



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

2 12:23 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Our next case  
4 is a contested fact finding hearing. And it's  
5 Climax Restaurant and Hookah Bar, License No.  
6 88290.

7 Would the parties please approach and  
8 identify themselves for the record, please.

9 MR. YEGZAW: Yes. My name is Solomon  
10 Yegzaw. I'm the owner of the restaurant.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I did not hear  
12 your last name, sir.

13 MR. YEGZAW: Yegzaw, Y-E-G-Z-A-W.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Y-E-Z --

15 MR. YEGZAW: Y-E-G --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: G --

17 MR. YEGZAW: -- Z-A-W.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Z-A-W.

19 All right. We have a sign-in sheet.  
20 Can you please just sign in your full name on the  
21 sign-in sheet, please.

22 (Pause.)

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.  
2 Yegzaw. All right. You all requested a  
3 continuation -- for us to keep your license in  
4 safekeeping.

5                   And so how long have you had this  
6 license?

7                   MR. YEGZAW: I had this license from  
8 2011.

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: 2011. And how  
10 long did you operate for?

11                   MR. YEGZAW: 2011 up to June 30, 2016.

12                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so what  
13 happened in 2016?

14                   MR. YEGZAW: 2016, the property got  
15 fire.

16                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry,  
17 what?

18                   MR. YEGZAW: Got fire.

19                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You had a fire?  
20 How extensive was this fire?

21                   MR. YEGZAW: How --

22                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How extensive

1 was this fire?

2 MR. YEGZAW: Well, that fire start  
3 from the second floor and then got both floors.  
4 So that -- the insurance that's extended is going  
5 to take like six months to rebuild it.

6 And also I and the landlord, we had  
7 problems after the insurance rebuilt it. So we  
8 went through the court. So the court just  
9 decided about three months ago, like a decision  
10 between I and him.

11 THE COURT: Do you have a copy of this  
12 court -- do you have a copy -- what type of  
13 dispute you had with your landlord?

14 MR. YEGZAW: Well, the landlord asked  
15 me that raise the rents of contracts. And I say  
16 no. And so he took me to the court, so he --  
17 changed the reasons, that it says the fire cause,  
18 the hookah, which is I sell hookah in there.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

20 MR. YEGZAW: So that's the reason we  
21 went through court a lot of times. And by any  
22 means, that says cannot provide hookah in the

1 same place.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So during the  
3 period of time that you were in court with your  
4 landlord, was the business open?

5 MR. YEGZAW: No. They just opened  
6 recently.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
8 you're saying that your landlord wanted to raise  
9 your rent because he said that because you're  
10 smoking -- that because of the hookah in the  
11 establishment, that's what caused the fire.  
12 Is -- was that the gist of the litigation?

13 MR. YEGZAW: Technically, yes, but he  
14 didn't say that in the court. But I have the  
15 paper that the fire cause, electric. I have the  
16 paper from the police report and the fire report.

17 But when he got there, he changed the  
18 history saying I don't want to get him again in  
19 my property because the fire cause, the hookah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

21 MR. YEGZAW: So the court believed,  
22 but I still have a copy of the police report that

1 cause is electric.

2 But the court, unfortunately, didn't  
3 believe that paper which I brought it from the  
4 police station, from the fire station.

5 So they said what they said.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So where are  
7 you now in opening up back the establishment?

8 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, sir. My plan is  
9 after that -- after the court decision, actually  
10 I went back home for family days.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was this  
12 court decision? Did the court issue a decision?

13 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What was the  
15 court decision?

16 MR. YEGZAW: When was that?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When was it and  
18 what was it?

19 MR. YEGZAW: Well, I cannot get into  
20 it.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What?

22 MR. YEGZAW: I cannot get in the same

1 property.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, so you have  
3 to -- so you have to leave the property? You can  
4 no longer use the property?

5 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, sir. I have to look  
6 at another property.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So when was  
8 that decision issued?

9 MR. YEGZAW: About three, four months  
10 ago when I was back home.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a  
12 copy of that decision with you?

13 MR. YEGZAW: I don't have it with me,  
14 but which is I cannot get in there anymore.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, you  
16 said what?

17 MR. YEGZAW: I cannot get -- I cannot  
18 run a business in there.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so what was  
20 the name of -- what was the litigation?

21 MR. YEGZAW: What do you mean?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean who sued

1 who? If I want to go online to go find out the  
2 litigation, what do I look up?

3 MR. YEGZAW: Not sue. The landlord  
4 sue me -- not suing. Like the landlord he just  
5 told me, he replied that I don't need Solomon to  
6 be on my property. The reason why, he provided  
7 hookah.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but I'm  
9 saying you said that he filed a lawsuit against  
10 you; is that correct?

11 MR. YEGZAW: (No audible response.)

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And where did  
13 he file this lawsuit?

14 MR. YEGZAW: In the D.C. court.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: In the D.C.  
16 court down at Indiana Avenue?

17 MR. YEGZAW: Right, Indiana Avenue.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Was that in  
19 landlord/tenant court?

20 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you said  
22 that this decision came out three months ago and

1 so therefore you have to go find another place.  
2 So where are you in finding -- where are you now  
3 in finding another location to utilize this  
4 license?

5 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah, I just got here  
6 yesterday from Ethiopia, and I brought my  
7 passport with me. If you guys want to see that,  
8 I brought it. So what I need is I need a time  
9 that -- looking for another --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how much  
11 time do you need?

12 MR. YEGZAW: Like I said --

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You haven't --  
14 well, the business has been closed since 2016 and  
15 you're saying that -- so when was the building --  
16 when did the landlord -- or when was the  
17 building, everything restored? Was everything  
18 restored with the building? Did they ever fix  
19 the building?

20 MR. YEGZAW: No. The landlord, he  
21 took the money out of the insurance and they just  
22 rebuilding -- they just finished recently, about

1 six, seven months ago. That's what I heard.

2 And they just started another business  
3 in there.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you -- so  
5 you wanted to remain in the -- you wanted to  
6 remain in that building where you were always at?

7 MR. YEGZAW: Not in that building.  
8 What I'm trying to --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No. I'm  
10 saying, did you -- was it your intent to reopen  
11 your business at 900 Florida Avenue?

12 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah, I was intending to  
13 reopen in the same --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: In that  
15 location.

16 MR. YEGZAW: In that location.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so you're  
18 saying it was three months ago that the court  
19 decision came down, and so therefore, based on  
20 that decision, you cannot go back to that  
21 location; is that correct?

22 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah. It might be three

1 months or four months. I'm not sure exactly,  
2 which means that I wasn't back home --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When did you go  
4 back home?

5 MR. YEGZAW: I went two times in six  
6 months for family days.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But when did  
8 you go?

9 MR. YEGZAW: When did --

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
11 When -- tell me. You said you have your passport  
12 with you. So if you have your passport, look at  
13 your passport and tell me when you left.

14 MR. YEGZAW: The second time or the  
15 first time?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You said you  
17 went two times, so you tell me the two times you  
18 left.

19 MR. YEGZAW: Okay. The first time --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I'm only  
21 asking you to go to your passport because you  
22 told me you have your passport so --

1 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, right here --

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell me the  
3 date. Tell me the dates.

4 MR. YEGZAW: 16 June 2018.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So June 2018.

6 MR. YEGZAW: And 18 March 2019.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So March 2019.

8 So did the decision come out before  
9 June of 2018 or after June of 2018? When did the  
10 decision come out?

11 MR. YEGZAW: Before June 2018.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how long  
13 before you left? Because you said you went away  
14 two times. So June -- you went away June 2018.  
15 So about how long before you went away did the  
16 decision come out?

17 MR. YEGZAW: I'm sorry. After June  
18 2018.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So about when?

20 MR. YEGZAW: After --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. How  
22 long were you gone for? When -- June 2018, how

1 long were you gone for?

2 MR. YEGZAW: About three. Three  
3 months.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you came  
5 back. And you left in June.

6 MR. YEGZAW: Yesterday.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Huh?

8 MR. YEGZAW: I just came back  
9 yesterday.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I'm not  
11 talking about you came back in March.

12 When you left -- are you saying you  
13 came back in June of 2018 or did you leave in  
14 June 2018? So when you left in June 2018, when  
15 did you come back?

16 MR. YEGZAW: After three months, about  
17 80 to 90 days.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You came back  
19 in about September of 2018 -- 2018.

20 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you came  
22 back in September 2018. And when you came back

1 in March 2019, when did you leave? When did you  
2 leave?

3 MR. YEGZAW: I left like three months  
4 ago.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Every time you  
6 go home, you go home for three months?

7 MR. YEGZAW: I didn't finish the  
8 family process that I have to do.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You left about  
10 in January of 2019.

11 MR. YEGZAW: Just came back for this  
12 reason.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you came  
14 back.

15 Now, so when did you start looking --  
16 based on what you told me today, you have known  
17 probably about eight, nine months that you cannot  
18 go back to 900 Florida Avenue.

19 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah, cannot go back.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what have  
21 you done in these eight, nine months to find  
22 another location?

1                   MR. YEGZAW: Well, like I said, the  
2 most times I was back home for my brother  
3 and family days in Ethiopia. So that's what I'm  
4 trying to do is as soon as I came back here,  
5 looking for work, for arrange place and looking  
6 for work to transfer my other license to the  
7 other location.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But if every  
9 couple months, sir, you're leaving for three  
10 months, how can you -- and I'm not -- I guess  
11 this is --

12                   MR. YEGZAW: We have to go. This is  
13 for family business I went but I'm not going  
14 every three months. In 14 years -- I've been  
15 here 14 years, I never go back home.

16                   This is for only two reasons I went.  
17 That's for emergencies, not for fun, not for  
18 visiting.

19                   I'm not just leaving and going there  
20 and leave my business alone.

21                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So how much  
22 time do you believe you need to go find another

1 location because you haven't identified any  
2 location, right?

3 MR. YEGZAW: I haven't found a  
4 location yet. D.C. is not easy to just get a  
5 location.

6 I found this spot, a location in  
7 Northwest D.C. -- I mean Northeast D.C. but  
8 that's has to be for a liquor store. But my  
9 license is not a liquor store. It's restaurant  
10 and liquor. If we could transfer for a liquor  
11 store, I found a spot.

12 But first, just give me time, a  
13 couple months, and I'll look for a location and  
14 transfer to my license.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any  
16 other question by other board members?

17 Go ahead, Mr. Short.

18 MEMBER SHORT:: Good afternoon. Mr.  
19 Yegzaw?

20 MR. YEGZAW: Solomon Yegzaw.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Was the business open  
22 when you had the fire? I mean open, I mean was

1 people inside when the fire broke out?

2 MR. YEGZAW: No. Without operation  
3 time.

4 MEMBER SHORT: You left operations?

5 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah, we weren't in  
6 operation at that time.

7 MEMBER SHORT: But you closed at what  
8 time?

9 MR. YEGZAW: We closed -- weekdays  
10 days we closed 2:00 a.m. and we opened 2:00 p.m.  
11 2:00 to 2:00. 2:00 to 3:00 Fridays, Saturdays.

12 MEMBER SHORT: So what day did the  
13 fire happen on?

14 MR. YEGZAW: The fire happened June  
15 30, 2016 at 1:00 o'clock, 1:00 p.m.

16 MEMBER SHORT: What day of the week  
17 was it?

18 MR. YEGZAW: I believe it was Sunday  
19 or Monday.

20 MEMBER SHORT: So you had just closed  
21 the business and the fire broke out?

22 MR. YEGZAW: I had a phone call and

1 told me that the business has got fire.

2 MEMBER SHORT: You closed at what  
3 time?

4 MR. YEGZAW: Closed 3:00 a.m. in the  
5 morning.

6 MEMBER SHORT: You closed at 3:00 a.m.

7 MR. YEGZAW: In the morning.

8 MEMBER SHORT: What time did the fire  
9 happen?

10 MR. YEGZAW: 1:00 p.m. the next day.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Next day.

12 MR. YEGZAW: 1:00 p.m. So we open --  
13 we start the business 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

14 Friday, Saturday 2:00 p.m. and up to  
15 3:00 a.m.

16 MEMBER SHORT: So you mentioned  
17 insurance. So the owner of the building had  
18 insurance, but you had no insurance on your  
19 business at all? Anything to do with your  
20 business, no insurance?

21 MR. YEGZAW: No, I didn't have it.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Did the Fire Department

1 give you the cause of the fire? The police, did  
2 anyone give you the cause of the fire?

3 MR. YEGZAW: Yes. The police came  
4 there, took the whole camera system and --

5 MEMBER SHORT: What did they say  
6 caused your fire, if I may ask?

7 MR. YEGZAW: Electric.

8 MEMBER SHORT: Electric. That's  
9 why -- they gave me a printout. The cause was  
10 electric.

11 MEMBER SHORT: So the work you had  
12 done, remember you had some work done on your  
13 front doors and some other things. I remember  
14 you being here before.

15 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

16 MEMBER SHORT: So the electricians you  
17 had, were they licensed by the city?

18 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, sure.

19 MEMBER SHORT: So the insurance paid  
20 the owner of the building.

21 MR. YEGZAW: Owner of the building.

22 MEMBER SHORT: And what was the reason

1 why the owner said he wouldn't let you back in to  
2 operate a business?

3 MR. YEGZAW: Was that -- I explained  
4 that the family, we had a get-together and then  
5 he told me that raise me the rent. I said no.  
6 And changed the history.

7 MEMBER SHORT: I understand about the  
8 rent.

9 MR. YEGZAW: Right.

10 MEMBER SHORT: But you mentioned  
11 something in your testimony. You said that he  
12 would not give you a new lease.

13 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

14 MEMBER SHORT: He did not want you  
15 back in because of hookah.

16 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah, because of hookah.

17 MEMBER SHORT: Because hookah has open  
18 flames and pipes and -- dangerous, kind of  
19 dangerous.

20 So your new business, if you get your  
21 license again, will you be doing hookah again?

22 MR. YEGZAW: Yes. I will do that

1 again, but the hookah was not the reason, because  
2 I know how to do the hookah for five years. I've  
3 been doing it for five years.

4 And even all of D.C., they're doing  
5 hookah but they know how to do it that's not  
6 going to cause a fire.

7 MEMBER SHORT: This is just kind of  
8 personal, but I'd just like to know your business  
9 model.

10 So if you get another business, will  
11 you get insurance on your business?

12 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

13 MEMBER SHORT: You'll do that again?

14 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

15 MEMBER SHORT: You also mentioned that  
16 the court ruled against you. So what did the  
17 judge say to you in court?

18 MR. YEGZAW: They told me that the  
19 reason is the hookah, is fire, the court.

20 MEMBER SHORT: The court said that to  
21 you?

22 MR. YEGZAW: Yeah. The first reason,

1 that was the reason, the cause is the hookah.

2 Then also on top of that, as far as  
3 that happened, Solomon didn't have the business  
4 insurance.

5 Well, the business insurance is -- to  
6 me -- but he already got the building insurance.

7 MEMBER SHORT: So the court asked you  
8 the same question I asked you. Why didn't you  
9 have insurance on your business?

10 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

11 MEMBER SHORT: And what did you tell  
12 the court about why you didn't have insurance?

13 MR. YEGZAW: I would say I wish I  
14 would have but it was expired a couple months  
15 ago. I had for a couple years, but a few months  
16 ago it was expired.

17 But that, I lose my license. But he  
18 didn't got no course.

19 MEMBER SHORT: But, again, the court  
20 asked you, the judge asked you about that.

21 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

22 MEMBER SHORT: And you told the judge

1 what, why you didn't --

2 MR. YEGZAW: I wish I had it. I wish  
3 I had -- continued, but it was expired. But for  
4 the next, okay, I will have one, for that.

5 But for the last, I couldn't have  
6 anything.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So you had a  
8 basic business license to have that --

9 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: At Climax.

11 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

12 MEMBER SHORT: Do you still have a  
13 basic business license?

14 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

15 MEMBER SHORT: Would you believe I'll  
16 represent to you your basic business license  
17 expired --

18 MR. YEGZAW: Which one?

19 MEMBER SHORT: It says it expired July  
20 30, 2018. So you don't have a basic business  
21 license.

22 MR. YEGZAW: I've been -- after 2016,

1 I've been renewing it. Which license are you  
2 talking about? Tobacco license or --

3 MEMBER SHORT: Basic business license.

4 MR. YEGZAW: The restaurant licenses?

5 MEMBER SHORT: Basic business license  
6 you get from DCRA.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Yes. I've got two  
8 licenses. One's the tobacco license from DCRA.  
9 One's for restaurant license.

10 But like I said, after 2016, I've been  
11 renewing it. I go there and paid it, renew it.

12 Like I say, maybe for this statement,  
13 when I was back there -- and I believe it  
14 expired, but I still renewed it.

15 2017 I renew it. And 2018 maybe, I'm  
16 not sure, because for that kind of process didn't  
17 pay attention for it.

18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. So your landlord  
19 is not going to extend you any more leases?

20 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

21 MEMBER SHORT: So you think a new  
22 landlord would not check your history and find

1 out that this landlord would not rent to you? So  
2 you think you're going to have a problem getting  
3 a lease from someone else?

4 MR. YEGZAW: Well, I'll try my best to  
5 look for work and I'll check my back history,  
6 other business and other --

7 MEMBER SHORT: Now, speaking of  
8 history, you said you've been searching for  
9 another location?

10 MR. YEGZAW: Before no. Not yet. I  
11 will start now.

12 MEMBER SHORT: Excuse me?

13 MR. YEGZAW: Before today?

14 MEMBER SHORT: Yes.

15 MR. YEGZAW: No, not yet.

16 MEMBER SHORT: And how long has it  
17 been since the fire?

18 MR. YEGZAW: I'll say it was decided  
19 when I was in Ethiopia.

20 MEMBER SHORT: No, no.

21 I'm just trying to get him to say it  
22 in the mic.

1                   What year was the fire again?

2                   MR. YEGZAW: 2016. June 30, 2016.

3                   MEMBER SHORT: 2016. And you went to  
4 court recently. So when did the judge tell you  
5 that he sided with the landlord?

6                   MR. YEGZAW: I went to court almost  
7 nine, 10 months ago. And my lawyer emailed me  
8 that the judge decided to -- so you're not able  
9 to --

10                  MEMBER SHORT: When did you get the  
11 decision from the judge? What date did you get  
12 the decision from the judge?

13                  MR. YEGZAW: I got an email. My  
14 lawyer emailed me when I was back home.

15                  MEMBER SHORT: What month was that?

16                  MR. YEGZAW: This was like four  
17 months. Around four months, five months ago.

18                  MEMBER SHORT: You haven't been  
19 looking for a new location in the last four  
20 months?

21                  MR. YEGZAW: Yes. What's the reason  
22 is I came here from the family days and then

1 quickly I went back again, family emergency.

2 Like I said, my court date was a month  
3 and a half ago. And I emailed. I totally  
4 explained everything and then I told I would  
5 bring my passport and my family's history report.

6 MEMBER SHORT: This is a hypothetical.  
7 If this Board were to rule in your favor and give  
8 you an extension, the next time you came in here  
9 could you bring to us that you've been searching  
10 to use the license and not --

11 MR. YEGZAW: I will. Every landlord  
12 that who I talk to I'll bring the name and the  
13 file, whatever I -- proposal and whatever, phone  
14 number. Whichever is required to bring in here,  
15 I'll bring it.

16 I know how long -- I ran it. I know  
17 how much it cost my license. I know how worth  
18 it. So I'm not let it go. I'm not laying down.  
19 This is the only business I have right now and I  
20 have a family, so I need the business. And I  
21 need to run it as I did before.

22 MEMBER SHORT: All right. Thank you

1 very much for your testimony.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other  
5 questions by any other Board members?

6 What's -- what is it you want us to  
7 do, sir?

8 MR. YEGZAW: Okay. I just paid for  
9 safekeeping a few weeks ago. My friend paid for  
10 me actually, not me. And like I said, as soon as  
11 I get up here, I'll look for it. I'll look for  
12 rent or either I'll look somebody who can  
13 transfer the license.

14 So I'll say maybe five, six months for  
15 one period of time for safekeeping.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know  
17 what the Board is going to do, but as Mr. Short  
18 said, if the Board was going to -- and I'm not  
19 even sure what period was this period for.  
20 What -- you applied for safekeeping for what  
21 period? Was it for March 31st or for September?  
22 When did you send in the --

1 MR. YEGZAW: I sent my friend two  
2 weeks ago and he paid it for me. He texted me  
3 the invoice and all that.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that was  
5 for what period? That was for --

6 MR. YEGZAW: For this period.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Through March  
8 of 2019?

9 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So, therefore,  
11 you have to -- it's now February -- it's now  
12 March. And so, therefore, you're still not open.  
13 So therefore, we're talking about --

14 MR. YEGZAW: Can I check the invoice?

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah.

16 MEMBER SHORT: I just have one  
17 follow-up, Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, he's  
19 looking at something so --

20 MEMBER SHORT: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22 (Pause.)

1 MR. YEGZAW: All right. He paid on  
2 February 25, 2019.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So February  
4 25th you applied for the safekeeping?

5 MR. YEGZAW: I paid.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You paid the  
7 safekeeping fee. And prior to that date -- your  
8 place has never been open since -- you have not  
9 used your license since the fire; is that  
10 correct?

11 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you have  
13 never -- you have not transferred your license to  
14 anyone; is that correct?

15 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is there any  
17 relationship between you and Lucy Bar? Do you  
18 know what that is?

19 MR. YEGZAW: Who?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Lucy Bar.

21 MR. YEGZAW: Lucy?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

1 MR. YEGZAW: Where?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking. Do  
3 you know where that is?

4 MR. YEGZAW: No. I know Lucy Bar,  
5 Silver Spring -- Lucy Restaurant, Silver Spring.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you don't  
7 know a Lucy Bar?

8 MR. YEGZAW: (No audible response.)

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you been by your  
10 old property?

11 MR. YEGZAW: Huh?

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you been by your  
13 old property?

14 MR. YEGZAW: No. I just got here  
15 yesterday. I came back here.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So when was the  
17 last time you -- when was the last time you  
18 actually went by your old spot to go see what's  
19 going on with the location?

20 MR. YEGZAW: He banned me. He banned  
21 me there so --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you have

1 never --

2 MR. YEGZAW: I dropped by -- the bus  
3 by and I see the remodel and stuff there, but I  
4 cannot go through there.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
6 We'll take the matter under advisement and let  
7 you know. Thank you.

8 MR. YEGZAW: All right.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The Board is in  
10 recess until -- you're fine, sir.

11 MR. YEGZAW: So shall I wait for the  
12 mail?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. Do we  
14 have your correct address?

15 MR. YEGZAW: Yes, my house address.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you -- we  
17 have your address to reach you, right?

18 MR. YEGZAW: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. Then we'll  
20 make a decision. All right. Thank you, sir.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22 concluded at 12:51 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Climax Bar

Before: DCABRA

Date: 03-20-19

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

*Neal R Gross*

-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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