

Date of Event: October :
 26, 2019 :
 Event: Nightmare on :
 M Street :
 Neighborhood: Multiple :
 Licensed Premises :
 Size of Event: 3000 :
 to 3000 :
 :
 Applicant: :
 Reginald Elicacin :
 Date of Event: October :
 26, 2019 :
 Event: The Hip "Hop" - :
 Old School Hip Hop :
 Bar Crawl :
 (RegMoPromo Holdings, :
 Inc.) :
 Neighborhood: Multiple :
 Licensed Premises :
 Size of Event: 400 to 600: :
 :
 Applicant: :
 Ismail Khadair :
 Date of Event: November :
 16, 2019 :
 Event: Once Upon a Time :
 (Elite Bar Crawls, LLC) :
 Neighborhood: Multiple :
 Licensed Premises :
 Size of Event: 250 to 500:

Wednesday
 September 25, 2019

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing
 Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W.,
 Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson
 Donovan W. Anderson, presiding.

PRESENT:

DONOVAN W. ANDERSON, Chairperson

RAFI ALIYA CROCKETT, Member

BOBBY CATO, JR., Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

ISMAIL KHADAIR, APPLICANT

REGINALD ELIACIN, APPLICANT

SARAH COUGHLIN, APPLICANT

ALEX LOPEZ, APPLICANT

INVESTIGATOR EARL JONES, DC ABRA

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

2 10:38 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, we
4 have a series of fact-finding hearings on pub
5 crawl applications. I'm asking that Alex Lopez,
6 Ismail Khadair, Sarah Coughlin, and Reginald
7 Eliacin, E-L-I-A-C-I-N -- all parties who are
8 here today for the pub crawl hearing -- for the
9 series of hearings on pub crawls, could you
10 please approach, please, along with the
11 investigator?

12 MR. KHADAIR: Good morning.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Your name, sir.

14 MR. KHADAIR: My name's Ismail Khadair
15 with Elite Bar Crawls.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,
17 Mr. Khadair. Who else do we have? Can you guys
18 and ladies please identify yourself for the
19 record, please? I have Mr. Khadair. Who else is
20 here?

21 MR. ELIACIN: I'm Reginald Eliacin.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,

1 Mr. Eliacin.

2 MR. ELIACIN: Good morning.

3 MR. LOPEZ: I'm Alex Lopez.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Alex Lopez.

5 It's been a minute. That's why -- good morning,

6 Mr. Lopez.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Long time.

8 MS. COUGHLIN: Sarah Coughlin.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good morning,

10 Ms. Coughlin. This is everyone for the --

11 therefore, for the D.C. Halloween Crawl 2019, by

12 D.C. Project Events, an application came in for a

13 pub crawl hearing for October 26th. The request

14 was from 2,400 to 3,400. The Board has

15 tentatively approved \$1,000 for that event --

16 1,000 people for that event.

17 That event would be taking place in

18 the Dupont Circle area, is my understanding.

19 Then for Mr. Khadair, his pub crawl application

20 was also for October 26, 2019. It is a Halloween

21 bar crawl. I think this is Gallery Place. They

22 had requested 250 to 500. I believe the Board

1 had approved 500 for that event.

2 MR. KHADAIR: Correct.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Coughlin,
4 she had also requested a pub crawl for October
5 26, 2019, which is the Night of the Crawling
6 Dead. The size of the event was 2,400 to 3,400.
7 The Board had also tentatively approved 1,000 for
8 this event. Another event for October 26th was
9 also scheduled -- requested by Sarah -- I guess
10 Lindy Promotions, also. This one, again, 3,000.
11 How many did you -- what are the numbers, Ms.
12 Coughlin, did you request for the second event,
13 October 26?

14 MS. COUGHLIN: The event in Dupont
15 Circle, originally, on the application, we had
16 3,000.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You requested
18 3,000.

19 MS. COUGHLIN: Yes, I was
20 conditionally approved for 1,000 in April.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For the Old
22 School Hip Hop Bar Crawl for U Street, there was

1 a request for 600. I believe that the Board had
2 approved that event for 600. Mr. Khadair, you
3 also requested a pub crawl on November 16 -- I
4 think, for 250 to 500, in Gallery Place, again.
5 I believe that the Board had approved that for
6 500.

7 MR. KHADAIR: Correct.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: One of the
9 reasons why we believe to bring all the promoters
10 here today -- I've been on this Board for four
11 years. Prior to my tenure on the Board, I heard
12 about -- and excuse my language -- I heard there
13 was -- I think I joined this Board, I think, in
14 2017, but maybe it was in 2016, I believe, for
15 Halloween, that was a Halloween bar crawl from
16 hell, excuse my French. It was horrible. Based
17 on the events, it was a perfect storm, in the
18 sense that it was -- Halloween, I believe, was on
19 a weekend.

20 MR. ELIACIN: It was on Saturday.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It was on a
22 Saturday, and it was the end of Daylight Savings

1 Time, so, therefore, there was an extended time
2 for people to party. Also, the Board had
3 approved certain entities to have bar crawls.
4 There were at least one illegal bar crawl. One
5 of the promoters that we had approved oversold
6 substantially.

7 So the Board made certain changes.
8 Here it is again. We have -- I look at the
9 numbers here and we're being asked to approve
10 10,000 participants for the 26th. That's just
11 too much. The Board cannot do that. We know
12 that people are going to show up for Halloween
13 anyway. The Board is not -- it's not going to
14 create another 10,000 occupants on the street if
15 we don't have to.

16 I want to elicit some information from
17 all the participants, together, to see what is
18 going on. I know that we've tentatively approved
19 for 1,000 for everyone. I need you to tell us
20 what numbers do you really need for this to -- at
21 least from your business model, because I don't
22 necessarily -- one of the problems that we have

1 here is that you throw some numbers out, and the
2 Board will sit here and we'll throw some numbers
3 back out. I don't know if that makes sense. I
4 don't know if that makes sense from a business
5 model. I don't know if that makes sense from a
6 safety model. That's the difficulty the Board
7 has when these numbers -- when numbers come to
8 us, where someone says I want 3,000, someone says
9 I want 3,400.

10 I don't want to make a decision by
11 saying I don't like 3,400, so I'm going to do
12 1,000, or I'm going to do 25. I don't know. The
13 Board, currently, we don't have the expertise to
14 say -- it's a business. I understand it's a
15 business. I don't know how you make your
16 decision in coming up with numbers. At the same
17 time, public safety is very important to us.

18 We also know that for Halloween,
19 there's going to be a whole lot of people
20 anywhere on the streets. Here it is you're now
21 generating an extra 10,000 people that I don't
22 want to be responsible approving ten additional

1 thousands of people on the street during this
2 very critical period of time.

3 It's my understanding, also, that we
4 want -- based on the new regulations, there are
5 litter plans that you're supposed to clean up.
6 We have been told by the BIDs that some of the
7 promoters are not doing a good job in cleaning
8 up. It appears that now, we're the only
9 jurisdiction allowing bar crawls. Arlington used
10 to have bar crawls. Arlington doesn't have it
11 anymore.

12 Pub crawls; I'm sorry. Same
13 difference, bar crawls, pub crawls.

14 MR. KHADAIR: Same thing.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. As
16 chair, and I can only speak for myself, I don't
17 necessarily have a problem with pub crawls.

18 MR. KHADAIR: Have you done one?

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I've never
20 done one because I don't drink like that.

21 MR. KHADAIR: One of us would give you
22 a ticket.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can't accept
2 that. But I'm just saying I don't have a problem
3 with people having fun, but we need to make sure
4 that when you have fun, it's done in a sense that
5 you respect the exits and businesses on the
6 street and the cleanup after. I just want to
7 make sure that we will continue to support it,
8 but you will do whatever you need to do to
9 support it, and that I don't necessarily want
10 D.C. to be like the other jurisdictions by saying
11 that we're not going to have -- we're not going
12 to approve any of the pub crawls. As far as
13 numbers are concerned, what numbers are you
14 comfortable dealing with? Give me some
15 information how you came up with these numbers.
16 Give me some information about what is it that
17 you're doing with your litter plan to make sure
18 that you have left -- unfortunately, because if
19 you're having a pub crawl and there might be
20 1,000 other people on the street, but because
21 you're having a pub crawl there, you are saying
22 that I'm going to clean up the area, so you need

1 to do that.

2 What is it that -- what type of
3 assurance can you provide this Board that we
4 continue to support pub crawls in a responsible
5 and respectful manner? Anyone can start.
6 Identify yourself, the crawl that you're here
7 requesting.

8 MR. KHADAIR: Ladies first.

9 MS. COUGHLIN: I'm here for the
10 Nightmare on M Street bar crawl. We had turned
11 in the application for 3,000 people again. If
12 you want me to give you a number, I would
13 obviously want to do 3,000 people, but I know
14 that's not realistic. I would ideally -- 2,000
15 to 2,500 would be great. The way that I got that
16 number is that this is the 21st annual year we've
17 done this. Based off of previous data off people
18 that have bought tickets before and numbers that
19 we've seen come out that have wanted to
20 participate, that is where I grabbed that number
21 from, so that would be, ideally, what we would
22 look to do. In regards to cleanup, I've done --

1 I've been doing this for two years now. I've
2 never had an issue with ABRA.

3 I speak to Mr. Gordy and Ms. April all
4 the time. They've been nothing but great. When
5 it comes to cleanup, we always have our bars
6 putting out extra trash cans, making sure that
7 they don't let any alcohol in the street, so
8 everything is thrown away as much as possible
9 before they leave the premises.

10 I have my staff stay afterwards and
11 pick up anything that they find in the area for
12 all our registration points. We have hired the
13 same street cleanup every event to clean up --
14 they clean up the Sunday morning, between 5:00
15 and 9:00 a.m. They hit every stop -- any bar
16 that's participating with us, they hit and go
17 down a route that has been turned in with my
18 application.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're saying
20 2,000 to 2,500. That's what you're saying?

21 MS. COUGHLIN: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As I said

1 before, we've already approved 1,000 already, so
2 that's approved. I think that's what the Board
3 does. When the application comes in, then we'll
4 approve -- we'll let you know that we're going to
5 approve it. We'll do the minimum to see who else
6 is applying during that period of time, and then
7 we look at the total number, and then try to
8 decide what are reasonable numbers to have in the
9 area for that specific period of time.

10 MS. COUGHLIN: Obviously, I would like
11 to have what I put in originally, but I
12 understand.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I do understand
14 that. The Board, when we -- the Board has to be
15 careful, in the sense that application comes in
16 and -- in preparing for this hearing, I counted
17 the numbers. It was over 10,000 people.

18 MS. COUGHLIN: I know; understandable.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's difficult
20 for me to say that I want to be responsible of
21 approving bar crawls to put an additional 10,000
22 people in the streets. I have lived in D.C. for

1 33 years. I've always lived in D.C. I do
2 remember when I first moved to D.C., for
3 Halloween, everyone went to Georgetown because
4 that was the only game in town.

5 MR. ELIACIN: M Street, yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. So I
7 understand that, and that was a madhouse. But
8 the city has developed, so there's other
9 neighborhoods. I'm not quite sure if there is
10 still one neighborhood that everyone goes for
11 Halloween. If I knew that when I used to go out
12 for Halloween and I saw hundreds of thousands of
13 people in Georgetown, do I want to approve --
14 sign off and put in an additional 10,000?

15 At least I could say 1,000 people
16 showed up and I had nothing to do with it, but
17 the Board now has to take responsibility for an
18 additional 10,000. The Board has to be careful,
19 in looking at the numbers, to say that we know
20 that people are going to show up. Do we want to,
21 again, put an additional 10,000 people on --
22 that's basically where we are. Mr. Lopez.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Sir, in terms of
2 applications for this year versus last year, now
3 there's three companies that are applying for
4 Dupont, is that correct?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry; let
6 me see. You're from the D.C. Halloween Bar
7 Crawl. What neighborhood are you --

8 MR. LOPEZ: Dupont Circle.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're in
10 Dupont Circle.

11 MR. LOPEZ: In the last seven plus
12 years, it's been our company and Lindy Promotions
13 that have been doing Halloween in Dupont. Is
14 there a third or fourth company that's applying
15 for the same neighborhood?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, I think
17 it's both. I think, from what I see here, you're
18 the only two in Dupont Circle because I think the
19 others are Gallery Place and U Street, the Old
20 Hip Hop. I think Mr. --

21 MR. KHADAIR: I'm also on the Dupont
22 Circle.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For?

2 MR. KHADAIR: Elite.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For what date,
4 the same date? You're only -- what numbers did
5 you ask for?

6 MR. LOPEZ: It's always between 250 to
7 500. I like to keep it that way because I'm
8 about quality, not the madhouse.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's three
10 companies in Dupont Circle, so 34 and 34, that's
11 68, plus -- we're talking about over 7,000 people
12 just for Dupont Circle. That's what those
13 numbers are. We're talking about an extra 7,200
14 in Dupont Circle. Go ahead, again, Mr. Lopez.

15 MR. LOPEZ: We applied for 2,400 to
16 3,400, but I think the biggest thing that -- the
17 biggest takeaway from the impact that Halloween
18 had a few years ago was the fact that the Board
19 is now letting one promoter work with one
20 licensee. No promoter can promote -- no two
21 promoters can promote the same licensee.

22 I think the biggest thing -- I don't

1 know how feasible this would be moving forward
2 and stuff, but at the end of the day, our numbers
3 and our ticket sales impact how many bars we have
4 participating with us. If Lindy has, I don't
5 know, seven, and we have ten, or vice versa and
6 stuff, that means that our ticket sales are going
7 to be different than theirs because you can only
8 fit so many people in the bar.

9 I don't know if, moving forward -- I
10 don't know for St. Patrick's Day or next
11 Halloween and stuff, if it makes sense for the
12 Board to have agreements sent to you guys, maybe
13 a couple months before the event, and that can
14 let you guys know exactly they have 15 licensees
15 working with them.

16 It makes sense for their capacity to
17 be this amount versus the next company has seven;
18 obviously, they're not going to have 4,000
19 people. For us, we have around 14 to 16
20 confirmed establishments that are going to our
21 event. I think best case scenario, 3,400 is
22 definitely a feasible number for us, based on the

1 number of participating establishments that we
2 have. We would be happy -- I know there's
3 buyouts that happened. There's homecomings and
4 all that stuff for universities. We'd be happy
5 to lower that to 3,000.

6 MR. KHADAIR: If you don't mind me
7 speaking, I think --

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Identify
9 yourself and the bar crawl, too.

10 MR. KHADAIR: Yes, Ismail Khadair,
11 Elite Bar Crawls. I've done my research on
12 everybody here. I think that's what great is if
13 we communicate together, we can all represent
14 something good and unique. We all have something
15 completely different. Our styles are completely
16 different. For mine, for example, I'm more
17 structured.

18 I have LED bracelets that flash
19 different colors representing which bar to go to.
20 That way, each venue knows exactly what number of
21 people are coming and what time, so they can
22 staff and plan accordingly. All my venues that I

1 choose are all walking distance. It's not one,
2 then you have to walk up the street to cause any
3 issues or disturbance or give them any
4 opportunity to have any type of issues on the
5 street. For example, the five establishments
6 that I have are literally -- it's either on the
7 same building, up and down, across the street,
8 and vice versa. With that being said, I've
9 always kept my events at 500, no more than 500,
10 no less than 250, the reason being I'm just -- I
11 like providing fun in a unique sense.

12 It's just organized. That being said,
13 I think -- your bar crawl, for example, yours is
14 awesome. You guys are all over the place. You
15 know exactly what you're doing. You've been
16 doing it for a long time. I can say the same
17 about her. The establishments that they have,
18 there's only conflict.

19 It's just one venue. I've talked to
20 that venue and I've said hey, I'm going to set
21 off the bracelets to go off at a certain time
22 when it's not along with their events, if it does

1 happen at the same day. I'm able to control the
2 crowd and how to move forward.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you know
4 that the establishment has to choose. They can't
5 do both, even if it's a different time, because
6 only one license can, so that's up to you two to
7 fight with the establishment about who's going to
8 get a license because they can only do one.

9 MR. KHADAIR: I understand.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It can't be
11 you're there between 4:00 and 6:00, and the other
12 is 4:00 and 6:00. The Board doesn't -- we're not
13 in that, but I just wanted you to know that we're
14 only going to give -- once you give us a list --
15 I don't know how the agency makes that decision,
16 but the licensee will only get one license. If
17 you know right now that you have -- I wouldn't
18 recommend that. The regulation said what you're
19 proposing can occur.

20 MR. KHADAIR: Cannot or can?

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It can occur,
22 but I wouldn't necessarily support that.

1 MR. KHADAIR: If you don't mind me
2 asking, why?

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Huh?

4 MR. KHADAIR: If you don't mind me
5 asking --

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm just saying
7 the standards say you can do it. I'm not going
8 to say that -- I'm just saying the statute said
9 it can be done, what you're proposing. I would
10 not block that. I'm just saying in my mind, I
11 wouldn't necessarily support that because -- if
12 your crawl is from -- what time is your crawl?

13 MR. KHADAIR: Let's just say it's from
14 1:00 to 9:00 --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MR. KHADAIR: -- establishment. You
17 want to know exactly what time people are coming
18 and the amount of people that are coming. Based
19 on their capacity is exactly how many people I
20 can send them at the exact time that we agreed
21 on.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But how is it

1 going to be decided that you're going to send
2 folks to the establishment between 2:00 to 3:00,
3 and he's going to send -- but then he's going to
4 send participants to the establishment 3:00 to
5 5:00 or 4:00 to 5:00. How are you going to work
6 that out?

7 MR. KHADAIR: Communication. If I
8 talk to the establishment, and the establishment
9 talks to both me and anyone here, they would just
10 let them know he's going to have the kickoff
11 party, hypothetically speaking, from 2:00 to
12 4:00. I'll take your participants at the door,
13 with your wristbands, after 4:00, which we've
14 done that in the past and it's worked pretty
15 well.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

17 MR. SHORT: I want to ask a question.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

19 MR. SHORT: Isn't it somewhere that we
20 made a -- we've agreed, the Board, that if the
21 bar has a sign stating only that one particular
22 promoter can use that bar, two promoters can't

1 use that same bar.

2 MR. KHADAIR: At the same time, yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: At the same
4 time, not at the same time, but they can use it
5 at different times. That's what I was saying,
6 Mr. Short.

7 MR. SHORT: That's very confusing.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's I'm
9 saying. The regulation -- that's what I was
10 saying. The regulation says -- that's what I --
11 the regulation says it can be different times.

12 MR. SHORT: Can I please go on record
13 and say something else?

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

15 MR. SHORT: Maybe some of you know,
16 and some of you might not know, I used to be a
17 public safety official here in Washington, D.C.
18 I was the coordinator for the District Government
19 with the Million Man March.

20 We didn't have any incidents, not a
21 one, with a million people here in town, because
22 it was quite well regulated and we used every bit

1 of science we could to make it safe. Since I've
2 been on this Board, and I've raised a lot of
3 questions, people just saying give me 2,000
4 because I think I can handle it. Then somebody
5 else says give me 2,000. I don't think it's a
6 very safe thing to do, but that's just my
7 opinion. I'm only one Board member. I'm going
8 to vote for public safety every time. I want
9 everybody to make money.

10 I want to see the bars to make money
11 and the promoters to make money, but it has to be
12 done safely. If we should happen to have the
13 same kind of problem we had before -- and it's
14 bound to happen because some people just aren't
15 as honest as you promoters before us.

16 Then we have people that come to town
17 and they just barge in. I think Mr. Lopez said -
18 - before. We said to you if you find somebody
19 here selling illegal tickets, you would tell us,
20 would you, Mr. Lopez?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, of course.

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. SHORT: But you didn't the last
2 time.

3 MR. LOPEZ: No, I didn't.

4 MR. SHORT: But you did not do it the
5 time when we had the problem, that guy from New
6 York that came in, no one called ABRA and said
7 there's a guy out here selling tickets and he's
8 adding to a problem that we don't need. That's
9 on the record, Mr. Lopez.

10 MR. LOPEZ: I do not recall that.

11 MR. SHORT: It's on the record, yes.
12 Weren't you here at the hearing when the guy from
13 New York said yes, I did it illegally; I'd never
14 do it again? Were you here -- are you aware that
15 there was an illegal person selling tickets?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, there's been illegal
17 ticket sales.

18 MR. SHORT: If you saw someone selling
19 illegal tickets when you're having -- you had to
20 pay for your permit. Would you turn that person
21 in?

22 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

1 MR. SHORT: I would hope all of you
2 would do the same thing because the bottom line
3 is the reason why they don't have them in
4 Maryland and Virginia anymore because it was --
5 it just got out of hand. It became so unsafe, no
6 other jurisdiction would do it. Now all the pub
7 crawls come to Washington, D.C., and on certain
8 dates, everybody wants to do it.

9 As a Board member who has some
10 knowledge -- because I've heard some other people
11 say they don't know. I do know. Professionally,
12 I do know. I don't think it's a very safe thing
13 to say I want to have 2,000 just because I want
14 to have 2,000. Two thousand based on what? I'd
15 like to ask this young lady, 2,000 based on what,
16 ma'am?

17 MS. COUGHLIN: Two thousand based --
18 why I think I'm going to --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. SHORT: Why would you want to have
21 2,000? We've got someone else who wants to have
22 3,000. You guys don't communicate as well as you

1 say you are. Because if you know he's asking for
2 3,400, you're asking for -- now he's saying okay,
3 I'll go down to 2,000, and she'll go down, but we
4 still have a problem.

5 That's too many, in my opinion, as a
6 professional public safety person. That's too
7 many. Our police department testified -- Mr.
8 Lopez, you were here when the police department
9 testified. They said they couldn't handle it.
10 Do you remember that?

11 So why would you still want to give us
12 3,400, knowing other people are having bar
13 crawls, and you heard what the police department
14 said? Do you think that's fair to the public
15 safety of this city and the police department?
16 If they can't handle it, but you're still going
17 to ask this Board, because maybe some people
18 don't have the knowledge I have. I don't think
19 that's being friendly to the city like you want
20 the city to be friendly to you. I think you're
21 saying 2,000, knowing other people are going to
22 have pub crawls the same day, I think you guys

1 can work out better numbers than that. That's
2 just my opinion, and I'm only one Board member.
3 I'm going to vote what I know public safety
4 should be. Again, I think we need to talk about
5 the numbers, Mr. Chair.

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MR. LOPEZ: Going back to -- we were
8 doing events in Arlington for quite some time
9 until 18 months ago. The problem being it just
10 got way too expensive. You can still do events
11 in Arlington, but you're definitely paying a lot
12 of money and the return and all that stuff's not
13 there anymore.

14 MR. SHORT: Why do they charge so much
15 money? Is it because of the cleanup? Is it
16 because you have to have more policemen to work
17 that same day? It costs the city a lot of money
18 when you do that.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Arlington County wants
20 every promoter to pay an overtime police officer,
21 one officer for every 100 people.

22 MR. SHORT: You think that's unfair?

1 MR. LOPEZ: It's their regulations.

2 MR. SHORT: Wait a minute. I asked
3 you do you think that's fair?

4 MR. LOPEZ: As a company, we sat down
5 in front of them. We sat down with the police
6 department, and we sat down with the county --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 MR. SHORT: Mr. Lopez, I asked you a
9 question. Do you think that's fair?

10 MR. LOPEZ: I think it's fair that as
11 a promoter, we have to pay for safety, but I
12 think that -- a bunch of us agree that one
13 officer for 100 people is just too much.

14 MR. SHORT: Mr. Lopez, are you aware
15 of all of the terror events that have been
16 happening all around the world?

17 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, sir.

18 MR. SHORT: We haven't had one here
19 because there's so many policemen and FBI and
20 Secret Service. We have a big umbrella over us.
21 But when you put numbers in that the police
22 department has testified before this Board -- MPD

1 has said we can't handle that.

2 That's why they're telling you down
3 there in Virginia, if you're going to have it,
4 you're going to pay for the extra protection.
5 But you don't think you have to pay protection
6 here in Washington, D.C., do you?

7 MR. LOPEZ: We would be open to paying
8 for extra police enforcement.

9 MR. SHORT: How much would you pay?

10 MR. LOPEZ: In Baltimore -- we do
11 events in Baltimore. We pay anywhere from \$4,000
12 to \$7,000 per event.

13 MR. SHORT: How much do you pay for
14 events here in Washington, D.C.?

15 MR. LOPEZ: We haven't paid.

16 MR. SHORT: Excuse me? You pay \$4,000
17 in Baltimore. What do you pay here in
18 Washington, D.C.?

19 MR. LOPEZ: We pay for our staff. We
20 pay --

21 MR. SHORT: No, you say pay Baltimore
22 \$4,000. Is that what you told me? What do you

1 pay Washington, D.C.?

2 MR. LOPEZ: For police enforcement?

3 MR. SHORT: No, you pay \$4,000, is
4 your testimony, is that correct?

5 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

6 MR. SHORT: To Baltimore.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

8 MR. SHORT: How much do you pay

9 Washington, D.C. when you have an event here?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Just taxes, and that's it.

11 MR. KHADAIR: The security plan, isn't
12 that --

13 MR. SHORT: No, wait a minute. Please
14 let me finish --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MR. SHORT: Do you think that's fair
17 to the citizens of Washington, D.C.? I don't
18 blame you guys for all wanting to come to
19 Washington because remember, Mr. Lopez, I was the
20 very first Board member to ask do you pay any
21 taxes because I said do you give any money to
22 OTR.

1 Your testimony was do we have to do
2 that? We're glad to get some tax money out of
3 you, but now the public safety issue comes up. I
4 want to say this for the new Board members and
5 for our new chairman. It's unfair that you pay
6 Baltimore and pay Virginia and you pay Maryland
7 all of these monies, fees for safety, but when
8 you come here and you just dump those numbers of
9 people on us, it's not -- the police department
10 said they can't handle it.

11 You don't have to pay them any extra
12 money. Something's got to give. The Million Man
13 March gave this city a lot of money for police
14 protection, and they had to pay it. I do know
15 that. I was a part of that. That's why I asked
16 the questions I asked about these pub crawls. I
17 really think -- if I could say this in a very
18 nice way, nice as I possibly can, let's give the
19 city what you would give Baltimore, give anybody
20 else. Why don't you ask the police department
21 how much would it cost to get some extra officers
22 to pay during the pub crawls? Then 2,000 or

1 3,000 people, I wouldn't have as big a situation
2 as I have now.

3 We just got the regular police
4 officers working that beat that day, and then
5 you're going to dump 10,000 more people on the
6 street. You say you don't want to pay Baltimore,
7 but you -- and you don't want to pay Washington.
8 I think it's unfair.

9 I think we need to find out a way that
10 we can do it business friendly, safety, and
11 people in the -- it's a win for everybody, but we
12 need to talk about this. I'm glad I got a chance
13 -- thank you, Mr. Chairman, for my opportunity.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.
15 Sir, you haven't said nothing.

16 MR. KHADAIR: He's --

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, he's with
18 you.

19 MR. KHADAIR: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Jones, is
21 there anything that you want to add to this?

22 INVESTIGATOR JONES: You all have

1 covered it. I had a couple of issues. One was
2 definitely the numbers because three of the pub
3 crawls are taking place in the same general area.
4 That's probably going to generate, from the
5 numbers they're asking, over 7,000 people-8,000
6 people. You have another down in Gallery Place,
7 on U Street. Those are kind of spread out more.

8 That Dupont area is kind of a problem
9 for me, as far as numbers are concerned, so I'm
10 glad that you all brought that up. That was the
11 No. 1 thing. Also, I've only heard one
12 individual talk about the litter and how they're
13 going to control that. I haven't heard anybody
14 else say anything about that because that -- the
15 rodent issue is so huge here.

16 I deal with that -- I'm kind of the
17 only person here that deals with that, so I see
18 it all the time and I do it all the time. Also,
19 the other thing is that cross-pollinization of
20 patrons with these pub crawls.

21 Project DC Elite, as well as Lindy,
22 you all are all sharing establishments, whether

1 it's the same time, to me, it doesn't really
2 matter because I understand that you may have
3 your way of doing things, but at some point, you
4 guys are going to be crossing each other. You
5 can't do that. I've got at least, what, Dirty
6 Bar, Team (phonetic), Decades, Rewind, Public
7 Bar, City Tap House, Heights, Blackfinn, The Big
8 Hunt. All of those are between Elite, Lindy,
9 Project DC Elite, Project DC and Lindy. All you
10 guys are sharing establishments. We've got to
11 figure that out, too, because you can't do that,
12 by law. I understand that's at a time, but it's
13 on the same day.

14 You guys are going -- at some point,
15 you guys are going to bump into each other. You
16 can't control patrons. I understand you're
17 saying that hey, we have wristbands. We can tell
18 them when to move. People, when they're drunk,
19 they're not going to move where you want them to
20 move.

21 MR. KHADAIR: You'd be surprised when
22 you flash a --

1 INVESTIGATOR JONES: I get it. I'm
2 just telling you because I'm out in the street a
3 lot with work. I'm just telling you there are a
4 lot of times where you're trying to get
5 individuals to move, people drag their tail,
6 whatever they're going to do. It's a problem.
7 I'll let the Board address some of those things.
8 Again, you guys can talk about it because I have
9 some other things to talk about, as well.

10 MR. KHADAIR: If you don't mind me
11 speaking, he did mention that I wasn't given the
12 opportunity to talk about the security plan in
13 place, the litter removal plan in place. I do
14 have those plans in place, if you guys would like
15 to see those. Ever since I've been doing events
16 in D.C., I've always had those plans in place,
17 one being the security plan.

18 I've always hired my own security
19 company, who patrol the streets, who work the
20 doors, who crawl with the groups of individuals
21 from bar to bar. As far as the litter plan,
22 immediately at the end of each event, the litter

1 removal company just starts working. A minute
2 right after the event, for the next two or three
3 hours, they're cleaning the streets.

4 Patrol officers, I hire a third-party
5 company who just goes up and down the streets in
6 that general area. I communicate very well with
7 each establishment. I think they can all vouch
8 for me on that. As far as the other companies,
9 they do the same, they just have a larger list of
10 venues. Whereas for me, I'm just a little guy.

11 I just do five establishments, just
12 highly structured, highly organized. I'm all
13 about quality/quantity. I'm all about the
14 quality. I'm all about making sure that
15 everything is safe and everyone's having a good
16 time. I guess that's all I can say. I don't
17 know if this helps, but I've doing events for
18 quite some time. I have a five-star brand on
19 Facebook, with over 1,000 five-star reviews.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Tell me again,
21 just to keep the record clear, who you are.

22 MR. KHADAIR: Ismail Khadair, Elite

1 Bar Crawls.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: It's not --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MR. KHADAIR: For the record, again.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, go ahead.

6 MR. KHADAIR: I do have a five-star
7 brand. I think being a five-star brand, you have
8 to be limited to what you're doing and how you're
9 doing it.

10 MR. SHORT: You asked for 500 to 700
11 people, correct?

12 MR. KHADAIR: It's 250 to 500. I
13 never go any more, and I never go less.

14 MR. SHORT: But you know it's
15 manageable for the city and manageable for you.

16 MR. KHADAIR: Correct.

17 MR. SHORT: You've never done with
18 1,000 or 2,000 --

19 MR. KHADAIR: And I never will.

20 MR. SHORT: -- 3,500?

21 MR. KHADAIR: Correct --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. SHORT: You don't ask for those --
2 why don't you ask for those kind of numbers?

3 MR. KHADAIR: Because I don't need
4 them. I know they're not manageable.

5 MR. SHORT: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For you.

7 MR. KHADAIR: Correct, I speak for
8 myself.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Reginald,
10 I haven't heard nothing from you. Say something.

11 MR. ELIACIN: I was just waiting my
12 turn.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Not because you
14 coming over and -- you know, you're try to stay
15 beyond the radar. Let me ask for 500 from the
16 Board, so they won't know that I exist. I know
17 Mr. Short. If I ask for 500, Mr. Short's not
18 going to say nothing.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir,
21 if you want to say something.

22 MR. ELIACIN: I'm asking for the same

1 thing I've always been asking for. We do 600
2 people. It's along U Street. This will be our
3 26th Old School Hip Hop Bar Crawl, about our 30
4 something more on U Street. Basically, we have
5 it sectioned out, certain times for each bar,
6 just to avoid over-capacity. All the bars have a
7 certain capacity, so that's -- we come to the
8 number just to make it so it won't be too crazy,
9 everything organized from bar to bar. Basically,
10 it's from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. we're going to
11 do it. We have eight bars this time. We also
12 have our litter -- Bayside Cleaning Service.

13 They're come, basically, right after
14 the crawl, about an hour after the crawl,
15 actually, no, right after. They're going to
16 clean, I think, for about three hours, the whole
17 entire route, both sides. We've never really had
18 too much of a history. Everything usually goes
19 pretty smooth. I think we're the only ones doing
20 it on U Street. I don't foresee any issues.
21 Whatever you guys need, we will do it.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do we have any

1 other questions by any Board members?

2 MR. LOPEZ: I just wanted to ask the
3 ABRA agent, he did say that we have some bars
4 between us, Lindy and Elite, is that correct?

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think he's
6 looking at the list. I don't know because we
7 never -- all we do is we approve the numbers. By
8 the time the license is issued, I think that
9 licensing will go through the bars to look at
10 what's going on. One of the things that I'd
11 suggest that you do is that -- yes, I know it's a
12 business, and we're willing to work with you, but
13 you also have to be willing to work with us. It
14 would appear that maybe the three establishments
15 have the same amount of bars on the list. Maybe
16 someone -- you need to -- you know who you are.
17 The city's large enough to accommodate all of
18 you.

19 Maybe this year, I'll work with this
20 establishment, and maybe next year, I'll do --
21 but it will only work if you work together and
22 you work with the Board. Because unless and

1 until there is a major problem, I will continue
2 to support pub crawls. I don't know the numbers
3 that I'll support, but I'll just say that's my
4 personal opinion.

5 I will support the pub crawls because
6 clearly, it's something that there -- not me, but
7 there are a lot of people in the city who clearly
8 enjoy it. So, therefore, I will continue to
9 support it, but as Mr. Short has stated, there
10 are public safety issues that we have to be
11 concerned about.

12 That's one of the reasons why the
13 numbers are. One of the things that the Board is
14 also going to do is try to get some expertise
15 from someone who can say to us that okay, someone
16 comes in to say that they want to have 600 people
17 on U Street, from a public safety perspective --
18 I know that Mr. Short is retired, so I'm asking
19 for someone who is actively in public service --
20 safety to say is that a reasonable number on U
21 Street? Is 3,400 a reasonable number? I'm
22 saying that okay, we want to approve 10,000

1 people for Halloween all over the city.

2 From a public safety perspective, I
3 need someone to tell me is that a reasonable
4 number? The Board shouldn't have any concerns in
5 approving -- okay, you want 3,400? We'll approve
6 it. That's the type of things that I'm asking
7 for. Therefore, I'm not -- we're not just
8 picking numbers out of a hat.

9 I appreciate the fact -- I know what
10 you have asked for. Also, I know that it has to
11 make a business sense for you. Yes, you want
12 3,400, but I appreciate the fact you're saying to
13 me yes, I believe if you give me 2,000 or 2,500,
14 yes, I could still work with that number.
15 Because I do understand that it has to make sense
16 to you from a business perspective to do it.

17 Because you asked for 3,400, and I
18 only gave you \$1,000. Maybe from a business
19 sense, it does not make sense to move forward
20 with it. That's not my goal, to give you numbers
21 that, from a business perspective, does not make
22 sense. I want that to be clear to you, so you'll

1 understand, at least, where I'm coming from.

2 MR. KHADAIR: I do have something to
3 say.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

5 MR. KHADAIR: I do agree that we
6 should communicate. If I knew that there was an
7 event on the 26th, I probably wouldn't have done
8 it. Not saying that I --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So --

10 MR. KHADAIR: The true question is now
11 that you see the face for the brands, it's not us
12 that can't handle what we've been doing for so
13 long. It's really trying to keep those who don't
14 get the permits. You guys know what I'm talking
15 about. There's four of us here; yet, there's 26
16 different brands running on the 26th of October.
17 There are 17 different brands running on the 19th
18 of October. That being said, you guys are
19 approving --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, let him
22 finish up.

1 MR. KHADAIR: You guys are approving
2 three or four that you know of because we like to
3 do the right thing, based on the experience that
4 we've had, good or bad.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to
6 tell us -- because remember, we only know of you.
7 You're the only ones that we have issued licenses
8 to. If you know that there's someone out there,
9 if you know that there are establishments that
10 are having pub crawls and that they haven't been
11 approved, you need to tell us because we can --

12 MR. KHADAIR: It's really hard to --
13 I don't mean to stop you, but it's really hard to
14 identify which brand's doing what. What I mean,
15 why I'm saying this is because We Love Pub Crawl,
16 that's you, correct?

17 MS. COUGHLIN: No.

18 MR. KHADAIR: Is that you, Alex? Are
19 you --

20 (No audible response.)

21 MR. KHADAIR: So that face isn't here.
22 You guys gave this company a go.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't believe
2 so.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The purpose of
5 this --

6 MR. KHADAIR: It's just to get
7 information.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The purpose of
9 this fact-finding hearing is that it's for
10 everyone who has applied for -- everyone who has
11 applied for a license for this particular day
12 were invited to be here today.

13 MR. KHADAIR: My point to this is that
14 We Love Pub Crawl runs off of multiple brands,
15 different names within that license or the LLC.
16 Yet, they have seven to six different brands on
17 the 26th, yet the faces that represent that day
18 is here.

19 MR. SHORT: Are you stating --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MR. SHORT: Are you stating that
22 there's going to be more events on the 26th that

1 aren't here?

2 MR. KHADAIR: What I'm saying is that
3 We Love Pub Crawl is a data collecting company
4 who does all these events, run off of lists that
5 we work hard to build, and these relationships.
6 When people show up to our door and our
7 security's ID'ing them, checking their tickets,
8 it's not our event. I think Alex does a great
9 job running it.

10 He's been doing it for so longer. I
11 think your company has been doing it -- 26 years,
12 that's a long time. We're obviously doing it
13 right. It's these other companies who are coming
14 in, data collecting companies or other brands
15 that don't do the right thing, like we do. Yet,
16 when you see these 10,000 people, we're only
17 representing three, two, five.

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- as far as --

20 MR. KHADAIR: What do we need to do to
21 report this from not happening?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You need to

1 tell us -- therefore, I think one of the
2 questions that Mr. Short had asked Mr. Lopez is
3 that you knew -- right or wrong, and I'm not
4 saying that -- based on the question he's asked
5 you is that -- so what we're saying to you is
6 that if you know that there's someone out there
7 not playing by the rules that you're playing by,
8 you need to let the agency know.

9 MR. KHADAIR: Well, I don't know until
10 I asked my attorney like, hey, who's got permits
11 --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's what I'm
13 saying. You'll have that information. When
14 you're out there, our investigators are going to
15 be out there, also. Therefore, you need to call
16 into our hotline to say all these people are
17 coming to this establishment, whatever it is that
18 you know, you let us know.

19 You see something, say something. Let
20 us figure out what it is. If it doesn't -- just
21 let us know. Therefore, next year -- I'll let
22 you know; next year, Halloween's going to be on a

1 Saturday, so no pub crawls.

2 MR. KHADAIR: Yes, it's going to be
3 crazy.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No pub crawls
5 will be -- don't apply because the statute that
6 we're not giving pub crawl applications on that
7 day. I'll let you know that for next year. I'm
8 just -- I'll get you, Mr. -- I'm just saying if
9 you see something, say something. Therefore, we
10 will continue to support your business.

11 We're not going to hold you
12 responsible for something else that you have told
13 us that someone is out there. If that other
14 person comes to us and they apply for a pub crawl
15 license, then we can say you have not complied
16 with the rules and regulations. Therefore, we're
17 not going to give you a license. Therefore --

18 MR. KHADAIR: What if they do it
19 without applying, which they've done multiple
20 times in the last four years?

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: They can do it.
22 However, remember, we have a license for the

1 licensee. Therefore, we can hold the licensee
2 accountable if they -- if the licensee is
3 participating in an illegal pub crawl because
4 licensee knows that in order to participate in a
5 pub crawl, they have to have a specific license.
6 That license needs to be in their establishment.
7 When our investigators go there and there are all
8 these other people for other pub crawls, and
9 there is not a license saying that this other
10 event can participate there, we can hold that
11 establishment accountable.

12 Therefore, although the promoter -- we
13 might not be able to hold the promoter
14 accountable, but if we hold the licensee
15 accountable, and if the licensee knows that he or
16 she will have a primary or secondary tier
17 violation on their license, then they will not
18 have any incentive to participate in an illegal
19 pub crawl.

20 MR. KHADAIR: Have you guys had that?

21 MR. LOPEZ: I've had it --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. LOPEZ: I was about to add my two
2 cents on the --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead, sir.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Pub crawls, like you said,
5 they're a dating collecting company. This was, I
6 believe, when we started off as a company, that
7 we had to come to these hearings. I've met -- I
8 believe they're from New York, if I'm not
9 mistaken.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, they are.
11 I think they were involved in that illegal pub
12 crawl prior to --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MR. KHADAIR: They still are, and it's
15 ongoing.

16 MR. LOPEZ: They were here. I
17 remember that because --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, because
20 they did show up. We did have a hearing like
21 this.

22 MR. LOPEZ: I remember after the

1 meeting, they asked me if we wanted to buy data,
2 too.

3 MR. KHADAIR: Yes, they're just -- Joe
4 and Damien, I mean, they're just both crooks.
5 There was a potential merger until I learned that
6 they were a data collecting company.

7 MR. LOPEZ: We've definitely had their
8 participants come to our events. Obviously,
9 we're just like listen, we cannot do anything
10 with your ticket. You bought for the wrong
11 event. We do apologize.

12 You're going to have to reach out to
13 them and ask for a refund. To answer what he
14 said, yes, it's true. They have a website, and
15 they sell tickets to 50 plus cities for every
16 single holiday, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and
17 Christmas.

18 MR. KHADAIR: For example, my domain
19 expired on the website. They bought my domain,
20 which that's fine. I got the opportunity to
21 rebrand, which sucks, but at the end of the day,
22 it's whatever --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MR. SHORT: They just sell tickets in
3 any city they want without a license or anything.
4 They just find out whatever the other pub crawls
5 and they just piggyback in.

6 MR. KHADAIR: Correct.

7 MR. SHORT: There we go. That's our
8 problem.

9 MR. KHADAIR: With that being said,
10 all this information we're collecting, obviously
11 we're here to make sure that everything runs
12 smoothly, safe, and effective. What could we do
13 -- you mentioned that there's a 1-800 number, but
14 how are we going to find out if they applied or
15 not? I think Alex said it earlier. Is there a
16 way where there can be a limit of how many --
17 actually, there is.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There is. You
19 talked to the -- the individual establishments,
20 they know who they've had agreements with to have
21 pub crawls.

22 MR. KHADAIR: They do.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's the
2 person that you have a conversation with. You
3 have a conversation with that person to find out
4 are they working with them at any other pub
5 crawls that weekend. You can contact our
6 licensee to say that I thought I signed up with
7 John Doe establishment. I want to have them
8 because now, although the license says that
9 different licensees can work with them at
10 different time, I -- as Mr. Jones said, having
11 three different pub crawls in one establishment
12 throughout the day, that sounds to a disaster.

13 You're negotiating with these
14 licensees to have -- you're bringing business to
15 their establishment. I believe that if you're
16 guaranteeing them numbers, I believe that you can
17 -- in your negotiations with them, you can have
18 conversation about what should or should not
19 occur.

20 As I said before, if you believe that
21 they're not negotiating to you in good faith, and
22 if you're going to be blamed for something that's

1 not your responsibility, you bring it to the
2 attention of the agency because the agency can
3 always go after their licensee for participating
4 in an illegal pub crawl.

5 That is a violation of their license
6 for them to participate in an illegal pub crawl.
7 They know that. If we know about it, we have a
8 mechanism to hold them accountable. We might not
9 -- we don't have a mechanism to hold the promoter
10 accountable. You -- our mechanism is that if you
11 do something wrong this year, if you apply next
12 year, then the Board -- it's up to the Board's
13 discretion if we're going to approve it. We can
14 decide not to approve it. But, as far as the
15 licensees are concerned, they have a continuing
16 license. That is something that we have more
17 control over whether or not we're going to allow
18 them to continue to participate.

19 Because as you know, there's some
20 establishments have settlement agreements. Their
21 settlement agreement says they cannot participate
22 in a pub crawl. If you let us know, then there's

1 something we can do, so we do not hold you
2 accountable to an action by someone that -- hold
3 you accountable for events that you're not
4 responsible for. You had something you wanted to
5 say, or it's no longer important?

6 MS. COUGHLIN: Yes, I just wanted to
7 throw my two cents in. I get where they're
8 coming from because I see it, too. Just as
9 another viewpoint of it, I know that personally,
10 I've had venues that I work with have been listed
11 on other websites that aren't here right now.

12 They've reached out to them and told
13 them take me off your website. We have signed
14 agreements with other people. I have the license
15 at the establishments that I signed, but I think
16 an issue that they're bringing up, but just to
17 word it differently, is that if pubcrawls.com or
18 whatever the website is sells 500 tickets, you
19 can tell pubcrawls.com they can't participate,
20 and you can tell the establishment they can't
21 participate, but who's telling those 500 people
22 that are now coming into the city that they're

1 not part of an established bar crawl?

2 That, I think, is where we have issues
3 with so many people coming into the city.

4 Because I'm sure you've had it, and you've had
5 it; people coming up with these tickets that
6 aren't our event, and they're already in the
7 city. You tell them that's not your event, but
8 they're there, so it's the police's issue, at
9 that point.

10 I'm just throwing it out there. I
11 don't know what the solution would be for that,
12 but I think that also affects us, who are doing
13 it legally, because there are people coming in
14 that we're not accounting for because that's not
15 our websites, if that makes sense.

16 MR. KHADAIR: There is a solution.
17 There's a city that I do events in and they
18 allowed me to have their brand or their ABC logo,
19 whatnot, on my website, stating that I am the
20 official bar crawl of that city. There's
21 solutions like that. If there's a way where you
22 can put our brand on ABRA's website, or vice

1 versa, so that way, it allows people to know if
2 they're not marked on this website, or if they're
3 not Facebook verified or so forth, then you
4 shouldn't be buying tickets from other sources,
5 other than the official brands. Is there a way
6 we can --

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know.
8 I don't know. But if you guys get together and
9 you give suggestions to ABRA how to make this
10 process work better, we are open to make sure
11 that works. As I said to you, I don't
12 necessarily have a problem with pub crawls
13 generally. I don't. I don't have a problem --

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MR. KHADAIR: -- avoid things from
16 happening, of course, yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I, personally,
18 don't have a problem with pub crawls.

19 MR. KHADAIR: With that said, what do
20 you guys think about that game plan to have
21 something on their site or ours --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know if

1 that's something that we can do. I don't know.
2 I'm just saying this is an open process --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MR. LOPEZ: What I do, once our event
5 gets approved, it's on the ABRA website. Once
6 it's on the ABRA website, I send a link to the
7 licensees. I'm like hey, our event's approved.
8 Any other event that's approved is going to
9 appear on --

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MR. KHADAIR: But as far as the ticket
12 perspective, the ticket holder, not so much
13 licensee or the establishments. I'm talking
14 about the people who purchase tickets. How can
15 we show them that hey, this is how you know if
16 you're buying the right ticket from the right
17 brand?

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. ELIACIN: It's on the event
20 description. Put it on the event description
21 saying that you have to -- you can only purchase
22 it -- we use Eventbrite. If it's not purchased

1 through Eventbrite, don't purchase it through
2 anybody else.

3 MR. KHADAIR: There's scammers on
4 Eventbrite every day.

5 MR. ELIACIN: It has to be through
6 there. We have our list. We haven't had that
7 big of a problem with it. We did have --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 MR. ELIACIN: -- where people --

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Remember, we're
12 on the record, so there's a court reporter that's
13 trying to capture the information.

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MR. KHADAIR: You good over there?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We'll have one
17 person at a time speak, so we'll have the record.
18 Yes, Mr. Jones.

19 INVESTIGATOR JONES: The other thing
20 is that all of the establishments that are
21 sharing -- I'm sorry. All of the organizations
22 that are sharing establishments are operating

1 during the same time, 1:00 to 9:00.

2 MR. KHADAIR: One has a bigger list
3 than the other.

4 INVESTIGATOR JONES: It's 1:00 to
5 9:00, though.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's an
7 issue. I think when the licenses are issued,
8 licenses will be issued to certain establishments
9 to say that certain establishments can
10 participate -- I don't know -- all we do is that
11 the Board approves. It's up to our licensing
12 division to approve the establishments that are
13 going to participate. I believe that's how it
14 works, so we don't --

15 MR. SHORT: No. Mr. Chair, if I
16 could.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Short.

18 MR. SHORT: Mr. Jones, isn't it true
19 that we give a certificate and it goes on the
20 wall, only one bar crawl at a time can be at that
21 bar with that?

22 So we have three at the same time, so

1 there'll be three on the wall. That's our
2 problem, Mr. Chair. We have a mechanism that's
3 not working.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, it's not --

5 MR. SHORT: There's supposed to be one
6 license on -- Mr. Jones, am I correct?

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, wait a
8 minute. The way the regulation is written, it
9 says that -- because I thought that it was just
10 one establishment -- that you can only
11 participate in one bar crawl, but the regulation
12 says that, for example, if one is -- if they --
13 they can -- that establishment can participate in
14 a bar crawl between 12:00 and 2:00, Project DC
15 Events, that same establishment can participate
16 between 3:00 to 5:00. Yes, three bar crawls can
17 participate -- the establishment can participate
18 in several bar crawls on the same day, but it has
19 to be different times. I do not know how the
20 agency manages that. That's something that we
21 have to look at. We probably need to revisit the
22 regulation and say that it's just one bar crawl

1 per day, rather than per time. Yes, Mr. Jones.

2 INVESTIGATOR JONES: You're right.

3 The regulation does state a licensed
4 establishment shall not be permitted to
5 participate in more than one pub crawl event at a
6 time. You are correct. You can do blocks of
7 time. My problem, like I said earlier, is that -
8 - you may have people that are crossing over.

9 MR. KHADAIR: You do. That's why we
10 have security plans in place, to let them know
11 the time that they can. To be quite frank, I've
12 been doing this for three years in D.C. I
13 haven't had one issue with them or vice versa,
14 neither did my ticket holders. I haven't had
15 one.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I think for --
17 I believe we don't normally have problems. We
18 have problems Halloween. We have problems St.
19 Patrick's Day.

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MR. KHADAIR: -- because there's third
22 parties that are not approved. That's the

1 problem. The solution is we need to somehow find
2 a way to allow ticket holders to understand,
3 before you purchase a ticket, here's the correct
4 parties you need to deal with, these
5 professionals, not data collecting companies.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: One of the
7 things I'd ask you to do is to -- you let the
8 agency -- because you're out there in the street,
9 us, our investigators, we're not there. You let
10 the agency know if you have possible solutions.

11 You bring it to the attention of the
12 -- up to the agency, and the Board will consider
13 those to see if there's anything that we can do
14 to prevent these other folks from coming in and
15 giving you a bad name. Anything else that you
16 want to raise?

17 I've told you the smaller numbers were
18 -- I believe the Board has tentatively approved
19 for the smaller numbers. The Board has
20 tentatively approved 1,000 for all the events.
21 The Board will take under advisement --
22 therefore, for the DC Halloween Crawl, the Board

1 approved 1,000.

2 I know that we had asked for 2,400 to
3 3,400. The Board will take that under
4 advisement, the numbers that we'll come up with,
5 also for Night of the Crawling Dead, 2,400 to
6 3,400, the Board will take that under advisement,
7 and also Nightmare on M Street, which is 3,000,
8 the Board will take that under advisement. I
9 believe that -- all right, those are the three
10 the Board will take under advisement to come up
11 with some final numbers. The other pub crawls
12 have been approved. I want to thank you for
13 being here today.

14 It shows me that you do care about
15 this process. You do care about what the board
16 is doing. As I said to you personally, I will
17 support pub crawls as long as you do what you
18 need to do to make sure it works for the city.

19 As long as I'm chair, unless something
20 major happens, I'm not going to be one to say I'm
21 not going to approve any more bar crawls. That
22 would be my position until you give me reasons

1 otherwise, until you change my mind. It's up to
2 you.

3 MR. KHADAIR: If anything goes wrong,
4 it's not us.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you need to
6 tell me it is not you. That's all I'm saying.

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for
9 coming.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
11 went off the record at 11:39 a.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Pub Crawl

Before: DCABRA

Date: 09-25-19

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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