the pub crawl, they're up at the --  
22 they're up, right? So there's no one in the



1 audience who needs to say something about this  
2 matter. Okay? All right.

3 Mr. Puente, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

4 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: As I stated, this  
5 started from an e-mail complaint concerning the  
6 Golden Triangle. On the date of the event, Ms.  
7 Agouridis stated that landscaping installed by  
8 one of the business owners was destroyed and a  
9 clothing retailer was forced to close early on a  
10 Saturday afternoon because of public safety  
11 concerns.

12 Ms. Agouridis stated that the cleaning  
13 staff for the Golden Triangle BID had to suspend  
14 all of its planned activities for the week and  
15 was forced to clean up trash and everything else  
16 from the pub crawl. As a result, the Golden  
17 Triangle BID was dirty throughout Tuesday  
18 morning.

19 On Thursday, November 2nd, at  
20 approximately 2:30, I interviewed Ms. Agouridis  
21 of the Golden Triangle about the complaints. Ms.  
22 Agouridis stated the pub crawl being advertised

1 for auditions [ph] new to the area -- Ms.  
2 Agouridis stated that the pub crawls encouraged  
3 people to move around a lot. It forced a lot of  
4 people onto the streets and sidewalks. A lot of  
5 the issues create with -- a lot of the issues  
6 with the pub crawl caused a lot of trash and  
7 property damage with trees, plants that were  
8 installed by businesses and residents destroyed  
9 because of the foot traffic.

10 As Ms. Agouridis stated that not able to  
11 see establishment Avenue Jack was forced to close  
12 because the staff felt like the crowd outside the  
13 establishment was causing safety concerns.

14 The Golden Triangle stated that the trash  
15 and debris from the pub crawl was left throughout  
16 Tuesday morning, and they had to suspend all  
17 operations for painting and other items on their  
18 list because of all the trash and all the debris  
19 caused from the pub crawl.

20 Ms. Agouridis stated that she believes  
21 that this pub crawl will be the same effect as  
22 the New Year's Eve public crawl that is planned

1 in the Golden Triangle business district. And  
2 she feels that the promoters and the organizers  
3 need to compensate the Golden Triangle BID with  
4 clean-up for the pub crawl, especially since the  
5 ambassadors for the Golden Triangle BID are off  
6 because of the holiday and no one will be there  
7 to clean up the trash or any other debris caused  
8 from the pub crawl.

9 On Monday, November 10th, I conducted an  
10 ABRA records check and determined that two pub  
11 crawls were approved by the Board. They were  
12 Lindy Promotions and Project DC. One pub crawl  
13 was not approved by the Board and that was  
14 Pubcrawls.com.

15 On January 13th, 2015, Lindy Promotions  
16 submitted an application for a pub crawl to take  
17 place on Saturday, October 31st, 2015. On the  
18 application, David Lindenauer, president of Lindy  
19 Promotions, stated that estimated number of 2,500  
20 to a maximum of 3,500 participants would be  
21 participating.

22 Lindy Promotions stated they would hire

1 18 security officers for the event; the  
2 registration would take place from 5:00 p.m. to  
3 10:00 p.m.; and the pub crawl would last until  
4 12:00 a.m. On March 19th, the ABC Board approved  
5 the license for the pub crawl.

6           The license issue for that event stated  
7 alcohol and hours of sales event would be from  
8 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. On Tuesday, November  
9 10th, I e-mailed Lindy promotions regarding the  
10 pub crawl that took place and I received contact  
11 information for Ms. Christine Benner.

12           I asked Ms. Benner how many actual  
13 tickets were sold for the event. Ms. Benner  
14 stated that approximately 6,000 tickets were sold  
15 but advised that did not include any sales from  
16 the third-party websites.

17           I asked Ms. Benner if Lindy Promotions  
18 notified ABRA or MPD of any changes regarding the  
19 ticket sales. She stated, "When they got  
20 approved for the license, they went ahead with  
21 their planning process and did not notify anyone  
22 about the additional ticket sales."

1 I asked Ms. Benner if Lindy Promotions  
2 participated in any other pub crawls or  
3 organizers for the pub crawls and she stated,  
4 "No."

5 On Thursday, November 12th, I received  
6 the ticket sales report along with the contracts.  
7 I saw that 6,781 tickets were sold for the event.  
8 They approximately oversold 3,281 tickets for the  
9 event. And I saw on the ticket sales report,  
10 they had a scan time for when tickets were  
11 starting to be redeemed at the restoration  
12 points, and tickets were starting to be redeemed  
13 at 2:59 p.m. According to the license, the event  
14 was supposed to start at 5:00 p.m.

15 I received the contracts for the 18  
16 establishments that participated and two of the  
17 establishments also participated with  
18 Pubcrawls.com. The owner approved pub crawl.  
19 Those were Dirty Martini and Sign of the Whale.

20 On Monday, November 10, 2015, I did an  
21 ABRA record check to determine that on May 26,  
22 2015, Project DC submitted an application for a

1 pub crawl to take place. On the application,  
2 Mike Bramson, Manager, a member of Project DC,  
3 stated that an estimated number 2,800 to a  
4 maximum 3,500 participants would be  
5 participating. Project DC stated that each  
6 establishment would have to hire their own  
7 security; the event registration would take place  
8 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; and the pub crawl  
9 would last until 11:00 p.m.

10 On June 4, 2015, ABRA ABC Board approved  
11 the license for the event. According to the  
12 license issue for the event, hours of an alcohol  
13 sales event would be from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m.

14 On Tuesday, November 10, I telephoned  
15 Project DC and spoke with Mr. Bramson. Mr.  
16 Bramson stated that he approximately sold 30  
17 hundred [ph] tickets. Mr. Bramson stated that  
18 they had a clause in their contract with the  
19 establishments that they only be exclusive to  
20 them in an effort to [indiscernible] any other  
21 organizers or promoters.

22 Mr. Bramson stated that he heard from

1 several establishments participating in the  
2 Project DC pub crawl that they were getting pages  
3 from other pub crawls.

4 Mr. Bramson, lastly, stated that another  
5 promoter, Lindy Promotions, had advertised some  
6 of the bars that were Project DC on their  
7 website.

8 On Monday, November 16th, I received a  
9 ticket sales report from Project DC. And,  
10 according to the ticket sales report, they sold  
11 3,577 tickets; approximately 77 tickets oversold  
12 the 3,500.

13 I received the contracts for the 11  
14 establishments that participated with Project DC  
15 and I noted that on the contracts they listed the  
16 hours from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. which the  
17 license they applied for said 3:00 p.m. to 11:00  
18 p.m. An event was put on their contract said to  
19 go until 1:00 a.m.

20 On Tuesday November 17th, I determined  
21 that one establishment that participated, Project  
22 DC, also participated with the Pubcrawls.com.

1 That was the Front Page.

2 On Tuesday, November 10th, I conducted an  
3 ABRA records check and determined that  
4 Pubcrawls.com did not approved or did not apply  
5 or submit any paperwork for a pub crawl.

6 On Tuesday, November 10th, I spoke with  
7 Pubcrawls.com and spoke with Dustin Mantell. Mr.  
8 Mantell stated that they sold approximately 600  
9 or 700 tickets for the event. Mr. Mantell stated  
10 that Pubcrawls.com is not aware they had to  
11 notify ABRA or MPD of the pub crawl. They're  
12 based out of New York City and they're trying to  
13 start their operations in Washington D.C. -- were  
14 unaware that they had to apply for any licenses  
15 or anything.

16 I advised Mr. Mantell that the law  
17 regarding Pubcrawls.com -- regarding the law  
18 about pub crawls -- and he stated he would start  
19 for his future pub crawls. And he had two pub  
20 crawls planned for later this month, but he  
21 cancelled those events because the licenses had  
22 to be submitted 6 weeks -- the application had to



1 be 6 weeks prior. Mr. Mantell stated that they  
2 had approximately 20 to 25 participating ABC  
3 establishments.

4 I received a flyer for the night of the  
5 establishments participating. I received the  
6 ticket sales report from the Pubcrawls.com. And  
7 they sold 700 tickets for the event. I received  
8 the contracts from Pubcrawls.com and there were  
9 20 establishments that participated with  
10 Pubcrawls.com. And I noticed on some of the  
11 contracts, it was a 3 day-event starting on  
12 Friday, ending Sunday night because of the  
13 October 31st, Halloween night.

14 I reviewed the settlement agreements for  
15 each of the establishments that participated with  
16 Pubcrawls.com and determined one establishment,  
17 Midtown, located at 1219 Connecticut Avenue NW,  
18 violated a settlement agreement for participating  
19 in a pub crawl. There was a case written on that  
20 that referred to 15-CMP-00799.

21 On Friday, November 13, I interviewed  
22 Commander Gresham with the MPD. Commander

1 Gresham advised pub crawls such as the one  
2 Saturday, October 31, 2015, created a major issue  
3 with the threat of public safety being  
4 compromised and MPD resources being drained  
5 during the event. Commander Gresham advised me  
6 to speak with Sergeant Kevin Naus, who was one of  
7 the commanders on the ground that night. I spoke  
8 with Sergeant Naus.

9           Sergeant Naus stated that he was one of  
10 the officers in charge. Sergeant Naus stated  
11 that they had four officers originally working in  
12 the pub crawl area, but due to the threat of  
13 public safety and all the issues being created,  
14 they had to send approximately anywhere from 25  
15 more officers or more to the area to assist with  
16 crowd controls, grabbing those officers from  
17 other parts of the city.

18           MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Puente?

19           INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah.

20           MR. SILVERSTEIN: Could you repeat that  
21 again?

22           INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes. Sergeant Naus

1 stated that they had four officers assigned to  
2 that Golden Triangle area in DuPont Circle. But,  
3 due to the public safety concern that was being  
4 experienced, they had to dispatch 25 or more  
5 officers from the across the city to assist.

6 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, sir.

7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Uh-huh. Sergeant  
8 Naus, lastly, stated that an altercation broke  
9 out middle of the street on Connecticut Avenue  
10 with unruly participants. And, as MPD officers  
11 attempted to break it up, a large crowd started  
12 to form around the officers. MPD had to send in  
13 the mounted horse patrol units to break up the  
14 crowd to assist with officers in that area.

15 Sergeant Naus, lastly, stated that having  
16 multiple pub crawls in the same area on the same  
17 date drains the resources of MPD and its  
18 officers.

19 Additionally, I worked that night and I  
20 worked DuPont Circle and I saw three  
21 establishments; the Front Page, James Hoban's,  
22 and Ping Pong Dim Sum.

1           Front Page had multiple violations. They  
2 allowed consumption of alcohol on the sidewalk.  
3 They had no one stopping people leaving with  
4 alcohol. Additionally, the staff increases the  
5 occupancy without Board approval. They put a bar  
6 on the sidewalk cafe. And they allowed  
7 overcrowding inside the steps as well as on the  
8 sidewalk cafe. This, refer to page 15-CMP-00762.

9           I also determined that James Hoban also  
10 violated. They had multiple violations. They  
11 allowed off-premise consumption of alcohol. They  
12 had no one watching the exits. People were  
13 leaving with alcohol in their cups, leaving with  
14 beer bottles. They also allowed people -- they  
15 had overcrowding on their sidewalk cafe as well  
16 as putting a bar on their sidewalk cafe.

17           We attempted to do ID checks to see if  
18 any minors were inside. And, as we attempted to  
19 walk through the crowd, the owner stated it was  
20 too difficult to do and we agreed. The owner  
21 called me 10 minutes later and stated that he was  
22 calling MPD for crowd patrol because it was too

1 many people inside.

2 I also determined that Ping Pong Dim Sum  
3 also had multiple violations. Ping Pong Dim Sum  
4 did not have an entertainment endorsement. They  
5 had a DJ playing inside the establishment. They  
6 allowed people to leave with alcohol too. They  
7 also allowed overcrowding and also put a bar on  
8 the sidewalk cafe.

9 After reviewing many of the  
10 establishments involved, I found out that these  
11 bars listed below cannot participate in any  
12 future pub crawls because of two primary tier  
13 offenses; that would be the Huxley, the Front  
14 Page, Dirty Martini, and the Codmother.

15 That ends my testimony.

16 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Commander Gresham.

17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Identify yourself.

19 And then you can come down.

20 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Good morning. Again,  
21 I'm Commander Melvin Gresham, the commander of  
22 the Second Police District.

1           As Mr. Puente indicated on the Halloween  
2 night or weekend, the bar crawls actually  
3 decimated our personnel. Public safety was a  
4 major issue. We had an influx of the regular  
5 party goers, the patrons in the area, as well as  
6 the additional individuals for the bar crawls.  
7 We had approximately, from what the social media  
8 outlets indicated, 16,000 tickets were sold that  
9 night from the bar crawls. And it really drained  
10 our resources.

11           We had to contend with the events in  
12 Georgetown. And we had to detract from our  
13 patrols in Georgetown and other parts of the city  
14 to address the issues on Connecticut Avenue and  
15 DuPont Circle because of the bar crawl.

16           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. All right.  
17 Mr. -- what -- hold on a minute, Mr. Silverstein.

18           What can you add, Mr. Powell? Come and  
19 identify your name for the record, please.

20           MR. POWELL: Good morning, Members of the  
21 ABC Board. I'm Pat Powell, the Director of  
22 Operations and Preparedness for the Golden

1 Triangle Business Improvement District.

2 I appreciate the opportunity to testify  
3 before you in this fact finding hearing regarding  
4 the Nightmare on M Street Bar Crawl that was held  
5 over Halloween.

6 Our BID encompasses 169 block faces and  
7 42 blocks of the Central Business District.  
8 We're made up of more than 3,000 businesses,  
9 employing 85,000 workers. Our BID, like all the  
10 other BIDs in the city, were created -- was  
11 created by a law to supplement, not supplant city  
12 services. The BID's team of ambassadors is  
13 tasked with supplementing the city in maintaining  
14 the cleanliness and safety of the BID.

15 On a daily basis, our ambassadors are  
16 tasked with performing trash removal from public  
17 space cans; removing graffiti; landscaping;  
18 painting; power washing; snow removal; and ice  
19 melt. As you can see, we have a very full plate  
20 of duties.

21 There are more than 52 businesses in the  
22 area where the bar crawl occurred that qualify as

1 night spots. And that number is growing,  
2 especially around Connecticut and M and  
3 especially in the CN and CT classes.

4           While, this sounds like a lot, they  
5 comprise less than 1 percent of the building  
6 space in the BID but they are driving 30 percent  
7 of our resources. Not surprising, this  
8 inequality has put an appreciable strain on our  
9 resources on a daily basis. We have had to change  
10 our operation significantly over the last few  
11 years to accommodate this.

12           In 2009, we began our daily operations at  
13 7:00 a.m. and performed tasks manually with a  
14 small team. This year, we've had to shift to  
15 starting at 5:00 a.m. using mechanized equipment  
16 and with more staff. I'm sorry.

17           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You don't have to  
18 hold. This just will magnify your voice enough.  
19 So you don't have to get -- it just magnifies  
20 your voice.

21           MR. POWELL: Great. And this year we've  
22 also had to purchase 3 ATLVs and 6 Billy Goats,



1 as well as 3 trucks, to handle the mass of this  
2 issue.

3 The size of the BID has not changed just  
4 the amount of trash that's generated every day,  
5 and now every night we're straining just to keep  
6 up. The addition of a bar crawl scenario into an  
7 already overextended workload has caused our  
8 neighborhood, at times, to look like a trash  
9 dump.

10 On the morning of November 1st, we  
11 encountered an unthinkable scene in our  
12 neighborhood. I've attached before-and-after  
13 photos to my testimony here that illustrates what  
14 we faced that day. The 1800 block of M Street,  
15 the 1200 block of 18th Street, and the 1200 and  
16 1300 blocks of Connecticut Avenue were the worst.

17 After this particular bar crawl, we were  
18 not able to get the BID back to its normal  
19 appearance until the afternoon of November 2nd;  
20 some 36 hours later.

21 The investigator has already given you  
22 one example of an impact to one of our locally

1 owned retailers. A second was another restaurant  
2 that was overrun by bar crawl revelers using  
3 their restroom, taking [ph] or receiving [ph]  
4 without ever making purchases. The owner was  
5 concerned for her safety and that of her patrons  
6 due to the unruly crowd that was there.

7           When a bar crawl occurs, additional  
8 people in the neighborhood traveling on foot from  
9 bar to bar add significantly to the quantity of  
10 cups, cans, bottles, food containers, and even  
11 vomit that we deal with the next morning. The  
12 attached photos illustrate just a little bit of  
13 those issues.

14           I respectfully request that bar crawls be  
15 treated no different than any other special  
16 events in the city. They place the same type of  
17 burden on safety, security, transportation, and  
18 trash removal. The planning for such events  
19 could go through the mayor's special event's task  
20 force and be organized through HSEMA. The city  
21 should be reimbursed for additional law  
22 enforcement as well as other services such as

1 trash removal.

2           Also proposed that bar crawl organizers  
3 be required to submit a plan to address the trash  
4 management as part of the permitting process.  
5 This plan would identify how the organizers would  
6 remove trash not only from the venue, but also  
7 from the adjacent properties along the path of  
8 the crawl. The organizers would be required to  
9 hire a refuse service, pay the city to remove  
10 trash, or pay the BID a fee for any services we  
11 provide to bring the streets back to pre-bar  
12 crawl conditions. That should all be completed  
13 before the next day.

14           Additionally, the organizers should  
15 consent to pay any additional fees in the event  
16 that the cleaning exceeds the levels covered by  
17 their deposit. This procedure has helped  
18 Arlington in their efforts to curb problems  
19 created by outside event organizers.

20           When the BID was created, it was never  
21 anticipated that we would take on this level of  
22 services in support of an event managed and

1 promoted by an outside entity. We are equipped -  
2 - as I mentioned earlier -- to do detailed  
3 cleaning of the neighborhood. We're not equipped  
4 or staffed to do large-scale, heavy trash removal  
5 following special events. We are currently in an  
6 untenable situation and cannot continue to be the  
7 sole entity that cleans up after bar crawls.

8 Thanks again, for letting me testify.

9 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you very much.  
10 Now, I'm going to have questions. I'm going to  
11 have everyone state. And then we'll have  
12 questions. Because I think we can have a better  
13 record if everything is out there, then we can  
14 ask questions.

15 I noticed that you're here, Ms. Nichols,  
16 from ANC 2B05. So, if you have something brief  
17 that you want to provide to us, you can please  
18 approach and stand.

19 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you. Two things --

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Identify yourself.

21 MS. NICHOLS: I'm Abigail Nichols,  
22 Commissioner for ANC 2B, which is the east side.

1 Yes. The east side of Connecticut Avenue in the  
2 area we're talking about.

3 First, I was on the street. I was on the  
4 street from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. So, from what I'm  
5 hearing, it got much more crowded after I left at  
6 9:00. But I was very concerned about the traffic  
7 I was seeing. People were well behaved, but the  
8 sidewalks were so full that everybody was in the  
9 street. I did not see on the steps [ph].

10 Secondly, an issue of left-hand and  
11 right-hand. In a couple of ways, I informed ABRA  
12 in advance of October 31st that I suspected that  
13 an unlicensed pub crawl was going to happen,  
14 first, by contacting and finding out whether  
15 Midtown had obtained a license for the pub crawl  
16 that was being advertised on the Web and then,  
17 secondly, at the October 21st hearing on Midtown  
18 when I mentioned this concern of an unlicensed  
19 pub crawl. That's it.

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you very  
21 much. All right. I'll have Ms. Brenner from  
22 Lindy Promotions and you can provide us some

1 information. And I think I would like -- I'm  
2 sorry?

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Can we ask questions of  
4 the one side first and then get into that, so  
5 that we can at least get further information on  
6 which they can then respond?

7 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, I think, in  
8 order to do the hearing, I mean --

9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I do have one question  
10 I would like to have clarified -- and that is how  
11 much actual damage there was -- so that they can  
12 respond to that if, in fact, this is an  
13 accusation.

14 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Well, we'll get to  
15 that. I mean, I've seen the pictures. But I  
16 think -- at least in clearing my mind -- we've  
17 heard the folks talk about what events occurred -  
18 - transpired in the neighborhood.

19 I'm going to first ask the two license  
20 promoters, first, to respond to the allegations.  
21 Then I'll ask the unlicensed one. Then, once  
22 we've heard the side, they'll present their side.

1 And then we'll then ask questions. So just hold  
2 on to the questions. But, I think, in order to  
3 have this, this is the best way to do that.

4 Thank you.

5 And one of the things that I also would  
6 hope that you address, Ms. Benner, in your  
7 presentation is that you were approved for -- you  
8 informed us that you were going to do 2,500 to  
9 3,500, and you actually sold 600 or 700 tickets.  
10 So I hope that's in your presentation. And also  
11 the hours that you we're approved was from 5:00  
12 to 12:00. And it was our understanding that the  
13 actual hours from 2:59 to 12:00. I do hope that  
14 in your presentation you respond to at least  
15 these allegations.

16 MS. BENNER: Yeah. Christine Benner from  
17 Lindy Promotions. First of all, thank you for  
18 having us. Speak loud.

19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Speak up and a little  
20 closer to the mic.

21 MS. BENNER: I'm sorry. Better?  
22 Christine Benner from Lindy Promotions. We do

1 thank the Board for having us here to speak about  
2 this matter.

3 We did, as our application suggests, we  
4 did accidentally go over the 3,000. We had a  
5 glitch in our system. And I'm going to be honest  
6 with it. We've been honest this entire time.  
7 And that's why we sent the actual numbers over to  
8 the investigator when he asked. We had a glitch  
9 in the system and we did oversell. So we do take  
10 full responsibility for that.

11 We did hire enough security, once we  
12 realized that that number did go over, to be at  
13 our registration spots. We had 14 security  
14 guards from City Security. And then we had an  
15 additional 28 from Mass Entertainment to check  
16 IDs, as well as help with crowd control at all of  
17 our registration points, as well as two security  
18 guards wandering the streets to kind of help with  
19 that crowd control in our designated areas as  
20 well.

21 As far as the early registration, we did  
22 call the ABRA. And we were told that since our



1 permit was approved, that we would be okay. I  
2 don't have records of that phone call. But I  
3 could go through our phone line and get the  
4 records.

5 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: That's all you have  
6 to say?

7 MS. BENNER: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Then I'll have Mr. --  
9 I'm sorry. Hold on. Mr. Lopez from Projects DC.

10 MR. BRAMSON: My name is Mike Bramson  
11 with Project DC.

12 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. I'm sorry.

13 MR. BRAMSON: So I'll just touch base on  
14 the two allegations on our behalf, one of which  
15 is the hours. So our license, I believe, was  
16 from 2:00 or 3:00 -- from 3:00 to 11:00.

17 We advertised that all the drink specials  
18 ended at 11:00 p.m., and I have documents here  
19 from our website, from our map, from our e-mails  
20 to the establishments, and to our e-mail blast to  
21 all the participants. So we kept the event until  
22 -- so from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. -- the drink

1 specials ended at 11:00. Until 1:00 a.m., they  
2 would get fast-pass access into the bars since we  
3 knew there'd be so many people coming for  
4 Halloween night to the participating bars. If  
5 you had a wristband, you would just skip the  
6 line. It didn't get you drink specials. It  
7 didn't do any anything else besides skip a line.

8           And most of the bars do that anyways if  
9 they see a participant. Last thing we want is  
10 people that have been drinking all day to be  
11 waiting in line causing trouble. We'd rather  
12 just get them into the bars. Get them somewhere  
13 off the street. So everywhere -- and I can  
14 submit those documents.

15           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yeah. I would like  
16 to see that.

17           MR. BRAMSON: Yeah. I'll submit those.  
18 Yeah. So 11:00 p.m. is when all the drink  
19 specials were advertising and that very clear on  
20 all our marketing to our participants, to the  
21 bars, and on our website. As to --

22           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: To the oversold.

1           MR. BRAMSON: The oversold. So we went  
2 77 tickets oversold. Basically, on a typical  
3 event, 15 to 25 percent of participants don't  
4 show up for whatever reason. I mean, people  
5 don't show up because family issues. They didn't  
6 make it because of traffic. They didn't get  
7 there in time. So that's just our typical  
8 number.

9           So we did go on the higher -- you know,  
10 we said on our application we'd go from 28 to 35.  
11 We were 77 people over. But, I mean, we're  
12 confident that 77 people didn't show up. We have  
13 refunded people -- not refunded. We give them  
14 tickets to the next event if they weren't able to  
15 make it. So that's typically the -- yeah.

16           And then we also e-mailed the MPD that  
17 about a week or about a week before. I have that  
18 letter from Alex to the captain stating that we  
19 would have 4,000 people at the event just so they  
20 would overstaff. That was one of the issues the  
21 investigator brought up in his letter to us, that  
22 we didn't prepare MPD. But we let them know we

1 have overestimated how many people we'd have that  
2 day, and we actually went under.

3 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: It would be very  
4 helpful if a future business if you provide us  
5 with the copies of all the documentation that you  
6 just mentioned.

7 MR. BRAMSON: Yeah. I can submit those.

8 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: You can give them to  
9 me now if you have them. Do you have anything  
10 else to say, or is that the end of your  
11 presentation?

12 MR. BRAMSON: That's it.

13 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Mantell, since  
14 I'm not familiar with your organization and since  
15 you have not gone through our process, I would  
16 ask that in your presentation you explain who you  
17 are, where have you done this promotion before,  
18 and in the cities that you have done this  
19 promotion, what are the regulations that you're  
20 aware of in those other cities.

21 MR. MANTELL: Not a problem. Good  
22 morning. Dustin Mantell. Before I address the

1 allegations, I'd like to apologize to the Board  
2 for not following ABRA regulations and compliance  
3 to the BID for all the damage. I saw those  
4 photos. And I do these pub crawls in 113 cities  
5 across North America. I've never seen anything  
6 like that. It was extremely appalling.

7 I've seen the work that you guys do. I  
8 do apologize on behalf of Pubcrawls.com and we  
9 will insure that that will never ever happen  
10 again. So let me tell you some of the work that  
11 I do.

12 As I said, I'm Dustin Mantell. My  
13 specialty is on-line marketing. I own about  
14 5,000 different websites, ranging from  
15 JulyFourth.com, OnCruises.com,  
16 HalloweenEvents.com, SouthBeachEvents.com. So  
17 what I do is, I produce events all over the  
18 country, whether they're holiday or regular  
19 based. I bid in all different cities from Miami,  
20 Chicago, Boston.

21 Every city has its own regulations. From  
22 doing research about ABRA regulations, this

1 sounds a little similar to my San Francisco  
2 procedure that I go through where I bring in  
3 additional security for the event at all the  
4 registration points that help do the crowd  
5 control and also ID every guest that has  
6 purchased a ticket.

7           We are disclaimer-ed on all of our  
8 marketing material that you must be 21 and over.  
9 In addition, you also need to provide an  
10 alternate ride home; something like an Uber or a  
11 Lyft. In certain cities, there's a Lyft or Via  
12 that partner with us, in which case, we can  
13 provide rides for our guests to make sure they  
14 get home safely.

15           In terms of not filing for the permits  
16 here, you know, we're a small company in New  
17 York. You know, I was not aware of this.

18           As I was talking to Investigator Puente,  
19 I told him I had two additional pub crawls coming  
20 up. However, because the time limit has passed  
21 already on the 6 weeks, I cancelled them,  
22 refunded anyone that had purchased. So those

1 events will not be upcoming.

2 Moving forward, I plan on submitting a  
3 full-year plan to ABRA of all the pub crawls that  
4 I plan for 2016, security plan, with a trash  
5 removal plan as well.

6 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So you're saying that  
7 other cities that you have had pub crawls. There  
8 is no similar -- you're not aware of similar  
9 regulations --?

10 MR. MANTELL: There are similar.  
11 Correct. There are similar -- everything -- San  
12 Francisco's probably the most similar to D.C. in  
13 the regulations where you do have to get a permit  
14 in advance before doing a pub crawl.

15 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So you didn't think  
16 that I would do my research to see D.C., what is  
17 it I need to do prior to coming to D.C.?

18 MR. MANTELL: That is correct. I've done  
19 some New Year's Eve parties here before, before I  
20 started doing pub crawls. I didn't have to do  
21 any of the, you know, apply for a special permit  
22 in advance for it. It's just sheer oversight on

1 my behalf.

2 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Now, I  
3 think everyone who needs to address us have done,  
4 right? And now do we have -- I think Mr.  
5 Silverstein here. He has had some pressing  
6 questions. Go ahead.

7 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'd like to get a  
8 little bit more in the way of facts. First, from  
9 Mr. Powell. Could you please outline for us how  
10 much actual damage was done; if there was damage  
11 to any of the poles, trees, tree boxes, windows,  
12 anything like that. What was the, you know,  
13 beyond just litter?

14 MR. POWELL: Absolutely. So particularly  
15 where we saw damage was in the 1300 block of  
16 Connecticut on the east side of the block.

17 We've been working for the past 5 years  
18 to do a streetscape project for Connecticut  
19 Avenue, and many of the property owners pay to  
20 have the tree boxes landscaped. And the street  
21 trees, many of those tree boxes are now barren.  
22 The property owners now do not want to put



1 flowers and stuff back in if anything like this  
2 is going to happen again because it's just going  
3 to be damaged, and it's a sunk cost for them.  
4 And they're not in the business of sinking costs  
5 into public space assets that are going to be  
6 damaged again. So it's kind of a blow to our  
7 streetscape project.

8           That's most of the damage is what we saw  
9 is just due to the number of pedestrians that  
10 were in the tree boxes and in the crosswalks and,  
11 you know, the stickers and graffiti. That was  
12 another challenge for us to clean up on that  
13 Monday as well.

14           MR. SILVERSTEIN: How much was spent on  
15 the streetscape project there?

16           MR. POWELL: I believe it was several  
17 million dollars from the city, a DDot Grant. I  
18 can't recall off the top of my head. But it was  
19 definitely in the millions of dollars.

20           MR. SILVERSTEIN: In terms of businesses  
21 in that area, were the businesses harmed -- those  
22 that were not licensed establishments -- the

1 retail businesses? What did they report in terms  
2 of their loss of business on that day? Or how  
3 many did, in fact, close or close early or what  
4 have you?

5 MR. POWELL: One of the retailers on that  
6 block expressed to me that he was forced to close  
7 at 3:00 p.m. on that day because he said the  
8 growing crowds outside he just felt that -- he's  
9 an apparel retailer -- he felt it wasn't safe for  
10 his employees.

11 The additional complaint that I received  
12 was from a CR licensed restaurant where she was  
13 having a total -- as I mentioned -- an influx of  
14 people just there to use the bathroom. People  
15 were bringing food from outside from food trucks  
16 and just sitting down at her tables. And she  
17 didn't feel comfortable, because the people had  
18 already been drinking and were very combative  
19 when she asked them to leave.

20 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Anything else you would  
21 want to add in terms of business, because I want  
22 to move on to other folks as well? Any

1 businesses report they were down 80 percent, up  
2 30 percent, anything like that? You didn't have  
3 those --?

4 MR. POWELL: No, sir. Not directly.

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.

6 Investigator Puente, first of all, I want  
7 to thank you and commend you for an outstanding  
8 report, an outstanding amount of work that you've  
9 put into this. And, in a way, it almost seems  
10 like the blind man and the elephant. It was so  
11 big.

12 And the thing I noticed -- and I want to  
13 ask you about this first -- you mentioned three  
14 establishments that you said were troubled  
15 establishments that they are virtually next to  
16 each other.

17 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes.

18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I was, at that point,  
19 3,000 miles away. I was up in Saskatchewan when  
20 this happened. And I got a phone call on my cell  
21 phone at a \$1 a minute that, you won't believe  
22 what the traffic is like. You can't move out

1 here. I have never seen anything like it. What  
2 the Hell is going on?

3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yes, sir.

4 MR. SILVERSTEIN: And I was, like,  
5 totally stunned at this. The fact that you did  
6 these three business [coughing] sort of on the  
7 outskirts of this, what was it like trying to get  
8 around in this? And did you only go to those  
9 because you couldn't do the others or you don't  
10 have time? Or what was the situation there?

11 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah. Me and our  
12 investigator, we made our way down to  
13 Connecticut. We were outside of Rumors, Sign of  
14 the Whale. The lines for Rumors for one  
15 establishment [ph] was probably two blocks long.  
16 Public Bar had a line going around the corner  
17 down the block along --

18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: The lines were two  
19 blocks long?

20 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah. Lines were  
21 just going down the street. Police had a car set  
22 up on 19th Street trying to keep people off the

1 street and whatnot. We were just overwhelmed. I  
2 called Supervisor Stewart to let him know. We  
3 tried get more investigators out there to see  
4 what we could do --

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Gridlock?

6 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah. It was  
7 awful. Going from Georgetown to DuPont, Midtown  
8 area, it was gridlock. It took us maybe 45  
9 minutes to get back in Georgetown over to the mid  
10 Triangle area.

11 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Could you tell me what  
12 transpired in Midtown?

13 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: I went out there  
14 about 7:00. I walked up. I spoke to the ABC  
15 manager. He stated that they weren't part of a  
16 pub crawl. I said, "There's a registration table  
17 right in front of your establishment. You got a  
18 sign on the door saying, 'Pub crawl party  
19 headquarters.'"

20 He still denied it multiple times.  
21 Finally, a lady at the registration table yelled,  
22 "Midtown's the pub crawl party headquarters."

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Pardon? Say that  
2 again?

3 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: The lady yelled who  
4 was taking the money at the registration table  
5 that Midtown was the party headquarters for the  
6 pub crawl. And she had a flier. And I pointed  
7 out on the flier Midtown's address. The flier  
8 had all the names for each of the establishments  
9 besides Midtown, just the address of Midtown.  
10 Then he finally realized that I got him, and he  
11 proceeded to swear and stated, "You got us." I  
12 said, "I know. It's in your sale agreement."

13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So, on the record,  
14 Midtown did not advertise its name.

15 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah. He said he  
16 wasn't supposed to be --

17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: The address was there  
18 and it simply said, "Halloween headquarters" or  
19 "Party headquarters."

20 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: Yeah. Just said,  
21 "Halloween headquarters" and "1219 Connecticut."  
22 He stated that he was not supposed to do any of

1 the paperwork and someone made a mistake and put  
2 his address on the paperwork.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. Commander  
4 Gresham, I have a couple questions for you. And  
5 more than anyone, you were probably the most  
6 directly affected. Sir, what went wrong here?  
7 And what do you suggest we do to make things  
8 better that this never happen again?

9 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Well, there are quite  
10 a few issues that we had. We were not given  
11 prompt notice, in my opinion. And, I think, with  
12 the influx of patrons -- and, again, the  
13 information that we received was 16,000 tickets  
14 were sold for the event -- there's no way a  
15 police district can insure public safety is not  
16 compromised by that number of people patronizing  
17 an area.

18 Generally on the weekends, we have issues  
19 with the establishments, the nightclubs in the  
20 nightclub district. But it's overwhelming when  
21 you have a major event as a bar crawl. I think  
22 they need to be regulated. I would like to see

1 the application being reviewed by the Homeland  
2 Security Bureau. And, from that point, they  
3 could actually regulate, I guess, the patronage  
4 or impose limitations on the number of tickets  
5 that are sold for those type of events.

6 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You had how many people  
7 deployed in the area? And how many did you end  
8 up having to put there? And what was the  
9 situation with the mounted police? That seems to  
10 be just completely unprecedented.

11 COMMANDER GRESHAM: We had approximately  
12 100 people, maybe a few more deployed in the  
13 Second District that night. And we also had  
14 additional personnel from other police districts;  
15 Districts 4, 5, and 6 to assist us with the  
16 Halloween events, particularly in the Georgetown  
17 area.

18 In Georgetown, we had approximately  
19 10,000 people patronizing the area. And we had  
20 to withdraw our personnel from the Georgetown  
21 area to deal with the events in DuPont Circle and  
22 on Connecticut Avenue, the Connecticut Avenue



1 Corridor; primarily the 1300 and 1400 blocks.

2 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You had three different  
3 pub crawls going on at one time, perhaps more,  
4 perhaps more. Do you believe that it's okay to  
5 have more than one in a location? How do we  
6 manage that type of thing and to insure that  
7 you're not being overwhelmed and also to insure  
8 accountability?

9 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Well, from a law  
10 enforcement perspective -- and this is solely on  
11 my interest and the department's interest for  
12 public safety -- I think there should be specific  
13 limitations; limitations on the number of bar  
14 crawls allowed and also the number of tickets  
15 sold.

16 And, again, for that particular area,  
17 when you take into consideration the average  
18 number of patrons in that area, I think there  
19 should be very strict limitations. Because,  
20 generally, on the weekends you would have -- and  
21 this is during a non-holiday event or during any  
22 other night absence Halloween or New Year's --

1 you would have probably 5,000 people patronizing  
2 the clubs on that weekend.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I think it's an  
4 important question here: How much of this was  
5 simply the fact that Halloween going on a  
6 Saturday is going to be a party anyway?

7 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I think most of it  
8 was generated by the long weekend. And, again, I  
9 think it really had a negative impact not only on  
10 law enforcement resources, but the tranquility  
11 for the residents in the neighborhood.

12 You had a lot of intoxicated patrons.  
13 They not only compromised their welfare by  
14 walking out in the middle of the street because  
15 of their intoxicated state, but also you had some  
16 that were operating vehicles.

17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Should there be a  
18 cutoff time for pub crawls as far as what would  
19 be optimal for police in terms of your shift  
20 change or your deployment of force?

21 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I would say 11:00  
22 p.m. should be the cutoff time.

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: When is your shift  
2 change?

3 COMMANDER GRESHAM: We actually have  
4 several shifts --

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: It's -- I know it.  
6 Explain how it --

7 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Okay. You have for  
8 the evening areas and these are the evening units  
9 or personnel and this is actually the shift that  
10 would be more impacted by the night-life  
11 activity.

12 You have officers that work 3:00 to  
13 11:00. And then you have the midnight officers  
14 who come in at 10:30 and they work until 7:00 in  
15 the morning. So those two personnel tours are  
16 actually are the ones that would be most  
17 impacted; the evening shift and the midnight  
18 shift.

19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So, if you give a  
20 choice of cutting off at 10:00, 11:00, or 12:00,  
21 what makes life easiest for you?

22 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I would say 11:00.

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Very well.

2 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Because we have more  
3 personnel dedicated to the evening shift.

4 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
5 Silverstein, I do recognize the fact that, as a  
6 Board member, this does impact you more so than  
7 others so that's the only reason I've given you  
8 some leeway in asking a little bit more  
9 questions. But I think we need to give the other  
10 Board members an opportunity to ask questions  
11 that they have. Go ahead, Mr. Short.

12 MR. SHORT: This question is directed to  
13 Pubcrawl.com from New York City.

14 MR. MANTELL: Yes, sir.

15 MR. SHORT: Do you get permits for pub  
16 crawls when you do New York?

17 MR. MANTELL: Not in New York.

18 MR. SHORT: You don't have to give a  
19 permit.

20 MR. MANTELL: No.

21 MR. SHORT: Well, you said you did check  
22 and you did find out that you have to have them

1 in Washington D.C., correct?

2 MR. MANTELL: Correct, after speaking to  
3 Inspector Puentes.

4 MR. SHORT: So what would make you think  
5 that you could put a bar crawl on without even  
6 getting any permission from ABRA or the district  
7 government or the citizens or anybody? You just  
8 came from New York and you had a bar crawl,  
9 right?

10 MR. MANTELL: Correct.

11 MR. SHORT: And you plan on having more  
12 in Washington D.C.?

13 MR. MANTELL: I do, pending going through  
14 the approval process, submitting applications,  
15 providing security at the locations, and --

16 MR. SHORT: Okay. Fine. Thank you.  
17 This is for the commander.

18 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, sir.

19 MR. SHORT: Commander, if you find  
20 someone having an illegal pub crawl, can you have  
21 them arrested? Do you have arrest power over  
22 that? They don't get a license. They're

1 supposed to be required to have one. Can the  
2 police department arrest folks for that?

3 COMMANDER GRESHAM: No, sir. Not under  
4 those circumstances.

5 MR. SHORT: Is there anything you could  
6 recommend that could help us with people that  
7 come to this city and say, I don't have to do it  
8 because I know they can't arrest me and just I'll  
9 pay a fine or whatever I have to do and I'll just  
10 do it again?

11 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I think in certain  
12 cases -- and this is my perspective on it -- I  
13 think because of the public safety issues, there  
14 should be some legislative enforcement that would  
15 grant us the authority to have more of an impact  
16 on those type of events.

17 MR. SHORT: I do thank you for your  
18 testimony and thank you for your service. I  
19 will, personally as one Board member, recommend  
20 to our Board and to ABRA that we take your  
21 recommendation and send some legislation to the  
22 counsel immediately.

1           And I would think, as a Board member,  
2 until we get a rein on this, pub crawls should be  
3 halted until such time as the city is prepared.

4           Your recommendation about Homeland  
5 Security also should be taking place. Because we  
6 just saw what happened in Paris. I couldn't even  
7 imagine trying to get emergency vehicles down  
8 Connecticut Avenue, 19th Street, or M Street that  
9 night. We have citizens that live in those  
10 blocks. How would they get ambulances to them or  
11 anything else?

12           And apparently, some people don't think  
13 it's important. And, if they don't think it's  
14 important, I don't think they should even be  
15 doing business in Washington D.C. That's my  
16 personal opinion as a Board Member and a citizen  
17 of Washington D.C. for 68 years and a member of  
18 public safety for 33 years. This is  
19 reprehensible.

20           That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

21           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do you have a  
22 question, Ms. Miller?

1 MS. MILLER: I have a few questions.  
2 Starting on my right for Ms. Benner, I want to  
3 ask you about your statement that the reason that  
4 you went over by over 3,000 people was that there  
5 was a glitch in the computer. And what time did  
6 you appreciate that there was this glitch of over  
7 3,000 people?

8 MS. BENNER: What time?

9 MS. MILLER: What time? Was it the day  
10 of the event? Was it earlier?

11 MS. BENNER: We realized it on the 29th.

12 MS. MILLER: On the 29th.

13 MS. BENNER: Correct.

14 MS. MILLER: So did you take any steps to  
15 notify ABRA or MPD?

16 MS. BENNER: We did not, no. That was  
17 our fault. We should have. We take full  
18 responsibility for that.

19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Pardon me?

20 MS. BENNER: I'm sorry? Who said that?

21 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Please repeat.

22 MS. BENNER: Yeah. She asked if we took



1 steps to notify the MPD or ABRA once we realized  
2 the glitch in the system. And I said that we did  
3 not. And that was our fault. At that point, we  
4 went and we hired more security from our security  
5 that we hired from City Security as well as Mass  
6 Entertainment.

7 MS. MILLER: And did you notify the  
8 establishments that were participating?

9 MS. BENNER: Yes, we did. We called all  
10 the establishments as well as sent e-mails to  
11 those who did not answer.

12 MS. MILLER: Okay. I guess I want to  
13 turn to Commander Gresham.

14 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. MILLER: My impression based on my  
16 service on this Board is that this was an  
17 exceptional case that we haven't had problems  
18 until this event, and this was huge problem; is  
19 that correct?

20 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, ma'am, it was.

21 MS. MILLER: Okay. And so the reason  
22 that this was such a problem, in part, I think it

1    sounded like certainly the number of  
2    participants, right?

3                COMMANDER GRESHAM:    Yes.

4                MS. MILLER:    And you said that you  
5    thought there were 16,000?

6                COMMANDER GRESHAM:    We didn't actually  
7    find out about the event until several hours  
8    after it started taking place.    Sergeant Naus,  
9    the sergeant assigned to the Second District, had  
10   notified me at about 1:00 a.m. of the events.  
11   And he told me that 16,000 tickets had been sold.

12               So our concern, again, is the public  
13   safety factor and also the issues the morning  
14   after, particularly the impact that it had on the  
15   BID and also the community.

16               MS. MILLER:    Now, this certainly screams  
17   to me public safety issues based on what I've  
18   heard and also terrible property damage and trash  
19   issues.    Did you -- I can't remember -- I don't  
20   know whether Mr. Silverstein asked you whether  
21   there was a limit on the number of participants  
22   that you think could be out on a pub crawl in an

1 area where there shouldn't be a problem? You  
2 know, is it 1,000, or 5,000 or --?

3 COMMANDER GRESHAM: As a commander of the  
4 Second District, I make it a point to personally  
5 go through the area to do an assessment on a  
6 regular basis. For the pub crawl events, I would  
7 say that no more than 250 would be a safe --

8 MS. MILLER: 250.

9 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, ma'am, a safe  
10 number.

11 MS. MILLER: But have the pub crawl's  
12 been greater than that in the past?

13 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes. Far, far  
14 greater.

15 MS. MILLER: Far greater.

16 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Far.

17 MS. MILLER: So they haven't been a  
18 problem like this. But they cause you concern so  
19 that you would say a pub crawl should just be  
20 250?

21 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes. I think there  
22 should be specific limitations.

1 MS. MILLER: Okay. I just want to be  
2 clear; 250, though, because that's a low number  
3 from what we've been dealing with.

4 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. MILLER: Okay. And one pub crawl at  
6 a time, I assume, since that's a small number.

7 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. MILLER: Okay.

9 COMMANDER GRESHAM: And, again, that  
10 would be because of the average number of  
11 personnel or patrons in the club area during the  
12 weekends.

13 MS. MILLER: Okay. And I think that I  
14 heard you say they certainly should have -- well,  
15 that they should have a better review than they  
16 have now and greater notice to you. And you were  
17 suggesting Homeland Security review?

18 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Well, the D.C.  
19 Government has this, I guess, the acronym of  
20 HSEMA. And it's actually D.C.'s Homeland  
21 Security office. I think there should be a  
22 stricter form of review. And we've had cases

1 where we were never notified of pub crawls until  
2 they actually started taking place.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You've had cases where  
4 you've never been notified?

5 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, sir, we have.  
6 We've had cases in the past where some of our  
7 officers would notify us hours after the event  
8 had started taking place that there was a pub  
9 crawl and there was no specific notification to  
10 MPD.

11 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Do you  
12 have any other questions, Ms. Miller?

13 MS. MILLER: I just want to make sure I  
14 have all your recommendations to making sure that  
15 pub crawls are safe and don't disrupt the public.  
16 Do you agree that they should be assessed an  
17 amount of money to pay for trash for the next  
18 day?

19 COMMANDER GRESHAM: I do.

20 MS. MILLER: Okay.

21 COMMANDER GRESHAM: [Coughing] excuse me.  
22 I'm sorry.

1 MS. MILLER: Okay. I thank you very  
2 much.

3 COMMANDER GRESHAM: Yes, sir.

4 MS. MILLER: I mean, if I could just go  
5 back to Ms. Benner for one second. I forgot to  
6 ask you. I thought I heard you say that one hand  
7 that you did talk to somebody at ABRA and on the  
8 other hand that you didn't.

9 MS. BENNER: We did talk to ABRA about  
10 the glitch in the system --

11 MS. MILLER: You did.

12 MS. BENNER: -- of the amount of tickets  
13 that we sold, but about --

14 MS. MILLER: You did or you didn't?

15 MS. BENNER: We did not about the number  
16 of the tickets sold, but about the time change.

17 MS. MILLER: The time change from what?

18 MS. BENNER: Our original permit began  
19 starting at 5:00 p.m. But we actually started at  
20 3:00 p.m.

21 MS. MILLER: Okay. And did you even talk  
22 to the Board to get approval for a change on

1 that, did you?

2 MS. BENNER: Someone from the office  
3 called in and they were told that since we were  
4 approved, we were fine.

5 MS. MILLER: Okay. All right. Thank you  
6 very much.

7 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Go ahead Mr. Alberti.

8 MR. ALBERTI: Ms. Benner, I'm just going  
9 to follow up on that last question since we --  
10 who'd you talk to?

11 MS. BENNER: I wasn't the one who  
12 personally called. I don't know.

13 MR. ALBERTI: Could you get that  
14 information to us?

15 MS. BENNER: Sure.

16 MR. ALBERTI: Part of that is training  
17 staff here. We want to make things better on all  
18 ends.

19 MS. BENNER: I'll get that over to you.

20 MR. ALBERTI: And okay. So I notice we  
21 have a list of who participated in which pub  
22 crawls. And I notice that several establishments

1 participated in more than one pub crawl. Ms.  
2 Benner, were you aware that any of your  
3 participants were participating in other pub  
4 crawls?

5 MS. BENNER: We have in our contract that  
6 you have to be exclusive just to us. Once we did  
7 find out that certain bars were participating in  
8 another bar crawl, we did call them and tell them  
9 about the contract. And they said that they  
10 would pull from the other bar crawl.

11 MR. ALBERTI: When did you discover this?

12 MS. BENNER: Mid October.

13 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So given the fact  
14 that they -- we have pretty definite information  
15 that they did participate in other pub crawls,  
16 what are you doing about it?

17 MS. BENNER: We're strengthening our  
18 contract with them. There's going to be a fine  
19 for now on if establishments participate in more  
20 than one bar crawl with the signed contract.

21 MR. ALBERTI: All right. Thank you.

22 Project DC, Mr. Bramson, same question. Were you



1 aware that some of your participants were  
2 participating in other pub crawls?

3 MR. BRAMSON: We were not aware. The  
4 only one that we were aware of was Bottom Line.  
5 And they had sent the other bar crawl a letter  
6 asking them to take them off the website -- two  
7 letters actually, which were submitted to the  
8 investigator -- and the other bar crawl, for  
9 whatever reason, did not take them off their  
10 site.

11 MR. ALBERTI: Did you have a contract  
12 that prevented them?

13 MR. BRAMSON: We did. And they said that  
14 they had asked several times -- well, two e-mails  
15 specifically -- that they asked to be removed  
16 from the other pub crawl's website. And he's  
17 like, "I don't know what to do at this point.  
18 They won't take me off." And that letter should  
19 be --

20 MR. ALBERTI: Knowing this, well, what  
21 action will you take against these folks?  
22 Because we can provide you with a list of names.

1           MR. BRAMSON: Yeah. Mostly likely,  
2 either restrict them from participating in our  
3 events or a fine.

4           MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Pubcrawl.com, were  
5 you aware that some of your participants were  
6 participating in other pub crawls?

7           MR. MANTELL: Yes.

8           MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Do you have a  
9 contract?

10          MR. MANTELL: There's a contract.

11          MR. ALBERTI: Do you have a contract with  
12 the people who participated in your pub crawl?

13          MR. MANTELL: Yes, sir. I've submitted  
14 all the contracts to Investigator Puente. But  
15 the reason why I like the fact that other venues  
16 -- my goal here is it's a community effort to  
17 insure that all the bars are getting business.

18                 And to restrict them just because they  
19 may not be the most popular but they signed up  
20 for exclusiveness may limit the number of people  
21 that they take in and, you know, on holiday  
22 events like Halloween, they overstaff. And, if

1 they don't get enough people, well then, they  
2 come back disappointed as a result of this and  
3 that they spent all this additional fund and they  
4 didn't get any of the return on it.

5 So I encourage my venues to, you know,  
6 have multiple events going on in the venue.

7 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So obviously, you  
8 answered my next question which was: You don't  
9 have anything in your contract that prevents them  
10 from participating in multiple --?

11 MR. MANTELL: That is correct.

12 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Interesting. I'm  
13 just going to follow up on a comment you made.  
14 So you're in the business. What are the  
15 additional costs if you're going to participate  
16 in a pub crawl? If an establishment decides to  
17 participate in your pub crawl, what are their  
18 additional costs?

19 MR. MANTELL: We don't charge the venues  
20 anything. We give them a free page on our  
21 website where they can list. And they can get,  
22 like, party leads into it if you have a corporate

1 event or a birthday party.

2           You get a venue-dedicated page on our  
3 site, Pubcrawls.com, in which case you can just  
4 go random customers, or anybody can go on there  
5 and submit a lead to the venue and book an event.  
6 It goes directly to the venue. They deal with  
7 it. We don't take any commission. It's just a  
8 free service for participating in our pub crawls.

9           MR. ALBERTI: So --

10          MR. MANTELL: There is no fee for the  
11 venues to participate with us.

12          MR. ALBERTI: Mr. Mantell, you didn't  
13 answer my question. You told me -- your comment  
14 to me was, after all these additional expenses,  
15 if they don't get the customers, they're going to  
16 be disappointed. I'm paraphrasing what you told  
17 me.

18               My question to you is: What are those  
19 additional expenses for the licensee if he's  
20 participating in one of your pub crawls?

21          MR. MANTELL: Staff could be an  
22 additional cost, loss of revenue for the night of

1 where they put on additional staff, they bring in  
2 some sort of talent; a DJ, booking additional  
3 security because they plan on having such a large  
4 event and those things don't come to fruition.

5 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you. Did you  
6 have a contract with Midtown?

7 MR. BRAMSON: I did. I submitted that to  
8 Investigator Puente as well --

9 MR. ALBERTI: Great. Thank you. I just  
10 wanted to make sure we had that. Thank you. My  
11 last set of questions. Before I do my last set  
12 of questions, I just want to -- comment made by  
13 Project DC, Mr. Bramson. You said that, okay, so  
14 you're part of our -- the lines are long, you're  
15 part of our pub crawl so you get to skip the line  
16 if you have our bracelet.

17 MR. BRAMSON: Correct.

18 MR. ALBERTI: What does that mean? I  
19 mean, in terms of ID check, you skip the line --

20 MR. BRAMSON: No, they still --

21 MR. ALBERTI: -- usually the line is  
22 where you get your ID checked.

1           MR. BRAMSON: No. So, for example, I  
2 think one of the comments earlier was that there  
3 was a line down the block because of normal  
4 participants for Halloween. So all you do is you  
5 skip to the front of the line and then you check  
6 your ID and you go in.

7           MR. ALBERTI: Okay.

8           MR. BRAMSON: By contract, every bouncer  
9 -- regardless if you have a wristband or not --  
10 you have to get your ID rechecked.

11          MR. ALBERTI: All right. Okay. So we're  
12 going to go down the line. Ms. Benner, who is  
13 Lindy Productions.

14          MS. BENNER: Lindy Promotions.

15          MR. ALBERTI: Promotions. Who is Lindy  
16 Promotions?

17          MS. BENNER: Who is Lindy Promotions?

18          MR. ALBERTI: Yeah. Who is Lindy  
19 Promotions? It's a vague question. If you can't  
20 answer, you don't give me any hints, or any --  
21 I'll zero in on it. Go ahead.

22          MS. BENNER: Lindy Promotions is actually

1 a D.C. promotions company that was started by  
2 David Lindenauer, office in the Bethesda area.  
3 We've done bar crawls such as the Nightmare on M  
4 Street Bar Crawl now for 16 years. We do the  
5 Midtown Fourth of July Bar Crawl as well, as well  
6 as the Downtown Countdown which is a New Year's  
7 party that happens at the Hilton D.C.

8 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So is Lindy  
9 Promotions incorporated?

10 MS. BENNER: Yes.

11 MR. ALBERTI: So it's an LLC, a company  
12 is it --?

13 MS. BENNER: Correct, LLC.

14 MR. ALBERTI: LLC, okay. Can you submit  
15 to us the list of members?

16 MS. BENNER: Sure.

17 MR. ALBERTI: All right. I won't ask you  
18 for it now. But I will ask that you submit that  
19 to us by the end of today?

20 MS. BENNER: Okay.

21 MR. ALBERTI: All right. And the  
22 officers. I appreciate it.

1 Project DC, same question. Who is  
2 Project DC?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Project DC is an events-  
4 promotion company. We're based out of Arlington,  
5 Virginia. We've been doing events in the city in  
6 Arlington for 3-and-a-half years. We do about 4  
7 events in Arlington and about 6 or 7 in D.C.  
8 We've scaled to New Year's Eve galas. And  
9 actually, we are about to do our fourth annual  
10 D.C. Center Crawl this weekend. We partner with  
11 charities both in D.C. and in Arlington. And we  
12 are an LLC.

13 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So you are an LLC.  
14 Can you submit your list of members --?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Yes --

16 MR. ALBERTI: -- and officers to us by  
17 the end of today?

18 MR. LOPEZ: Yep.

19 MR. ALBERTI: Great. Thank you. Before  
20 I leave you, I'm just going to make a couple  
21 comments really. One is that Lindy Promotions  
22 and Project DC, you guys have done many pub



1 crawls since I've been on this Board, all right?  
2 We stopped bringing you in because you seemed to  
3 -- every time you came you were prepared. You  
4 seemed to know what you were doing. You knew how  
5 to do this.

6 This is a huge disappointment. And we'll  
7 leave it at that. I think you can imagine how  
8 disappointed we are. And Project DC, I don't  
9 know how to -- you tell me that this thing ends  
10 at 11:00.

11 I had this flier in big letters. In big  
12 letters it says, "3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m." and  
13 then in small print underneath it says, "Drink  
14 specials end at 11:00 p.m." And then, later on,  
15 there's a flier that says, "The bar crawl will  
16 commence at 3:00 p.m. and end at 1:00 a.m.  
17 Drinks specials will end at 11:00 p.m."

18 Do not underestimate us. That's all I'll  
19 tell you. We do read this. We get to the bottom  
20 of it. So you're better off being up front with  
21 us. Okay?

22 MR. BRAMSON: Okay.

1 MR. ALBERTI: Pubcrawl.com, who are you?

2 MR. MANTELL: Pubcrawl's an LLC based out  
3 of New York.

4 MR. ALBERTI: All right. Can you give us  
5 a list of your members and officers?

6 MR. MANTELL: Yes, sir.

7 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you. I have  
8 no further questions or comments. Thank you for  
9 coming.

10 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Go ahead, Mr. Short.

11 MR. SHORT: This is to all three of the  
12 event coordinators starting with the young lady.  
13 Other than the fee you pay ABRA, do you pay any  
14 other fees to the District of Columbia?

15 MS. BENNER: To the District of Columbia,  
16 no. As I mentioned, we do hire security, but --  
17 and we did hire clean-up crew for Ping Pong  
18 registration location, but we don't pay any  
19 additional fees to the city of --

20 MR. SHORT: So actually, what you're  
21 saying is you are tax-free. You have events.  
22 You come here, get money, and you don't pay any

1 taxes; is that correct?

2 MS. BENNER: We pay taxes on -- we have  
3 an office in Bethesda, so we do pay.

4 MR. SHORT: Well, you pay Bethesda. What  
5 about Washington D.C., the District of Columbia?

6 MS. BENNER: No, sir.

7 MR. SHORT: You don't pay us anything.

8 MS. BENNER: No, sir.

9 MR. SHORT: Same question to you, sir.

10 MR. MANTELL: Correct.

11 MR. SHORT: You pay no taxes.

12 MR. MANTELL: We're not based in D.C.

13 MR. SHORT: Not a problem. There are a  
14 lot of people that do business in Washington D.C.  
15 they have to pay taxes in Washington D.C. Do you  
16 pay taxes in New York when you have events there?

17 MR. MANTELL: I'd have to forward that to  
18 our CFO.

19 MR. SHORT: You don't have a clue. You  
20 don't have --

21 MR. MANTELL: I'm not the finance. So  
22 I'm not sure on that. But I could find out and

1 give you answer back.

2 MR. SHORT: Please do.

3 MR. MANTELL: Yeah. Absolutely.

4 MR. SHORT: You'll give us an answer  
5 today?

6 MR. MANTELL: Yes, sir.

7 MR. SHORT: Okay. And now to the last  
8 gentleman.

9 MR. BRAMSON: I feel that the city is  
10 making a lot of money off of the sales tax  
11 revenue that we're bringing into all the bars. I  
12 mean, if there's thousands of participants  
13 drinking and spending money at those bars, that  
14 money is going back to the city. But personally,  
15 to answer your question --

16 MR. SHORT: I'm going to cut you off one  
17 moment. On Halloween night you paid no taxes,  
18 but you had 16,000 people. You're saying that  
19 the bars made money and they paid the taxes. But  
20 you walked away with a lot of money that night.  
21 And you walked away without cleaning the streets.  
22 You walked away without paying for anything

1 besides the fee you paid to ABRA; is that  
2 correct?

3 MR. BRAMSON: Well, we have fees that we  
4 -- I mean, to run the company -- to D.C., no. We  
5 didn't pay any other taxes.

6 MR. SHORT: Do you think you should?

7 MR. BRAMSON: I think, to be honest, I  
8 don't think we should. I think that the sales  
9 tax revenue that we generate from the business  
10 that we bring in more than covers the extra  
11 police officers. The clean-up, I think if it  
12 continues like this, then --

13 MR. SHORT: Oh, it's not going to  
14 continue like this --

15 MR. BRAMSON: Right. They should  
16 definitely --

17 MR. SHORT: -- don't worry. It's not --  
18 I could tell you the one vote I have, it's not  
19 going to continue. Don't even think that.

20 Let me ask you this: Do you pay any  
21 taxes in Alexandria, Virginia where you're based  
22 when you have events there? Do you pay any taxes

1 to Virginia other than your license when you have  
2 a pub crawl in Virginia?

3 MR. BRAMSON: Well, we're a Virginia-  
4 based company.

5 MR. SHORT: Do you pay any taxes for the  
6 revenue you get in a pub crawl?

7 MR. BRAMSON: Yes. Technically, yes, we  
8 do. Because we're based --

9 MR. SHORT: Not technically. Do you pay  
10 any money out of --?

11 MR. BRAMSON: Yes, we do--

12 MR. SHORT: -- out of the revenue? You  
13 pay money out of the revenue.

14 MR. BRAMSON: -- not of the revenue, no.  
15 We get --

16 MR. SHORT: Okay. Well, I'm going to  
17 divide off -- I'm going to also recommend that  
18 the Office of Tax and Revenue get involved with  
19 your pub crawls before I sign off on any other.  
20 I just have one vote and one signature. But I  
21 think that if you can walk into Washington D.C.,  
22 especially unlicensed, cause this kind of trouble

1 -- we had to have 125 police officers in one  
2 section of town. Which means where I live, they  
3 probably had to pull police off of my beat or my  
4 precinct or my district or my PSA to protect your  
5 business interests. And you paid nothing for  
6 that. Do you think that's fair? Any one of you?  
7 You don't think it's fair?

8 MR. MANTELL: I don't.

9 MR. SHORT: What do you suggest we do to  
10 make it fair?

11 MR. MANTELL: We should contribute.  
12 There should be some sort of fee for the  
13 community for the clean-up process to insure that  
14 the resources are allocated properly and that we  
15 make sure that this does not -- it will never  
16 happen again. But I think --

17 MR. SHORT: [Indiscernible]

18 MR. MANTELL: -- we make sure that we  
19 properly compensate for this issue.

20 MR. SHORT: And you will. You will.  
21 Thank you very much. That's all I have.

22 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: One more question.

1 Because I happened to have that same question. I  
2 want to bring this to a closure. Okay. Go  
3 ahead, sir. Go ahead.

4 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. Thank you. I  
5 want to finish up with two areas. First, my  
6 concern here the central Business District which  
7 is struggling because of all the construction and  
8 other things and competition elsewhere.  
9 Businesses had to close or had loss of business  
10 because of what was going on midday, and it  
11 turned into a "party-plex," a trash heap, and a  
12 "vomitorium" when, in fact, it should have been  
13 people shopping.

14 And I'm wondering if any of you have  
15 offered anything to Golden Triangle to help clean  
16 up your mess. They spent a ton of money. And  
17 there was a lot of things that were broken and  
18 taxpayer money was spent to plant things that  
19 were trampled and destroyed. Have any of you  
20 offered to do anything to help out being that you  
21 all had a good profit out of this? I'll take  
22 that as a no.



1 MS. BENNER: We have not, no. I did  
2 speak with Investigator Puente -- I apologize if  
3 I said it wrong -- that had we been told that,  
4 you know, clean-up was as bad as it was, I just  
5 got this report two days ago, so I didn't even  
6 know who complained of anything.

7 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay.

8 MS. BENNER: We definitely moving forward  
9 or would have.

10 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yes, sir.

11 MR. MANTELL: We will contribute to the  
12 BID until -- you know, we did the least amount of  
13 people in this whole thing, but, you know, it's  
14 appalling to see what that looked like. So we  
15 will contribute and --

16 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Project DC?

17 MR. BRAMSON: We have no problem  
18 contributing. We just, we've had events for the  
19 last 3-and-a-half years and this has never been  
20 brought up to us before so --

21 MR. SILVERSTEIN: And probably the most  
22 important question, and this is to Commander

1 Gresham: With what happened in Paris and what  
2 happened, also, in San Bernardino, how should  
3 these events inform what we do in the future?  
4 Has anything in the world changed in terms of  
5 time, size, amount of notice that you need,  
6 ability to get from point A to point B? And  
7 specifically, and this is why I'm asking. We're  
8 going to have to look at a New Year's Eve  
9 application and something before Christmas. What  
10 are your concerns as the person who's tasked to  
11 protect us?

12           COMMANDER GRESHAM: I think, by far, the  
13 foremost concern is by having such a large number  
14 of patrons in a concentrated area creates a much  
15 larger target. It's very difficult to, I guess,  
16 render first aid in the unfortunate event if  
17 something like that did happen because of the  
18 gridlock in the areas.

19           I would highly recommend that the public  
20 crawl applicants have to hire reimbursable police  
21 officers. That way, they would have more of an  
22 impact on the activities, and also, they can

1 impose limitations on the, I guess, ingress and  
2 egress of patrons.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: RDO. And I would like  
4 to associate myself with the words and the  
5 comments of my colleague, Mr. Alberti, regarding  
6 Lindy and the fact that you folks have been so  
7 good in the past and that we've not had these  
8 serious problems.

9 This has been in my neighborhood. And  
10 I've been a big supporter of a lot of these  
11 things. But, when it reaches this point, we have  
12 an entirely different world.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 MS. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I have just a  
15 few questions.

16 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I have not asked any  
17 questions and I'm trying to bring this up, so I'm  
18 going to ask a couple of questions and then I'll  
19 probably allow just a few more so it can bring us  
20 to an end.

21 This is for Project DC and also for Lindy  
22 Promotions. You guys have done this before. So

1 what went wrong on Halloween? What went wrong?  
2 And what can you do to prevent this from  
3 recurring?

4 MS. BENNER: I'll speak first. Lindy  
5 Promotions, what went wrong was obviously the  
6 glitch in our system and we take full  
7 responsibility for that. And we have worked with  
8 a tech team to make sure that it does not happen  
9 again where we can actually put a capacity on the  
10 number of tickets sold so our system cannot go  
11 over that.

12 MR. BRAMSON: I think the issue, overall,  
13 is the fact that there was three pub crawls on  
14 one day. And, if you add up all the participants  
15 including the glitch and, you know, the  
16 unexpected pub crawl, and then we went over a  
17 little bit, that added up. And that wasn't  
18 expected. You know, if it would have been just  
19 one pub crawl, I don't think it would have  
20 happened on that day.

21 Also, being Halloween night, kind of like  
22 the perfect storm, that added a lot of other

1 participants and people that just came on their  
2 own anyways and didn't necessarily participate in  
3 the bar crawls. So I think just having three pub  
4 crawls on one day was just overboard, and I think  
5 that's what caused a lot of the lines, the trash.  
6 Being Halloween night added onto that as well.

7 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Powell, you had  
8 stated earlier that something -- you said that  
9 there are 52 businesses in the area that account  
10 for 30 percent of your revenue?

11 MR. POWELL: Yes. No, sir. Account for  
12 less than 1 percent.

13 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Less than 1 percent.  
14 So the 52 business, you're saying they are the  
15 bad actors in this?

16 MR. POWELL: We are funded through a tax  
17 assessment, per square foot, on commercial real  
18 estate -- not residential -- only commercial. In  
19 that area, many of these buildings are smaller  
20 buildings. So they have a much smaller tax  
21 footprint. So we're not talking about 600,000  
22 700,000 square foot buildings. Those buildings

1 around there, when we did a study, accounted for,  
2 like, 00.01 percent of our total revenue, but yet  
3 we've dedicated all of these resources;  
4 purchasing equipment, starting at 5:00 a.m.

5 We now have teams that go to those areas  
6 first to clean every day. It used to be just  
7 weekends. Now it's every day. And then you add  
8 on something like this. We're not staffed on the  
9 weekends to do that. We're staffed to do  
10 painting and do projects that we can't do during  
11 the day when there's so many people around. And  
12 we just couldn't get any of our painting done.  
13 Couldn't get any of our other project work done  
14 that we were supposed to do when something like  
15 this happens. And it was just above and beyond,  
16 what I saw.

17 But that core area around these blocks  
18 accounts for a very small part of our tax  
19 revenue, and does account for many of our  
20 challenges.

21 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. You said you  
22 had a couple questions, Ms. Miller. Please keep

1    them brief so we can bring closure to this.

2           MS. MILLER:  Commander Gresham, I really  
3    appreciate your being here.  And I want to just  
4    follow up and make sure we get all we can from  
5    you.  And I think that you were saying that  
6    notice is very important and we've heard that.

7           COMMANDER GRESHAM:  Yes, ma'am.

8           MS. MILLER:  Separate from, you know,  
9    doing something with Homeland Security, how much  
10   notice do you need?  And what do you need notice  
11   of, specifically?

12          COMMANDER GRESHAM:  I would say,  
13   internally for the Second District, at least a  
14   month notice.  That way we can make some  
15   personnel changes specifically to address the  
16   event.

17          MS. MILLER:  Okay.  And what do you need  
18   notice on, like, number of participants, who it  
19   is?

20          COMMANDER GRESHAM:  Yes, ma'am.  The  
21   number --

22          MS. MILLER:  Establishments?

1           COMMANDER GRESHAM: -- the promoter, the  
2 participating establishments, and the hours.

3           MS. MILLER: And the hours, okay. Thank  
4 you.

5           And to the pub crawl organizations, I  
6 just wanted to get your reaction to Commander  
7 Gresham's points that the limit should be 250  
8 participants and should end at 11:00, if you have  
9 any comments on that.

10          MR. MANTELL: I can take it if that's  
11 okay with you, Ms. Miller.

12          MS. MILLER: Yes. Okay.

13          MR. MANTELL: I think 250 guests is a bit  
14 low when you have this amount of participating  
15 venues. I think we can go at a higher capacity.  
16 I think we just need to plan better -- my  
17 organization specifically. But we all need to  
18 plan a little bit better with notifying the local  
19 precinct, MPD, ABRA, all of the venues, and get  
20 everybody on the same page.

21          And I feel that if we get everybody on  
22 the same page and all pre-approved and that we



1 have a, you know, a clean-up plan, additional  
2 security at all the venues, I don't believe this  
3 should be an issue.

4 Do I believe that there should be a cap  
5 on multiple pub crawls? Absolutely. But, I  
6 think at the same time, 250 is very low. And I  
7 think it's just, you know, providing additional  
8 security and providing a solid clean-up crew and  
9 it can make a seamless and a prosperous economy  
10 for D.C.

11 MS. MILLER: Okay. Anybody else?

12 MR. BRAMSON: Yeah. I mean, I believe  
13 that if in the past we haven't had any issues and  
14 we've had higher numbers, then this wouldn't be a  
15 conversation right now had there been three pub  
16 crawls in one day and all the numbers added up  
17 into one. I think that if, for example, bar  
18 crawl -- if there wasn't two other ones,  
19 everything would have been fine. There wouldn't  
20 have been all that trash. There wouldn't have  
21 been the lines are blocking the streets and so  
22 forth.

1           So I wouldn't do such a drastic change  
2 where it's, you know, say, the normal one is from  
3 2,000 to 3,500 and all of a sudden drop it down  
4 to 250 if there hasn't been any prior incidents  
5 or problems.

6           MS. MILLER: Thank you.

7           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Who are  
8 you, sir?

9           MR. KIRK: I'm Kevin Kirk. We do Nivek  
10 Events. And we do about five events, bar crawls,  
11 here in D.C., and I'd love to answer this  
12 question because it also affects our company.

13          CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Oh, so you're from  
14 what organization?

15          MR. KIRK: Nivek Events. We do the Snow  
16 Day Bar Crawl and a few other bar crawls here in  
17 D.C. as well.

18          MR. KNIESER: Could you spell that,  
19 please; Nivek?

20          MR. KIRK: Nivek is N-i-v-e-k.

21          MR. KNIESER: Thank you.

22          MR. KIRK: Nivek Events. So I just

1 wanted to address your question as well. I think

2 --

3 [Simultaneous speaking.]

4 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You want to wait for  
5 their response.

6 MR. KIRK: Yes.

7 MR. SHORT: What, just --

8 MS. MILLER: [Indiscernible]

9 MR. KIRK: I don't have to talk about it.

10 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You want to wait for  
11 the Board to acknowledge you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What is it that? --  
13 I'm trying to have an orderly hearing here. And  
14 I guess you're saying that based on the question  
15 that was asked, that you have something to add.  
16 I have to make a decision so -- all right. So  
17 identify who you are, sir, and keep it brief.

18 MR. KIRK: Sure. My name's Kevin Kirk.  
19 I'm part of Nivek Events. That's N-i-v-e-k  
20 Events. We also do pub crawls here in D.C. Our  
21 largest one is the Snow Day Bar Crawl. And this  
22 here will be the fifth annual year for that

1 event.

2           And then, in relation to your question,  
3 the reason I spoke up and wanted to say something  
4 was I think 250, obviously -- I agree with  
5 Project DC as well as Lindy -- that is a very low  
6 number, especially when we're used to doing  
7 3,000-person events.

8           I think a big, critical, critical thing  
9 here for this particular issue that occurred on  
10 Halloween was that most of the time we all do  
11 events during the day when the bars are not  
12 filled. As a result, having 3,000 people out  
13 when the establishments only have a couple dozen  
14 people -- other patrons in their bars -- is why  
15 it's a much safer environment and also probably  
16 why you guys have never had any other issues with  
17 us or any of us.

18           On the night of Halloween, of course, not  
19 only is it a Saturday night, it's also Halloween.  
20 Which means you're already going to get -- I  
21 think he mentioned -- 5,000 on a typical Friday  
22 night. That's going to increase on Halloween.

1 It's also a Saturday night and everybody brought  
2 in 10,000 additional participants, collectively.

3 So I think that was a major, major issue.  
4 And I think if we're going to specify a number, I  
5 think it should be specified during day hours  
6 when there's not a night crowd versus if you are  
7 going to do pub crawls at night. It should be a  
8 smaller number because you're going to have  
9 normal patrons that are already going to be  
10 participating and going to those bars.

11 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 MS. MILLER: So, when you say, "day  
13 hours," though, what hours do we do?

14 MR. KIRK: We've only ever done bar  
15 crawls during the day -- Nivek Events -- and we  
16 always do 2:00 p.m. And we usually cut them off  
17 at 10:00 p.m. before everybody else comes out at  
18 10:00 with the night crowd, in general.

19 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Thank you  
20 very much for your presentation. It's been very  
21 informative. I'm the newest member. So I don't  
22 have a history. So it's been good for me to hear

1 what you have to say. And we'll see whatever  
2 follow-up is necessary. And we'll let you know,  
3 okay? Thank you very much.

4 MR. MANTELL: Thank you.

5 MR. ALBERTI: I had no questions of you  
6 because --

7 INVESTIGATOR PUENTE: That's okay. Thank  
8 you. Thank you, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Hold on. And then  
10 we'll take a break before we hear another one.

11 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Ladies and gentlemen,  
12 can you move the conversation to the back of the  
13 room so I can continue this process. Thank you.

14 Before calling the other bar crawl, I  
15 just want to --

16 MR. SHORT: Gentlemen.

17 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: -- we're going to  
18 take a break.

19 [Whereupon, at 11:34 a.m., the above-  
20 entitled matter was concluded.]