

1 GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
2 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION  
3 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

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5 IN THE MATTER OF: :  
6 Ekho Events, Inc., : Fact-finding  
7 t/a Echostage : Hearing  
8 2135 Queens Chapel Road NE :  
9 License #ABRA-90250 : Hearing  
10 Retailer Class CN :  
11 ANC-5C : Case No.  
12 Request for a Fact-finding : 15-251-00199  
13 Hearing (MPD Letter :  
14 Dated 9/29/2015) :

15 - - - - -X

16 Wednesday, December 2, 2015

17  
18 Whereupon, the above-referenced matter  
19 came on for hearing at the Alcoholic Beverage  
20 Control Board, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street,  
21 N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009.

22

1 CHAIRPERSON:

2 DONOVAN ANDERSON, Presiding

3

4 BOARD MEMBERS:

5 RUTHANNE MILLER

6 NICK ALBERTI

7 MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN

8 JAMES SHORT

9

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 AMRAN AMIRSHAHI,

12 On behalf of Echostage

13 ANDRE DEMOYA,

14 On behalf of Echostage

15 MATTHEW CRONIN,

16 On behalf of Echostage

17 ANTONIS KARAGOUNIS

18 On behalf of Echostage

19 RODERIC WOODSON, Esq.

20 On behalf of Echostage

21 KEVIN PUENTE,

22 On behalf of ABRA

1 JOHN SUERO,

2 On behalf of ABRA

3 MARK LEE, SERGEANT

4 On behalf of the Metropolitan Police

5 Department, 5th District

6 ANDREW STRUHAR, ACTING LIEUTENANT

7 On behalf of Narcotics and Special

8 Investigations Division, Metropolitan Police

9 Department

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

2 [3:04 p.m.]

3 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. The next  
4 fact-finding hearing on our calendar today is  
5 Case No. 15-251-00199, Echostage.

6 Will the parties appear?

7 (Pause)

8 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And can you please  
9 identify -- once you're seated, sign your name in  
10 the front of the sign-in sheet, and once -- when  
11 you give your name, please spell your name for  
12 the record for the transcriber, please.

13 (Pause)

14 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, you can start,  
15 sir. Identify yourself. Write your name and  
16 then spell your name for the record, please.

17 MR. AMIRSHAHI: Arman Amirshahi. First  
18 name, A-R-M-A-N, last name A-M-I-R-S-H-A-H-I.

19 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And can you please  
20 just tell us what your role is, once you've  
21 (Inaudible).

22 MR. AMIRSHAHA: Thank you.

1 MR. DEMOYA: Andre Demoya. A-N-D-R-E D-  
2 E-M-O-Y-A. (Inaudible portion)

3 MALE SPEAKER: I'm sorry? I got your  
4 name, but I didn't --

5 MR. DEMOYA: Managing partner at  
6 Echostage.

7 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 MR. CRONIN: Matthew Cronin, M-A-T-T-H-E-  
9 W, last name, CRON as in Nancy, I-N, as in Nancy.

10 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: There is a recorder  
11 in front of you, so you can use that so you'll  
12 pick up your --

13 MR. CRONIN: And I'm the general manager.

14 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay.

15 MR. KARAGOUNIS: Antonis, A-N-T-O-N-I-S,  
16 Karagounis, K-A-R-A-G, as in George, O-U-N-I-S,  
17 owner of Echostage.

18 MR. WOODSON: Good afternoon, Chairman  
19 and members of the board.

20 I'm Roderic Woodson. I'm a partner at  
21 Holland & Knight, and we are counsel to  
22 Echostage.

1 (Discussion off the record)

2 MR. PUENTE: Kevin Puente, P-U-E-N-T-E.

3 I'm an ABRA investigator.

4 (Pause)

5 MR. SUERO: Investigator John Suero, S-U-  
6 E-U-R-O. John, is the common spelling.

7 Investigator with ABRA.

8 SARGEANT LED: All right, Sergeant Mark  
9 Led from the Metropolitan Police Department, 5th  
10 District.

11 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Just spell your name  
12 for her.

13 SGT. LEE: Okay, it's -- first name is  
14 going to be M-A-R-K, last name, L-E-E.

15 LT. STRUHAR: Andrew Struhar, S-T-R-U-H-  
16 A-R, currently acting lieutenant for the  
17 Narcotics and Special Investigations Division,  
18 Metropolitan Police Department.

19 (Pause)

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right, Mr.  
21 Puente?

22 MR. PUENTE: Yes.

1           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you -- are you  
2 leading this matter?

3           MR. PUENTE: Yes.

4           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you -- are you  
5 leading this matter?

6           MR. PUENTE: Yes.

7           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Can you tell us why  
8 we're here today, please?

9           MR. PUENTE: Yes. On September 29th,  
10 2015, MPD Assistant Chief of Police, Peter Nushem  
11 (phonetic), sent a letter to ABRA requesting a  
12 fact-finding hearing about the events of August  
13 21st, 2015, as well as the last year at  
14 Echostage, located at 2135 Queens Chapel Road,  
15 North East.

16           Chief Nushem stated in his letter that in  
17 the past year, from August 21st of -- since  
18 August 21st, they have received 212 calls of  
19 service by MPD, as well as 26 calls from D.C.  
20 Fire Department.

21           Additionally, MPD had to write 112  
22 incident reports that were generated from

1 Echostage.

2           On August 21st, 2015, there was six  
3 reports generated that night, four being sick  
4 persons to the hospital, one being an arrest for  
5 a simple assault, and one being an arrest for  
6 possession of drugs.

7           The first MPD report, CCN 151 30542, was  
8 taken on August 22nd. It details that Echostage  
9 security staff member found two men in a stall,  
10 and they escorted him outside, and when they  
11 emptied their pockets, one guy had 20 yellow  
12 pills in a white bag -- 20 yellow pills in a bag,  
13 and MPD arrested him with those drugs.

14           The second MPD report, CCN 151 30628  
15 documents the assault that occurred between two  
16 individuals, and one individual was arrested for  
17 that assault.

18           The third MPD report, CCN 151 30700  
19 details a person that was conscious, was under  
20 the --

21           (Simultaneous discussion)

22           MALE SPEAKER: 212 -- sorry.

1           MR. PUENTE: That was conscious, but  
2           stated that he had taken the drug, Molly, and may  
3           have overdosed on it and had to be transported to  
4           the hospital.

5           The fourth MPD to be do (sic) on report  
6           CCN-151-30-701, documents a conscious person  
7           admitting to taking the drug, Molly, and had to  
8           be transported to the hospital.

9           The fifth MPD report, CCN-151-30-656,  
10          documents a person who stated that he had taken  
11          the drug, Molly, and he had suffered self-  
12          inflicted bite marks on his lips and had to be  
13          taken to the hospital.

14          The sixth MPD report, CCN-151-30-552,  
15          documents a person who claims he had taken the  
16          drug, Molly, as well, and was under the influence  
17          and had to be transported to the hospital.

18          On Friday, November 13th, 2015, I visited  
19          Echostage. I spoke with the ABC manager and the  
20          general manager, Mr. Cronin, who gave me some  
21          details about what happened on that night. The  
22          (Inaudible) has this security system, but only

1 has a 30 day retention period. These events  
2 occurred in August, so, it was outside of the  
3 retention period for me to review the video.

4 But that night, they had a Dutch duo disc  
5 jockey performing, and that night, they  
6 approximately had 45 security officers working on  
7 any given night. They also have of the staff,  
8 four EMTs staffed on their staff any given night.  
9 And on that night, one EMOTIONAL was working, Mr.  
10 Marty Cusick (phonetic), who I spoke to on the  
11 phone.

12 He gave me details about what happened  
13 with each of the victims. They all complained of  
14 being -- they were -- they might have taken  
15 drugs. One victim admitted that he was in the  
16 sun for 16 hours and that he had drinking (sic)  
17 alcohol, so they erred on the side of caution,  
18 and Mr. Cronin had called 911.

19 The EMTs felt like if they can't handle  
20 it, they're going to call 911 to get people  
21 assistance. One of the victims was a 16 year old  
22 kid. I could not speak to him. I couldn't get a

1 number to confirm his age.

2           So, I emailed the officer. She confirmed  
3 that he was 16 years old. That's what the  
4 subject told them at the scene. I spoke with  
5 Officer Marony (phonetic) who was assigned to the  
6 RDO detail on that night. She advised that that  
7 night, the ABC manager, Ben Licht (phonetic)  
8 (Inaudible) establishment cooperated fully with  
9 MPD officers, provided assistance to them  
10 whenever they needed it.

11           And their RDO details started  
12 approximately about 12:00 a.m. And that's the  
13 end of my testimony.

14           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Officer Lee, do you  
15 have anything to add?

16           SGT. LEE: Well, just in my comings and  
17 going to the Echostage you know, for the various  
18 incidents, the staff has been very cooperate.  
19 But I will say that it's actually a strain on our  
20 manpower sometimes, because some of the reports  
21 and some of the issues we have to respond for --  
22 the sick person at the hospital and the different

1 other events going on over there. So --

2 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Okay. Officer  
3 Struhar?

4 LT. STRUHAR: Struhar.

5 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Struhar. I'm sorry.

6 LT. STRUHAR: Yes, sir. When the  
7 Narcotics Division --

8 MALE SPEAKER: Sir, you can get closer to  
9 the mic so that she can hear you.

10 LT. STRUHAR: Sure, I can.

11 (Discussion off the record)

12 LT. STRUHAR: So, the Narcotics Division  
13 has done -- been asked to do proactive recent  
14 operations at Echostage. One, we did without  
15 notifying management. The second one, we did  
16 October 30th of this year, and did notify  
17 management prior to the operation.

18 They were extremely cooperative in  
19 getting our individuals in the club, both the  
20 undercover officers and the support members. On  
21 October 30th, we made six arrests total for the  
22 night, ranging from amphetamine -- possession

1 with intent to distribute amphetamine, cocaine,  
2 one LSD arrest, which is extremely odd.

3 I think from our intelligence standpoint,  
4 a lot of the drug activity is driven by the  
5 particular event or the performer, which is  
6 probably not surprising to any of you. So, when  
7 we do our operations, we look for a particular  
8 act that's going to be there, and it draws a  
9 particular group of people and a particular kind  
10 of drug.

11 A lot of these incidents that were  
12 referred to -- you heard the people self-reported  
13 taking Molly. And the problem with problem, it's  
14 an amphetamine, but it's a generic amphetamine  
15 term.

16 So, when people are selling Molly, they  
17 may be selling Ecstasy, they may be selling MDMA,  
18 they may be selling actually Molly. There may be  
19 something else. There may be adulterance in the  
20 tablets or the pills.

21 So, a lot of the problems that we see are  
22 people that have said, well, I took this before,

1 so I'll be fine, and it's a completely different  
2 drug, and they're running into problems. So, a  
3 lot of the problems, I think, at least from the  
4 complaints that we get, seem to generate around  
5 the amphetamine type acts.

6 (Pause)

7 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Now, is this  
8 typically? I mean, I know you said that based on  
9 the promoters, but I mean, do you see this  
10 typically at the clubs, or you see this a lot in  
11 this particular establishment?

12 LT. STRUHAR: I think we have seen it in  
13 other clubs. I don't know if the level has been  
14 the same. We haven't had the same complaints on  
15 a reference. I think the venue is unique in the  
16 city, as well.

17 So, I don't think a lot of the other  
18 clubs have the same type of crowd amounts and  
19 issues as they may have.

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm just going to  
21 have Mr. Silverstein ask a question, and then,  
22 I'm going to allow the club, before we have any

1 more questions asked to --

2 (Simultaneous discussion)

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Yeah, I'd like to ask  
4 some questions here, to that it's -- at least you  
5 have an idea of what we're dealing with; what  
6 we're interested in.

7 First, sir, you say this club is unique.  
8 Explain to all of us why this is a unique venue.

9 LT. STRUHAR: It's a large venue. It can  
10 hold a lot of people, and I think it's well known  
11 that they had -- the venue, from different  
12 locations in the -- not just Washington, D.C.,  
13 but outside of Washington, D.C.

14 So, when they have certain shows, they  
15 attract a crowd that's not just local, but maybe  
16 you know, Maryland, further out towards  
17 Baltimore, Maryland. So, they attract a very  
18 wide crowd.

19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Part of this summer, I  
20 did some traveling, and there were similar cases  
21 involving clubs in Canada that I saw, that were  
22 large venues, and they had the same issues of

1 drugs.

2           The first question is, where are they  
3 getting the drugs? Are they getting them and  
4 using them before they go there, or are they  
5 getting them at the club? Or you know, if people  
6 are getting drugs before they go there, that's an  
7 entirely different question.

8           LT. STRUHAR: The questions that I have  
9 direct knowledge of, that people were bringing --  
10 smuggling the narcotics into the club, and then  
11 trafficking them from inside.

12           So, are there people that take them  
13 beforehand? Probably. But I don't have any  
14 firsthand knowledge of that. None of our arrests  
15 were of that nature. They were people selling  
16 inside the club.

17           MR. SILVERSTEIN: And this question is  
18 for all of you. That being the case, has the  
19 club been cooperative in the suggestions that  
20 you've made? And is there anything more that  
21 they could at this time?

22           SGT. LEE: So, Sgt. Mark Lee. That's a

1 little bit above my rank, so I don't make  
2 decisions on that, as far as (Laughter) -- I'm  
3 just being honest with you.

4 MR. SILVERSTEIN: All right. All right.  
5 Mr. Suero and Mr. Puente, (Inaudible) --

6 (Simultaneous discussion)

7 MR. PUENTE: I know when I got there --

8 MR. SILVERSTEIN: -- cooperate to us --  
9 with us?

10 MR. PUENTE: -- the security does a light  
11 pat down search of the patrons coming in before  
12 the shows, to check in and see if they've got any  
13 contraband on them.

14 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Suero?

15 MR. SUERO: I would say that you can  
16 always do more. If there are that many incidents  
17 at one particular location, then whatever steps  
18 they're taking are clearly not adequate, and you  
19 can do more.

20 You can empty out bags, packages, not  
21 allow them. If you have a big, open it up, empty  
22 it. Empty your pockets. I mean, this is not

1 just one incident. This is multiple incidents.  
2 And as you're aware, there have been some  
3 tragedies here before.

4 So, I would suggest that the club can go  
5 beyond what they have done and have been doing to  
6 try and address the issue (Inaudible) services.

7 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you for  
8 mentioning that, Mr. Suero. We have an  
9 obligation, not just to the citizens of the  
10 District of Columbia, but to the parents of three  
11 young people who died there.

12 And when you read a letter that was sent  
13 to you by the parents of one of those young  
14 people, that was sent to this board, it just  
15 breaks your heart. And you ask yourself, have we  
16 all done all that we can?

17 And this is not just a hearing to  
18 determine facts, but also, it's something that we  
19 owe to the parents of those young people who died  
20 in there, because of drug overdoses and actions  
21 that may have been precipitated by the use of  
22 drugs.

1 I have no further questions.

2 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you. You have  
3 an opportunity to state your (Inaudible) -- make  
4 a representation. And please, identify yourself,  
5 each before you speak. Identify yourself for the  
6 transcriber, please.

7 MR. WOODSON: All right, Chairman  
8 Anderson, on behalf of Echostage, I'm Roderic  
9 Woodson, for the record.

10 I'm going to ask two of the members of  
11 Echostage that are present today to give  
12 statements to the board, and I'll start with Mr.  
13 Demoya?

14 MR. DEMOYA: Yes. My name is Andre  
15 Demoya. I'm managing partner at Echostage.

16 I've been there since the beginning.  
17 These are our partners and general managers that  
18 have all been here from the beginning. We opened  
19 it in 2012 as a concert venue that hosted dance  
20 music events, Grammy award artists.

21 For example, David Getta (phonetic),  
22 Calvin Harris, for example. As we've grown as a

1 business, we've expanded our business to  
2 different types of concerts, as well. For  
3 example, JZ, Grammy award winning artist Elle  
4 Goulding, as well. We've also done different  
5 types of events. We've hosted the National  
6 Symphony Orchestra, as well, at our venue.

7 We consistently work with the community  
8 and police on anything and everything we can do  
9 to make sure that the patrons are safe in our  
10 establishment. We are in constant communication  
11 with the police. We are in constant  
12 communication with the community of any of their  
13 concerns.

14 For example, we do a trash detail that  
15 keeps -- you know, cleans up the area after an  
16 event, for example. We also do charity events.  
17 This will be our third year doing a Christmas  
18 event for children of incarcerated parents. We  
19 just hosted a Thanksgiving turkey drive, as well.

20 So, just basically, in closing, just as  
21 an opening statement, we're here to have a safe  
22 environment at our venue, and that's the most

1 important thing for us. That's it.

2 MR. WOODSON: Now, Mr. Demoya?

3 MR. DEMOYA: Yes, sir?

4 MR. WOODSON: Over the last year, 12  
5 months, 12 months, how many days of that 365 has  
6 Echostage been open?

7 MR. DEMOYA: Approximately, I would say  
8 90 days.

9 MR. WOODSON: 90 days?

10 (No response heard)

11 MR. WOODSON: And so, in the course of a  
12 month, that would be about what?

13 MR. DEMOYA: In the course of a month,  
14 that's an average of about 8 to 10 events per  
15 months.

16 MR. WOODSON: Eight to ten events a  
17 month. And are those events all on weekends?

18 MR. DEMOYA: Predominately, yes.

19 MR. WOODSON: Mr. Chairman, the second  
20 presentation will be from Mr. Cronin.

21 Mr. Cronin?

22 MR. CRONIN: Good afternoon.

1 MR. WOODSON: State your name.

2 MR. CRONIN: Matthew Cronin, general  
3 minute.

4 I guess I'll just give some -- run down  
5 some security procedures and plans that we do  
6 have in place on a typical evening, just to kind  
7 of answer some of the questions or points that  
8 were brought up.

9 Starting at the front of the building, we  
10 do voluntarily have an RDO every night we're  
11 open. It's usually around four to six officers  
12 that are out front. It varies on the size of the  
13 show.

14 We do full pat downs at the door. No one  
15 walks inside the venue without being patted down.  
16 We search every bag that comes inside the venue.  
17 We employ around 45 security guards on average,  
18 but that does go up.

19 And after the person is searched and they  
20 walk into the venue, we have security everywhere  
21 inside the venue. It's one large open space, so  
22 it's pretty clear lines of sight across the

1 entire venue.

2           We have roaming teams inside the venue.  
3 Sometimes, we disguise our roaming teams in plain  
4 clothes to identify or try to spot any suspicious  
5 activity that might be going on inside the venue.  
6 We have EMTs, usually two to four EMTs in what's  
7 designated a first aid room that give care to any  
8 distressed or sick person -- anyone needing  
9 police or medical attention.

10           Our standing directive since we've opened  
11 the venue to our EMTs has been that management  
12 will not make the call if someone needs to be  
13 transported to a hospital and needs additional  
14 medical attention. The EMT will make that  
15 decision.

16           The reason for that is that I'm not a  
17 medical expert; the EMTs are. We've told them to  
18 err on the side of caution. When they take the  
19 vitals, attached with the reports -- I believe  
20 that the investigator mentioned, we have the  
21 vitals of every individual that went through the  
22 first aid room, for those reports.

1           Anything, anything at all that appears to  
2 be out of the ordinary, I mean, we err on the  
3 side of caution, and we will call an ambulance.  
4 We usually go out front and contact our RDO.  
5 That's our standard procedure to get that  
6 ambulance called as quickly as possible.

7           Aside from that, we stay on top of all  
8 security procedures for similar venues. Our  
9 security has been chosen to do training for  
10 festivals in the area. They've worked at  
11 multiple other venues in Washington, D.C. as well  
12 as Maryland.

13           Because of the type of venue we are, we  
14 have high profile acts that come through, and  
15 they have attached security liaisons and members  
16 from all over the world, and they've all been  
17 hugely complimentary of our security staff.

18           Our pat downs do extend all the way down  
19 to the feet, the socks, the shoes, sometimes. We  
20 do everything we can to humanly search without  
21 getting into a person's private areas. I'll  
22 defer in terms of Andre Demoya if I've forgotten

1 anything else about security.

2 Oh, and we have a large amount of  
3 cameras. We usually have at least one person out  
4 watching those cameras, keeping an eye on things.  
5 And that's just kind of like all of our security  
6 plan right there, that I can think of, off the  
7 top of my head.

8 MR. WOODSON: Would you specify, Mr.  
9 Cronin --

10 Roderic Woodson, again, for the record.

11 Would you specify the number of cameras  
12 that you have on the interior?

13 MR. CRONIN: I believe currently, it  
14 stands at around 50 cameras. Of those, I believe  
15 six are PTZ controlled and motion cameras, and  
16 four of those overlook the main floor. But we  
17 cover as much area as possible in the entire  
18 venue with cameras.

19 MR. WOODSON: One other questions: The  
20 retention cycle for your video is how long?

21 MR. CRONIN: It varies, based off of the  
22 amount of shows. The cameras -- most of the

1 cameras are set to record if there's motion or  
2 activation so that we're not wasting valuable  
3 space.

4 So, if we have 10 shows in a row, they  
5 may only last, you know, two, three, weeks. Two  
6 weeks, sometimes. If it's less shows, it could  
7 last upwards of a month. So, it really just kind  
8 of varies based off of retention. Most of --  
9 yeah, that's about it.

10 MR. WOODSON: I really don't have a  
11 statement to make at this moment, Mr. Chairman.

12 We would stand ready to respond to  
13 questions from the membership.

14 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yeah, I'm going to  
15 ask -- I just want to ask one question. What's  
16 the age limit to come inside the establishment?  
17 Since the report said that a 16 year old was  
18 found in the establishment, is it open to anyone  
19 -- are there -- there an age restriction?

20 MR. CRONIN: It depends on the show. But  
21 typically, the majority of the shows are 18 and  
22 over. Some have middle ages (sic).

1           MR. WOODSON:  Would you say that again,  
2  please?

3           MR. CRONIN:  Typically, the majority of  
4  shows are 18 and over, but we have hosted events  
5  that are all ages.

6           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON:  So, if you host  
7  events that are all ages, how do you ensure that  
8  you don't have underage drinking?

9           MR. CRONIN:  What we do for all of our  
10  shows that are 18 and over, we wrist band people  
11  that are 21 and over.  If you are under the age  
12  of 21, you get big Xs on your hand as a security  
13  precaution, so they cannot drink alcoholic  
14  beverages.

15           All of our bartenders are trained to look  
16  for those Xs and/or wristbands when people are  
17  ordering drinks.  We constantly monitor -- that's  
18  why we have roaming teams in the bathrooms.  Some  
19  kids will try and go in and wipe off of their --  
20  you know, wash off their marks on their hands.

21           If we catch them, we send them back out  
22  to get re-marked again.

1 (Simultaneous discussion)

2 MR. AMIRSHAHI: Also, we spend additional  
3 funds to -- we get these special plastic wrist  
4 bands which are not removable and able to be put  
5 back on. The sticky ones, you can take off and  
6 reattach. These are plastic. You'd have to  
7 actually break the band to remove it, so it's not  
8 something that can be moved to a different  
9 patron.

10 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Okay.  
11 Mr. Short, and then --

12 MR. SHORT: Good afternoon, young (sic).  
13 I would just simply say, I'm looking here that  
14 212 times in the 12 past months, MPD has  
15 responded to your location.

16 Twenty-six times in the last 12 months --  
17 well, this says EMS responded there 212 times.  
18 MPD responded there 26 times in that's  
19 (Inaudible). 112 offenses, incident reports have  
20 been generated.

21 Now, I know a little something about  
22 public safety in this town, and I know a little

1 something about night life in Washington, D.C.  
2 Our D.C. stadium, Kennedy Center, Convention  
3 Center -- none of them have this kind of drain on  
4 our resources.

5 So, when we have police officers that's  
6 called in their districts to (Inaudible)  
7 locations when you have these superstars, and  
8 then we have deaths, I don't want to speak out of  
9 turn, but when I did work with the city, we would  
10 call that a nuisance, and there are nuisance laws  
11 in that city that supersede the other boy (sic).

12 Deaths of people, especially young people  
13 -- we want you to have a license and we want you  
14 to make money. We want this city to have as many  
15 tax dollars coming in and to be as vibrant as  
16 possible.

17 But when we start getting drains on our  
18 resources, police officers coming from everywhere  
19 because of an incident at your location, when we  
20 start having people dying -- (Inaudible)  
21 mentioned the Kennedy Center and all those other  
22 places -- there's no other place in town that

1 seems to have the problem your establishment has.

2 Can either one of you answer why your  
3 establishment has these problems and other ones  
4 don't? Any answer you'd like to give. Anybody  
5 can answer that.

6 MR. WOODSON: Let me make a remark, if I  
7 could, Mr. Short.

8 MR. SHORT: Thank you.

9 MR. WOODSON: I've had some experience at  
10 dealing with MPD calls. I've had some experience  
11 in observing MPD operations. The reason I asked  
12 how many nights the club was open, Echostage was  
13 open over the course of a year was to point out a  
14 certain anomaly.

15 Two hundred and 12 calls would mean that  
16 there were at least two to three calls every time  
17 they were in business. That's one point. I  
18 wonder about that.

19 The second is, the address on Queens  
20 Chapel Road is the best known address in the  
21 area. And the truth of the matter is, when I sat  
22 up in your chairs -- when I sat there, Queens

1 Chapel and that space was the subject of  
2 countless, countless activity, and that's the  
3 only address that anyone ever seems to know, is  
4 2135.

5 It's often true that the reports about  
6 run -- police runs, happen to identify an address  
7 because it's the one everyone knows, and it's the  
8 one everyone can respond to quickly. But it  
9 often is not the one that's the issue.

10 One of the unfortunate things about this  
11 letter is that we were not able to really prepare  
12 to respond to that. The letter asks the board to  
13 address activities on one night or a night -- an  
14 evening and into the early morning of the next  
15 day.

16 And significant effort has been made to  
17 prepare for that. But for MPD to say, and oh, by  
18 the way, we have 212 this and 112 of that and 6  
19 of this and 2 of that, it's -- how does one  
20 respond to that?

21 I would say, I would say that the board  
22 has not been lax in any of this. The board has

1 been attentive to Echostage for as long as I've  
2 represented them, which has been from the  
3 beginning.

4           And the board has had multiple  
5 appearances from Echostage. We've had lengthy  
6 license renewal process where we examine their  
7 operations in great detail. The investigative  
8 report that you have before you on this lists  
9 prior investigative activity over the last --  
10 actually, going back to 2013.

11           Almost all of them, except perhaps one,  
12 were no further actions. The board has not been  
13 lax about this.

14           I would add one other thing. I remember  
15 very well the publicity surrounding the death of  
16 that young lady, because it got wide publicity.  
17 And if I'm not mistaken, it is that young lady's  
18 mother who has been writing.

19           MR. SILVERSTEIN: Who?

20           MR. WOODSON: I'm sorry?

21           MR. SILVERSTEIN: It was that young  
22 lady's mother who?

1 MR. WOODSON: Who has been writing the  
2 letters around the drug use in the city.

3 (Simultaneous discussion)

4 MR. WOODSON: I sympathize with that, but  
5 I make appoint. My point with that, Mr. Short,  
6 is that the death did not occur in Echostage.  
7 There was no way that that death could have been  
8 prevented by Echostage, itself.

9 MR. SHORT: Okay, now, please listen.

10 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. SHORT: You mentioned a lot of  
12 things.

13 MR. WOODSON: I did.

14 MR. SHORT: And you just mentioned lastly  
15 that one death didn't happen. Have there been  
16 any deaths inside of this establishment?

17 MR. WOODSON: I will ask the parties  
18 (Inaudible) respond.

19 MR. SHORT: Didn't someone fall off a  
20 balcony?

21 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah, he was conscious and  
22 breathing -- not conscious. I'm sorry. But he

1 was breathing when he was transported.

2 MR. SHORT: How many other injured  
3 parties have you had inside, not outside -- not  
4 to (Inaudible) address on your block -- inside of  
5 your establishment?

6 MALE SPEAKER: Injured?

7 MR. SHORT: Yes.

8 MALE SPEAKER: Like anything -- a  
9 sprained ankle or anything --

10 MR. SHORT: Any injuries.

11 MALE SPEAKER: It's not typical for us to  
12 have injuries. If I had to throw a speculation  
13 out there, rare.

14 MR. SHORT: Any assaults?

15 (Simultaneous discussion)

16 MALE SPEAKER: I can't even think of one,  
17 off the top of my head.

18 MR. SHORT: Okay. And lastly, for you,  
19 someone was caught with a bag of yellow pills  
20 inside of a bathroom stall or two minutes out of  
21 a bathroom stall. How did that occur? How were  
22 they found when the bag of yellow pills?

1           MALE SPEAKER: We have a security guard  
2 that patrols the men's room. We have a large  
3 men's room. I believe it's 30 bathroom stalls  
4 down the right side.

5           And we have a security guard that is  
6 stationed in there, as well as bathroom  
7 attendants that are -- also keep an eye out. And  
8 he wanders back and forth and looks for any  
9 unusual activity; people that are staying too  
10 long, especially multiple parties that are trying  
11 to enter one stall, is obviously an immediately  
12 red flag, and we would pull them out for  
13 questioning immediately, if we saw anything like  
14 that.

15           MR. SHORT: Okay. Now, this will be my  
16 question on this round, anyway. But I'll say  
17 this: When I mentioned the call and the drain on  
18 resources and safety issues, and it was said  
19 earlier that there must something else you can  
20 do, because apparently, everything you're doing  
21 isn't working.

22           Is there anything else you, as security,

1 can do, that could change there tomorrow; that  
2 could make me feel a little bit more comfortable  
3 -- this board member feel a little bit more  
4 comfortable about Echostage?

5 MALE SPEAKER: I'll speak first. I don't  
6 know if anyone else wants to elaborate. I think  
7 what was spoken to earlier is the same thing that  
8 we do. Anytime there is incident, especially a  
9 tragic one that you're aware of at all, whether  
10 it happens at our venue or anywhere around the  
11 area -- there have been other ones that we've  
12 seen and we've thought about, and we've contacted  
13 other resources --

14 I would say every day, we're constantly  
15 re-evaluating what we can do with the bag  
16 searches, searching people right up to the point  
17 where they feel uncomfortable. We've had people  
18 refuse our searches and leave the line, because  
19 they are that intensive.

20 It's one of those things where we think  
21 about it all the time, and we -- I just don't  
22 know. I mean, again, we are always open to

1 suggestions and ideas of how to improve in any  
2 way.

3 MR. SHORT: Well, I would say this, too.  
4 There must be some improvements. There must be  
5 some. When we have deaths in and around  
6 businesses, that make me very uncomfortable. And  
7 I know that a lot of citizens are very  
8 understand.

9 There must be something you can do,  
10 because having an ABC license isn't just  
11 something that -- it's privilege, just like a  
12 driver's license. And when people abuse them and  
13 don't take care of them properly, certain other  
14 things happen.

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

16 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Any other board  
17 members here --

18 MS. MILLER: I do. I have a question.

19 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And I'll come back to  
20 you. Go ahead, Ms. Miller.

21 MS. MILLER: So, when I read the  
22 September 29th letter in connection with the

1 history that I'm aware of from sitting on this  
2 board, is it your opinion that there is a problem  
3 with Molly and these type of drugs in your  
4 establishment?

5 MR. CRONIN: I think all drugs -- I think  
6 that's one that has come up over the years, and  
7 it's everywhere that we've heard of. We combat  
8 it daily -- all drugs, any paraphernalia, any  
9 illegal activity.

10 But again, it starts to -- from the  
11 searches, and then we keep adequate personnel  
12 roaming the crowds and searching them again for  
13 any suspicious activity.

14 MS. MILLER: Okay, let me say this, then,  
15 because I've sat on many cases with you all, and  
16 I've been very impressed by your attentiveness to  
17 all sorts of security and things at your venue.  
18 And there are different circumstances.

19 But I think after a while, it seems like  
20 this seems to be a dangerous problem, and I'm  
21 hearing like the same (Inaudible) -- your  
22 security does this, this and this. But it's not

1 solving the problem.

2           And maybe it's the impression that we're  
3 getting or that I'm getting. But you know, kids  
4 are dying. And maybe they don't die right in  
5 your establishment, but there is an association  
6 with your establishment. They had drugs there  
7 and then they die, or they're dealing drugs in  
8 the establishment.

9           And it just seems like -- you know, I  
10 don't feel so comfortable condoning -- to be in a  
11 position to condone what you're doing. I mean,  
12 maybe you have to do something different. Maybe  
13 you have to say, if we're hearing that certain  
14 performances drive this kind of activity, maybe  
15 you have to say maybe you won't do that.

16           I don't know. That's a different way.  
17 Obviously, your security -- I don't -- okay,  
18 here's the letter that you said that you needed  
19 to prepare for. Well, why wasn't that -- I mean,  
20 it's glad (sic) that you caught the drugs, but  
21 how did they get in? Do you know what is wrong  
22 with your security there?

1           MR. CRONIN: They typically say -- and we  
2 do question -- whenever someone is brought out of  
3 the crowd, we question. And in the EMT room,  
4 also, the friends, if ever anyone is sick.

5           And the traditional answer we get -- it's  
6 atypical and it's 90 percent of the time, is that  
7 because we're so strict at the door, they tend to  
8 take them before they enter the venue. And we  
9 constantly hear that.

10           People take it before they come. It  
11 takes a while for it to enter their bloodstream.  
12 It's a pill. And it usually doesn't kick in  
13 until they enter the venue.

14           So, it's not something that needs to be  
15 consumed inside the venue, and it's a problem  
16 with trying to identify, because it takes a while  
17 to kick in. They may walk up to the door and  
18 look totally fine.

19           MS. MILLER: Okay. But that wasn't the  
20 case here. The drugs were --

21           (Simultaneous discussion)

22           MR. CRONIN: And the way they tend to

1 smuggle --

2 MS. MILLER: -- according to the police  
3 report --

4 MR. CRONIN: -- we've had -- without  
5 sounding crude -- I can't think of a better way  
6 to put it, but in the crotch area or in the  
7 underwear would be the typical way they tend to  
8 smuggle in, is what we've heard.

9 MS. MILLER: Okay. So I mean, you may  
10 think that you know, I'm overreacting at this  
11 point, but I echo a lot of what I've heard others  
12 say here, as well. You know? Kids are dying.  
13 And so maybe you have to do something more than  
14 maybe what was reasonable a year or two  
15 (Inaudible portion).

16 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: All right. Mr.  
17 Silverstein?

18 MS. MILLER: But can I get a response?

19 MALE SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

20 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Oh, I apologize.

21 MR. CRONIN: I'll defer that to the  
22 ownership.

1 MS. MILLER: If you have a response.

2 MR. DEMOYA: Ms. Miller, I just want to  
3 reiterate, and I think what I heard from the  
4 Narcotics -- the Metropolitan Police Department,  
5 which we rely on heavily to work with in a  
6 constant manner on suggestions and things that we  
7 can do, because that's what they do, last time I  
8 checked.

9 So, when I spoke to them, you know, they  
10 said, Andre, there's certain things -- you know,  
11 all the procedures you guys have in place, we  
12 feel that they're good procedures. Now, if they  
13 were to tell me, hey, Andre, do this in a way  
14 better or safer environment, we have no problem  
15 doing something like that. And I think we've  
16 kept a constant communication with the police on  
17 that issue.

18 So, you know, if any -- you know,  
19 everyone can -- for example, investigators said,  
20 oh, you can search the bags a little bit better.  
21 You know, if they had -- if someone gives a  
22 suggestion, we'll do whatever we can to make it

1 better. That's what we do -- we're willing to  
2 do.

3 (Simultaneous discussion)

4 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Silverstein?

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'd like to follow up  
6 on that. But first, what is your capacity?  
7 What's the largest crowd you've had?

8 MR. CRONIN: I believe around 2,000.

9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Around?

10 MR. CRONIN: It's the largest crowd --

11 (Simultaneous discussion)

12 MR. CRONIN: Two thousand?

13 MR. CRONIN: Our capacity is 2,000. Yes.

14 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Okay. You've had three  
15 deaths and any number of other serious incidents  
16 in the past 18 months or so.

17 MR. WOODSON: Please, Mr. Silverstein, no  
18 one died in the club.

19 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Related to -- there's  
20 some nexus there. I appreciate that, Mr.  
21 Woodson.

22 (Discussion off the record)

1           MR. SILVERSTEIN: But my question is,  
2 what changes have you made in the past, say, year  
3 and a half, since the first incident. What have  
4 you done to make things better, to make things  
5 safer, or to respond?

6           I mean, this is a question that we really  
7 have to ask you and see what we've done.

8           MR. AMIRSHAHI: If I can answer.

9           MR. SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

10          MR. AMIRSHAHI: This is Arman Amirshahi.

11          One of the things I just want to be quite  
12 clear about, and I appreciate your time on this,  
13 and we've always been here for suggestions of  
14 things to make better.

15          This is a very popular venue and a very  
16 challenging area when we first got there. We  
17 have spent a tremendous amount of money and have  
18 listened to a number of the board members here  
19 regarding making things better and improving it,  
20 however you feel more (sic).

21          On the security plan, originally when we  
22 started, we said we were going to have 17 canvas

1 (phonetic). We have over 50. That's just one of  
2 many. Police detail is not required in our  
3 place. We have added anywhere from 6 to 12  
4 police officers every single night that we're  
5 open. Not required, but we do it.

6 EMT there are not required, but as we've  
7 gone out of our way to make sure that we have  
8 EMTs there for these shows to be over and  
9 precautions -- not necessarily --

10 (Simultaneous discussion)

11 MR. SILVERSTEIN: You voluntarily have an  
12 EMT there every night that you're open?

13 MR. AMIRSHAHI: Yes.

14 (Pause)

15 MR. AMIRSHAHI: We have it there, and  
16 we've had -- again, it's been unfortunate that  
17 we've had these deaths. But it happened after  
18 they had been or not even been in the club, in  
19 situations.

20 This drug epidemic is an issue  
21 everywhere. You know? It's unfortunate that  
22 it's happened and people take drugs that are not

1 knowledgeable about it. And trust me, we have  
2 families -- nobody wants to come here and see you  
3 guys every week.

4 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

5 MR. AMIRSHAHI: You know? We want to  
6 make sure that this club is a state of the art --  
7 and it's a Grammy award concert venue; that  
8 people are coming there to respect the place, and  
9 have a place for going in Washington, D.C., they  
10 have never seen before. This is not a typical  
11 night club. You know?

12 And we want to make sure that we have a  
13 space that you guys are proud of, as well. It  
14 does us no good, as Ruthanne Miller had  
15 mentioned, to come in here and try to have  
16 excuses or try to explain things.

17 We feel that we've gone overboard. And  
18 every time that we have a situation, we have  
19 EMTs, police detail, extra cameras, making sure  
20 we've done donations, cleaning up the  
21 neighborhood, making sure if there's calls --  
22 now, instead of -- and I'm not saying it's -- you

1 know, we went and looked at those reports on the  
2 police report, and there's only 50 something runs  
3 to Echostage directly.

4 I don't know where 200 something calls  
5 are coming. Regardless, we have instructed the  
6 management of this place, no matter what happens,  
7 if there's a 1 percent chance, and they're in the  
8 EMT room, and they feel that something is going  
9 wrong, to call an ambulance.

10 We don't want to be deterrent and say  
11 we're not going to do it now, because we're going  
12 to have to sit here and explain every single time  
13 why you're (Inaudible) the ambulances going  
14 there.

15 If there is a chance in Northeast  
16 Washington, D.C. that we're going to have an  
17 issue with a patron, we're going to make sure  
18 that we call an ambulance and be over precautions  
19 about that. We have added security in the front.

20 We've gotten two letters from two  
21 different commanders in that district that we  
22 have, I think, in front of us, that have

1 commended us in saying how great we have been in  
2 helping the task force with drug activity that  
3 has happened there.

4           And I saw an investigator make a comment  
5 that we can do things better. Of course.  
6 Everything can be done better. But do we search  
7 the person, have them strip? I don't know.  
8 There's issues that people come in there --  
9 there's a long wait for people to come into these  
10 venues.

11           We do everything that we can in that area  
12 to make sure that it's safe. You can drive there  
13 now. People feel safer. They feel they can walk  
14 there now, all of the sudden. The whole area has  
15 changed.

16           We have a night club that's opened across  
17 from us -- right across the street, that has been  
18 a distraction for us for the whole time since  
19 (Inaudible) opening here. I don't want to  
20 mention the name.

21           But regardless, you know, these are  
22 things that have opened in that area. And again,

1 I appreciate Mr. Short's comment that you know,  
2 it's a privilege that you guys are giving us. We  
3 have five venues that we operate. We're not  
4 rookies.

5 We understand the importance of this  
6 venue. We understand the importance of having  
7 great security, great EMTs, great challenges in  
8 that location to make sure that things are safe  
9 there. And I think that we've gone overboard to  
10 do it, so, we do take a little bit of offense to  
11 say oh, people have died in our place, like  
12 there's been a shooting or a stabbing.

13 This is not the situation. I can't  
14 prevent someone popping five pills and walking  
15 into your night club, anywhere in the city.

16 MR. SILVERSTEIN: That's precisely the  
17 point. And that was the first question I asked,  
18 was where were these things being taken.

19 My other question is, if these things are  
20 being taken, and someone is becoming dehydrated  
21 and overheated, there were questions about how  
22 they were being treated, and were they, in fact,

1 at a time -- at a certain time, being charged for  
2 the water that could have kept them from having  
3 some terrible thing happen to them.

4 (Simultaneous discussion)

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: If that's going to  
6 change --

7 MR. AMIRSHAHI: If I could, I want to  
8 answer that, as well.

9 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

10 MR. AMIRSHAHI: Arman Amirshahi.

11 I just wanted to make -- the water  
12 situation has come up to us. I even spoke to the  
13 director of ABRA, Fred Marsali (phonetic), and  
14 also, Martha Jenkins, regarding the situation, I  
15 think four months ago.

16 There was an issue about water being  
17 charged, and making sure that people have  
18 accessible -- we've added water fountains. We  
19 now allow people to get water, no matter what.  
20 Investigators have been in there to look at that,  
21 even though there's no requirement.

22 Anybody who asks for water at any time,

1 we give them a cup of water. They don't have to  
2 buy a bottle of water. We've added water  
3 fountains. We give out, literally, in front of  
4 the stage, hundreds of times -- hundreds of cases  
5 of water to the people in the front who are not  
6 able to necessarily get water.

7 They don't want to -- they can't afford  
8 it, or they just have the price for a ticket, and  
9 they don't want to spend it.

10 So, we have addressed that, and we  
11 appreciate those concerns. And that was  
12 something, as you mentioned, Mr. Silverstein --  
13 as soon as it was mentioned, we took care of it,  
14 and it was a one day decision.

15 (Simultaneous discussion)

16 MALE SPEAKER: I want to get that on the  
17 record.

18 MR. AMIRSHAHI: There's no question. We  
19 don't want any issues whatsoever. This is not  
20 about -- we want to be here for the next 10  
21 years, not (Inaudible) a week --

22 (Simultaneous discussion)

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Sure.

2 MR. AMIRSHAHI: So, we're not like the  
3 other owners. We're going to come and go. We  
4 want to make sure this is safe, and investigators  
5 feel safe. And we don't have to come here and  
6 get comments from Ruthanne Miller and Mr. Short  
7 about anything that we feel that are -- that we  
8 can do better.

9 Because we understand your frustration.  
10 When you have comments or concerns, we want you  
11 to know we're already over thinking and doing  
12 those things. As an example, as I told you,  
13 we've added cameras regarding security, and all  
14 that stuff that we've done on our own. The  
15 detail, the EMT -- all of these issues, to make  
16 sure that people are always going to come to a  
17 popular event (Inaudible) happily prevent.

18 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Chairman, I have a  
19 couple of exhibits with respect to Echostage's  
20 cooperation with MPD and drug task force  
21 investigations.

22 One letter is just dated this past month

1 of November, and a report dated the early part of  
2 the year. I'd like to provide that to (Inaudible  
3 portion) --

4 (Simultaneous discussion)

5 MALE SPEAKER: I have no further  
6 questions.

7 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Do any of the other  
8 board members have any other questions?

9 MS. MILLER: I have a question for -- is  
10 it Officer Struhar or is what is the --

11 LT. STRUHAR: No, I'm a lieutenant.

12 MS. MILLER: Lieutenant?

13 LT. STRUHAR: Yeah.

14 MS. MILLER: Thanks. Do you have any  
15 other suggestions?

16 I mean, to me, my big concern is the drug  
17 race (phonetic) in that venue.

18 LT. STRUHAR: I --

19 MS. MILLER: And can you evaluate it?  
20 Are they doing the best that they can do?

21 LT. STRUHAR: I don't -- I know my  
22 sergeants met with the managers prior to or last

1 operation. I don't run venues. I don't search  
2 at venues. I don't have any experience at  
3 security at venues.

4 My experience is catching people dealing  
5 narcotics, and that's what we do. It's a problem  
6 in any place where narcotics are sought, if  
7 they're available.

8 I mean, we have a problem in prison. In  
9 D.C. Jail, we deal with how people smuggle  
10 narcotics in, so you're going to struggle with it  
11 -- you know, the problems anywhere.

12 To speak about where the narcotics are  
13 taken, if they're taken prior to, I have no  
14 knowledge. I only deal with people that are  
15 dealing in the location at the time where they  
16 are so -- all my experience with folks are that  
17 they're selling or purchasing within the  
18 location.

19 I am not a security expert, so my -- I  
20 can tell you how we combat you know, narcotics  
21 dealing, and that would be, we continue to do  
22 operations on nights when it would be fruitful.

1 And you know, basically what happens is, you look  
2 at a night and you say, your numbers are between  
3 6 and 10 arrests. And you know, is that good or  
4 is that bad?

5 But once word starts getting out, things  
6 start shutting down. So, I think one of the  
7 things from our end, if we continue to address it  
8 with management, maybe it becomes an environment  
9 where there's always a possibility that the  
10 police should air (sic).

11 And these aren't the typical drug dealers  
12 who will spend a night in jail. There's a big --  
13 there's a little more with -- with these sellers  
14 in terms of parents, in terms of a job that maybe  
15 there is some deterrent factor, if we continue  
16 our operations.

17 MS. MILLER: So, I think that makes  
18 sense. Have you started to do that, to the  
19 extent that you could see whether there's a  
20 business?

21 LT. STRUHAR: It's not an every night  
22 opportunity. So, they're only open a few times,

1 and of those, you know, maybe every couple of  
2 months, there's going to be -- the venue is going  
3 to prove fruitful for this type of an operation.

4 So, the last one we did was October 30th.  
5 It's an operation that we're going to continue to  
6 look at, and see when it would be fruitful for  
7 us, and we'll continue to perform those  
8 operations.

9 And again, we did get great cooperation  
10 from (Inaudible) the last time we did it. We're  
11 going to continue to do it with (Inaudible)  
12 events.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

14 MR. WOODSON: All right. Chairman, if I  
15 might?

16 CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

17 MR. WOODSON: Echostage has a track  
18 record of seeking affirmative cooperation with  
19 public safety officials and MPD.

20 And I think the materials that we just  
21 gave are just an indication of that. There is no  
22 desire -- there is every desire on the part of

1 Echostage to continue to cooperatively work with  
2 MPD to combat this problem.

3           The problem with drug use in our  
4 community is rampant and difficult. But, that  
5 said, as we are doing and Echostage is doing  
6 everything that it can to improve the  
7 environment, and we seek to have a continued  
8 intense cooperation with MPD, they're the ones,  
9 actually -- they're the ones that know most about  
10 the drug business.

11           Echostage operates, in effect, a door.  
12 There's something that happens behind the door,  
13 but their operation is a door. The MPD is expert  
14 at helping them decide how the filter of that  
15 door works.

16           And to the extent that they can do  
17 anything else, we invite -- they invite the  
18 support and the cooperation and the attention  
19 from MPD. We invite it.

20           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Without any more --  
21 any other questions, I want to thank you for your  
22 testimony.

1           But I just want to point out to you that  
2 the purpose of this hearing was that it was  
3 requested by the Chief of Police.

4           MR. WOODSON: Certainly.

5           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: And clearly, in her  
6 view, you guys are not doing sufficient (sic) to  
7 make this a safe environment. So, you have to  
8 continue to address her concerns, because this is  
9 not -- the board did not state that you were not  
10 doing what you were not doing what you were  
11 supposed to do.

12           We were requested by the Chief of Police  
13 that we need to bring you in, because they did  
14 not think that the club was doing what it was  
15 supposed to do.

16           (Discussion off the record)

17           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So, although you are  
18 saying you represent MPD, I guess the Chief of  
19 Police is saying that you're not doing enough.

20           So, that's just -- I'm saying based on  
21 the letter.

22           MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

1           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: So therefore, you  
2 have to continue working with the Chief of Police  
3 to ensure that the property is safe, and that  
4 public resources are not utilized excessively to  
5 report to this one establishment.

6           MR. WOODSON: Well, we look forward to  
7 that continuing work with MPD.

8           And I just note that, like any  
9 organization, any organization that has a head,  
10 the operation of the organization is down amongst  
11 the people who do it.

12           And we trust that there are willingness  
13 and desire and uh -- affirmatively, to engage  
14 with MPD -- will be understood by Chief Lanier  
15 and the senior officers of the department.

16           We look forward to it.

17           (Simultaneous discussion)

18           MALE SPEAKER: Well, thank you.

19           CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Wait. That's for me  
20 to do.

21           And thank you.

22           MR. WOODSON: Thank you very much.

1 (Discussion off the record)

2 Whereupon, at 3:55 p.m. the

3 above-entitled matter concluded.]

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