



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date: 9/13/2016
Business Address: 79 WESTERN AVE N
Licensee: THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF ST PAUL
DBA: THE COMMODORE
License Id: 0043940
Page: 1 of 3

I, Thomas Ferrara, a DSI Inspector III with the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), have been employed as an Inspector with DSI since October of 2006. I have been assigned to business licensing since 2010.

I was assigned to inspect 79 Western Ave N, The Commodore restaurant and liquor establishment on 10/30/2015. The scope of this inspection was to check for activity in a "west room." I was informed that the west room had building and fire code violations dating back to a 2012 building permit and use of that room was not allowed because it lacked a Certificate of Occupancy. I was also asked to monitor compliance with the limited entertainment license requirements at the entire premises.

In preparation for my inspection I reviewed the site layout to familiarize myself with the west room.

I inspected The Commodore that evening and found that entertainment in the liquor establishment and use of the west room that evening was significantly compliant. I observed a small number of staff sorting silverware in the west room and a small group of apparent guests later walking through seemingly touring the unapproved space. Based on the limited use, no licensing action was taken.

On 9/7/2016, I was informed that the building and fire code violations in the west room at The Commodore had not been resolved and that there was an upcoming event entitled "Whiskey A Go-Go!" a.k.a. "Whiskey A-Go-GO" scheduled for 9/13/2016.

On 9/9/2016, I was formally assigned to attend the Whiskey A Go-Go event at The Commodore and to inspect for compliance with building/fire code and license requirements. My assigned duties were to inspect for evidence of west banquet room use and violations of the entertainment license. I was to gather information on the entertainment type or types being provided in the establishment, who was providing the entertainment (i.e. contracted by a third party vs. arranged by licensee); determine whether it was a public or private event; determine who was providing liquor service; seek whether the event was conducted by The Commodore or a third party; gather information on what the "Bootleggers Club" is and who is running it.

On 9/9/2016, I researched the event and determined I would need a ticket to attend. I ordered a "Non-Bootlegger Club Members" ticket online (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whiskey-a-go-go-tickets-27220797137?aff=splashpage>) for entry to the event (see attached copy).



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On 9/13/16, I arrived at 79 Western Ave N and the building's parking lot was literally full. I was able to park in their lot after a car exited from a space.

When entering the building I observed a flier for the event posted in the lobby window (see photo). At approximately 6:33pm I was greeted by a hostess who was just inside the establishment's door. I asked her if the Whiskey A Go-Go event was put on by another group or the Commodore itself and she told me it was put on by the "Commodore."

Inside the establishment I observed that the large set(s) of centermost interior doors along the west side of a large public dining area were closed (see photo). I believe this was to separate it from the west room where the Whiskey A Go-Go event was taking place. While facing the west room from that public dining space, I observed that the far right door in the set closest to the kitchen area was propped open for entry (see photos). Inside that door to the immediate left was a staff person at a table checking in attendees. I approached the table and found that a list of names for all that pre-purchased tickets was kept at the table. At approximately 6:46 pm I spoke with the staff person maintaining the list of ticketholders and asked if I could add a guest. I was informed that there was no means to purchase a ticket onsite and I would not be able to add a guest.

Based on my observations and my interaction with that staff person, I concluded that as long as staff at that table performed their duty, the west room was closed to the general public. Anyone who had not purchased a ticket in advance was not allowed entry into the west room.

Because I had pre-purchased my ticket long enough in advance, my name was on the list and I was allowed to proceed farther into the west room where the Whiskey A Go-Go event was being held. Once inside I observed the following evidence of use or occupation.

Nearly the entire west room was full of tables and chairs. Circular tables took up the majority of floor space and the room was at virtually full seating capacity (see photos). Only a limited number of unfilled chairs remained. The table seating covered the most floor space. There was a freestanding bar in the corner to the far left when entering into the room through the propped open doors, a banquet table that displayed some whiskey product in front of a projector screen on the far west side of the room, and a hard surfaced open floor area between the table seating and the front/west banquet table (see photos).

I observed that servers were pouring alcohol at the banquet table in front of the projection screen and that wait staff was then bringing servings of the different whiskeys to those seated at the circular tables. Some attendees walked to front table and were provided sample from event staff there, but most of the whiskey was brought to the tables by wait staff. Other drinks and liquor could be purchased by attendees at the cash bar in room and/or bring them from other bars in establishment into the west room space.

I further observed that the projector screen behind the banquet table along the far west had a "Whiskey A-Go-Go" image on it during the course of the event (see photos). At about 6:50pm, the distiller, who I learned was Bob McManus, began speaking over an amplified sound system using a microphone. His purpose was to do questions and answers (Q & A) with the attendees primarily regarding the featured whiskey products, distilling methods, etc. I left the room for a short while and Bob's Q & A was still going on when I returned at approximately 7:12pm.

AA-ADA-EEO Employer



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At about 7:15pm, I spoke with Bob McManus off microphone. He confirmed he was with the distiller, Eleven Wells Spirits. He handed me a sample from the west banquet table. I asked him how such a promotional event is arranged and he told me that the "...commodore brought me in..." and "...it's their (Licensee's) event..."

At approximately 7:31pm a white male in a gray suitcoat began using the mic (see photo) and made a statement that included "dancing." The white male in gray suit coat then led a group of attendees in a dance session to music on an apparent internal sound system (see photos and video). The group dance session concluded after one song then the white male that led the dance session handed out tickets for a dance lesson at his studio.

At about 7:38pm a white female, an apparent attendee, sang one song on the microphone to accompanying music on the internal sound system (see video) then at about 7:41pm there was swing music alone on the sound system that concluded by 7:50pm.

At about 8:18pm I spoke with a white female who identified herself as Shannon McBride, she told me she was the Assistant General Manager. She stated it was only her second week at the job and when questioned about the license conditions for the establishment she stated she had "not seen conditions." I informed her that no west room use is permitted because it did not have a Certificate of Occupancy. I further told her that I had observed activity/use that evening that was in violation of the license.

I also informed her of the entertainment requirements for the license there. I noted that I would report observing one song danced to by a group led by an instructor and one song sung by a woman through a small sound system. She confirmed and/or stated multiple times that all liquor service was done through the Commodore. She confirmed the Commodore was responsible for what observed at the event, but indicated she did not regard it as entertainment.

After leaving event, I parked approximately three blocks away, finished comprising notes and sent them in an email to DSI Deputy Director Dan Niziolek with the subject "Commodore @ 79 Western Ave N." Inspection photos and videos taken during event were forwarded to my city email account.

Inspector Signature

Date



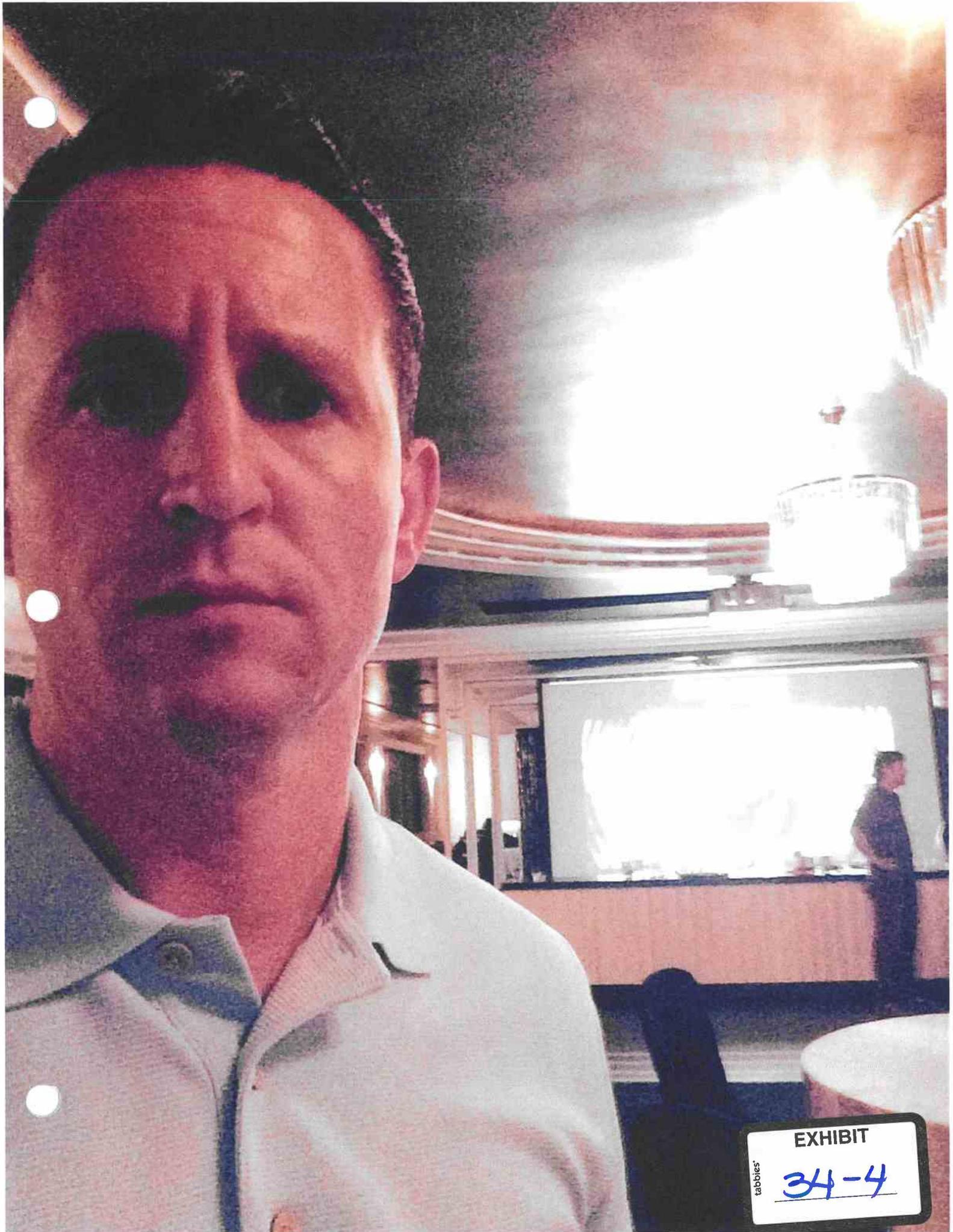


EXHIBIT
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tabbles

TASTING NOTES

Bourbon whiskey 84 proof

Aroma - Straw, caramel in color with a nose yielding spice and corn.

Awards/Accolades - Bronze medal from ACSA (American Craft Spirits Association) in 2015.

Flavor Profile - Strong corn flavor from the heirloom Minnesota 13 corn with a peppery finish.

Cocktails - Negt, on the rocks or in a Manhattan.

Rye Whiskey 84 proof

Aroma - Floral fragrance with a fresh fruit nose.

Awards/Accolades - Bronze medal from ACSA (American Craft Spirits Association) in 2015.

Flavor Profile - Distinctive rye spice, but with an unexpected fruit sweetness. Good leathery, bite from the rye that lingers on the finish. Also notes of candied fruit. Resinous and dry flavor, with caramel sugar.

Cocktails - Sazerac, Rye Manhattan.

Wheat Whiskey 84 proof

Aroma - Light amber in color with a nose giving grassy sweetness.

Awards/Accolades - Best in class, under one year aged, Wheat Whiskey at ADI's (American Distilling Institute) 2015 conference.

Flavor Profile - Understated, soft flavor that is dry and subtle with notes of caramel, or confectioner's sugar.

Cocktails - Vieux Carre.



THE
COMMODORE

EXHIBIT
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tabbies



EXHIBIT
tabbles®
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EXHIBIT

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tabbies[®] EXHIBIT
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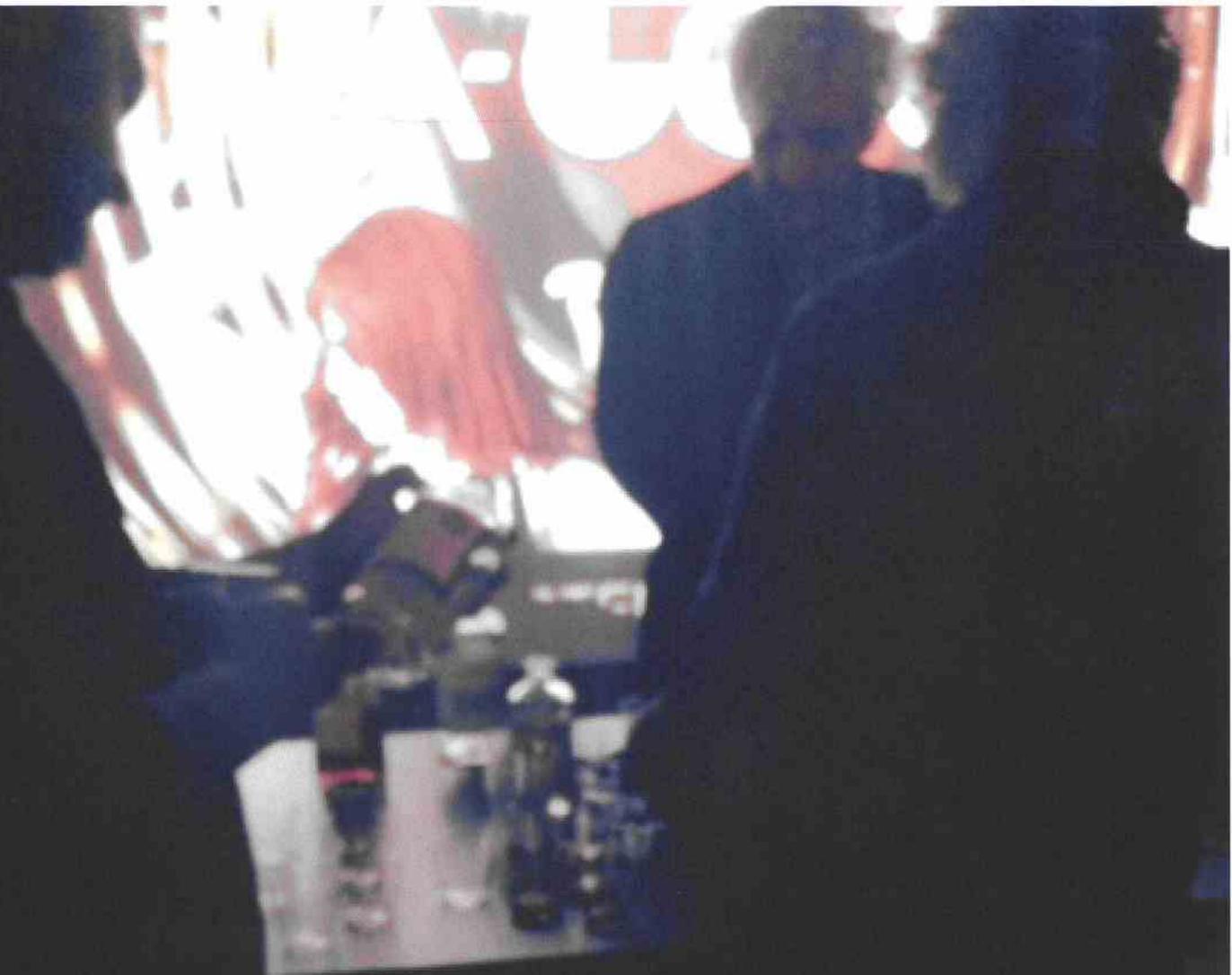
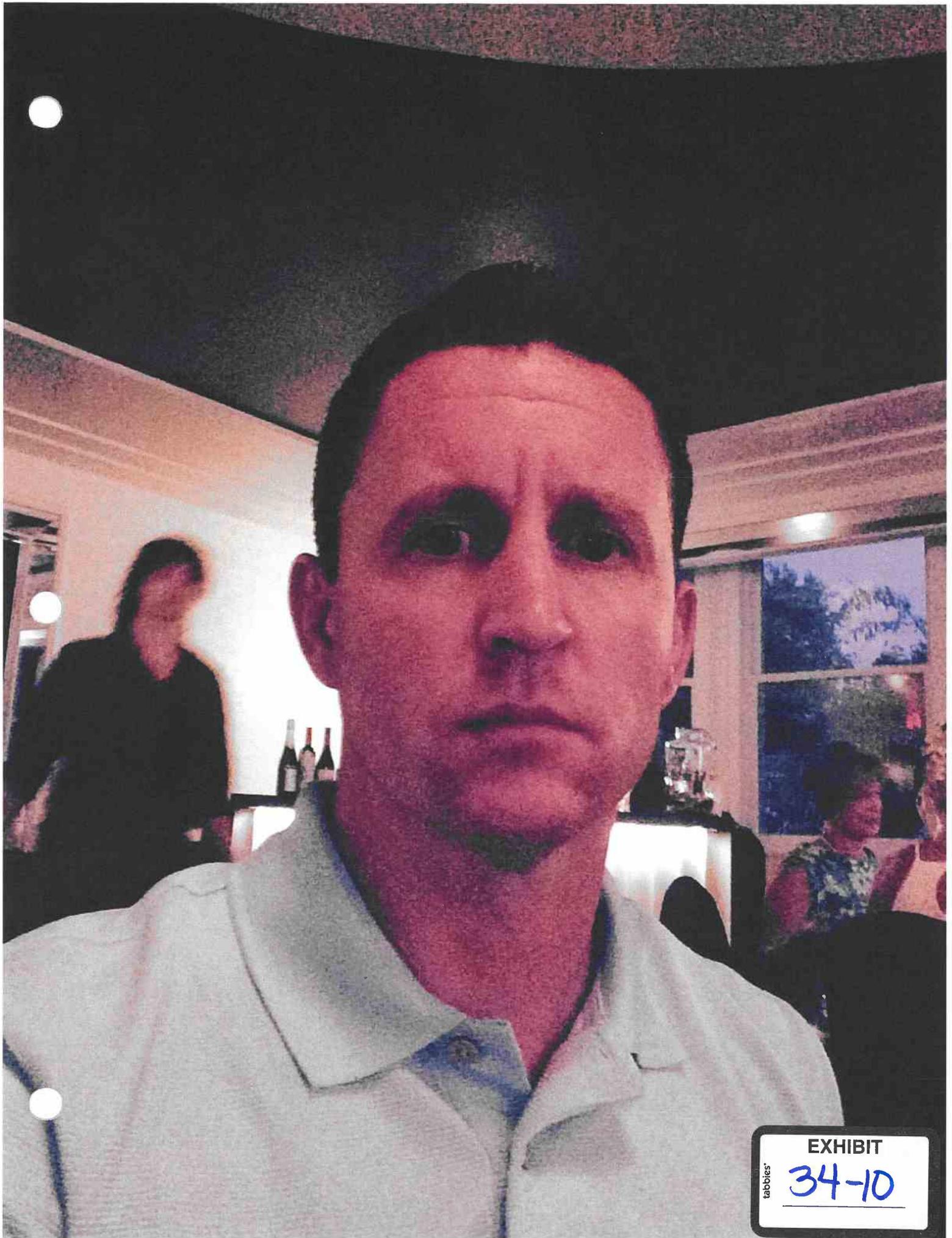
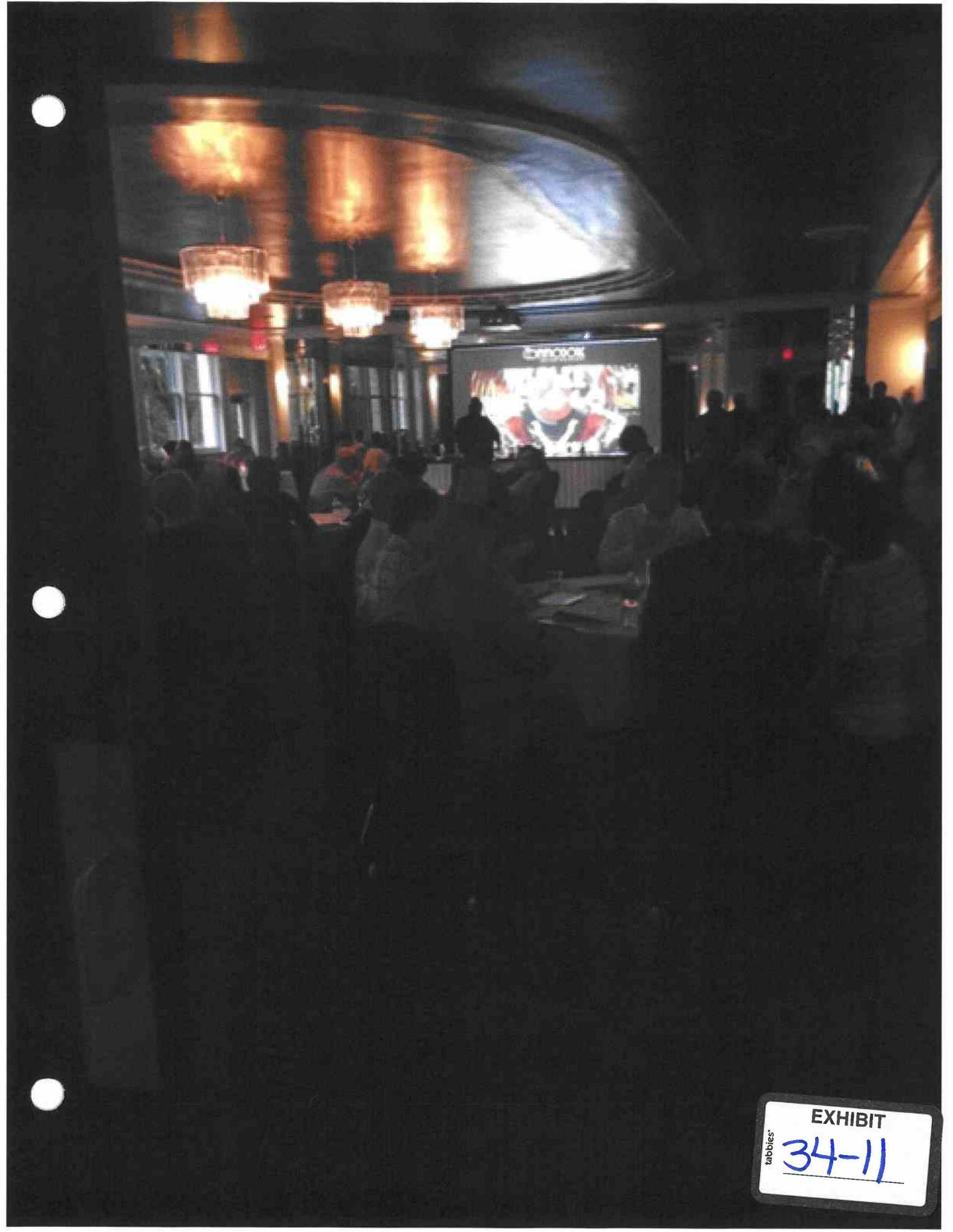


EXHIBIT
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EXHIBIT
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Emoos
[Gameplay on screen]

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EXHIBIT
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THE
COMMODORE
BAR AND RESTAURANT



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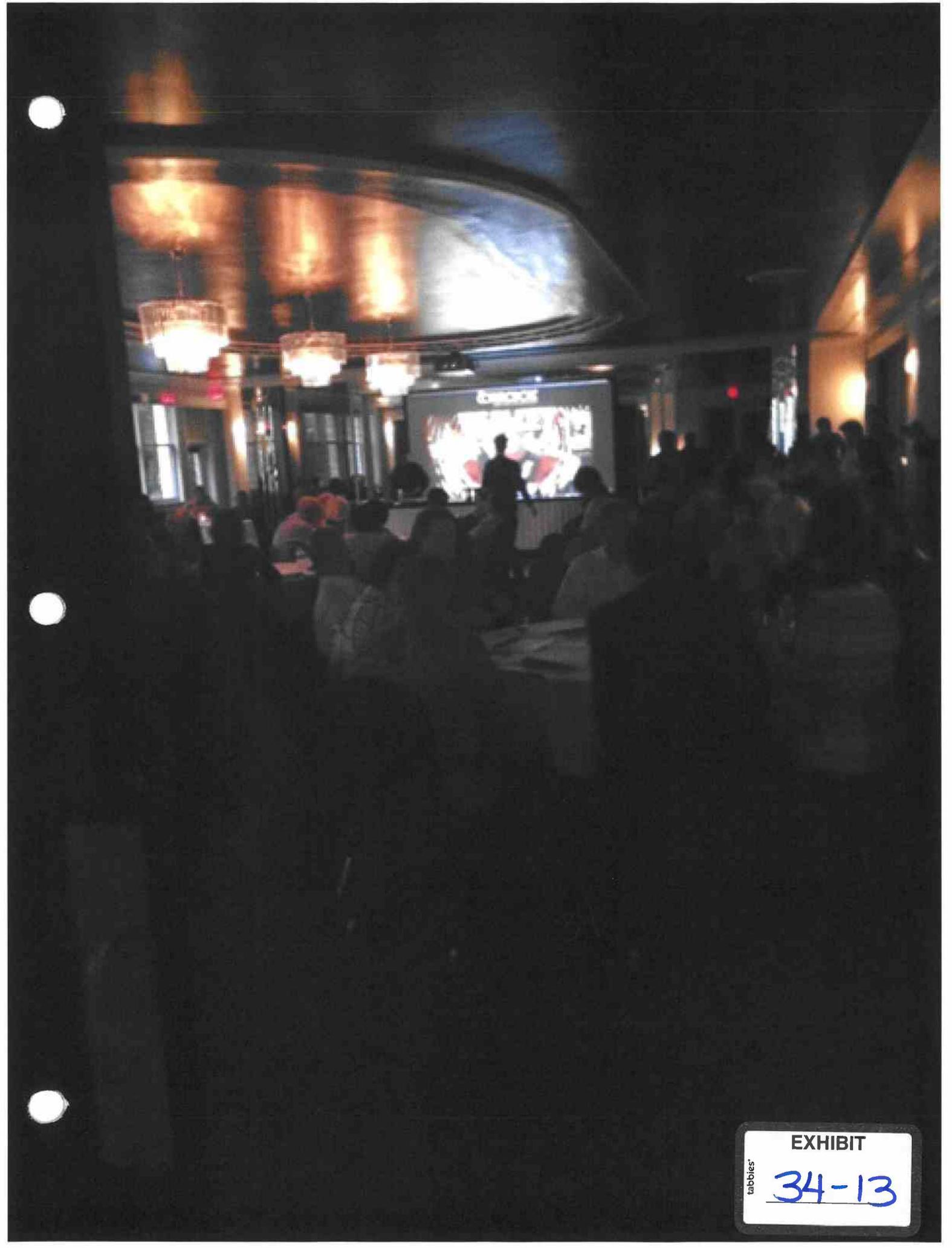
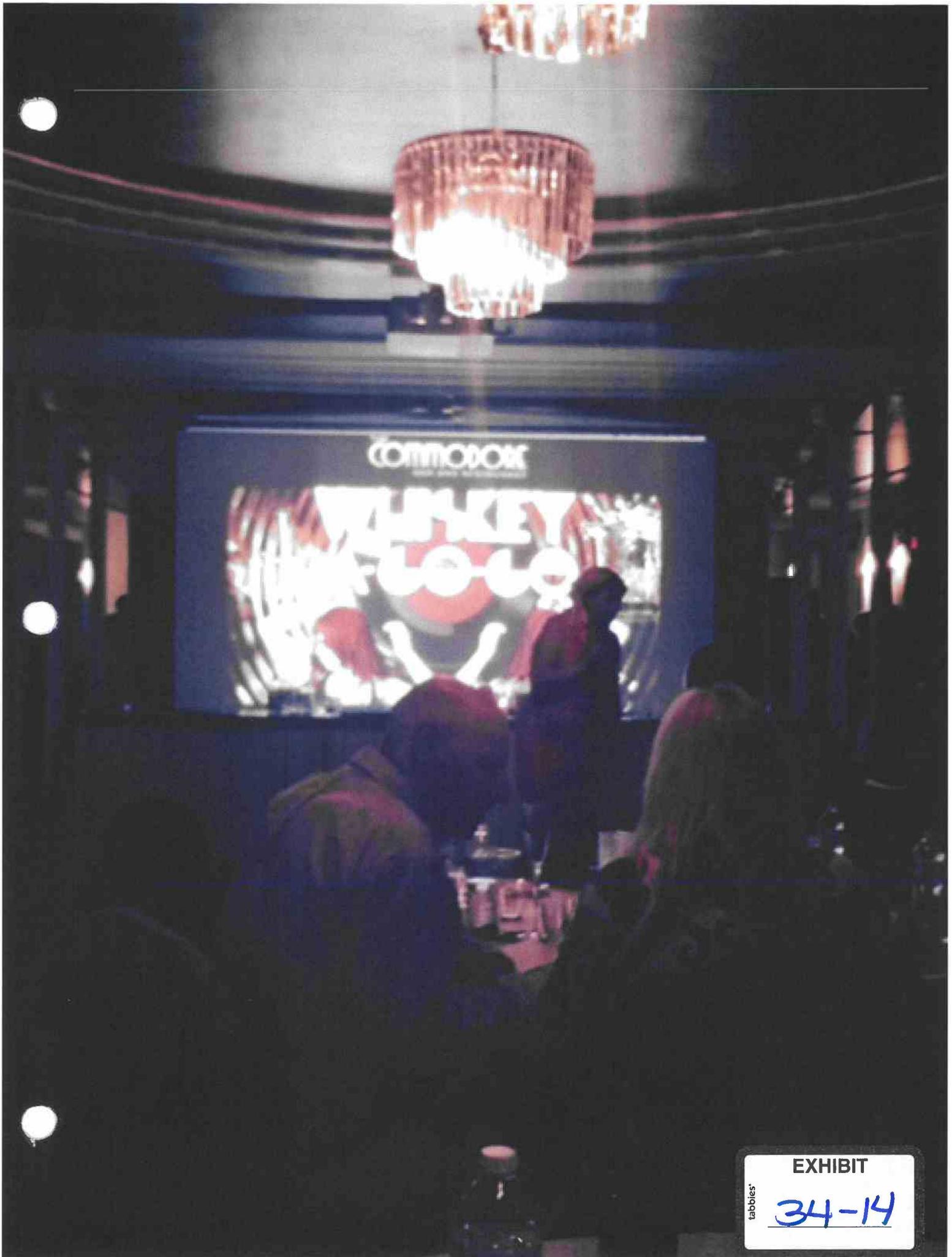


EXHIBIT
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EXHIBIT
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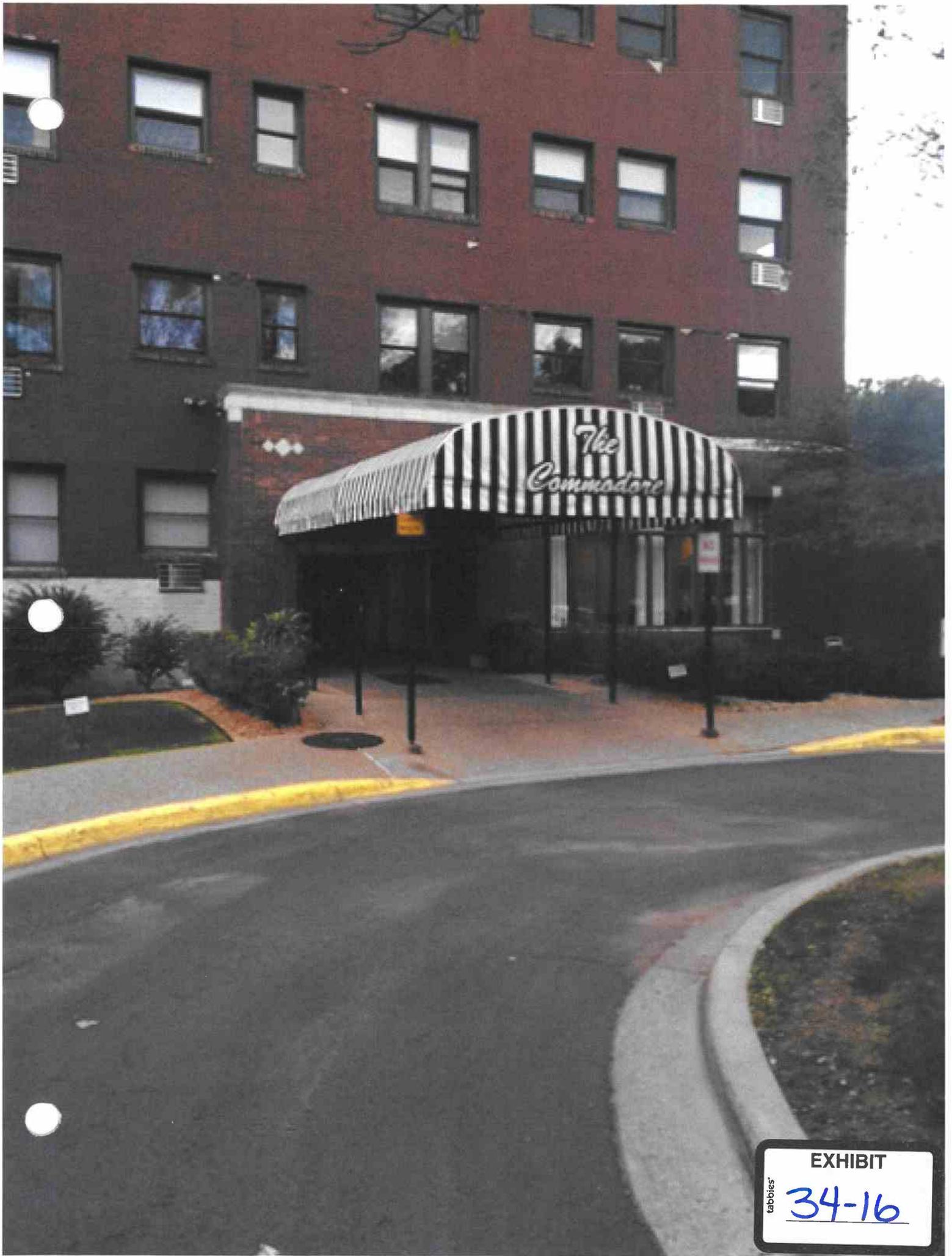


EXHIBIT
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH | 6:00-8:00 PM
FEATURING A PROFESSIONAL TASTING OF 6 UNIQUE SELECTIONS FROM ELEVEN WELLS DISTILLERY



ELEVEN WELLS SPIRITS



Self-proclaimed grain geek Bob McManus highlights the fine points in 2 wheat whiskeys, 2 bourbons, and 2 ryes (3 aged and 3 new) — all through the lens of the extraordinary 13-criteria process for each small batch.

• APPETIZERS • DANCING A-GO-GO • PRIZES FOR BEST DRESS ATTIRE •

Reserve your place at a table and spot on the dance floor. Space is limited. For tickets, go to www.thecommadore.com

120 Boulevard Club - MEMPHIS, TN 38103

THE COMMODORE
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