



**ALSO PRESENT:**

**ANNA VALERO, Licensee**

**ROBERT WOOD, Licensee**

**VANESSA PLEITEZ, ABRA Investigator**

**MARK BRASHEARS, ABRA Investigator**

**SHAWN TOWNSEND, ABRA Investigator**

**CORALIE FARLEE, ANC 6D**

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

2 3:02 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
4 we're going to call our Fact Finding Hearing, and  
5 this one is Case Number 18-CMP-00106. Kraken  
6 Axes License Number 109269, would you identify  
7 yourself for the record, please.

8 You can come forward ma'am if you, I  
9 thought you said you're not waiting for anyone  
10 else.

11 MS. VALERO: Oh, me?

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

13 MS. VALERO: I thought --

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, the name  
15 of the, isn't the name --

16 PARTICIPANT: Kraken.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

18 MS. VALERO: Kraken.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Kraken Axes,  
20 I'm sorry. So Kraken Axes, I'm sorry. So Case  
21 Number 18-CMP-00106 Kraken Axes, License Number  
22 109296. Will the parties please approach and

1 identify themselves for the record, please?

2 You can start, ma'am.

3 MS. VALERO: Hi, I'm Anna Valero. I  
4 am owner of Kraken 3400.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, can you,  
6 there's also a sign-in sheet, can you also sign  
7 in your name on that?

8 MS. VALERO: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay.

10 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Investigator  
11 Vanessa Pleitez with ABRA. Investigator Vanessa  
12 Pleitez with ABRA.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
14 Ms. Pleitez.

15 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Investigator  
16 Shawn Townsend, ABRA.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,  
18 Mr. Townsend. All right. Now, Ms. Valero, this  
19 is a Fact Finding Hearing. I think there are  
20 several things going on here.

21 You have applied for a permanent  
22 license, and you have also in the interim, you

1 have also applied for some one-day licenses.

2 There's some issues that concern the  
3 Board and so because of these issues that concern  
4 the Board we contact you here today to provide  
5 some clarification to us, and for us to make a  
6 decision on where we're going to go on your  
7 permanent license and where we're going to go on  
8 the one-day licenses that you have requested.

9 Now, have you had enough, have you  
10 seen the case report that was written by the  
11 Investigators?

12 MS. VALERO: Yes, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have a  
14 copy of it?

15 MS. VALERO: I do have copies of it.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: There's a copy  
17 of it. All right, so I'm going to ask Ms.  
18 Pleitez to tell us. Introduce yourself and tell  
19 us about the report that you wrote, please.

20 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: Investigator  
21 Pleitez with ABRA, I was assigned to investigate  
22 a complaint submitted to ABRA via eComplaints

1 regarding Kraken Axes not having their placards  
2 visible to the public.

3 My investigation determinations were  
4 based on interviews with employee, Mr. Eric  
5 Lorenzen 03:05:31, ABC manager and/or owner Ann  
6 Marie Valero, Mr. James Martens, and the owner of  
7 Eco Catering, Mr. Robert Wood.

8 On April 12, 2018, I visited Kraken  
9 Axe. I was greeted by Mr. Lorenzen who  
10 immediately, he began telling about the business  
11 concept.

12 He also expressed that they had a  
13 full-size, fully stocked bar with a variety of  
14 mixed drinks and beers. I identified myself as  
15 an ABRA investigator and asked to speak with the  
16 owner/ABC manager.

17 Ms. Valero identified herself as the  
18 ABC manager of the establishment. I asked Ms.  
19 Valero for her ABC manager's card and her ID.  
20 Ms. Valero did give me that information.

21 I asked her where the bar was located  
22 and she caught the end tail of the conversation

1 with me and Mr. Eric which was the staff.

2 And she stated that Mr. Lorenzen was  
3 a front-line employee and didn't know what he was  
4 talking about. Ms. Valero directed me to the  
5 front of the establishment where the placards  
6 were posted.

7 I advised Ms. Valero that application,  
8 that her license was still in the application  
9 process and that she didn't have, did not have an  
10 ABC license.

11 Ms. Valero stated that the  
12 establishment does not serve alcohol unless they  
13 have a caterer or a one-day license. At that  
14 time, she stated that Eco Catering was catering  
15 an event that evening at the establishment.

16 I asked Ms. Valero for her last one-  
17 day license and also for a copy of the catering  
18 contract that she had for that evening.

19 Ms. Valero directed me to Mr. James  
20 Martens and stated that he could better assist me  
21 with the request.

22 I introduced myself to Mr. Martens,

1 and I expressed to him the concerns regarding the  
2 bar, and if I could get the one-day temporary,  
3 the last one-day temporary license.

4 Mr. Martens stated that the items that  
5 were in the bar were dropped off by Eco Catering  
6 earlier that day for the event that they were  
7 having that evening.

8 He provided me with the catering  
9 license for Eco Catering. However, the license  
10 was expired. It expired March 31st, 2018, which  
11 I did provide you guys with a copy of that  
12 expired license that I took the picture that day.

13 So Mr. Martens stated that he was  
14 looking for the updated license and the last one-  
15 day license so I did a walk-through through the  
16 establishment.

17 I observed a fully stocked bar with a  
18 chalkboard style wall. That wall had several  
19 alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with the  
20 prices.

21 I also noticed that there were three  
22 pallets of beer inside of the establishment. I



1 asked Mr. Martens, give me one second, about the  
2 -- I asked him about the three pallets of beer.

3 He stated that he was currently still  
4 looking for the updated caterer's license and  
5 also the one-day license and it took him a  
6 second. So I walked away, and I continued to do  
7 the walk-through through the establishment.

8 I asked Ms. Valero if Mr. Martens was  
9 the owner of the establishment, and she stated, I  
10 quote, "Well that depends on who you ask, but no,  
11 I'm technically the owner."

12 Mr. Martens called me over and showed  
13 me a couple of invoices that he had on his  
14 computer in reference to the pallets of beer.

15 So he was scrolling on the computer,  
16 and I asked him if I could take, you know if he  
17 could stop scrolling so I could look at the  
18 invoices.

19 He provided me with an invoice from  
20 Capital Eagle which is also an exhibit. But the  
21 invoice was issued to District Still which is  
22 located on 135 R Street Northeast.

1 I asked Mr. Martens if that was an  
2 affiliated company with Kraken Axe. Mr. Martens  
3 stated that District Still was his company.

4 I asked Mr. Martens if District Still  
5 was providing alcohol to Kraken Axe and he stated  
6 that the alcohol that was inside of the  
7 establishment was purchased with the last one-day  
8 license that he received for Kraken Axe.

9 However, I noted it later in the  
10 report, but the last one-day license that they  
11 had was at the end of December, the beginning of  
12 January.

13 So at that point, Mr. Martens asked  
14 me, because he said he couldn't find the updated  
15 caterer's license or the last one-day license, so  
16 he asked me if he could email me that  
17 information?

18 And I told him that was fine. At that  
19 time I informed Mr. Martens and Ms. Valero that  
20 the reason for my visit was because of the  
21 placards that weren't posted or visible to the  
22 public.

1           They asked me for suggestions on where  
2           to put it, and I advised them where, you know,  
3           they should post it and it should be on the side  
4           where the license is, so it should be on the  
5           Georgia Avenue side and not on that side street.

6           I returned to the office on May, I'm  
7           sorry, on April 12 and Mr. Shawn Townsend and  
8           myself called Eco Catering.

9           We spoke to a male who stated that  
10          they didn't have any events catered, they weren't  
11          catering any events that evening.

12          That he was pretty sure that they  
13          didn't have any, but then we spoke to the owner,  
14          Mr. Robert Wood. Mr. Wood stated that he had  
15          never been contracted to conduct business with  
16          Kraken Axe.

17          Mr. Wood stated that Eco Catering  
18          submitted contract proposals to provide food and  
19          alcohol services to Kraken Axe

20          However, due to bad business practices  
21          with their partner company, or parent company,  
22          District Still, Mr. Wood decided not to pursue

1 any business opportunities either company.

2 Which I think, is he present?

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Yes. The  
4 caterer, Mr. Wood, Mr. Robert Wood is present in  
5 the hearing room.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was going to  
7 wait, you can come up, sir. You can come up and  
8 pull a chair up, and identify yourself for the  
9 record and also sign-in your name. Just  
10 identify.

11 MR. WOOD: I apologize for being late,  
12 by the way.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're not  
14 late, sir. It's just -- thank you, though. If  
15 you can just identify yourself for the record.

16 MR. WOOD: My name is Robert Wood, and  
17 I'm owner and executive chef of Eco Catering.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You can have a  
19 seat, and there's a sign-in sheet, just sign your  
20 name in.

21 MR. WOOD: Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And are you

1 here for this case, ma'am?

2 DR. FARLEE: Well, I have a question  
3 later.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: About this  
5 case, I thought you were here about this case.  
6 Can you identify yourself for the record, please?

7 DR. FARLEE: Coralie Farlee, JRABC  
8 Committee, ANC 6D.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
10 right. Go ahead.

11 INVESTIGATOR PLEITEZ: And finally, I  
12 did do social media search on April 13,  
13 discovered an article from NBC Washington  
14 stating, "Kraken Axes' founder, Steuart Martens."

15 I also did another Internet search  
16 with Yelp.com. They have several comments and  
17 articles stating that they have a full-size bar  
18 and available to them and also on Facebook.

19 And I did do an ABRA record check, and  
20 it states that the sole owner is Ann Marie  
21 Valero.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So,

1 Mr. Townsend, is there anything you want to add?

2 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: No, sir, I  
3 think Investigator Pleitez covered my involvement  
4 in this case. We had a conversation with Mr.  
5 Wood, regarding his involvement in the  
6 establishment, Kraken Axes.

7 And based on my conversation with him,  
8 he sounded surprised that the establishment had  
9 even had mentioned that they were using Eco  
10 Catering as the company to provide the alcoholic  
11 beverages and food on this particular day that  
12 Investigator Pleitez went. So that was my  
13 involvement in this case.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 Thank you. Ms. Valero, I have a series of  
16 questions that I want to ask, but you heard the  
17 report.

18 Is there anything that you want to, is  
19 there anything that you need to say to correct  
20 the record, based on the report that was provided  
21 by the Investigator?

22 MS. VALERO: Sure, I feel like I can

1 help clear up some of the questions that you  
2 might have in terms of how everything plays  
3 together.

4 So I think that the easiest one to  
5 clear up first is the ownership piece because  
6 that seems to be a question. You have two  
7 separate companies; you have Kraken Axes. Think  
8 of Kraken Axes as a franchise.

9 Kraken Axes is an axe-throwing  
10 franchise, a brand. It was started by Steuart  
11 Martens. What I am, is think of me as an  
12 operator of a, as a franchisee.

13 I utilize the Kraken Axes branding but  
14 what I am essentially is a venue, a tavern, if  
15 you will that has Kraken Axes in it. Hence the  
16 difference between the two businesses.

17 So Kraken 3400, think of it like as a  
18 franchisee, although, in terms of the model of  
19 ownership. So Kraken 3400 is --

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask a  
21 question.

22 MS. VALERO: Sure.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Because I think  
2 I am now confused. You applied for a permanent  
3 license.

4                   MS. VALERO: Yes, sir.

5                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right? And  
6 what is the entity that applied for a permanent  
7 license?

8                   MS. VALERO: Kraken 3400.

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, and  
10 what's the entity that has been applying for a  
11 one-day license?

12                   MS. VALERO: It depends on what event  
13 you were speaking of, and here's where I think it  
14 gets confusing with some of what the Investigator  
15 was asking about.

16                   So there are the one-day licenses that  
17 you found, like the one at the end of December.

18                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, all  
19 right, let me ask a question.

20                   MS. VALERO: Sure.

21                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This agency has  
22 approved one-day licenses before so who applied



1 for those one-day licenses?

2 MS. VALERO: It depends on which event  
3 those one-day licenses are for. And the reason  
4 I'm saying that is because depending on the  
5 event, depends on who is applying for the  
6 license.

7 So there are like the Palace of Beer  
8 were applied for by Drink the District. Drink  
9 the District is a completely separate entity,  
10 unaffiliated with Kraken 3400.

11 But it has held events under one-day  
12 licenses; I'm sure you guys are very familiar  
13 with Drink the District, they've been applying  
14 for one-day licenses for upwards of ten years at  
15 this point.

16 They are a festival production  
17 company, and so they have events, and they have  
18 hosted events at 3400 Georgia Avenue where Kraken  
19 3400 is applying for a long-term permanent  
20 license.

21 Does that help at all?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, go ahead.

1 MS. VALERO: Okay, I'm a visual  
2 person, so I typically draw this. So the pallets  
3 of beer, for instance, are related to events that  
4 had happened in the space, under one-day  
5 licenses, held by Drink the District.

6 Part of the problem in the city with  
7 once you have product for one-day licenses, you  
8 have product leftover from one-day licenses, and  
9 so that's the product that was sitting on the  
10 pallets.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what are you  
12 supposed to do with, what is supposed to, you  
13 have a product from a one-day license so what is  
14 the end you have applied for a one-day license so  
15 what is supposed to happen to that product?

16 MS. VALERO: I defer to you. We have  
17 asked our ABRA attorneys, and they have pretty  
18 much told us if the distributors won't take it  
19 back, some distributors will, some will not.

20 Like CI is one that typically will  
21 take product back, depending on the product.  
22 Otherwise, you are kind of stuck with the

1 product. You're sitting on the product.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, you  
3 guys are familiar with one-day licenses. I mean,  
4 what is supposed to happen, if you don't know,  
5 I'll ask the director.

6 What is supposed to happen to you  
7 apply for a one-day license, what is supposed to  
8 happen to the product after the day's over?

9 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: To my  
10 knowledge, one day, my experience with one-day  
11 licenses and events is that the distributor is  
12 the, the distributor delivers the alcohol to the  
13 event, and at the end of the event the  
14 distributor then retrieves the product, the  
15 leftover product and takes it back.

16 In the case, that product is delivered  
17 by a distributor, and they're not physically  
18 there to oversee the distribution of alcohol, I  
19 would have to defer to legals as well to get a  
20 sufficient answer.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, that's  
22 fine. Go ahead, Ms. Valero.

1 MS. VALERO: Well, that is the pallet  
2 question, what is the pallets of beer leftover  
3 from? What are they for? As it relates to, we  
4 want to talk about the placarding piece.

5 Part of the reason, part of the  
6 concern in what the Investigator was assisting us  
7 with was, the concern was around having two  
8 placards posted.

9 We have no placards, period. We had  
10 just started it. With the weather, that was  
11 during the rainy season happening in April, there  
12 is no side window on the building.

13 If anyone is familiar with the old  
14 Murray's building up on Georgia Avenue, that's  
15 our space. The only windows are the front facing  
16 on Georgia Avenue and based off of what we read;  
17 we had to have one on the side as well.

18 And so the issue was we have no  
19 windows on the side, so no way to post it where  
20 it would still be inside of the building and yet  
21 visible. And so with the rain, we had it posted  
22 on the outside of the only other door in the

1 building.

2 But we had taken that one off and so  
3 the question, we didn't realize we had to put  
4 both of them then on the front of the building  
5 which is what she had instructed us to until we  
6 figure out getting one laminated or posted  
7 somewhere else.

8 But the front of our building has old  
9 security gates, the old metal gates that come  
10 down. They do not lock, we have tried to get  
11 locks on them, but they are so old we had the  
12 people who originally installed them out and  
13 they're, like, actually, they don't make these  
14 locks anymore.

15 Until you replace them, there's no way  
16 for you to lock these gates. So the gates are  
17 pretty much at the whim of the community at night  
18 in terms of them being up or down.

19 Often times they get pulled down  
20 because people use the inside space between the  
21 door and the security gate.

22 And so she advised us to on the inside

1 of the security gates that are jammed to place  
2 those placards, so that's where we placed them  
3 and where they were. So I think that's the  
4 placarding piece.

5 As it relates to what happened with  
6 Mr. Lorenzen and him coming in. To sort of paint  
7 a little bit better full-scale picture of the  
8 day.

9 We had just come into the building  
10 from a meeting and had walked in when the  
11 Investigator had just started talking with Eric,  
12 with Mr. Lorenzen.

13 And what he said was accurate in that  
14 what we do provide as services, we were not open  
15 for business at the time that she arrived. Not  
16 our open business hours to the public.

17 She came to the front door as you can  
18 imagine, we've had a lot of people coming to the  
19 front door saying, "What's going on in here?"  
20 Because suddenly, it was an abandoned building  
21 for years, that now suddenly has activity in it.

22 And so she came to the front door, and

1 he told what activities and services that we do  
2 provide at Kraken Axes. We have competitive axe  
3 throwing experiences that people can book ahead  
4 of time, make a group reservation for a two to a  
5 two and a half hour experience or ax-perience as  
6 we like to say.

7 And but that looks like one that you  
8 can do, is we can arrange for you to have  
9 catering services as part of that experience.  
10 That's all things that are pre-booked.

11 The question that, and I think the  
12 confusion on that day and as it relates to Mr.  
13 Wood and Eco Caters is there are a few caterers  
14 that we typically go to when someone go to when  
15 someone calls and says, "Hey, we're interested in  
16 having a party at Kraken Axes."

17 And so when Mr. Martens was asked his  
18 best guess was probably that we would call Eco  
19 Caterers. But what would be, what I have come to  
20 find is that what was asked about that day was  
21 someone had called about booking a party for  
22 later that evening.

1                    Obviously, I left and went to a  
2 meeting. Letting customer service staff to  
3 figure out what was going on. I was not highly  
4 concerned about it.

5                    And I think the assumption was when  
6 Mr. Martens said that was that they had booked  
7 the catering with Eco Caterers. He had talked  
8 with, from my understanding, someone had talked  
9 with Mr. Wood's partner, John Cosgrove about  
10 having a party.

11                    And John we don't have anyone who can  
12 do it that day, and so there was no party or no  
13 event that was serving alcohol on that day.

14                    We weren't even open for business.  
15 The party that night had soft drinks, no one was  
16 being served alcohol.

17                    What were the other questions? You  
18 wanted to say something.

19                    CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, it's not,  
20 I'm going to have questions but I'm just giving  
21 you an opportunity and the Board members are  
22 going to have question, so I'm just -- the



1 Investigator gave her report and so I'm giving  
2 you an opportunity to respond to what was  
3 basically stated in the report rather than before  
4 we start asking questions. So I'm giving you an  
5 opportunity to --

6 MS. VALERO: Sure.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- provide a  
8 overview. Of course, later on throughout the  
9 proceedings, you'll still get an opportunity to  
10 ask continued questions, but I was just giving  
11 you an opportunity before asking questions if you  
12 had a response to what was said in this report.  
13 So that is what you were given.

14 MS. VALERO: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if you're  
16 done with your responses, then I'll have some  
17 specific questions to ask of you.

18 MS. VALERO: Please.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
20 Well, I think, how many events, do you have a  
21 current certificate of occupancy for this  
22 building?

1 MS. VALERO: For this building?

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

3 MS. VALERO: There is a current  
4 certificate of occupancy.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: When is that,  
6 are you able to provide that to the agency?

7 MS. VALERO: To ABRA?

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

9 MS. VALERO: There was one that was  
10 submitted with the original application for the  
11 CT license, I believe.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you know the  
13 date of, do you know the date? If you don't know  
14 you can say you don't know. Do you know when the  
15 certificate of occupancy was issued?

16 MS. VALERO: I do not.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
18 Now, how many events have you as part of Kraken  
19 Axes, how many events have you had -- how long  
20 have you been open?

21 MS. VALERO: We have been in this  
22 space since mid-December.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mid-December,  
2                   so how many events have, because I know you  
3                   distinguish between your organization and another  
4                   organization, so how many events have Kraken 3400  
5                   LLC had at this location since you've been open?

6                   MS. VALERO: I could get an exact if  
7                   we pulled it from the system.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
9                   alcohol events, events where alcohol is served,  
10                  approximately, since December?

11                  MS. VALERO: We could easily tell if  
12                  we looked at the one-day licenses.

13                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You said what?

14                  MS. VALERO: We could probably, we  
15                  could tell probably fairly easily if we looked at  
16                  the one-day licenses.

17                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, let  
18                  me ask this question, so I mean, who has events  
19                  in this space? The 3400 A Georgia Avenue  
20                  Northwest, who has control to have events in the  
21                  space?

22                  MS. VALERO: So Kraken 3400 has a

1 lease for this space.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

3 MS. VALERO: So Kraken 3400 hosts  
4 events in this space, we also partner with Drink  
5 the District and Drink the District has hosted  
6 events in the space.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So the one-day  
8 events, there is a James Martens who has  
9 requested and he has been provided a one-day  
10 event. Who is James Martens? I'm sorry.

11 MS. VALERO: James Martens is the  
12 owner of Drink the District.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And so like the  
14 one-day event that was held in January and a one-  
15 day event that was held in December. What -- I'm  
16 sorry. Right.

17 So who was that was it Kraken Axes  
18 events or were they strictly District events?

19 MS. VALERO: Strictly District events.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So do --

21 MS. VALERO: Hosted at the  
22 establishment, hosted at 3400 Georgia Avenue.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's the  
2 relationship between Kraken Axes and Drink the  
3 District, if any?

4                   MS. VALERO: Sure. To draw a chart,  
5 Drink the District, Steu is an owner of. Steu  
6 Martens also owns Kraken Axes, sorry James.

7                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: James Martens  
8 is Steuart Martens.

9                   MS. VALERO: James Martens is Steuart  
10 Martens, sorry. James Steuart Martens.

11                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So he owns --

12                   MS. VALERO: So Drink the District is  
13 an event production company. Full disclosure, I  
14 own a piece of Drink the District, as well.

15                   And so from my standpoint, I have  
16 leveraged some of the marketing capabilities of  
17 Drink the District in order to familiarize people  
18 with coming to 3400 Georgia Avenue, a still  
19 transitioning neighborhood that I am dedicated to  
20 being a long-term member of with what, as an LOC  
21 is called Kraken 3400.

22                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so,

1 all right so ownership stake you said you own so  
2 what's your percentage ownership stake in Drink  
3 the District?

4 MS. VALERO: Twenty percent.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Twenty percent?

6 MS. VALERO: Minority ownership.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Twenty percent.

8 All right, you are, but for Kraken 3400, LLC,  
9 you're the managing partner. Is that correct?

10 MS. VALERO: Correct.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you own a  
12 100 percent?

13 MS. VALERO: I solely own Kraken 3400.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay. All  
15 right. Now, did you host, did you specifically  
16 host an event on April 12th, 2018 after the  
17 Investigator came to 3400 Georgia Avenue?

18 MS. VALERO: We did not have an  
19 alcohol event. We had people in that we taught  
20 them to throw axes. We did not sell alcohol.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But the  
22 Investigator said that you had a bar, you had

1 beer, I guess two pallets of beer. So how did  
2 you secure, I mean, from what I've been told and  
3 the pictures, I mean, the alcohol was sitting on  
4 the counter.

5 So how was that controlled, I mean, if  
6 I was to come into your establishment and I see  
7 the alcohol on the bar, I'm going to want to come  
8 and buy an alcohol, I'm going to want to buy a  
9 drink.

10 So how should I take it from you that  
11 saying, well all of the alcohol is sitting there,  
12 it's not secure? I don't know; maybe you can  
13 tell me if it's secure. How do I know that you  
14 never sold alcohol?

15 MS. VALERO: I wasn't open for  
16 business when the Investigator came in. We were  
17 not open for business. Keep in mind that our  
18 reservations are prebooked.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, but you  
20 said --

21 MS. VALERO: And so I --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- no, but you

1 said, maybe I'm confused. I thought you just  
2 said that you had an event, but you didn't sell  
3 alcohol. So if had an event you didn't sell  
4 alcohol, how then are you saying you weren't open  
5 for business?

6 MS. VALERO: Because I wasn't open for  
7 business when the Investigator was there. The  
8 event that I'm referring, where people came and  
9 threw axes came to throw axes happened later in  
10 the evening.

11 The bar was set up previously and if  
12 I'm recalling correctly, from a photo shoot that  
13 was happening in the space. We weren't open for  
14 business, and we did not have the outside public  
15 coming in to do anything when the Investigator  
16 came in.

17 The bar was not set up in the same way  
18 when she came in when we were open for the guests  
19 later in the evening.

20 So that you know, in order to you know  
21 get ready to teach people to throw axes, we have  
22 to prepare the establishment in order to do that.



1                   It's not like we come and throw all  
2                   the lights in. What you see at 2 o'clock in the  
3                   afternoon is the same thing you see at 5 o'clock.

4                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, so  
5                   where did all of the alcohol, the alcohol that  
6                   was set up for the photo shoot. Where did this  
7                   alcohol come from?

8                   MS. VALERO: So I would have to check.  
9                   It most likely, my guess is it was leftover from  
10                  the last catered event.

11                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The last  
12                  catered event for whom? For you or for Drink the  
13                  District? I mean, what were the last -- all  
14                  right, this is April 12th, so who owned the  
15                  alcohol? Oh, you're not sure.

16                  MS. VALERO: I couldn't tell you right  
17                  now with 100 percent certainty, and I don't want  
18                  to tell you, "Oh, Anna Valero owns that bottle of  
19                  wine, right now, because I don't know what all  
20                  was on that bar at that moment. You know?"

21                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, one of  
22                  the things I asked you before is, hold on, you

1 said you've seen the report.

2 MS. VALERO: I want to be as helpful  
3 as possible here.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, that's  
5 fine. All right. And you don't have the report  
6 in front of you so I -- can someone provide to  
7 her Exhibit, from the report, Exhibits 3, 4, 5,  
8 6, 7, 8?

9 MS. VALERO: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes. So  
11 especially in Exhibit 8, it's not a bottle of  
12 wine. There is a --

13 MS. VALERO: This part is easy, this  
14 is leftover from a Drink the District one-day  
15 license. When you see pallets of alcohol --

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, now let's  
17 start out with Exhibit 3 first. Look at Exhibit  
18 3, please. Exhibit 3, we haven't gotten to the  
19 pallets, yet. So look at Exhibit 3.

20 And describe, at the bottom of it it  
21 has the, describe to me what is Exhibit 3? Yes,  
22 what is it?

1 MS. VALERO: This is a bar set up with  
2 Kraken Axes logos on a chalkboard behind. It was  
3 setup in the establishment.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And why were  
5 these, why was this setup? This was taken on  
6 April the 12th.

7 MS. VALERO: This is taken, this was  
8 set up as you can see as a photo shoot.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

10 MS. VALERO: And do you see all the  
11 social media handles in the background, we have  
12 to put social media handles on everything.

13 @KrakenAxes, @KrakenAxes, @KrakenAxes.

14 One of the things with being a newer  
15 business is from a needing to constantly create  
16 new content on social media; we regularly do  
17 essentially staged photo shoots in order to give  
18 people a feel of what it can be like when you  
19 come to your establishment.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
21 what is Exhibit 4?

22 MS. VALERO: Exhibit 4 is the same

1 thing. It's the side view of that exact same  
2 bar. Again, this happened in the afternoon. We  
3 don't open for business typically and have a  
4 reservation until much later in the evening.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. For  
6 the record, April 10th, if you remember and I'm  
7 going to look. So April 12th was what day of the  
8 week? I think April 12th was a Thursday. Okay?  
9 I just for the record, so the record reflects  
10 that April 12th, 2018, was a Thursday.

11 So if you look at Exhibit 3, and at  
12 the top of it it says, Saturday special, Bloody  
13 Mary, Bloody Mary Mimosa. What does that mean?  
14 What, you don't know what it means?

15 MS. VALERO: No, I mean.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, you  
17 said for a photo shoot that it's a social media,  
18 it's a social media if you're looking at the  
19 photo shoot. If this is a photo shoot then you  
20 know it says add Kraken Axes @tag us.

21 What is that Saturday special, Bloody  
22 Mary Mimosa? What does that mean? Why would

1 that be on a photo shoot?

2 MS. VALERO: No, no different than the  
3 social media handles. You know, I mean it's,  
4 honestly, it's purely graffiti in the background.  
5 The point of the photos is just to give people a  
6 feel of what things can be. It's a photo.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: As far as the  
8 photo shoot, you have it to say you have Saturday  
9 special then for a Saturday special you'll have a  
10 Bloody Mary Mimosa. That's a part of the photo  
11 shoot. Is that correct? That's what you're  
12 saying to me. Right?

13 MS. VALERO: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
15 What is Exhibit --

16 MS. VALERO: Part of the service that  
17 we can provide is having Bloody Marys, having  
18 Mimosas and things like that.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
20 What's Exhibit 5, please? Tell us what Exhibit 5  
21 is.

22 MS. VALERO: It is the exact same as

1 Exhibit 3 and 4, it's at a different angle.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. So  
3 what's Exhibit 6?

4 MS. VALERO: The exact same at a  
5 different angle. The exact same bar at a  
6 different angle.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And this is all  
8 a part of, as you said, a photo shoot? Is that  
9 correct?

10 MS. VALERO: Correct.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Exhibit 7,  
12 what is Exhibit 7?

13 MS. VALERO: Exhibit 7 is what we were  
14 talking about before with the one-day licenses  
15 and the leftover product.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's Exhibit  
17 7, but again this is from April 12th. Is that  
18 correct?

19 MS. VALERO: This is a photo, I  
20 believe, taken on April 12th.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

22 MS. VALERO: Sitting in a warehouse.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what's  
2 Exhibit 8?

3 MS. VALERO: The same thing as Exhibit  
4 7. A different pallet of leftover product from a  
5 one-day Drink the District license.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
7 Now, you stated before that you currently have a  
8 certificate of occupancy, but you can't tell me  
9 today when that was issued?

10 MS. VALERO: Honestly, I do not know.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And on I'm not  
12 sure if we have a copy of it, but I'll ask that  
13 you, I'm going to ask you to provide us a copy of  
14 your certificate of occupancy. Okay?

15 Now there was some confusion that you  
16 were using Eco Catering for an event on April the  
17 12th. So can you clear that up for us?

18 MS. VALERO: Sure. We did not use  
19 Eco Caterers for an effect on April 12th.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Have you ever  
21 used, has Kraken Axes ever used Eco Catering for  
22 an event?

1 MS. VALERO: I would have to double  
2 check, and the only reason I hesitate is because  
3 we've known Eco Caterers and used Eco Caterers in  
4 the past for other events.

5 So I don't know if we have, I don't  
6 personally book the catering for the Kraken  
7 events that we do have. So I don't want to speak  
8 out of turn. Do you know off the top of your  
9 head?

10 MR. WOOD: We've never done any  
11 business at 3400 --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to --

13 MS. VALERO: Okay.

14 MR. WOOD: We attempted to do some  
15 business in the past, but never did anything with  
16 Kraken only with --

17 MS. VALERO: Drink the District.

18 MR. WOOD: Yes. And we've very rarely  
19 done anything.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

21 MR. WOOD: That was several years ago.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you're



1 saying that the information about April 12th and  
2 the fact that you're utilizing Eco Catering  
3 that's not true.

4 MS. VALERO: It's irrelevant, we  
5 didn't have a catered event that happened on  
6 April 12th.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But where did  
8 Miss, where did the Investigator get this idea  
9 from that on April, yes, where did the  
10 Investigator that got the name for April 12th  
11 that there was going to be an event and Eco  
12 Catering?

13 I mean, I'm not sure if she's familiar  
14 with your facility, so I'm asking from your  
15 perspective why would she just throw out that on  
16 April 12th there was an event and Eco Catering  
17 was the one that was going to cater the event?

18 MS. VALERO: What I think happened, is  
19 I think Steu honestly just spoke out of turn. He  
20 didn't know that there wasn't an event happening.  
21 He does not know all of the bookings that happen  
22 at Kraken 3400.

1 He provides a brand.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But --

3 MS. VALERO: Let's be clear. He does  
4 not operate Kraken 3400 or pay attention to the  
5 bookings. He probably overheard someone say,  
6 "There's someone that wants to have a party here  
7 tonight. Can we figure out how to make that  
8 happen?"

9 There wasn't any alcohol, catered  
10 party that night at Kraken 3400. So when she was  
11 asking him questions, he was probably talking off  
12 of what his best guess was.

13 His best guess was that we would  
14 probably call Eco Caterers, first, to see if they  
15 could cater the party that night.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, since you  
17 talk about Steu, so was Drink the District having  
18 an event at 3400 Georgia Avenue on April the  
19 12th?

20 MS. VALERO: No.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So who had this  
22 non-alcoholic event at 3400 Georgia Avenue on

1 April the 12th?

2 MS. VALERO: Kraken taught people how  
3 to throw axes at 3400 Georgia Avenue the night of  
4 April 12th.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And you're also  
6 stating that the alcohol was there, it was there  
7 for a photo shoot, at least when the Investigator  
8 went there.

9 And that night, you didn't sell or  
10 serve any alcohol. Is that correct?

11 MS. VALERO: Correct.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I'm  
13 going to -- no let me, let me, I'm going to, I'm  
14 trying not to confuse you but it's related.

15 Now, you have applied for one-day  
16 events for June 28th through June 29th, June  
17 30th, July 1st, July 4th, and July 6th, July 7th,  
18 July 8th.

19 You know, I'm confused, hold on, I'm  
20 confusing you.

21 MS. VALERO: Can I help you?

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, because --

1 MS. VALERO: I might be able to  
2 simplify.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- it says that  
4 the events are Drink the District LLC is the one  
5 who has applied for those one-day. So the one-  
6 days, have you applied for any one-day from this  
7 agency? Kraken Axe?

8 MS. VALERO: The one-days that you  
9 have for the dates coming up.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

11 MS. VALERO: Are Kraken Axes'.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So if they're  
13 from Kraken, so what's the relationship then  
14 between Kraken Axes and --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: -- your  
17 organization and Drink the District LLC?

18 MS. VALERO: There is no association  
19 outside of the fact that I also happen to have a  
20 small minority stake in Drink the District.  
21 That's it.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But, so you're

1 a 20 percent owner, okay, so you're a 20 percent  
2 owner of Drink the District and so, therefore,  
3 you are applying for one-day licenses for Drink -  
4 - you have a minority stake, if you have a  
5 minority stake, if you have a minority stake in  
6 a, a very minority stake in an organization and  
7 this organization is called Drink the District  
8 LLC.

9 Why are you, the person who is a, I'll  
10 say, based on when you said a minor role, why are  
11 you a minor person applying for one-day for the  
12 Drink the District LLC?

13 MS. VALERO: And I need to look at  
14 what you're looking at because the --

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You, all right.

16 MS. VALERO: -- the licenses.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I have in front  
18 of me, I have in front of me, okay. Anna Valero,  
19 an application, which is on our calendar for  
20 today.

21 MS. VALERO: Sure.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Anna Valero is

1 applying for a one-day class F license, event,  
2 private party for Drink the District LLC. Date  
3 of event June 28th, June 29th, June 30th, July  
4 1st at 3400 Georgia Avenue Northwest entire.

5 And Anna Valero is also applying for a  
6 one-day class F license for again, a private  
7 event, Drink the District LLC. Date of event  
8 July 7th, July 8th.

9 So why are you, who is just a very  
10 minor person in Drink the District, why are you  
11 planning for one-day event for a one-day license  
12 for an event at the same address that you are  
13 only a minor player in this matter?

14 MS. VALERO: I mean, I'm here trying  
15 to be completely open and transparent with you  
16 all with you all about my entities and what I  
17 have going on.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

19 MS. VALERO: Drink the District is an  
20 event production company. Those licenses --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That you are  
22 applying for.

1 MS. VALERO: Yes. 100 percent.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, that Anna  
3 Valero and let me get the record straight. You  
4 are Anna Valero. Right?

5 MS. VALERO: Last I checked.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Anna Valero  
7 is applying for one-day licenses for Drink the  
8 District LLC. Why are you Anna Valero, come to  
9 ABRA applying for one-day licenses for Drink the  
10 District LLC as you state you are only a minor  
11 player in this other company?

12 MS. VALERO: Because my understanding  
13 is what those applications should say is Anna  
14 Valero, Kraken 3400 is applying for those.  
15 Correct?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I don't know.  
17 I'm asking you. Are you apply --

18 MS. VALERO: I'm telling you that when  
19 those were being done, that was my understanding.  
20 Those were being applied for for Kraken 3400 LLC.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Let me ask you  
22 a question and the Board, the Board approved one-

1 day licenses for you, I think, two weeks ago it  
2 was on our agenda.

3 Who applied for those licenses? I'm  
4 asking you because I know it's from that address  
5 so who, did you apply for it before?

6 Have you applied for one-day licenses,  
7 has Anna Valero applied for one-day licenses for  
8 3400 Georgia Avenue prior?

9 MS. VALERO: I do not believe so. And  
10 again, and this is sort of to the point that, is  
11 you know, a lot of this conversation. The reason  
12 I hesitated because we have a lot of one-day  
13 licenses.

14 We have a lot of one-day licenses for  
15 a lot of different events and different entities,  
16 and quite honestly I just opened a new venue  
17 that's 42,000 square feet in Southwest, which I  
18 know we're going talk about here today too.

19 And the last two weeks have been a  
20 little insane for me and I'm running on very  
21 little sleep. So I don't want to say to you X if  
22 it's really Y, I would rather just double check



1 and tell you 100 percent looking at the licenses  
2 which all sitting in a safe.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, the  
4 reason why I'm having this, and I'll say this to  
5 you, forget about you don't remember what  
6 happened two weeks ago.

7 What I'm asking you today, you have  
8 requested from this agency, which was on our  
9 agenda for today and one of the reasons why we  
10 have not considered it, because we knew that you  
11 were coming here today.

12 So Anna Valero has requested one-day  
13 licenses for Drink the District LLC. And I'm  
14 trying to find out why is it that Anna Valera who  
15 says that she is a minor player for the District,  
16 why is she applying for one-day licenses?

17 MS. VALERO: Because for 3400, I  
18 haven't decided if Drink the District is going to  
19 host a patriotic themed event at 3400 for next  
20 week around 4th of July.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So you just,  
22 let me apply for a liquor license then, whoever,

1 they'll approve it and I'll either do or Drink  
2 the District will do it. So, yes.

3 MS. VALERO: No, I will say, I don't  
4 think it's *laisse faire* like that. I'm being  
5 very open about the fact that Kraken Axes on the  
6 weekends is open Thursday through Sunday.

7 We have applied for a permanent  
8 license for Kraken 3400 to have a permanent  
9 license. We are in the process and in that  
10 issuance process.

11 In the meantime, I do have people who  
12 are about to have reservations who want to have  
13 catered alcohol at their events.

14 As such, until we can get the issuance  
15 which we have been working with and we're working  
16 with and you know I just hired an expediter and  
17 to help with that process.

18 I'm hoping that Mr. Jackson really  
19 helps us with that process in order to get that  
20 issued. Our understanding is that we need to  
21 have one-day licenses for those dates.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Let

1 me, Mr. Townsend, let me just a quick question.  
2 Why did you call Eco Catering?

3 INVESTIGATOR TOWNSEND: Because the  
4 caterer's license that was provided to  
5 Investigator Pleitez was expired, and that  
6 license was provided to her because the licensee  
7 or Ms. Valero and Mr. Martens both stated that  
8 one, the alcohol was delivered on April 12th for  
9 an event that they were having later that  
10 evening, as well as Eco, was the caterer that was  
11 going to be, that had just delivered the alcohol  
12 earlier that day for the event that they were  
13 having on April 12th.

14 So because the license was expired and  
15 there seemed to be some question about the  
16 validity of those statements, I went ahead and  
17 reached out to Mr. Wood.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.  
19 Sir, can you identify yourself for the record,  
20 please?

21 MR. WOOD: Yes, sir. Robert Wood,  
22 chef, and owner of Eco Caterers.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, Mr. Wood,  
2 are you familiar with James Martens?

3                   MR. WOOD: I am.

4                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Are you also  
5 familiar with Anna Valero?

6                   MR. WOOD: I am. Full disclosure, she  
7 worked for the company about five years ago.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What company?

9                   MR. WOOD: Eco Caterers. Yes, the  
10 company I own now, I was not an owner at that  
11 point in the history of the company.

12                   But she is a former business partner  
13 or a former employee of my business partner.

14                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And when was  
15 the last time she worked for you? She was an  
16 employee?

17                   MR. WOOD: 2012, probably, 2013,  
18 something like that. '13, something like that.

19                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now --

20                   MR. WOOD: It's been five years.

21                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

22                   MR. WOOD: It was a part-time role.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Now, how did  
2 they get a hold of your license, your caterer's  
3 license?

4                   MR. WOOD: I am not fully, that's why  
5 I'm here today, sir. Is to make sure I  
6 understand fully why they had my catering  
7 license.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm asking you  
9 how could they get a copy? How could they have  
10 your license?

11                  MR. WOOD: The District Still is a  
12 liquor distribution company that is owned by Mr.  
13 Martens.

14                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

15                  MR. WOOD: Okay, and we used to do  
16 business with them. So we would have to provide  
17 them with my liquor license in order to be able  
18 to receive, you know, they would need the numbers  
19 and everything to know that we were a licensed  
20 vendor of alcohol. Right?

21                         So we would have to provide them with  
22 my liquor license.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

2 MR. WOOD: That's the only reason I  
3 can think that they would have my liquor license.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, your  
5 catering license.

6 MR. WOOD: My catering license.  
7 Right. We are fully licensed to serve alcohol,  
8 and that would explain why it would have been  
9 expired because they would not have had the new  
10 one that we have.

11 We have a fully functioning license.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So when was the  
13 last time you had, you had a business  
14 relationship with District Stillery, you said?

15 MR. WOOD: District Still, the last  
16 time we used them was for a wedding in February,  
17 I believe.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: In what year?

19 MR. WOOD: This year.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: This year.

21 MR. WOOD: And it went, it did not go  
22 the way I wanted it to so we ended our

1 relationship with District Still at that moment.

2 I have not done any business with his  
3 other entities be it Kraken Axes or this other  
4 one, that is the event production company. I  
5 haven't done any business with those entities.

6 One, Kraken Axes, ever, or two, the  
7 event production company it's been more than two  
8 years since we've done anything with them.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So when you  
10 bought alcohol from District Stillery, and maybe  
11 I'm getting the name wrong, in February. Did you  
12 provide them with a copy of your caterer's  
13 license?

14 MR. WOOD: Right, but I believe that  
15 expired in April, I think, or March.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm not asking  
17 about that.

18 MR. WOOD: It would have been current  
19 for the February, and then it expired in March,  
20 which when we got to April would have made it  
21 expired.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right

1 MR. WOOD: So that's why I was  
2 rationalizing that.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But do you know  
4 why on April 12th, they would provide our  
5 investigator with a copy of your license?

6 MR. WOOD: I have no idea why they  
7 would do that, sir. I know my business partner,  
8 John Cosgrove fielded a somewhat frantic phone  
9 call from Mr. Martens.

10 Requesting last minute service. We  
11 declined the --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What do you  
13 mean last minute service?

14 MR. WOOD: They wanted some catering  
15 brought in at the last minute.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: For what day?

17 MR. WOOD: For that day.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What day was  
19 that?

20 MR. WOOD: The 12th of April.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The reason I'm  
22 asking is --



1 MR. WOOD: Yes, yes, no, I understand.  
2 You want it on the record.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: On the record  
4 so --

5 MR. WOOD: On April 12th, we fielded a  
6 call in the middle of the afternoon saying, "Oh,  
7 whatever you can do. We just need some food,"  
8 basically.

9 And then my business partner said,  
10 "No." You know, that's not how we operate. We  
11 don't do last minute turnaround stuff like that.  
12 It's just not the nature of our business.

13 And he was somewhat flustered but, you  
14 know, it is what it is. We weren't interested in  
15 the business he asked for.

16 Then, later on, I fielded a call from,  
17 I guess probably, I can't remember the timing to  
18 be honest. I work, I'm a chef, so I start at 6  
19 o'clock in the morning and work until 10 o'clock  
20 at night some days.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

22 MR. WOOD: That day, I think it was

1 later in the afternoon, early evening.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

3 MR. WOOD: I remember, I was still in  
4 the office, but I was getting ready to leave.  
5 That's the only thing I can kind of give it some  
6 time frame.

7 He called and asked if we, in fact,  
8 have any business with Kraken Axes that night,  
9 and we did not.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right. But all  
11 right, so Mr. Martens called, and I just want the  
12 record to reflect you have stated that you've  
13 never had any business relationship with Kraken  
14 Axes. Is that correct?

15 MR. WOOD: Correct. We did some due  
16 diligence trying to work with them as they were  
17 launching the concept, but to my memory, it never  
18 came to fruition. We never actually executed on  
19 any of the plans that we discussed.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go  
21 ahead Mr. Short; I think you have a question.

22 MEMBER SHORT: Good afternoon.

1 MR. WOOD: Good afternoon, sir.

2 MEMBER SHORT: As a caterer, how long  
3 have you had your catering license in the  
4 District of Columbia?

5 MR. WOOD: Our catering license in the  
6 District, so we were first formed in Virginia.  
7 And then we later got, so I could get you  
8 particulars.

9 MEMBER SHORT: Approximately, how long  
10 have you?

11 MR. WOOD: Approximately, four years  
12 in the District. Alcohol license for two, for  
13 two now.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Explain to me,  
15 according to our ABRA regulations, what a caterer  
16 license allows you to do as a caterer for a  
17 business.

18 MR. WOOD: Okay, so for the alcohol  
19 side of things or the whole thing?

20 MEMBER SHORT: Just tell me the whole  
21 thing. What does a caterer do?

22 MR. WOOD: We provide, it allows us to

1 provide food and if we're providing food for a  
2 function it allows us to provide alcohol as well.

3 MEMBER SHORT: How much alcohol?

4 MR. WOOD: You know, as I said, I'm  
5 the chef. My business partner handles those  
6 particulars.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Can I help you out a  
8 little bit?

9 MR. WOOD: Yes, sir.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Isn't alcohol supposed  
11 to be incidental to food?

12 MR. WOOD: Right. I was going to say  
13 I know that we have to be heavier like I think  
14 it's 60 percent food, 40 percent alcohol.

15 I'm just, I don't want to, as Ms.  
16 Valero stated earlier, I don't want to misspeak  
17 because I am the chef and the owner and my  
18 business partner does those specifics.

19 But it's always; our food bills are  
20 always 60 percent more.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Next question would be.

22 MR. WOOD: Yes, sir.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: Does the caterer  
2 normally leave alcohol on the premises or does he  
3 take the alcohol back with him?

4                   MR. WOOD: We take it. We would  
5 always take it or have it picked up the night of  
6 service. So we're responsible if we are catering  
7 an event with alcohol. We are responsible for  
8 the alcohol the whole time.

9                   MEMBER SHORT: Right. And the removal  
10 of it.

11                  MR. WOOD: We bring it or have it  
12 delivered, we remove it or have it picked up.

13                  MEMBER SHORT: So whether a person has  
14 a one-day license or whatever if you do business  
15 with them. You don't leave the alcohol there,  
16 cases of beer or a stocked bar.

17                  MR. WOOD: No, sir. Correct.

18                  MEMBER SHORT: So if you come to a  
19 person's business, and they want to say have your  
20 catering license posted, but there's no food  
21 there, and they're selling alcohol. What would  
22 you say to them?

1 MR. WOOD: I would take my license and  
2 say, "Stop putting my business at risk because  
3 you are putting me in harm's way. And you have  
4 no right to put my business at risk."

5 MEMBER SHORT: So were you aware that  
6 Kraken Axes had this bar? Did you see the  
7 pictures in the exhibits?

8 MR. WOOD: I saw the pictures as she  
9 flipped through them when he was asking about  
10 them.

11 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, okay. Have you  
12 ever been to Kraken Axes?

13 MR. WOOD: No, sir.

14 MEMBER SHORT: You've never been  
15 there?

16 MR. WOOD: No, sir. Yes, I saw all of  
17 these.

18 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very much.  
19 May I'd like to ask Ms. Valero.

20 MS. VALERO: Yes, sir.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Ms. Valero, how long  
22 have you been in business in Washington D.C.?

1 MS. VALERO: How long have I -- which  
2 business?

3 MEMBER SHORT: Any business, just how  
4 long have you been doing business in Washington  
5 D.C.?

6 MS. VALERO: Five-ish years.

7 MEMBER SHORT: How many years?

8 MS. VALERO: Five-ish, five, around  
9 five.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Five. Okay.

11 MS. VALERO: Around five, full  
12 disclosure, Kraken 3400 is my first bar. I have  
13 never owned a bar in D.C.

14 MEMBER SHORT: But you worked for a  
15 catering company that did alcohol?

16 MS. VALERO: I did marketing.

17 MR. WOOD: Yes, she did.

18 MS. VALERO: I did like marketing and  
19 customer service. I didn't order booze.

20 MEMBER SHORT: Just for the record, I  
21 have to save this, I went and checked with our  
22 staff. There's no certificate of occupancy in

1 any of the papers you filed.

2 Do you want to correct that because I  
3 heard you testify earlier that you gave a copy of  
4 the C of O ABRA? Did you or didn't you?

5 MS. VALERO: So I did not personally  
6 submit that application. My alcohol attorney,  
7 Manny, Mr. Mpras submitted that application.

8 When he submitted it, my understanding  
9 is that you need a C of O to submit the license.  
10 So that's why I said, my understanding is that  
11 you have a C of O in that application.

12 MEMBER SHORT: So is your C of O  
13 posted in your business at 3400? Is your  
14 certificate of occupancy, because anytime you're  
15 in business you are supposed to have your  
16 certificate of occupancy plainly in sight for  
17 anybody to see it, the public or investigators,  
18 anybody.

19 MS. VALERO: Got it.

20 MEMBER SHORT: So is your C of O  
21 posted?

22 MS. VALERO: I do not know. I'm being



1 honest with you Mr. Short.

2 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, all right. Now,  
3 you have alcohol stored at 3400 Georgia Avenue  
4 right now as we speak. Am I correct?

5 MS. VALERO: I have leftover product  
6 from a one-day license from Drink the District.

7 MEMBER SHORT: Is that product  
8 alcohol?

9 MS. VALERO: Yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: Do you have a bar set  
11 up there?

12 MS. VALERO: Right at this moment, I  
13 do not know. Honestly, I haven't been there all  
14 day.

15 MEMBER SHORT: The last time you were  
16 there was when?

17 MS. VALERO: 9 a.m. I was there for  
18 about 15 minutes this morning, at like 8:45.

19 MEMBER SHORT: Was the bar still  
20 there?

21 MS. VALERO: This is there, what is on  
22 top of it right at this moment, I do not know

1                   MEMBER SHORT: When was the last time  
2 you saw alcohol on that bar?

3                   MS. VALERO: Last weekend.

4                   MEMBER SHORT: Last weekend, and did  
5 you have events last weekend?

6                   MS. VALERO: Yes, and one day  
7 licenses.

8                   MEMBER SHORT: And who provided the  
9 alcohol?

10                  MS. VALERO: The alcohol was, I do not  
11 know, I'd have to check.

12                  MEMBER SHORT: It's your business.

13                  MS. VALERO: I understand that, sir.

14                  MEMBER SHORT: I'm just trying to get  
15 it straight in my head, it's your business, this  
16 is your first bar.

17                  MS. VALERO: Yes.

18                  MEMBER SHORT: But you've been in  
19 business in Washington D.C. for five or six  
20 years.

21                  MS. VALERO: But not in the ABRA  
22 world. I did marketing; I did events.

1                   MEMBER SHORT: How long have you owned  
2                   3400 Georgia Avenue?

3                   MS. VALERO: A couple of months,  
4                   January, December something is when we signed, is  
5                   when I signed the lease.

6                   MEMBER SHORT: Did you do any research  
7                   on the business model that you were setting up?  
8                   Kraken Axes at 3400 Georgia Avenue?

9                   MS. VALERO: I did research.

10                  MEMBER SHORT: Did you do any research  
11                  about your business model? You are going to have  
12                  people throwing axes, and you would have one-day  
13                  licenses with alcohol. Did you do any research?

14                  MS. VALERO: Yes, my intention is not  
15                  to have one-day licenses with people throwing  
16                  axes. My intention is to have a permanent  
17                  establishment with a permanent license at 3400  
18                  Georgia Avenue.

19                  And I have been going through them;  
20                  I've spent the last six-plus months going through  
21                  the process, going through all of the ANC  
22                  meetings, and working with the community and

1 hosting community meetings and working with --

2 MEMBER SHORT: During those six  
3 months, how many alcohol events have you had at  
4 Kraken?

5 MS. VALERO: As I said before, I would  
6 have to go and check the records to --

7 MEMBER SHORT: Would it be fair to say  
8 one or two a month?

9 MS. VALERO: Yes.

10 MEMBER SHORT: And so in doing that  
11 you never checked to find out what you could or  
12 could not do with a one-day license or a regular  
13 license. You still don't know. Right?

14 MS. VALERO: Can you just  
15 differentiate for me between what you're saying  
16 is a regular license?

17 MEMBER SHORT: All right, let me  
18 rephrase that. You have been selling and serving  
19 alcohol at 3400 Georgia Avenue, Kraken Axes since  
20 you opened your business up in December/January.

21 Have you or have you not been selling  
22 alcohol?

1 MS. VALERO: I have been selling  
2 alcohol.

3 MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Who serves that  
4 alcohol?

5 MS. VALERO: I have bartenders serve  
6 alcohol, and depending on when the bookings are,  
7 so we have had, I've had caterers serve alcohol.

8 Depending on when the bookings are  
9 made, and if we have --

10 MEMBER SHORT: The person serving  
11 alcohol, are they ABC trained or licensed?

12 MS. VALERO: TIPS certified. So we  
13 get people TIPS certified.

14 MEMBER SHORT: Who's your ABC manager?

15 MS. VALERO: So I am an ABC manager.

16 MEMBER SHORT: You are?

17 MS. VALERO: I am.

18 MEMBER SHORT: Okay, so you're always  
19 there when alcohol is served?

20 MS. VALERO: I am always there.

21 MEMBER SHORT: Is the caterer there  
22 when using a caterer's license, is the caterer

1       there?

2                   MS. VALERO:   Yes.

3                   MEMBER SHORT:  Every time?

4                   MS. VALERO:   Yes.

5                   MEMBER SHORT:  And so when you were  
6       using, forgive me, your name again, sir?

7                   MR. WOOD:     Robert Wood.

8                   MEMBER SHORT:  When they were using  
9       your catering service, was the caterer on site at  
10      3400 Georgia Avenue?

11                  MR. WOOD:     We have never been on site  
12      at 3400 Georgia Avenue.

13                  MEMBER SHORT:  But they've used your  
14      license.

15                  MR. WOOD:     From what I've come to find  
16      out.  That's why I'm here today, sir.

17                  MEMBER SHORT:  I have no more  
18      questions, Mr. Chair.

19                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  Ms. Valero.  
20      Oh, I'm sorry.

21                  MEMBER SHORT:  Mr. Cato.

22                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON:  I'm sorry.

1 He's chomping at the bit. Go ahead, Mr. Cato.

2 MS. VALERO: If I can real quick --

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure.

4 MS. VALERO: -- just to clarify  
5 something. We haven't used, I have not used Eco  
6 Caterer's catering license. It's not posted up  
7 at our bar and just stays there.

8 I think therein lies the confusion.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I think  
10 you add to the confusion because our investigator  
11 went to 3400 and she got a copy of a caterer's  
12 license that someone, I'll just say it that way,  
13 someone at 3400 gave it to her.

14 MS. VALERO: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: To say we're  
16 having this event tonight, April 12th, and we're  
17 using this caterer here's a copy of his license.

18 It probably wouldn't have been  
19 problematic if the license was current but we  
20 recognize that the license had expired.

21 So I think you need to clarify to the  
22 Board how is it that we showed up at Drink Inc.

1 or wasn't that it?

2 Kraken Axe, well we came into your  
3 building, and we got somebody's caterer's license  
4 to say, "This is why we can have, sell and serve  
5 alcohol because we're working with this caterer  
6 and here's the license."

7 The caterer is sitting beside you and  
8 he says that I've never done any business with  
9 your organization, I have not business and the  
10 last time I did business with Drink, another  
11 organization that you're affiliated with was in  
12 February.

13 So I'm not quite sure how they, why  
14 aren't they providing to ABRA a copy of my  
15 expired license in April, and you have not  
16 answered that to us.

17 MS. VALERO: And the answer is that  
18 the person who provided Eco Caterer's license,  
19 should not have done so. They did not know that  
20 Eco Caterers was not catering an event that  
21 evening at Kraken 3400.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to



1 ask Mr. Cato, but I just want to ask one last  
2 question. Does Mr. Martens, does he have any  
3 ownership stake in Kraken Axes?

4 MS. VALERO: Kraken Axes LLC, yes.  
5 Kraken 3400, no.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So what's the  
7 difference between --

8 MS. VALERO: And to make it easy --

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes.

10 MS. VALERO: -- Mr. Martens doesn't  
11 want to own a bar.

12 CHAIRPERSON AGNDERSON: Does he not  
13 want to own a bar or is he legally impermissible  
14 from owning a bar? Which one is it?

15 MS. VALERO: He doesn't want to. He  
16 wants to run an event production company.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, oh.

18 MS. VALERO: Do you know what my dream  
19 is? I want to have venues because I've done  
20 event production for a number of years and the  
21 biggest hurdle in being an independent festival  
22 provider and producer is finding space in the

1 District.

2 Finding space in the District is  
3 really difficult and really expensive. I'd  
4 rather have a venue; I very passionately want to  
5 have venues in the District of Columbia.

6 This is my home, this is where I am.  
7 This is where I want to build my business. And  
8 that business is venue operations.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead Mr.  
10 Cato, I apologize. Go ahead, sir.

11 MEMBER CATO: So how are you doing Ms.  
12 Valero?

13 MS. VALERO: Great, how are you?

14 MEMBER CATO: I'm doing well. So you  
15 stated that prior to an investigator showing up  
16 to your establishment there was a photoshoot that  
17 was taking place with this photo right here.

18 And you said that there was no alcohol  
19 being served. Correct? So is there some way or  
20 some how you can point me to these pictures from  
21 this photo shoot?

22 Because I was looking at the social

1 media feed that you had stated on the chalkboard,  
2 Kraken Axes Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and  
3 I didn't see any pictures from this particular  
4 photo shoot.

5 So I was wondering if there was  
6 somehow, some way you could point me to those  
7 pictures? And then also I was just trying to  
8 wrap my mind around the fact that you just  
9 actually stated that you have a background in  
10 marketing.

11 So as I'm looking at this picture, I'm  
12 thinking, this picture with the faint writing was  
13 used to, it was actually used, it was actually  
14 staged for an actual photo shoot for your  
15 business.

16 So I was just a little, I was just a  
17 little curious as to where I could see the  
18 finished product.

19 MS. VALERO: Sure. Let me see if I  
20 can go pull a photo shoot.

21 MEMBER CATO: That's it. I was just a  
22 little curious about that.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. All  
2 right. Dr. Farlee, you have a question they say  
3 you want to ask. What is the question you want  
4 to ask, ma'am?

5                   DR. FARLEE: My question has to do  
6 with, and Ms. Valero kind of brought it up,  
7 subsequent to this hearing or having a Fact  
8 Finding Hearing on --

9                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Oh, we haven't  
10 gotten there yet. Still --

11                  DR. FARLEE: In answer to have you  
12 held a license in D.C., she mentions Kraken 3400  
13 LLC.

14                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

15                  DR. FARLEE: So my question is what's  
16 the connection between this proposed license for  
17 Field House and everything else you've mentioned?

18                  MS. VALERO: Sure. May I?

19                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sure, ma'am, go  
20 ahead.

21                  MS. VALERO: So Kraken 3400 is a  
22 license is currently in with the Board for

1 permanent -- at 3400 Georgia Avenue.

2 The one that you're referencing, Field  
3 House, is a separate venue down in Southwest,  
4 just south of Hollyfield, the new home of GC  
5 United.

6 And I'm hoping to have a similar type  
7 of license down in that space. And so I want to  
8 have a large 42,000 square foot outdoor beer  
9 garden in that space as well.

10 So related in that, like I said, I'm  
11 very passionately want to own and operate venues  
12 here in D.C., and one of the biggest issues with  
13 having outdoor festivals is finding large outdoor  
14 space.

15 Most of the large outdoor space in  
16 D.C. has been commercialized. It's turned into  
17 large development, this is one of the last few  
18 large outdoor spaces where we could host events.

19 What I'd love to do, and social sports  
20 and host --

21 DR. FARLEE: It's up to you Mr.  
22 Anderson whether you want me to continue, but

1 you're going to be the general manager of the  
2 alcohol license, the ABC manager in the Kraken  
3 Axes as well as in the Field House?

4 MS. VALERO: Kraken 3400 and the Field  
5 House.

6 DR. FARLEE: Well, Kraken 3400 is your  
7 LOC.

8 MS. VALERO: Yes.

9 DR. FARLEE: Your Kraken Axes is the  
10 trading name.

11 MS. VALERO: It's a trading name.

12 DR. FARLEE: But my question is, are  
13 you going to be the license alcohol manager for  
14 both sites?

15 MS. VALERO: Yes, but with the sites  
16 and what we do is we also hire managers on duty.  
17 We have people who have gone through the TIPS  
18 training and who apply to be an ABRA license  
19 manager of those establishments.

20 That's why every bar owner in D.C. is  
21 not currently on site at their bars.

22 DR. FARLEE: Right. So you're going

1 to try to manage all of this things?

2 MS. VALERO: Will manage all these  
3 things?

4 DR. FARLEE: I will have more  
5 questions when we get into that hearing.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I see another  
7 investigator has joined us. Can you identify  
8 yourself for the record, please?

9 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Investigator  
10 Mark Brashears with ABRA.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.  
12 Brashears, what can you add to what's going on  
13 here today?

14 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: As  
15 Investigator Pleitez and I, when this situation  
16 occurred, were on different shifts. And after  
17 what she had found on the April 12th, I, myself  
18 and Investigator Puente visited Kraken Axes or  
19 Kraken 3400 on the 13th of April at approximately  
20 8:30 to follow up.

21 Because we were told that the  
22 establishment had been operating on an expired

1 caterer license the previous night.

2 As we approached, we were looking  
3 through the windows, and we noted a large amount  
4 of alcohol down the right side of the  
5 establishment.

6 As we were looking in, there were  
7 several, it appeared, packing alcohol into boxes.  
8 So as I noted them doing this, I thought it was a  
9 bit strange.

10 So I shot some video of them doing  
11 that as we were entering, we encountered Mr.  
12 Martens and as we were speaking with him, he  
13 basically stated that they were having a catered  
14 event later that evening and that Eco Catering  
15 would be handling it.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And what date  
17 was this?

18 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: This was  
19 April 13th, the night following Ms. Pleitez's  
20 visit. So as we were looking around, I took  
21 photos. There were large amounts, you know, of  
22 beer, wine and other alcohol on premise.



1                   There was a bar setup. There were  
2 people drinking, and when we asked Mr. Martens  
3 who was catering the event, he stated Eco  
4 Catering.

5                   And if my memory serves me correctly,  
6 we checked, and they showed us a current  
7 caterer's license.

8                   We spoke with an individual; it wasn't  
9 the gentleman seated here, who claimed to be with  
10 Eco Catering. But when we asked him about the  
11 type of food and what was offered that night, he  
12 stated, "I don't know. You'll have to talk with  
13 Steuie."

14                   So we went over, asked Mr. Martens,  
15 "Hey, where's the food that the caterer  
16 provided." He took us to a refrigerator in the  
17 establishment, and he opened it up and there  
18 large trays of prepared dishes.

19                   So having seen a current caterer's  
20 license, an individual claiming to be a caterer,  
21 and having seen the food we basically departed  
22 the establishment. So I just thought that was

1 relevant.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, Mr.  
3 Wood. Who has access to your license?

4 MR. WOOD: Oh, that's why I'm here,  
5 sir. Because I need advice from the Council  
6 because apparently my license is being used.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I'm not,  
8 I understand from what I was just told by Mr.  
9 Brashears that on April 13th he saw a current  
10 copy of your license.

11 So who has access to, who have you  
12 provided your, who have you shared your license  
13 with?

14 MR. WOOD: I mean, just, we would  
15 share it with the appropriate people one being  
16 our alcohol distributors that we buy alcohol from  
17 so that they know that we're a licensed, you  
18 know, vendor of alcohol.

19 I would imagine that we would provide  
20 the venues with which we partner. I mean, we  
21 cater at VAR, we cater all over the city, at  
22 different venues.

1           So we would usually provide with our,  
2           you know, all of our insurance information, we  
3           have a packet of information that we make  
4           available to any of the venues that we work with.

5           But we do this all with the  
6           expectation that professional courtesy is  
7           provided and that nobody would use our license  
8           inappropriately.

9           So I can verify that my company  
10          provided no services to Kraken Axes or  
11          specifically James Martens who stated that my  
12          company was there.

13          We were not there on the 13th either,  
14          sir. That is 100 percent inaccurate and I can, I  
15          mean, you know, I would know.

16          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, I guess  
17          the question I'm trying to find out from you. Do  
18          you know how Mr. Martens could have gotten --

19          MR. WOOD: He's the owner of District  
20          Still.

21          CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: A current copy  
22          of your license.

1 MR. WOOD: I would have to ask my  
2 business partner to be safe.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What's District  
4 Still, what's District Still?

5 MR. WOOD: District Still is an  
6 alcohol distribution company that's owned by Mr.  
7 Martens to my knowledge.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: So do you  
9 recall purchasing.

10 MR. WOOD: That was in February,  
11 maybe, perhaps we provided it as part of our,  
12 because we, you know, obviously when we updated  
13 our licenses. We would update them with the  
14 vendors that we work with.

15 So my office manager would have done  
16 that automatically because she's on top of her  
17 job and she does it very well.

18 So we would just do, you know, we work  
19 with multiple, I don't know off the top of my  
20 head but three or four, at least, alcohol  
21 distributors in the District on a legal basis.

22 So whenever our license expires, of

1 course, my office manager would provide the new  
2 licenses to the people that we do business with.  
3 She did not know that I was in the process of  
4 basically firing District Still for their  
5 performance.

6 So she would have just done that as a  
7 natural part of her job. What I have an issue  
8 with is that Mr. Steuart taking and doing things  
9 that I am not, I've not been a) contracted to  
10 provide services for, I would like to see a  
11 contract that he provides where my business is  
12 providing services there.

13 And b) I would like to figure out how  
14 many times he's done this in the past where I  
15 have no idea that he's using my business to  
16 scapegoat these alcohol licenses.

17 Because again, my biggest concern  
18 here, is my liquor license and my catering  
19 business and the 25 people that I employ that  
20 we pay their bills on a daily basis.

21 Because that's what's being put at  
22 risk here for me. So that's why I'm a little, I

1 guess, perturbed at the fact that he's using it  
2 again on the 13th.

3 So we have two nights in a row where  
4 Mr. Martens specifically is being on record  
5 stating that my company is providing services  
6 that he never contracted my business to provide.

7 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.

8 MR. WOOD: I would like to know where  
9 Mr. Martens is today because I was expecting to  
10 be able to hear from him today as well.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Is Mr. Martens  
12 in the audience? Mr. Martens is not in the  
13 audience so I don't know where he is. Now during  
14 this period of time, Ms. Valero, I've been  
15 looking at all the -- between, I've been looking  
16 at the one-day licenses that have been issued to  
17 3400 Georgia Avenue since December currently.

18 And I see that Mr. Martens was  
19 requesting liquor licenses for that establishment  
20 starting in December then you have also requested  
21 one-day licenses.

22 The problem that I'm having is that,

1 I'm trying to find out where did alcohol that was  
2 in the photo shoot, you said a photo shoot, I'll  
3 take it as a face value.

4 Where did that alcohol come from  
5 because I'm looking at all the one-day licenses  
6 that we issued. And so we did not issue a one-  
7 day license for that, for close to April 12th.

8 So if you had an event, did you  
9 utilize a caterer and what caterer did you? How  
10 did that? Okay. How did all of that alcohol end  
11 up in your establishment on April 12th?

12 I'm trying to find out how is it, how  
13 is it that all of the alcohol ended up in your  
14 establishment April 12th?

15 MS. VALERO: Sure. So keep in mind,  
16 again, two different things. You want to talk  
17 about the pallets of alcohol, the pallets of  
18 alcohol are leftover from one-day licenses.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: From when?  
20 From when?

21 MS. VALERO: I mean --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: From when? I'm

1 looking at --

2 MS. VALERO: So in March, so March  
3 17th, we had a one-day license for Drink the  
4 District for Clover Beer Fest.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And that was  
6 the 3400, right? Was that 3400, that address, is  
7 that correct?

8 MS. VALERO: No. It was for 151 T  
9 Street Southwest.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Wait a minute,  
11 wait a minute.

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, hold  
14 it, hold it, hold on, hold on, hold on. All  
15 right. I'm trying to figure out how the alcohol  
16 got to 3400. Don't tell me that you order  
17 alcohol for T Street Southwest.

18 So how did the T Street Southwest  
19 alcohol get to 3400 Georgia Avenue? I'm just,  
20 all I'm trying to find out is, and think about  
21 what you're saying.

22 MS. VALERO: Sure.



1                   CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: How did all  
2 that alcohol, that alcohol that was in your  
3 establishment on April 12th, where did it come  
4 from? Whose alcohol is it?

5                   Because I'm looking at all the one-  
6 days that we have issued and I do not, unless I  
7 am in error, I'm trying to figure out when the  
8 last one-day we issued for that address.

9                   And so hold on for one minute.

10                  MS. VALERO: Which address?

11                  CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm always  
12 going, the only address we're talking about is  
13 3400 Georgia Avenue. Okay? And so this is all  
14 about 3400 Georgia Avenue.

15                  And I don't, I see Mr. Martens, he  
16 applied for one-days in December for December.  
17 Hold on. For December --

18                  So I'm not quite, if you're saying  
19 they're one-days, unless the agency has made an  
20 issue, I really don't understand how there can be  
21 -- so you're telling me that this leftover  
22 alcohol from one-day that you applied from

1 December?

2 MS. VALERO: No, no, no.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That it has  
4 been sitting in your establishment for four  
5 months?

6 MS. VALERO: For the one-day license  
7 from March 17th, is a Drink the District event.  
8 The address on it was probably 151 T Street  
9 Southwest.

10 Here's the part you're going to say,  
11 "How did that get to 3400 Georgia Avenue?"  
12 Here's how. Drink the District has a warehouse  
13 at 3400 Georgia Avenue.

14 After a one-day license, distributors  
15 do not all take back the product, so you have a  
16 large festival, Clover Beer Fest you're talking  
17 about a 5,000 person plus festival.

18 With that leftover product, you can't  
19 do anything with that leftover product. We are  
20 literally stuck with it. I can't leave it at a  
21 parking lot at 151 T Street.

22 So we bring it back, and we hold it.

1 That's what we were told by our ABRA attorney to  
2 do. You can't do anything with it, it's  
3 literally, for lack of a better term, dead  
4 product on a pallet. Have to hold it.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But you know  
6 the problem that I'm having with that? Mr.  
7 Brashears just testified that he went back on  
8 April 13th, he saw alcohol, and he was provided a  
9 copy of a caterer's license.

10 And to say, he was also shown food and  
11 to say, here is the alcohol, unless you're  
12 telling me that between April 12th that somebody  
13 took that alcohol away and that Mr. Woods brought  
14 in his so, therefore -- go ahead, Mr. Brashears.

15 INVESTIGATOR BRASHEARS: Well, no.  
16 When I asked about the alcohol, well first of  
17 all, when we spoke, myself and Investigator  
18 Puente, spoke to Mr. Martens.

19 He made it clear that he was not the  
20 owner of the establishment. He stated he was  
21 advising and helping set everything up.

22 And when we asked about the alcohol

1 that was present, he stated that it was from  
2 leftover events. And obviously, you know, you're  
3 not supposed to do that.

4 He was briefed on all that, what was  
5 disconcerting to me was it appeared that alcohol  
6 was being packaged to ship. There were people  
7 putting alcohol into boxes and closing them up.

8 So that was what was disconcerting to  
9 me.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Brashears.

12 MS. VALERO: Can I clarify one thing?

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. VALERO: So he was talking about  
15 the alcohol being down the right side of the  
16 building. So when you walk into the space, there  
17 are technically speaking, two leases on the  
18 space.

19 The right side of the space is  
20 probably a 40 by -- I'm bad at math, and again, a  
21 thousand square foot space that is walled off  
22 from Kraken 3400.

1                   It is cordoned off for lack of a  
2                   better term. Partly because it will have  
3                   demising walls, once we get through JCRA's  
4                   building process, and we can build in the space.

5                   So there's actually two leases on the  
6                   building.

7                   MEMBER SHORT: How many certificates  
8                   of occupancy?

9                   MS. VALERO: I'm sorry, sir?

10                  MEMBER SHORT: How many certificates  
11                  of occupancy?

12                  MS. VALERO: Unsure. Back to the  
13                  original question. Back to your original  
14                  question.

15                  MEMBER SHORT: Do you realize if  
16                  you're going to be storing that alcohol you need  
17                  permits from this board?

18                  MS. VALERO: My understanding is that  
19                  with the one-day license that's -- maybe the  
20                  Board can actually help educate me here, and the  
21                  investigators. When you have a one-day license -  
22                  -

1 MEMBER SHORT: We'll help you.

2 MS. VALERO: -- and you have alcohol  
3 leftover that can't be taken back, what do you do  
4 with it? What are you supposed, what would you  
5 like us to do with it?

6 MEMBER SHORT: As a business owner, I  
7 would know this, the same rules we have to work  
8 from. All right, when you're a business owner,  
9 you should know the law and rules.

10 MS. VALERO: Understood, sir.

11 MEMBER SHORT: That's why you're  
12 applying for a license.

13 MS. VALERO: Understood.

14 MEMBER SHORT: But truthfulness is a  
15 very big part of, it goes along with the license.

16 MS. VALERO: That's why I'm here, sir.  
17 That's why I'm not here with an attorney or  
18 anyone else.

19 MEMBER SHORT: That's all I have to  
20 say. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to  
22 bring this hearing, at least this portion of this

1 hearing to an end because we have another  
2 hearing.

3 But I'll say it to you that Anna  
4 Valero has requested one-day licenses for the  
5 District for June 28th, June 29th, July 1st, July  
6 7th, July 8th.

7 And based on what I'm hearing today.  
8 I'm advising to my Board that we're going to deny  
9 these one-day because first and foremost it's  
10 you've stated that at least you are a minority  
11 owner or minor owner in Drink the District LOC.

12 And it does not make sense to me that  
13 a minority own in Drink the District LOC is  
14 applying for one-day licenses. So, therefore, I  
15 make a motion that we reject, that we not approve  
16 these one-day licenses that were requested.

17 PARTICIPANT: Second.

18 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All those in  
19 favor?

20 (Chorus of ayes.)

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,  
22 those opposed? Okay, so we're going to reject

1 those one-day licenses. That's on the one-day  
2 licenses.

3 And it's because of the information,  
4 it's unclear, and we're just talking about the  
5 one-day, based on the presentation that was made  
6 to us today.

7 And I'm only making that decision  
8 based on your representation that you are a  
9 minority owner in Drink the District and I don't  
10 understand why is it that you are requesting a  
11 one-day license for us.

12 I just wanted to make sure that that  
13 decision is on the one-day. So I'm going to  
14 close the hearing on the Fact-Finding Hearing on  
15 Kraken Axes.

16 (Whereupon, the hearing went off the  
17 record at 4:34 p.m.)

18  
19  
20  
21  
22



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In the matter of: Kraken Axes

Before: DC ABRA

Date: 06-27-18

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.

  
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Court Reporter

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