## In the Matter Of:

## 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

2020-021636-CC-0

## **HEARING**

June 30, 2021



June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

Ι	IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
2	IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
3	CASE NO.: 2020-021636-CC-0
4	SECTION: CC02
5	175 NE 55TH STREET, LLC ,
6	Plaintiff,
7	vs.
8	FRANKLIN DALE et al,
9	DEFENDANTS.
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12	HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE MIESHA DARROUGH
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14	DATE TAKEN: June 30, 2021
15	TIME: 1:30 p.m. to 3:58 p.m.
16	PLACE: REMOTE HEARING
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19	Rule 1.310(g) Florida Rules of Civil Procedure
20	requires transcript of copies to be obtained from the Court Reporter unless the Court rules
21	otherwise.
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24	REPORTED BY: LISA WILSON, FPR and NOTARY PUBLIC.
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June 30, 2021 **HEARING** 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

1	(Thereupon, the following hearing was held:)
2	THE COURT: Okay, 175 Northeast 55th Streer
3	versus Franklin Dale, et al, case number
4	2020-021636-CC-05. Would you please announce your
5	appearance?
6	MR. BRADFORD: Omar Bradford with the law firm
7	of Genovese, Joblove & Battista. I am here with my
8	associate, Elizabeth McIntosh and we are here on
9	behalf of the Defendants, District Live Agency and
10	Franklin Dale.
11	THE COURT: Thank you. And on behalf of the
12	Plaintiff?
13	MS. ZALMAN: Good afternoon, Hillary Zalman on
14	behalf of plaintiff, 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC.
15	I am accompanied by attorney Arnaldo Velez. And my
16	client is here as well representing the Plaintiff,
17	Danita Levitt.
18	THE COURT: Okay, good afternoon. And I see we
19	have Ms. Lisa Wilson our court reporter, good
20	afternoon to you as well.
21	THE COURT REPORTER: Good afternoon.
22	THE COURT: Okay. So we are here today on
23	Defense has filed a motion to determine rent, the
24	amount of rent due. It is the defense motion, so



what I will do is allow --

**HEARING** June 30, 2021

(Audio lost due to technical issue.) 1 2 (Audio resumed.) 3 MS. ZALMAN: -- and at last hearing I thought 4 this was Defendant's motion to determine rent in 5 response to our motion, not to change order, just for 6 procedural posture. 7 Wait, let me see. Let me go back THE COURT: 8 here. So this was previously heard? 9 MS. ZALMAN: Yes, we continued to today to allow 10 more time. THE COURT: Oh, okay. Hold on. Let me refresh 11 12 my memory then. Give me one second. So I have here 13 that the last time it was motion for default? We were trying to get a default in the case? 14 15 MR. BRADFORD: That is correct, your Honor. 16 That is what was previously heard. And that motion 17 was denied. 18 THE COURT: Right, I don't have any indication 19 that we dealt with the motion to determine rent. 20 MR. BRADFORD: No, we have not, your Honor. And the motion that Counsel just referenced is not set 21 22 for hearing today, her motion for funds to be put 23 into the court registry. 24 THE COURT: Okay. Let me see. 25 MS. ZALMAN: I think we discussed at the last



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hearing though, was it not? That we needed the evidentiary, or Omar, am I mixing the two?

MR. BRADFORD: I'm not sure, I just know that your motion is not set for hearing today, but mine is.

THE COURT: Yeah, the only notes -- I'm just going back to the notes that I have from then in the MOD, I just have the motion for default is what we heard. Okay, so the Court has not made any rulings regarding to the to determine rent. I just wanted to make sure. Okay, so if that is the case, then I'll allow the Defense to proceed with the motion. And then --

MS. ZALMAN: We propose that it's the same, for us the same argument.

What do you mean, the same argument? THE COURT: The motion to determine rent, MS. ZALMAN: versus the motion to order funds. For us, it's the same argument so I have no issue. Just bringing it to the Court's attention. I thought his motion was in response to ours as a piggy-back.

MR. BRADFORD: Well, to be crystal clear, and that's not completely incorrect, but our motion to determine rent, the full subject or style of that is a motion to determine rent to be zero, or a motion to



**HEARING** June 30, 2021

So, you know, functionally our argument is 1 2 that for a variety of reasons, which I'll express 3 here today, that there is no rent and accordingly 4 this matter should be dismissed. The issue of funds 5 being paid into the Court registry is a separate issue for which Counsel has filed a motion, but that 6 7 motion is not set for hearing today.

THE COURT: And I understand that, but I think in determining the rent amount, the Court would be determining how much should go into the court registry, if any.

MR. BRADFORD: Right --

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BRADFORD: And to the extent your Honor wants to consider that issue here today, we have no objection. Ultimately, they are very much related. But, if I may, may it please the Court?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. BRADFORD: Okay, this is Omar Bradford, Genovese, Joblove & Battista. You know, the interesting thing here and we have submitted it in our motion is that this case is, your Honor, inextricably intertwined with another circuit court action, or with a circuit court action that is styled 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC V. District Live



1	Agency and there is a counterclaim there that we
2	filed that is District Live Agency and Beverage Group
3	versus 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC and Little
4	Haiti Development Partners, and Mallory Kauderer.
5	The Plaintiff here, 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC,
6	their parent company or closely related company,
7	could be one or the other, they do a lot of
8	switcheroos here with the companies, but we'll say
9	it's the parent company, is the counter-defendant in
10	that other action, Little Haiti Development Partners.
11	Now, I raise that because Little Haiti Development
12	Partners and Mallory Kauderer are being sued in
13	counterclaims to evictions in the aforementioned
14	circuit court action, as well as two other actions
15	based upon moneys owed to my client, Franklin Dale,
16	who is here in the court today, not only for services
17	rendered, which are well documented, but pursuant to
18	these entities theft o absconding or taking of funds
19	back or based on their representations to the federal
20	government to be applied to the business of
21	Churchill's Pub.

This case, you Honor, just like the other related cases really all center around Churchill's Pub. Churchill's Pub is the oldest bar in Miami-Dade County. It's a place that pursuant to lease



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agreements, so my client is the lessee at the pub and there are agreements that his status as lessee of the pub make him not just the operator of the pub, but have an ownership interest in the pub as well. Everything was moving along with a collective plan to develop out a live music sort of venue district where the parties were working together and had been working together for years, and part of that working together were agreements that the moneys that were owed by Plaintiff, in this case Plaintiff's principals to my client would be -- could be paid in one of two ways. One, they could be paid in cash, but if not based on the fact that my client leased multiple properties in this area, they would serve as prepayment on rents. There is no confusion as to that whatsoever.

Well, then unfortunately for all of us the pandemic happened. And particularly unfortunately for those in the live music, you know, venue operation business. As we all know that they were hit almost the hardest, and continue to be hit very The subject business of Churchill's Pub remains unopened today. Now, we know that bars have reopened, but there has been a campaign of restraining my client's trade by violating the



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June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

subject lease with respect to the liquor license, letting it lapse, detaching it from the property. There has been just a series of retaliatory acts that have taken place here, your Honor, after my client provided to -- or provided and provided authority to Mallory Kauderer to utilize debts owed to it for purposes -- so debts owed to my client to the extent of \$128,000, which is basically as a vendor to the business. My client is owed \$128,000, and again, that could have been paid in one of two ways, cash or the prepayment of rents, but instead it was utilized to receive funds from the government under the Cares Act.

So the Plaintiff in this action's principal applies for Cares Act funding, used -- specifically notating that it's getting these funds to pay back my Instead -- now, they are successful as to client. that, and they received the funds into their account, but the day they received, it June 12, 2020, they went in and then they went out. Where did they go, vour Honor? They actually did not go to the business, they went to the parent company, the Little Haiti Development Partners of the Plaintiff here Accordingly, my client made written demand for those funds to come into the business or to



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otherwise get a use of -- a recitation of how those funds would be used, and that is largely what brings us here today. In retaliation for that demand, my client's have been evicted across properties.

Now, that's just some background for you, your Honor, sort of about the big picture here, but the smaller picture here, the more narrow picture here is, the reason that I say that this case inextricably intertwined with that circuit court action is because -- again, that case is styled 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC. V. District Live Agency, that the lease underlying that action, your Honor, which I have here today and we've submitted to your Honor to the extent that this is an evidentiary hearing, even though it was not previously noticed as an evidentiary hearing, but in any event, you know, we are prepared either way because we know that we've got the documents and exhibits that reflect a very easy and narrow fact, which is 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC., as you will see does not have a lease. They did not attach a lease to any of their pleadings. The reason why there is no lease, your Honor, is my client was not specifically leasing from 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC. And in fact my client was not leasing the property at 175 Northeast 55th Street. My client



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only came to be operating an office out of that space after the properties, one of the properties that is subject to this lease was condemned by the City of Miami.

So again, Franklin Dale is the operator, owner/operator at Churchill's Pub, he is lessee and there is a lease that reflects such. Reflects that the only business that can be done at the property is the operation of Churchill's Pub. Adjacent to the pub -- so basically, just to the back, was a separate structure whose address is 215 Northeast 55th Street. That separate address where the operator of the business used as an office was condemned by City of Mallory Kauderer also owns the property at 175 Northeast 55th Street. It was agreed that while the property for which is under a different lease, right, for which they are paying rent, while that is condemned that they would move the office operations over to 175 Northeast 55th Street. Now, that doesn't mean that suddenly a separate amount of rent is owed They were already paying rent at, there. No. essentially at 5501, so accordingly to the extent that any rent would ever be charged at 175, then that would be double dipping. Then that would be two -applying two rents for one purpose, right, because



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the office was behind the pub, it got condemned, so the new office was across the street.

And they know this. And this is just part of retaliatory, sort of motive that is going on here. But in any event, your Honor, there is evidence of this obviously because there is no lease, right, there is no agreement that my client signed, and you know we have reviewed the affidavit by Ms. Danita Levitt, which is just chock full of inconsistencies and things that are just simply inaccurate. no tenancy agreement with my client on a month-to-month basis here, there is only the lease at 5501, and that lease -- so just yesterday, your Honor, and I want to make this clear at the onset, just yesterday, your Honor, we began a hearing in circuit court for a motion the deposit funds into the court registry, slash, motion to determine rent, and in that hearing -- it was an evidentiary hearing and Danita Levitt, the person that provided the affidavit that is before your Honor, she testified in direct examination as to these circumstances. Ultimately, and you know what, I want to make this clear while we're on the topic, she testified in direct examination as to circumstances that are again inextricably intertwined with this action, so they



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all relate to the same lease, yesterday and today, circuit court and here in county court, but I want the Court to be aware that following my multiple objections to her being coached in a Zoom hearing, the judge abruptly recessed the hearing and it's set to be continued tomorrow in person in court.

I object to that wholeheartedly. MS. ZALMAN: There is no evidence Ms. Levitt was being coached. Ι do know that Counsel indicated that because it was Zoom he thought she was taking to someone and Ms. Levitt responded I'm looking over at my computer She has a double screen. So I do object to screen. that.

MR. BRADFORD: I appreciate to that Counsel, but just to be clear, I said I objected to her being coached and then the judge abruptly recessed the hearing, which is unobjectionable because that's what happened. But the only point that I'm making to the Court right now is -- and I'm not certain again if we are proceeding with an evidentiary hearing here today We are prepared either way, but it wasn't or not. noticed as an evidentiary hearing, but I believe the Court must closely monitor the Plaintiff's witness because it's certified fact that she is not in that room alone and it's my position and with the

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objection of Counsel noted, that she was being 1 2 coached along the way yesterday. So after what 3 occurred yesterday I don't believe that their witness 4 or their deponent can be trusted in a zoom setting. 5 But that's neither here or there.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Bradford, just really quickly, this affidavit that you're talking about, the affidavit that I see on the docket is -- I see an affidavit as to loss summons, but in this case is there another affidavit that I'm not seeing?

MS. ZALMAN: Mr. Bradford is referring to Plaintiff's affidavit of nonpayment.

MR. BRADFORD: It was filed June 23rd, your Honor.

Okay. Wait, hold on. Oh, it was THE COURT: just filed. Go ahead, you can proceed. I just wanted to make sure I had the right document.

MR. BRADFORD: No, thank you, your Honor. you know, the reality is we don't believe that this hearing should proceed today because it's our firm position that it is beyond question that the property that is the subject of today's hearing in fact part and parcel to the lease that is the subject of the circuit court action. And because we're in the middle of an evidentiary hearing as to whether or not



1	or to what extent rent should be paid into the
2	court registry, it is not appropriate for us move
3	forward here until it is determined how much, if any,
4	rent is to be paid in that circuit court action. And
5	we'll also seek a specific determination from the
6	Court that this property at 175 Northeast 55th Street
7	is a part of the lease, or should be considered a
8	part of the lease pursuant to the condemnation of the
9	office at the pub and the replacement for purposes of
10	operating the pub into the property at 175. To the
11	extent that both courts were to order my client to
12	pay into the court registry, we just believe that
13	would essentially result in a windfall to the
14	Plaintiff here, which would be inappropriate.
15	THE COURT: Okay, and let me make sure, does
16	5501 circuit court case, is that the address of the
17	pub?
18	MR. BRADFORD: That is in fact the address of
19	the pub, your Honor, yes.
20	THE COURT: Okay. And you're saying is at that
21	address where the pub is at, that's the property that
22	was condemned?
23	MR. BRADFORD: Correct.
24	THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRADFORD: There is an associated property



-- it's all on the same sort of plot of land, but 1 2 there was a separate, yet adjacent space that was -that served as the office. And the address for that 3 is 215 Northeast 55th Street, but it's essentially 4 5 all the same right there. 6 THE COURT: Okay --7 MR. BRADFORD: The City of Miami -- and we're 8 prepared to provide your Honor --9 THE COURT: Okay, because of that condemned 10 property, the office he's using there, you're saying 11 that is why he's using the 175? 12 That is exactly right, your MR. BRADFORD: 13 Honor. Okay. And so the 175, the same 14 THE COURT: 15 owners of 175 are the owners of 5501? 16 That is correct, your Honor. MR. BRADFORD: 17 THE COURT: Okay. 18 That is why --MR. BRADFORD: 19 THE COURT: Okay. 20 MR. BRADFORD: Yes, your Honor. So the lease at 5501 covered the operation and ownership interest at 21 22 Churchill's Pub, but also to the adjacent building of 23 the pub that served as the office. 24 April 2019 the building across the street located at

175 Northeast 55th Street was completely delapidated.



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June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 18

In fact, it was occupied by a drug-addict vagrant, squatter named Dexter Glover. However, the building lacked electricity, air conditioning, water, you know, functioning plumbing. It was essentially a mere sheller. So while I wish I could tell you, your Honor, that this was some simple eviction matter, it's far from it. This is in fact a cultural war and in many ways a sign of the times. Some, not most -and probably only a fraction of landlords during this pandemic have let greed and perceived desperation get the best of them.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me ask you this, so at the 5501 property that has the office that your client was in, was there -- there was an agreement that he would use the 175 spot -- property, because of being condemned?

That is correct, your Honor. MR. BRADFORD:

I just wanted to make sure that I THE COURT: was right about that -- or that is what I heard you say. Okay, and so the hearing in the circuit court case is to determine how much rent is due at the condemned property?

MR. BRADFORD: Well, it's the lease -- it's how much money id due to paid, if any, to the court registry under the subject lease. That lease, your



**HEARING** June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 19

1 Honor, covers -- yes, it covers the condemned 2 property, as well as the pub. 3 THE COURT: Okay --MR. BRADFORD: So the answer to -- the simple 4 5 answer to your question is, yes. 6 THE COURT: And for this 175 property, you're 7 saying there is no lease because I guess it's more of 8 a temporary property while this other property is 9 condemned? 10 MR. BRADFORD: That is exactly right, your 11 Honor, it's a temporary property while the property 12 is condemn. Now, again remember the property in and 13 of itself was -- at 175, was completely dilapidated, 14 completely uninhabitable. The fact that they are 15 suggesting in their affidavit that they were charging 16 rent during the time that this place was a complete 17 den of iniquity is --18 THE COURT: And you're talking about the 175 19 spot? 20 MR. BRADFORD: Yeah. 21 THE COURT: You're saying also, this is a 22 dilapidated property? 23 MR. BRADFORD: Yeah. Again, so remember, these 24 are folks that are doing business with one another in

variety of ways. So what happened after the -- what



happened was determined after the property was
condemned over here is that okay, they needed some
place to work out of, but the place at 175 was
completely dilapidated. So my client actually
performed renovation services as to that property at
175 to the extent of \$76,000, which resulted in
further rent credits, prepaid rent credits. There
was never an invoice for any rent due at 175. There
was never any notice that of some expectation of
rent being paid, because everyone knew that this was
not only a replacement, so therefore the rent that
was being paid at 5501 covered the rent at 175, but
also my clients were doing 75 you know, ultimately
in what resulted in \$76,000 in renovations to that
property. The fact they are turning around knowing
that this isn't even its own individual property
subject to its own lease, they know that it's subject
to the 5501 property. They know that my client did
\$76,000 in renovations for property that he doesn't
own. Certainly, he's not in the business of doing
pro-bono work or charity work for these folks. The
fact they turned around and tried to evict him
separately out of this place shows you the
retaliatory nature, and shows you why this is not
just a simple eviction unfortunately.



And it all goes back to, again, my client's blowing the whistle to the misappropriation of the Cares Act funds. It began when Mallory Kauderer, aided and abetted by Danita Levitt, the Midguard Group and others on my list, used my clients, the defendants, District Live Agency and Franklin Dale's financial information listing the debts owed to him and his entities in the amount of \$128,000, not to mention the 75,000 for purposes of getting small business funding. Taking advantage of the government in a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

Now, had they accurately utilized the funds for which they reflected in the application, well then at that point the 128,000 owed to my client could have been applied as rent credits, and again, all of this, your Honor, we're talking about a different case.

I'm actually making arguments to you that are actually the arguments in a different case, but in any event, they've sort of forced us to do this. But in any event, those funds would have been applied to rents and they would have gone back to the business. So it's really, the level of brinksmanship here is remarkable the fact that they would go to these lengths to retaliate against my client, shooting themselves dead in the knee for what reason I don't



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1 fully understand. But in nay event, this is the path 2 that they have chosen and this is why we are here 3 today.

Ut the bottom line is, you know, naturally my client put it in writing, complained about the fact that Kauderer, Levitt and the Midguard Group sought to use his financial information for purposes of enriching themselves through fraudulent refinancing schemes with the bank, and again as a result it was a summary eviction cross properties.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRADFORD: Today we're prepared to go forward either evidentiary or non-evidentiary. has not been set as an evidentiary hearing. We actually think that it would be inappropriate to do so, but we defer to your Honor as a result, but you know one thing is clear, the Plaintiffs and their principals are towing the line of criminality, or at the very least, a real estate broker, such as Mallory Kauderer is violating Florida statutes and rules and regulations regulating the department of Business and Professional Regulation with these sorts of acts.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRADFORD: And --

THE COURT: Hold on, you -- is your motion --



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you just made the comment that you think it would be inappropriate to go forward. To go forward on what? MR. BRADFORD: To go -- we believe that, and let me be clear, thank you for that. We believe that this case should be dismissed, period. We believe that this is -- there should be a dismissal because this is duplicative of a different action. the extent that your Honor was inclined to order any funds to be placed into the court registry today, we believe that should be continued to a later date because we need to understand what the circumstances are in the 5501 action, and we will seek a determination from the judge in this case and counsel, Ms. Zalman, can work with me, you know, we can work together to make sure that the judge knows that we are seeking such a determination as well. And once we get a determination we believe that it's going to be beyond question that the judge is going to determine that the 175 property is a replacement for the office; but if the judge, you know, sort of rules otherwise, well then we can sort of go forward because then this is an appropriate, separate action, even though there is no lease, and even though, you know, my clients are owed 128,000 in services, as well as the 76,000 in renovations which would cover,



1 you know, any amounts potentially due and owing 2 anyway. But it would be most appropriate for that to 3 be Crystal clear or we have duplicative results here 4 to the detriment of my client.

> THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BRADFORD: So that is sort of our position as to the possibilities here, but you know, we are ready really for anything.

THE COURT: Okay.

The reality --MR. BRADFORD:

THE COURT: Okay, at this point let me hear from Ms. Zalman.

MR. BRADFORD: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Certainly. Okay.

MS. ZALMAN: Okay. Good afternoon. I respect my cocounsel on this case, it has been pending over a This is the very first time I've heard this vear. specific argument played out. I'm glad that opposing counsel just filed a copy of the 5501 lease, it's their evidence admission 1, because that is a different case, and if we're, you know, telling a story, this is a story for separate evictions for a failing tenant and this one has nothing to do with the related -- unrelated properties.

We are talking about other evictions that are



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happening down the street, across the street, and several buildings away, different property. lease that opposing counsel filed just about half an hour ago shows there is a 5501 lease. There is no mention of 175 in there. This issue of a very, small condemned property on the back of the lot which is, I'm not going to testify for my client, was to --Defendant chose to tear down, it was always a condemned, smaller property and they wanted more courtyard space. Unrelated, separate entities, separate actions. If this was a shopping center, one eviction happening at address number one has nothing to do with an eviction happening at address number four.

The other three evictions have bound-commercial leases because they are larger properties. One is a nightclub, et. cetera, but none of three mention this property across the street, 175, which is a separate commercial lease. And honestly, if I refer this back to just Florida statutes, first of all under Chapter 83, there is no requirement that a lease between landlord and tenant has to be in writing. They can have a verbal tenancy, and I can refer your Honor to that portion. And pursuant to 83.232, if we are talking about determining rent, a determination of

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rent is only supposed to be limited under subsection 2, to two factors. Factor one, is if the tenant has been properly credited for any payments made. And in subsection2, which is little B, is what properly constitutes rent between the agreement between the parties.

The 83.232 goes on that if the Defendant has filed counter-claims, and here they're arguing other claims, other actions, that in no way waives a tenant's requirement to put rent into the registry to preserve those defenses and go forward. This again has been pending for over a year and we vehemently disagree that there is a relation between these properties.

THE COURT: Ms. Zalman, let me ask you this, because I'm looking at the complaint here, and I see here it says, they entered into a month-to-month tenancy.

MS. ZALMAN: Yes.

THE COURT: What is the terms of the tenancy?

So back in April 2019, Mr. Dale and MS. ZALMAN: the office company used this and they originally agreed to make repairs and upgrades instead of paying what would be less than market rental rate. So that was the agreement, and then once those were



completed, they would still get to continue to pay
less than market rental rate. And I believe, and I
have my client here to testify, that was supposed to
last about year and a half of repairs and upgrades
and then the discounted rate would continue
month-to-month. And what has occurred here is, they
did commence, there is no there is no disagreement
here that Mr. Dale did commence with repairs and
upgrades, which is fantastic, but at some point
ceased. And upon requesting for any receipts, any
invoices which still haven't een filed today, they're
stating over 70,000 were done, we don't even have one
contractor agreement, one proof of anything. So the
question is, how long do you think you are going to
stay? What's really hard is, we have for evictions
pending because they've just failed, these are failed
businesses, and my client who has mortgages on all of
them is suffering. We haven't had rental income on
any of them for a long time.

And the second --

THE COURT: Well, wait a minute, for the 5501 property, there is no rent being paid?

MS. ZALMAN: There is no rent being paid, and in fact the second mortgage for my client, who is also here today, is in default. The landlord is really



June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

facing a hardship of losing these properties and they 1 2 have been -- these cases have been pending for a long 3 time. They got stuck in the system. You know, it 4 was hard to get evidentiary hearings or even extended 5 hearings. The courts are bogged down, I do not have 6 to tell you, and we are here today and to keep 7 extending this out, my client could face foreclosure. 8 The fact is, and my question is to the 9 Defendant, what date does he feel that he has to 10 But there is no end in sight. 11 THE COURT: Okay. 12 We have terminated the MS. ZALMAN: 13 month-to-month, we sent a letter and he still has not 14

provided possession or any proof or invoices of what has been spent on this property. I don't have one invoice.

And so, just to make sure, I know THE COURT: you said April 19th of 2019, that is when this repair/upgrade agreement --

MS. ZALMAN: Yes, and he definitely did start.

Okay, so April of 2019, no rent has THE COURT: been paid since then?

He was getting a MS. ZALMAN: No. month-to-month credit at below-market rental rate of 3,000 per month and the credit stops at about 45,000



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when my client repeatedly asked, can you show us the status of any permits pulled, any repairs, and nothing was provided. So then they said, we are going to switch back to the 3,000 a month. market rental rate is about 5,500, he didn't pay that either and they said, we are going to terminate the month-to-month because nothing is happening on this property and we are financially suffering here.

THE COURT: Okay, all right. I get it. what you are saying, both sides. So what I'm going to do now, I'm going to go back to Mr. Bradford, and I believe you want to put on evidence as far as your position? Because right now I just realized I'm letting the attorneys talk, but you can put on whatever testimony or evidence you want the Court to consider.

Okay, just a couple quick MR. BRADFORD: responses to what Counsel just mentioned. Again, first of all, she is laying out the standard for the Statute 83.232 as if to say her motion is at issue today, it's not. We are here on our motion to dismiss, just to be crystal clear.

Well, I think that we have to be THE COURT: clear, we are here on a motion to determine rent. And I know that it says in the alternative, a motion



to dismiss. But remember, to dismiss I can only look 1 2 at the four corners of the A form and would have to 3 say that this case has to be dismissed. And if I look at just the four corners of the A form, I can't 4 5 consider anything else. So all this other stuff you 6 are talking about would not be considered. So I do 7 not think that the Court would be in a position to 8 dismiss at this point. 9

MR. BRADFORD: And that is fair, your Honor --THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRADFORD: We appreciate that.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BRADFORD: And just for clarity, you know, ours is a motion to determine rent to be zero, so it's sort of, you know --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRADFORD: -- essentially a motion to dismiss. But with that in mind, and I appreciate that, your Honor, Counsel just suggested that immediately upon beginning the repairs to this completely dilapidated, uninhabitable, no water, no electricity, no plumbing space that rent was supposed to have been paid, and that my client received some reduced amount as to the rent, and that my client actually agreed to that --



THE COURT: Well, Mr. Bradford --1 2 MR. BRADFORD: Yeah --3 THE COURT: And I don't mean to cut you off, but the only reason I say it here is now I'm going back 4 5 and forth. I let Ms. Zalman speak because I gave you 6 an opportunity to speak. Right now you are making 7 arguments that is not in evidence yet. So that is 8 why I am saying we can let the witnesses testify so 9 then you can argue based off the evidence that is 10 before the Court. 11 MR. BRADFORD: Okay, and that is certainly 12 understood. I did just want to make sure that --13 well, I'll just let my client testify to it. 14 THE COURT: Right. 15 MR. BRADFORD: Okay. So at the moment we will 16 call Franklin Dale. 17 THE COURT: Okay, so Mr. Dale, would you raise 18 your right hand? 19 THE WITNESS: (Witness complies.) 20 THE COURT: Do you swear or affirm that the 21 testimony you are about to give will be the truth, 22 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help 23 you God? You are muted, sir. 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. THE COURT: Okay, you may proceed. 25



MR. BRADFORD: 1 Thank you. 2 Thereupon, 3 FRANKLIN DALE, 4 was duly sworn and testified as follows: 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 BY MR. BRADFORD: 7 Good afternoon, Mr. Dale. 0. 8 Α. Good afternoon. 9 0. So are you -- you are familiar that you have 10 been listed as a defendant in this case, which is styled 11 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC versus District Live 12 Agency, LLC, and yourself, correct? 13 Α. That is correct. 14 Ο. And you also in my open I made reference to a 15 different case styled 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC. 16 versus District Live Agency and the counterclaims there 17 which is District Live Agency and the Beverage Group 18 versus 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC., and Little 19 Haiti Development Partners. Can you tell the Court what 20 the nature of that action is, and specifically which 21 properties it involves? The action at 5501, is that correct? 22 Α. 23 Q. Yes? 24 Α. It involves 215 Northeast 55th Street as well.

Okay, but could you tell the Court all of the



Q.

1 properties that are involved in that litigation?

- Α. It's 5501, 215 and 175, 55.
- 3 0. Okay, so can you explain to the Court -- this is 4 a simple, direct question. What is 5501 Northeast Second
- 5 Avenue?

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- Churchill's Pub. Α.
- Okay. And what is, or what was I should say 215 0. Northeast 55th Street?
- That was the office, the working office for 9 Α. Churchill's Pub. 10
- 11 Okay. Can you pull up Exhibit 2? Ο.
- 12 MR. BRADFORD: Your Honor, I am going to have my 13 associate share her screen for purposes of 14 introducing a document into evidence that is relevant 15 to this portion of my client's testimony. If that is 16 okay with your Honor?
  - THE COURT: That's fine. It's showing.
- 18 BY MR. BRADFORD:
  - 0. Okay. I am showing you, Mr. Dale, what has been pre marked as defendant's Exhibit 2. Are you familiar with this document?
- 22 Α. Yes, I am.
- 23 How are you familiar with this document? Ο.
- 24 Α. I discovered this document while going through 25 the history of the unsafe structure located at 5501



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Northeast Second Avenue. What I found is this is a notice of unsafe structure that was actually delivered in 2018, prior to me leasing the property. So they didn't share the unsafe structure that our staff worked out of daily, our promoters our guests came into daily, they were notified of this property being an unsafe structure in 2018 and never notified us of the building being unsafe.

- Ο. Did you sign a lease at 5501 Northeast Second Avenue and this place 215 Northeast 55th Street on or about April of 2019?
  - Yes, I did. Α.
- And as a part of that lease, or included in that 0. lease were you able to occupy and utilize both the pub space and the adjacent office?
- Α. We did occupy it, but in July of 2019 we were served with a notice of unsafe structure from the City of I then became aware that the property was unsafe Miami. and, you know, I was guite upset about it for the fact that we were also paying rent on an unsafe structure.
- 0. Okay, so at the time that you signed the lease, is it your testimony today here, sir, that you had not been provided any notice as to the unsafeness of the building, which is addressed at 215 Northeast 55th Street?
- 24 Α. I was not aware of the condition of the 25 property.



1	Q. Would you have entered into this lease under
2	these terms had you known the unsafeness of this
3	structure?
4	A. I would not. And it's worth noting, your Honor,
5	they also failed to complete the 40-50 year
6	recertification, not just for that unsafe structure, but
7	also for the entirety of the property that I leased. And
8	when I notified them that I got this, you know unsafe
9	structure, that is when they decided to start taking
10	action in doing the 40-50 year recertification.
11	MS. ZALMAN: Your honor, for a moment I'm just
12	going to object. I don't understand the relevance to
13	this line of questioning for this.
14	THE COURT: Sustained. You can go to your next
15	question.
16	MR. BRADFORD: Okay, but I guess before we do
17	that, your Honor, we would like to move what was
18	premarked as Defense Exhibit 2 into evidence, and it
19	can be our Exhibit 1.
20	MR. VELEZ: Seems like hearsay. I'm sorry, your
21	Honor.
22	THE COURT: All right, is there any objection?
23	MR. VELEZ: Yes, hearsay.
24	THE COURT: Mr. Bradford?
25	MR. BRADFORD: This is a business record, your



1	Honor, relative to the business is the subject of
2	this action.
3	MR. VELEZ: That is a document issued by the
4	City of Miami, not his business record. So that is
5	not that does not qualify under the business
6	record exception to the hearsay rule.
7	THE COURT: So I'm going to sustain the
8	objection. He's testified to the document, so the
9	information is there.
10	MR. BRADFORD: Okay. No problem, your Honor.
11	Can you pull up our Number 3?
12	BY MR. BRADFORD:
13	Q. Okay, I am showing you what we had premarked as
14	Exhibit 3. Mr. Dale, do you you have made mention of
15	July 2019 receiving notice of an unsafe structure, do you
16	recognize this document to be that notice that you
17	referenced?
18	A. Yes, it is.
19	Q. Okay. And this document also reflects the need
20	for the 40-50 year recertification that you just mentioned
21	as well, right?
22	A. That is correct.
23	Q. Okay, so what happened after you received this
24	notice in July of 2019 concerning this unsafe structure?

MR. VELEZ: Your Honor, I must object to the



**HEARING** June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 37

form of the question it, it doesn't say it's an 1 2 unsafe structure. Besides, the document is not in 3 evidence, so he is not able to ask questions from it. I think, Mr. Velez, I believe if I 4 THE COURT: 5 remember the last question, it was after receiving 6 this document what happened next? 7 MR. VELEZ: That is about all he can testify to. 8 THE COURT: Right. 9 MR. BRADFORD: That's all we're asking. MR. VELEZ: But his characterization saying that 10 11 the building is unsafe, that's Counsel's words, that 12 is not actually what the document says. 13 MR. BRADFORD: It's beyond question that the 14 building is unsafe. 15 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to sustain --16 listen, I just need you all to stick with the facts 17 of the case here, okay. The question is, for Mr. 18 Dale, after you received this notice, what happened 19 next? Let's go from there. 20 THE WITNESS: Understood. I notified the owner, 21 Mallory Kauderer. Mallory Kauderer too 22 responsibility -- can you hear me? Am I muted? 23 THE COURT: I can hear you. 24 THE WITNESS: Okay. Mallory Kauderer took

responsibility for the failure of the 40-50 year



1	inspection, and then requested that the 40-50
2	inspection happen at the location.
3	THE COURT: Any other questions for him?
4	MR. BRADFORD: Yes.
5	BY MR. BRADFORD:
6	Q. So once that happened, Mr. Dale, what was the
7	decision as far as remedying the office space that was a
8	part of the lease?
9	A. Well, we decided to move to 175 Northeast 55th
10	Street to have that location substitute the condemned
11	building, the unsafe structure as we continued to pay rent
12	full use of the property at 5501.
13	Q. Did you ever enter into any tenancy agreement
14	with the Plaintiff in regards to the property at 175
15	Northeast 55th street?
16	A. No we did not.
17	Q. Was there Strike that.
18	Did you understand that you were paying rent,
19	vis-a-vis the lease, at 5501?
20	A. Yes, I did.
21	MR. VELEZ: Objection. His mental impression is
22	immaterial, that is what he's being asked.
23	THE COURT: Okay.
24	MR. VELEZ: And I move to strike it.
25	THE COURT: Re-ask the question, Mr. Bradford,



1	so I can hear.
2	MR. BRADFORD: I'm curious. We are here in
3	county court, so I'm not certain that the rules of
4	evidence apply, nor did we stipulate to such just to
5	be crystal clear.
6	THE COURT: Wait, wait, excuse me? The rules of
7	evidence apply in county court.
8	MR. BRADFORD: Okay, I apologize. But, in any
9	event, I will rephrase the question.
LO	THE COURT: Do you still need screen share?
L1	MR. BRADFORD: No, you can take this down.
L2	THE COURT: Okay, thank you.
L3	MR. BRADFORD: We will have other documents to
L4	put up in a bit.
L5	THE COURT: Okay.
L6	BY MR. BRADFORD:
L7	Q. But in any event, what was the agreement between
L8	yourself and the landlord with respect to your moving from
L9	the building that had been noticed as condemned to 175?
20	MR. VELEZ: I object to the form of that
21	question. There is no condemnation notice. This is
22	improper of Counsel using that terminology.
23	THE COURT: We'll strike the condemnation notice
24	and just ask the question, please.



# BY MR. BRADFORD:

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- 0. What was the agreement between the parties when you moved from 215 Northeast 55th Street to 175?
- The agreement was 175 would be replacing the Α. office under the lease of 5501 Northeast Second Avenue.
- 0. And what did that mean in regards to any rent that you might pay with respect to 175 Northeast 55th Street?
- We were already paying rent at 175 through the Α. Churchill's pub lease. We continued with the full rent payment, not a reduced rent for the condemned -- or, excuse, sorry about that, for the office area.
- Okay. Now, Counsel made reference earlier to Q. some renovations that were made to 175, can you speak to those renovations that you made? Absolutely. You know the property was, it was uninhabitable. It was, you know, floor to ceiling trash and dog feces on the walls, no running water, no electricity, no plumbing, no doors, no copper, nothing. Absolutely nothing. But the building was, you know, being squatted in by a vagrant and, you know, we undertook making improvements in order to even be able to office out of there. So when we agreed to come over here, our landlord said they had an infestation of termites and they were going to tent to building. said that they would put air-conditioners into the



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June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

building in order for us to make the transition	, but when
the time came, they welshed on me and they didn	't do
anything. They didn't put one dollar, not one	dollar in
improvements into making this a capable space t	0
substitute for our office at Churchill's.	

THE COURT: Okay, if I could. I want to make sure I get what I need. Mr. Dale, when you moved to the 175, you said you continued to pay rent for the pub which included the office that you were paying rent for; is that correct?

That is correct. THE WITNESS:

THE COURT: Okay. All right, go ahead.

MR. BRADFORD: I'm going to -- we are going to share our screen. I'm sorry bear with us, it's loading at the moment.

### BY MR. BRADFORD:

- I'll show you premarked as Defense Exhibit 4. Mr. Dale, are you familiar with the pictures that are being scrolled on the screen right now?
  - Α. Yes, I am.
  - And how are you familiar with these pictures? 0.
  - Α. I took the pictures.
- Okay. And are these picture that you took of the property which is the subject of this action here today, 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC.?



- A. I'm sorry, can you repeat it? I was focused on the pictures.
  - Q. Are these -- do these pictures fairly and accurately depict the property that is subject of this action at 175 Northeast 55th Street?
    - A. They do.

- Q. When were these pictures taken?
- A. Approximately, between -- I want to say June and July of 2019.
  - Q. Between June and July of 2019?
- A. Yeah, it was -- you know, there is some ongoing photos as we got area by area. You know, we started with having to rent, you know, large dumpsters. You know, we spent a lot of money and a lot of labor just trying to clear their property, just trying to clean the property, just trying to disinfect the property how bad and where it was with leaking water through the ceilings. I mean, we have some videos that I didn't have -- you know, I don't know that I've uploaded to show all the water leaks coming from the second floor into the first floor. All stuff that, you know, the landlords are well aware of.

THE COURT: If I could ask, Mr. Bradford, from what was stated prior to his testimony I didn't think that there was any dispute that Mr. Dale had made improvements to the property and that he was supposed



1 to be given credit for the improvements that were 2 made, am I wrong? 3 MR. BRADFORD: I can't speak to the positions 4 that my opposition takes here --5 THE COURT: Well, hold on, Ms. Zalman, am I 6 correct? 7 MS. ZALMAN: Correct. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MS. ZALMAN: We stipulate and agree and do not object to the fact that Mr. Dale has made 10 11 improvements and repairs to the premises and credits 12 were provided. 13 But the purpose of this, your MR. BRADFORD: 14 Honor -- I'm sorry. 15 THE COURT: Go ahead. 16 The purpose of this, your Honor, MR. BRADFORD: 17 is to reflect the condition when he first began 18 making the repairs. Counsel has made the argument 19 that rent, a separate amount of rent was somehow 20 immediately due and owing despite the fact that the 21 building's condition is completely dilapidated and uninhabitable. And this is being put into evidence, 22 23 your Honor --24 THE COURT: No, but I thought Counsel said --

Ms. Zalman, correct me if I'm wrong, let me go back,



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was that when he moved in, in April of 2019, there was the agreement that he would be credited, it was at a below-market rate for the work that he was doing at the 175 location?

MS. ZALMAN: Yes, your Honor, for about a year-and-a-half's time.

THE COURT: Right, for a year-and-a-half's time.

MR. BRADFORD: Right, but the point, your Honor, is that they cannot -- it is beyond reason to be assessing rent. My clients would not have agreed to the assessment of rent to be paid on something that is uninhabitable. He was then at that point paying rent to repair the Plaintiff's property. doesn't make any sense. My client was not paying any rent simply for the privilege to repair property that he didn't own. That's their argument, and that is what I want to make clear, and that is what these pictures are being put up to reflect, your Honor.

MS. ZALMAN: Your Honor, I think that if the testimony that will be provided is that the tenant took possession a little bit before April 2019, before the ledger started accruing. So they actually were provided keys, which is standard in commercial properties, to start repairing even before. don't have the exact date he was handed the keys, but



1	we can ask, you know, on testimony about that.
2	MR. BRADFORD: Well, for starters, your Honor,
3	we would like to move to enter what has been
4	premarked as Defense Exhibit 4 into evidence.
5	THE COURT: Okay, is there any objection to the
6	pictures?
7	MS. ZALMAN: No, your Honor.
8	THE COURT: Okay, the pictures will be admitted
9	without any objection. So this will be Defendant's
10	Composite 1.
11	MR. BRADFORD: Thank you, your Honor.
12	(Thereupon, the exhibit was entered into
13	evidence.)
14	BY MR. BRADFORD:
15	Q. Mr. Dale, we've just scrolled through pictures
16	that have been entered as Defense Composite Exhibit 1, can
17	you let us know can you let the Court know whether or
18	not at the time that you received the keys, whatever date
19	that was, if that was pursuant to a separate leasing
20	agreement that had ever been agreed upon by the parties.
21	A. Can you repeat the question, Omar?
22	Q. Sure. Was there a separate lease agreement that
23	was agreed to for purpose of you beginning to have the
24	keys



A. No.

1 Q. -- at this location?

- A. No, there was not.
  - Q. Can you repeat that, your answer?
- A. No, there was not. There was no separate agreement.
- Q. Why was there not a separate agreement? Because Counsel is arguing that you had the keys and under standard commercial real estate practice that once you have the keys you, by definition, should have started paying rent; isn't that right?
- A. I was already paying rent at Churchill's pub for the office.
- Q. And therefore, what did -- when you were given the keys for what purpose were you giving these keys?
- A. Well, I agreed to help clean up the property first off because of the condition that it was in and our need to have an office space for business. We had a larger strategy for growth of the area, we needed an office area so I knew it could substitute for the structure that we were in with the violation until we remedied that, and then we could figure out what we were going to do as far as a lease regarding 175 if we chose to write a lease at 175. But we first had to remedy our office situation which we were paying our full rent on.
  - Q. We are going to share the screen to reflect some



additional pictures. I am showing what we have marked for 1 2 identification as Defense Exhibit 5, are you familiar with 3 these pictures?

> Α. Yes, I am.

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- And how are you familiar with these pictures? 0.
- I took the pictures. Α.
- What are these pictures of? 0.
- Α. Pictures of the office. Pictures of, you know, the full renovation, exterior, interior.
  - When were these pictures taken? 0.
  - Over the course of 2019 into 2020. Α.
  - Is this what the office looks like today? 0.
- Yes, it is. You'll notice plumbing, from Α. toilets, to doors, to air conditioning units, to drywall, you know, absolutely everything needed for the renovation.
- And these pictures fairly and accurately depict 0. that, right?
  - Yes, sir. Α.
- 19 MR. BRADFORD: Your Honor, we would like to move 20 what was pre marked as Defense Exhibit 5 into evidence as Defense Composite Exhibit 2. 21
  - Any objection? THE COURT:
- 23 No, your Honor. MS. ZALMAN:
- 24 THE COURT: Okay, so this will be admitted as 25 Defense Number 2.



1	(Thereupon, the exhibit was moved into
2	evidence.)
3	BY MR. BRADFORD:
4	Q. Mr. Dale, how much did you and your partners
5	expend for purposes of taking us from the pictures in
6	Defense Composite Exhibit 1 to the pictures in Defense
7	Composite Exhibit 2?
8	A. Approximately \$76,000.
9	Q. And how are you how do you know that that is
10	fair and accurate amount of what you have expended?
11	A. Because of our ledger.
12	Q. Okay. Have you provided your ledger reflecting
13	that amount to Mallory Kauderer and/or Danita Levitt?
14	A. I have not.
15	Q. Okay, have you made them aware that the amount
16	that you guys spent in these renovations is \$76,000?
17	A. Oh, I have.
18	Q. And how did you make them aware of that?
19	A. I submitted an affidavit with my ledger. I
20	believe it was part of the memo of understanding as well.
21	When I looked to, you know, try to come to the resolution
22	with these guys.
23	Q. Okay, let's back up. You mentioned a memo of

That is correct. After, you know, finding out



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understanding; what is that?

1	that Mallory had absconded the A funds and we had, you
2	know, some very contentious conversations where he
3	actually demanded my financial records of not only 175 but
4	5524 Northeast Second Avenue, 5528 Northeast second
5	Avenue, and 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, so he demand the
6	four properties that I had that I provide him all of my
7	financial records from improvements, for my concept,
8	renderings of my concepts, my pro forma budget; he
9	demanded all of that. And he stated that the purpose of
10	it was for him to refinance the package portfolio of all
11	the properties to the banks and represent my improvements
12	as his own and to be credited into his opportunities own
13	fund program.

Did you believe that he had admitted to you that he was seeking to enrich himself based on your documents?

> MR. VELEZ: Object to the form.

MS. ZALMAN: Objection.

THE COURT: Sustained.

MR. BRADFORD: I'll restate the question.

# BY MR. BRADFORD:

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What did you believe that to mean after Mr. Ο. Bauderer told you that?

MR. VELEZ: Objection. His state of mind is immaterial for purposes of this hearing.

THE COURT: Sustained.



1	MR. BRADFORD: All right. I'll move on from
2	that.
3	BY MR. BRADFORD:
4	Q. But in any event so he let you know that he
5	was using this for purposes of refinancing, correct?
6	MR. VELEZ: Objection. Your Honor, this is the
7	same question. I object as being repetitious.
8	THE COURT: Okay. All right. Overruled. Mr.
9	Bradford ask the next question.
10	BY MR. BRADFORD:
11	Q. What else was well, you just mentioned an
12	affidavit and a ledger, what in what court was the
13	affidavit and ledger laying out the expenses related to
14	this property, in what court was that affidavit filed?
15	A. That was submitted for 5501 Northeast second
16	Avenue.
17	Q. Right. Why did you file an affidavit and a
18	ledger reflecting the work at 175 Northeast 55th Street in
19	the 5501 litigation?
20	MR. VELEZ: Your Honor, we are going this is
21	I object. We are going far beyond the scope of
22	this hearing. This is all irrelevant.
23	MR. BRADFORD: That's not.
24	MR. VELEZ: He's trying to try his case. We are

not here to try the case, we are here to try the



1	issue of rent.
2	THE COURT: Overruled. I'll let him answer this
3	question.
4	MR. BRADFORD: Omar, could you repeat the
5	question? I'm sorry.
6	BY MR. BRADFORD:
7	Q. Why did you file your affidavit and ledger that
8	reflects what you spent on the renovation at 175, why did
9	you file that in the 5501 action?
10	A. Because the improvements at 175 were reflective
11	of our office which was part of the lease at 5501.
12	They're hand-in-hand.
13	Q. What else did you address in your memo of
14	understanding that you just referenced that was served on
15	Mr. Bauderer?
16	MR. VELEZ: Objection. The best evidence of
17	that is the so-called memo of understanding. Now
18	we're going far outfield.
19	THE COURT: I'm sorry, what was the question,
20	Mr. Bradford?
21	MR. BRADFORD: Mr. Dale had made reference to a
22	memo of understanding, and he had explained some of
23	which was contained in that
24	THE COURT: Right, I want to
25	MR. BRADFORD: I was just asking for the



**HEARING** June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 52

1 remainder. 2 THE COURT: Okay, the question is what else was 3 in the memo? MR. VELEZ: Testifying from a document not in 4 5 evidence. 6 MR. BRADFORD: Okay, well then we will come back 7 to that. 8 THE COURT: Wait, wait. Isn't this a statement 9 he gave, Mr Dale? You're talking about a statement 10 he gave? 11 MR. BRADFORD: That is correct, your Honor. 12 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. I'll overrule and 13 allow you to ask the question. 14 THE WITNESS: The memorandum of understanding 15 laid out numerous things, your Honor. First, 16 rendition of all the properties that I leased from 17 the landlord, you know. We also have a property 18 under lease at 5528 Northeast Second Avenue that is 19 adjacent to 175. 20 THE COURT: Anything else about the 175 21 property? 22 THE WITNESS: Yeah, we asked for improvements to 23 be made to be brought up to code so that we could 24 have the office operational. So we made a lot of

renovations to the property, but a lot of renovations



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are still needed. Right now bathrooms don't work,
electricity doesn't work in areas of the building
THE COURT: Mr. Dale, Mr. Dale, let me ask this
because, okay, you said you moved into this property
because the other one was because of the notice
you got from the City of Miami in the other one; so
by moving into this one, you made renovations, but
there is no agreement about you making these
renovations; is that correct? That is what I thought
you said.

THE WITNESS: No, we had an agreement. agreement was that we would make renovations and we would be provided with rent credits.

THE COURT: And when I asked that about 20 minutes ago and I was told, no, that was not what happened, it was that you were paying rent through the pub. So then there was no explanation of anything at this property --

THE WITNESS: Future, you Honor, future rent credits.

THE COURT: At what point was this agreement made?

THE WITNESS: Well, this went hand-in-hand with my agreement with the landlord that any of my services that were provided would either be paid in



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full, the balance paid in full, or I would see prepaid rent credits. Otherwise, I would not have entered into the rental agreements.

THE COURT: When was this agreement made? THE WITNESS: I would say after July when we had the initial conversations in 2019.

In July of 2019, that is when the THE COURT: agreement was raised that the renovations you did would be used for -- either you would be paid the amount for the work you did, or you would get future rental credits?

That is correct. THE WITNESS:

THE COURT: Okay, any other questions for him? Oh, you're muted Mr. Bradford.

MR. BRADFORD: I apologize.

### BY MR. BRADFORD:

- So you made the agreement at that time that you would receive rent credits; for what property was it contemplated that you would receive these rent credits for?
- 175 Northeast 55th Street, or any of the Α. properties, 5524, 5528, or 5501.
  - Okay. Ο.
- We had an outstanding balance, a ledger of Α. dollars owed to me that I could utilize across properties



1	in prepaid rent credit, your Honor.
2	MR. BRADFORD: Okay. And when you say, 175
3	Northeast 55th Street, again just for clarity, what
4	lease governs that property?
5	A. 5501 Northeast Second Avenue and District Live
6	Agency.
7	MR. BRADFORD: Okay. No for the questions for
8	now, your Honor.
9	THE COURT: Thank you. Any questions for Mr.
10	Dale from the Plaintiff?
11	MS. ZALMAN: Yes, your Honor.
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	BY MS. ZALMAN:
14	Q. Mr. Dale, do you currently have possession of
15	the premises?
16	A. That is correct.
17	Q. What is your understanding of when this tenancy
18	agreement is to end for the 175 premises?
19	A. We have the anticipation that we would look at
20	175 lease separately of the 5501 lease when the building
21	was renovated at Churchill's pub at 5501. So, you know,
22	honestly you know, we should have never gotten derailed
23	THE COURT: Mr. Dale, I understand your
24	frustration with having to move properties, but I
25	just need to know answer the question so we can



1	move on, please.
2	THE WITNESS: I'm doing my best. Can you repeat
3	the question?
4	BY MS. ZALMAN:
5	Q. What date do you feel is the termination date
6	for the premises, for your possession of the premises?
7	A. We we're trying we my expectation was
8	that it was synchronized with the 5501 lease, which was
9	synchronized with the 5524 and the 5528 leases to have a
10	global synchronized lease for all properties for years,
11	ten years from now.
12	Q. You mentioned 5524 and 5528 leases, have those
13	leases not expired?
14	A. Well, we are currently in litigation regarding
15	those leases.
16	Q. But the terms of the date on those leases, have
17	they not already expired a few months ago?
18	A. Yeah, they've expired now.
19	Q. What date do you intend on vacating the 175
20	premises?
21	A. Say that again?
22	Q. What date do you intend on vacating or turning
23	possession over, back over for the 175 premises to the

At the completion of the 5501 Northeast Second



landlord?

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1 Avenue, LLC. lease.

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MS. ZALMAN: Mr. Bradford, I know you filed Defendant's Exhibit Number 1, can I ask you kindly if you can share the screen to that since it's your filing connected to the PDF we were just using.

MR. BRADFORD: Sure, no problem.

MS. ZALMAN: Can we just go to Page 2? you so much. Up one page to the face page, thank you.

#### BY MS. ZALMAN: 10

- Mr. Dale, do you recognize this agreement? 0.
- 12 Yes, I do. Α.
- 13 Is this the lease agreement to 5501 you have Q. 14 been referring to?
- 15 Α. Yes, it is.
  - To your knowledge, based on this, is the 175 Ο. premises listed anywhere in disagreement?
    - No, it's not. Α.
  - 0. I'm going to refer you to section 29 of this Section 29 Amendment of Lease, can you take a exhibit. moment and review that section?
    - Α. Okay.
- What does this section mean to you? 23 0.
- 24 Α. That the lease may not be altered.
  - And does it continue by, "except by an Q.



1	instrument in writing signed by the parties", is that your
2	understanding?
3	A. Mm-hmm.
4	MS. ZALMAN: I would like to admit Defendant's
5	Exhibit 1 into evidence?
6	THE COURT: Is there any
7	(Thereupon, the exhibit was moved into
8	evidence.)
9	BY MS. ZALMAN:
LO	Q. Mr. Dale, is there anything in writing that
L1	connects 175 to this lease?
L2	A. We had expressed written consent?
L3	Q. And where is that document?
L4	A. We have, you know, a series of, you know, I
L5	would say, I mean it was verbal. I meant express verbal,
L6	not expressed written. I apologize.
L7	Q. Understood. You testified that you spent over
L8	76,000 in repairs for the premises at 175?
L9	A. That is correct.
20	Q. My question to you is, why not in this case or
21	any case have you filed any documentation with receipts or
22	invoices for moneys spent for 175?
23	A. Well, we could have. We were never requested

to, except under the demand to provide my financial

documents for the purpose of refinancing for Mr. Kauderer.



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- O. So --
- A. To represent our improvements, our businesses spend as his own for applications to the banks, and I refused to do it.
  - Q. Have you hired licensed contractors to make these improvements to the premise?
- A. We did not do any improvements that required permitting.
- Q. Do you have contract with any contractor regarding how much work you paid out to do work at 175?
  - A. No, I do not.
- Q. Okay, so just to follow up on your other answer, you did not need to pull any permits or work with the City on your repairs for the 175 premises?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. And following up on my prior question, you did not provide me a specific date when you intend on vacating. Can you provide a date when you intend on giving up possession of the 175 premises?
- A. We never intended on -- we intend on all of our leases to be synchronized and us to be leaving all of the properties at the exact same time. That is what was always promised to us. That's what we always agreed upon that we entered into multiple leases and made improvements



to multiple properties all based on a ten-year plan and put together our financial forecast and our ROI schedule. And the entire time this property of 175 Northeast 55th Street was considered in those plans to always be synchronized, you know, for I think it was nine years, nine-year term when we entered into Churchill's.

- Q. So do you think its fair to remain at the premises indefinitely, or without paying rent?
- A. Certainly not. I believe that we should not have been retaliated against. I don't think we should have been stopped from making progress on any of the properties. But your client's actions from the SBA funds, to demands of my financials, to not repairing, you know, roofs on 5528 and instructing the real landlord there, the real owner of the property not to improve our roof at that property. So their actions have changed what our future looks like, and what my expectation of ending the lease is.
- Q. You ever -- earlier in your testimony you indicated at 175 you were seeking landlord to also make repairs, have you ever sent a 7-day notice to cure or other notice to cure to landlord for the 175 premises?
  - A. We sent a memo of understanding.
  - Q. Do you have a copy of that with you?
  - A. I don't believe we put it into exhibits, but



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- O. Approximately -- when what is the memo of understanding issued?
  - I believe August of 2020.
- Do you currently use the premises as your office 0. space for --
  - Α. Churchill's? Yes, we do.
  - 0. District Live Agency?
  - Α. District Live Agency is the parent company of Churchill's
- 11 Do you currently use the office space at the 175 0. 12 premises for the District Live Agency?
  - Α. We -- it's co-utilized. It's the same ownership for Churchill's Pub and District Live Agency.
    - Are you there on a daily basis? 0.
- 16 Yes, I'd say I come here on a daily basis, yes. Α.
- 17 MS. ZALMAN: Mr. Velez, did you have anything?
- 18 MR. VELEZ: No. No, I don't.
- BY MS. ZALMAN: 19
- 20 0. Okay, so in conclusion my final question is, have you paid out of pocket any rents for the 175 premises 21 22 in the year 2021?
- 23 Have I paid any money out of pocket since 2021? Α.
- 24 For the 175 premises? 0.
  - Α. No, we've still been acting as if it's operating



1 under the 5501 Northeast Second Avenue lease.

- Q. And again, you have nothing in writing connecting those two properties? I apologize, I did say that was the last question, but I thought of one more. Was it your idea to demolish this side building, the condemned building on the 5501 property?
- A. Was it my idea to demolish -- was it my idea to remedy the unsafe structure? Yes, you're correct about that. I stepped in for your client to handle that for safety.
  - MS. ZALMAN: Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Dale. That is all I have.

THE WITNESS: My pleasure.

MR. BRADFORD: Can I have a brief redirect, your Honor? Unless, your Honor has some questions you would like to ask the witness first?

THE COURT: Well, let me ask real quick. I saw the lease, it started April 1st of 2019, when does that lease end? Is there an end date in the lease? I didn't see that.

MS. ZALMAN: For the 5501?

THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Dale. Was there an end date in the lease?

THE WITNESS: I believe we had a three-year renewal coming up at the end of 2022, so 2025.



1	THE COURT: So from April 2019 to April 2025 is
2	the lease?
3	THE WITNESS: It was a three-year lease with a
4	one-term renewal.
5	THE COURT: Okay, so the first term would be
6	the first ending would be in 2022?
7	MS. ZALMAN: March 31, 2022 is what is stated on
8	the face page of Defendant's Exhibit 1. I would
9	state there is no renewal in effect, obviously
10	between parties.
11	THE COURT: I'm sorry, say that again.
12	MS. ZALMAN: I would say there is no renewal in
13	effect after the expiration date as the parties are
14	not in agreement.
15	THE COURT: Okay, okay. Go ahead, Mr. Bradford.
16	MR. BRADFORD: Just a brief redirect.
17	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. BRADFORD:
19	Q. Counsel asked you the question, Mr. Dale, how
20	long you should be able to stay in the property without
21	paying rent; do you believe that you owe any rent under
22	the lease at 5501?
23	A. Absolutely not.

Q. And what is your basis for not owing any rent



under the lease at 5501?

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A. I would say there is two components to that,
your Honor. One would be the value of my prepaid rent
credits that I worked tirelessly for over the course of
the past seven years; and the other would be the fact
that, you know, the pandemic closed our business, right?
And as a small business owner, you know, I was proud to
close my doors and I knew the challenges that we were
going to face. But in doing so, I closed my doors for the
safety of, you know, American lives and the unknown with
this pandemic. But what I did understand as a small
business owner is that our government will come to the aid
of small business owners to support not only us, but our
employees, families, vendors, and we rightfully have the
right to getting that government aid. And the government
did what was right, they distributed funds to the use of
our business to be utilized for rents, and to be utilized
to pay our staff, and pay our vendors, and pay the
utilities, you know. The government stepped in to help
the businesses that held our country when the time was
needed. Those programs were not established by Congress
in order for people to make loans of those funds intended
for the business for their real estate development
companies. That is not that wasn't why these programs
were intended.

So the amount of money that we requested in our



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memo of understanding of \$150,000, your Honor, that's what we received. Our total aid was \$192,500 for Churchill's Pub, your Honor, and nothing has been credited for the I haven't been able to pay any of my staff. haven't been able to pay any of my utilities. been able to pay any of my vendors. And while that happened, this is worth noting, your Honor, when the pandemic started in March, simultaneously our liquor license expired, the liquor license owned by the Plaintiff here today. And that liquor license expired on March 31st of 2020. Now, the landlord decided that they were not going to renew that liquor license allowing us to operate our business. The only thing -- we are mandated by the lease in front of you to make sure that we only operate as a bar, and I can only use that, their liquor license, I am bound to only using their liquor license, which they did not renew.

> MR. VELEZ: Your Honor, I object to this. is beyond the purview of the question and it is a complete monologue. And it's irrelevant to this case.

THE COURT: Sustained, okay it's sustained. have a question, the lease, how much is the amount of rent that is paid for 5501?

THE WITNESS: Great question, your Honor, at the



1 beginning of the pandemic -- in totality it's about 2 10,500. It's an \$8,800 base rent, but I'll have you 3 know --4 I'm sorry, what was the rent again? THE COURT: THE WITNESS: At the time it was an \$8,800 base 5 6 Now, the landlord offered us a rent reduction 7 for the entirety of the pandemic to be \$5,000, okay, 8 \$5,000 from March 2020 until the reopening of the 9 pandemic and I do have that in writing. Okay, so when we entered the beginning of the pandemic it was 10 11 my understanding that my rent would be an adjusted to 12 \$5,000, which was manageable to us. Our business 13 wasn't in debt, we were doing great. The --14 THE COURT: Mr. Dale, Mr. Dale, hold on. And so 15 on March 20th, \$5,000 -- going with what you are 16 saying, March 20th, \$5,000 is your rent that is to be 17 paid every month? 18 That is correct. THE WITNESS: 19 THE COURT: Okay, and was that rent being paid? 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, it was your Honor. 21 THE COURT: Okay, and when was the last payment 22 made? 23 THE WITNESS: On the books I think we have it 24 through July. It got complicated when I confronted

the landlord on June 12th about taking the money --



1 Just to correct, it's July 2020 for MS. ZALMAN: 2 the record. THE COURT: July 2020, was that the last day 3 4 that rent was paid? 5 THE WITNESS: I believe. I don't have the 6 ledger in front of me, your Honor. 7 Well, let's be clear because we are THE COURT: 8 here for a rent determination hearing. 9 THE WITNESS: I understand that. I don't have my ledger for -- oh, yes I do, yes I do. I have my 10 11 affidavit. Going into the month of August, \$19,300 12 has been paid by DLA to the landlord. At that point 13 \$8,000, a PPP fund still remained so --14 THE COURT: I'm confused, what are you saying? 15 I'm trying to look at exactly the THE WITNESS: 16 payments that were made in 2020. So I'm looking 17 through and I am seeing that June, July -- wait 18 March, April, June, July, I believe is the last time 19 out of pocket, not taking into consideration SBA 20 funds or the prepaid rent credits. 21 THE COURT: Okay, so what I am asking is, July was the last month the payment was made. 22 23 That is correct. THE WITNESS:

THE COURT: Okay. Any other questions?



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# 1 BY MR. BRADFORD:

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- Q. To follow up on your question, just for absolute clarity; do you believe your rent to be prepaid?
  - A. Absolutely, zero dollars owed.
- Q. Okay, so just stay with me for a second. It is, you know, presumptively your response to your Honor's question was accurate with respect coming out of pocket, but just for clarity, how are you defining payment coming out of pocket?
- A. Actual, not my prepaid rent credits, physical dollars from my bank account to the landlord, but --
- Q. Do you believe that the value of your prepaid rent credits is greater than the amounts you would owe under the lease if no prepaid rent credits were applied since July 2020?
  - MR. VELEZ: Your Honor, that is an argumentative question.

THE COURT: So I'll sustain it. That will be argument for you to make, Mr. Bradford. Any other question for Mr. Dale?

MS. ZALMAN: We do not.

THE COURT: And Ms. Zalman, you said there was a witness you wanted to call?

MS. ZALMAN: We do. We have Ms. Levitt, Danita Levitt for the Plaintiff.



THE COURT: Okay. And one of the questions I 1 2 would just like to know is what does she reflect as 3 the last rental payment? If you could for me? 4 MS. ZALMAN: For the 175 premises? 5 THE COURT: Both, the 5501 and 175. 6 MS. ZALMAN: Okay, so --7 No, I'm asking you for the witness THE COURT: 8 to testify to. 9 MS. ZALMAN: Oh. 10 THE COURT: I'll have some testimony on it. So 11 I'm saying if you could make sure to ask that 12 question. 13 MS. ZALMAN: Yes, we'll start right there. 14 THE COURT: All right, so, would you please 15 raise your right hand, ma'am? 16 THE WITNESS: (Witness complies.) 17 THE COURT: Do you swear or affirm that the 18 testimony you're about to give will be the truth, the 19 whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you 20 God? 21 I do. THE WITNESS: 22 THE COURT: Okay, thank you. You may proceed. 23 (Thereupon, the witness was duly sworn) 24 DIRECT EXAMINATION



#### 1 BY MS. ZALMAN:

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- 2 Good afternoon, can you state your name for the Q. 3 record.
  - Danita Levitt. Α.
  - And what is your position -- can you advise the Q. Court what your position is regarding the Plaintiff, 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC?
- 8 Α. I'm the manager for 175 Northeast 55th Street, 9 LLC.
  - If you could raise you voice just a little bit 0. because the hearing on your end is a little low.
- 12 Okay. Α.
  - You said you are the manager? Q.
- 14 Α. Yes.
- 15 Okay. And how long have you held that position? 0.
- 16 Since acquisition of that property in 2014. Α.
  - And as manager do you maintain the ledger for 0. the premises, the 175 premises?
  - Α. Yes.
  - What is Plaintiff's role for, I'm sorry, 175 0. Northeast 55th Street's role in regard to the premises address 175 Northeast 55th Street, if any?
- 23 Landlord. Α.
- 24 0. You're the landlord. Do you personally have the care, custody, and control of business record for the 25



1 premises?

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- Α. For my records, yes. For 175 Northeast 75th 3 LLC.
  - Okav. And what is relationship with the 0. Defendants, if any? The Plaintiff's relationship, not yours personally.
    - The Plaintiff is the landlord. Α.
    - Ο. And do you have an agreement with the Defendants in this matter, as they testified, a tenancy agreement?
      - Α. There was a verbal agreement.
      - And what are the terms of that agreement? 0.
  - That the tenant would and could take possession Α. to begin clean up and repairs to the premises. And at some point further down the line there would be a rent agreement for them to pay rent.
    - So the repairs and the improvements, were these Q. to be in lieu of rent?
      - Α. Yes.
        - Q. For how long?
- 20 Α. It wasn't stated, I quess on my part I assumed 21 maybe about a year-and-a-half.
- 22 0. I don't want you to make an assumption. I just 23 want you to testify to what was agreed to.
- 24 Α. There was no strict date of when rent would 25 start.



1	Q. So it's your recollection it was about a
2	year-and-a-half?
3	A. Approximately.
4	MR. BRADFORD: Objection. That was a
5	mischaracterization of the witnesses testimony. She
6	didn't say that. She said that there was no date
7	certain. Why are you putting words in her mouth,
8	Counsel?
9	MS. ZALMAN: Well, she said about a
10	year-and-a-half before.
11	MR. BRADFORD: After you told her to say that.
12	THE COURT: Okay, okay. Let the witness
13	do the testifying, please.
14	MS. ZALMAN: I don't have, I can try to share
15	the screen, but I want to bring forth the question at
16	issue, which is the affidavit you filed with the
17	Court on June 23, 2020, does everyone have that
18	present in front of them? And Ms. Levitt, do you
19	have that present in front of you?
20	THE WITNESS: Let me find it
21	THE COURT: And what is the affidavit attached
22	to.
23	MS. ZALMAN: Plaintiff's Affidavit, nonpayment
24	affidavit.
25	THE COURT: Okay. I have it.



1 BY MS. ZALMAN:

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- 0. I would like to refer you to the last page of the affidavit, which is tenant ledger?
  - Α. Okav.
- What is the total balance due from Defendants 5 Q. 6 through June 2021?
  - Α. \$66,000.
  - What is monthly rent due from tenants in 0. accordance with your ledger?
  - Α. \$3,000 up to August.
- 11 And why did the \$3,000 -- why do you say up to 0. 12 August?
  - Α. Because then we terminated our month-to-month The tenant then became a hold-over tenant, at which point the rent doubled.
    - I'm going to refer you to Exhibit B in this Q. affidavit, which is the termination notice, Exhibit B of your affidavit. Is this termination notice you are referring to?
      - Α. Yes.
      - What date did Plaintiff terminate the tenancy? 0.
      - Α. August 31, 2020.
- 23 THE COURT: Okay, if you will excuse me. 24 sorry, I need to interrupt. Can we go off the record 25 for a moment?



1	(Thereupon, a short recess was taken.)
2	(Thereupon, the proceedings continued.)
3	THE COURT: I believe when I left off Ms. Zalman
4	was still questioning her witness. And I just want
5	the parties to keep in mind that the court reporter
6	has another hearing at four o'clock; is that right,
7	Ms. Wilson?
8	THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, your Honor.
9	THE COURT: Okay.
10	MS. ZALMAN: I'm going to do my best to really
11	make this brief.
12	THE COURT: Okay.
13	BY MS. ZALMAN:
14	Q. Let's return back to the affidavit filed on
15	June 23rd, which I would like to admit into evidence
16	starting on our docket, but it's Plaintiff's Exhibit A.
17	THE COURT: Is there any objection?
18	MR. BRADFORD: No objection.
19	THE COURT: Okay. Affidavit will be admitted
20	without objection. And that will be Plaintiff's 2.
21	(Thereupon, the exhibit was entered into
22	evidence.)
23	MS. ZALMAN: Oh, yes, yes. Because I brought
24	the lease in as 1. Yes, thank you. I apologize.
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### BY MS. ZALMAN:

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- Ο. Ms. Levitt, let us know when you're ready and I'm going to pull your attention again back to the termination notice we were looking at attached to the affidavit. My question to you is, what date did the amended termination notice terminate the tenancy. And you're on mute.
- 8 I apologize. The effective date of termination 9 is September 4, 2020.
  - Thank you. Following issuance of this notice, 0. did the tenant provide possession?
- 12 Α. No.
  - Did the tenant respond in writing to you Q. regarding this notice, as far as you are aware?
- 15 Α. No.
  - Did the tenant contact you regarding this notice Q. of termination?
- 18 Α. No.
- 19 Q. Is the Plaintiff, 5501 -- I'm sorry, 175 Northeast 55th Street, LLC., is the Plaintiff suffering a 20 21 hardship as a result of nonpayment of rent?
- 22 Α. Yes.
- 23 0. Why?
- 24 Α. We are unable to pay our mortgage.
- 25 Q. I'm going to refer you quickly to Exhibit A of



the same affidavit, a three-day notice to pay rent. 1

- Α. Yes.
- 0. What is the amount of the three-day notice?
- 4 \$6,000. Α.

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- And what date was this issued? 0.
  - Served September 2, 2020. Α.
- 7 And this \$6,000, can you tell us what months Q. 8 this represents?
  - That would be for July and August 2020. Α.
- I want to call your attention to, I will see if 10 Ο. 11 I can share my screen, Plaintiff's affidavit filed in the 12 5501 matter. One moment, I'm having unfortunate technical 13 problems with my sharing.
- 14 THE COURT: Is this a document that's --
- 15 MS. ZALMAN: Did that work?
- 16 BY MS. ZALMAN:
  - Are you familiar with this document, Ms. Levitt? 0.
- 18 Α. Yes.
- 19 0. What is this document?
  - Α. This is my amended updated nonpayment affidavit.
- 21 And for what case is this affidavit relate to? 0.
- 22 Α. For 5501 Northeast Second Avenue, LLC.,
- 23 plaintiff versus District Live Agency, LLC, defendant.
- 24 Ο. And what is your position, if any, with 5501
- 25 Northeast Second Avenue?



- 1 A. Manager for the LLC.
- Q. Are you also in the care and custody and control of ledgers for that premises as well?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. I'm going to refer to the last page, can you identify if rent credits at all were provided to the tenant in this matter?
- 8 A. Yes.
  - Q. How much in rent credits were provided?
- 10 A. Approximately, \$15,000.
- 11 Q. And where does that reflect that on this ledger?
- 12 A. In paid/credited column, commencing April 1,
- 13 | 2020.

- Q. So approximately 3,000 a month for five months, is that also what you are looking at, Ms. Levitt?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. When is the last time the tenant paid out of pocket for the 5501 property?
- 19 A. He paid a portion in March 2020.
- Q. Are you referring to the 5800?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you received any out-of-pocket rent from the tenant since that date for 5501?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Have you received any rent out of pocket fro any



1	properties from the Defendant in this action?
2	A. No.
3	THE COURT: And, if I could, just on that
4	docket, it said rent 1 and rent 2, what is the
5	difference there?
6	BY MS. ZALMAN:
7	Q. Ms. Levitt, can you clarify what the category
8	rent 1 is? And what the category rent 2 is?
9	A. Yes. Rent 1, is the rent for Churchill's Pub,
10	rent 2 was a property 206 Northeast 55th Terrace that was
11	also being utilized.
12	THE COURT: Okay, so it's a separate property?
13	THE WITNESS: Yes.
14	BY MS. ZALMAN:
15	Q. Ms. Levitt, there has been discussion in today's
16	hearing about a condemned building that is near the 5501
17	property, are you aware of this building?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. What was the purpose of this building, if any,
20	when the 5501 property was rented out?
21	A. At the time it was being used for storage and
22	office.
23	Q. When the premises were rented out, were you
24	aware if this building needed to be condemned? If you
25	don't recall, that's fine.



1	A. It required its 40-year recertification.
2	Q. Was there ever an agreement with the tenant to
3	use this building as an office space?
4	A. It's part of the lease.
5	Q. Was there ever an agreement that the tenant,
6	Franklin Dale would substitute use this storage space for
7	175?
8	A. No.
9	MS. ZALMAN: That is all I have.
10	THE COURT: Okay. Let me ask a question, Ms.
11	Levitt, I think you said it was a 40-year
12	certification needed to be at the office at 5501; did
13	I hear that correct?
14	THE WITNESS: Yes.
15	THE COURT: So because of that, that office
16	space was not, I guess usable, because they needed to
17	do the work there; is that correct?
18	THE WITNESS: The office space was usable. The
19	notification was from the City for us to get the
20	building recertified.
21	THE COURT: Right, and so what I've heard is
22	that Mr. Dale moved today 175 building property,
23	correct?
24	THE WITNESS: At some point, yes.
25	THE COURT: And so why did he need to move to



June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 80

1 the 175 property? 2 THE WITNESS: Because it was his intention to 3 demolish the building. 4 THE COURT: Demolish what building? 5 THE WITNESS: The small building on the premises 6 at, there are three premises at 5501 Northeast Second 7 Avenue, that was one of the buildings. 8 THE COURT: Okay, so what was going to be 9 demolished, was that the office? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes. 11 THE COURT: Okay. So the office was going to be 12 demolished? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes, because I believe he wanted a 14 larger outdoor courtyard area for staging and bands 15 to play outside. 16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And so how did 17 the 175 property, I quess, come into discussion? 18 THE WITNESS: He wanted to have a location for bands to practice, for visiting bands to stay as like 19 20 an Airbnb. He also wanted to have an office for 21 District Live Agency, his business. 22 THE COURT: And I forgot to ask, the 5501 23 building, the office that was going to be demolished, 24 that was same office that the City of Miami had given



the notice about?

June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

1 Yes, correct. THE WITNESS: 2 Were there, I guess, any intentions THE COURT: 3 to bring that up to code? THE WITNESS: It could have been, but I believe 4 5 it was decided that taking it down would be the best 6 result at that location. 7 THE COURT: So the 5501 rent that was being paid 8 there, that was the pub and for that office that was 9 being used? 10 THE WITNESS: For the entire premises. 11 THE COURT: So if the office is no longer there, 12 how -- I guess, how is the rent adjusted, or if it is 13 adjusted because now the full property is not 14 available? 15 THE WITNESS: He did some work on building two, 16 which is a small building on premises and got it 17 ready to be used as an office for that premise. 18 THE COURT: At 5501? 19 THE WITNESS: Correct, for 5501. 20 THE COURT: Okay. But still though, you said 21 there is three properties at 5501, so now one of 22 those properties is no longer available to him, 23 correct? Because City of Miami said it has to be --24 I think you said, inspection or recertification 25 needed to be done?



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THE COURT: Okay, so now a portion of what's being rented is not available to him, correct?

THE WITNESS: Not necessarily, no. Because his intention was to tear it down and have it open-air space for ands, so he would not have lost the real estate had he done that.

THE COURT: Okay. And then I wanted to ask you about, the affidavit of nonpayment, I am looking at Exhibit C. here there is an amount of \$3,000 being charges every month, where does the \$3,000 come from?

That is an under-market value that THE WITNESS: we as the landlord determined would be a fair rent.

THE COURT: So this wasn't the agreement, this is what you all decided should be the amount?

We had -- prior we had verbal THE WITNESS: discussions with Franklin Dale that at some point rent would need to be paid.

THE COURT: Well, what I'm trying to --

THE WITNESS: We were going to allow a year for the renovation, not charge him rent while he was doing that renovation and then we needed to commence a lease.

THE COURT: But what I'm trying to figure out is, so the number, the \$3,000 that is here, is this a



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June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

1	number that you all agreed to, or this is a number
2	that the landlord says is appropriate for the
3	property?
4	THE WITNESS: This is a number we felt was

appropriate for the property.

THE COURT: And then, is that the same thing when it doubles then it goes to 6,000?

THE WITNESS: Correct that is when the month-to-month tenancy was terminated and he did not vacate the premises, then by Florida statute it doubles in rent for the hold over. It's my understanding of the law?

THE COURT: So I want to make sure I'm following So when he moves to the 175 property, what is the agreement when he moves there, initially?

Initially, we allowed him access THE WITNESS: early in 2019 to start clearing and repairing for future use.

THE COURT: As far as payment, what is discussed? Or what is determined, agreed to?

THE WITNESS: At the beginning we did not have a determination of what the rent would be, other than we did state it would be under market.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. ZALMAN: Your Honor, can I ask a question



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June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 84

1 Because it was my understanding that Ms.

Levitt was handling the finances behind the scenes and her partner was actually handling the negotiation with the tenant; I might be in error.

MR. BRADFORD: Objection.

THE COURT: Wait, hold on.

MS. ZALMAN: Yeah, I think she is trying to answer outside the scope of -- I don't know if she's actually had any discussions with --

THE COURT: Right, but Ms. Zalman, there is a way to ask that. You can't just say that to her kind of thing. Like if there was a question to be asked about her involvement, that is one thing; but then it comes across that you're telling her what to say and that is why he is objecting like that.

I'm sorry. I wanted to establish MS. ZALMAN: if she's actually had conversations with Mr. Dale, because my understanding she was witness here to testify to the accounting.

MR. BRADFORD: Your Honor, I move strike. Counsel is attempting to testify on behalf of her client.

I mean, that's fine. It's just the THE COURT: Court, I know what the witness has said. Hold on, I lost my train of thought. Okay, so Ms. Levitt, as



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1 far as when Mr. Dale initially moved into the 2 property, is this April 2019? I see the first entry, 3 is that when he moved to 175?

THE WITNESS: He took possession of the property prior to April 1st, clearing it out and it getting it to the point where he could start his repairs. at some point in early 2019, he did start, I don't know, started putting furniture in there. I can't tell you the exact date, but that is that date that we agreed as it coincides with other leases.

Okay and when you say, we agreed, THE COURT: are you part of this discussion regarding him moving into this property.

THE WITNESS: I was part of the discussion at conception when he was handed keys and given the ability to go in and start working.

Okay. And at that point, that is THE COURT: when you are saying the amount that would be paid hadn't been determined yet?

THE WITNESS: Correct.

THE COURT: And so then, at what point then is there a discussion and agreement regarding the amount to be paid?

THE WITNESS: I personally did not have a conversation with Franklin Dale of District Live



**HEARING** June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE 86

Agency as to a dollar amount. 1 2 THE COURT: Okay. Okay, let me see if I have 3 any other questions. Okay, and then let me ask you, 4 at the 5501 building, the ledger that I saw in that 5 affidavit it said the rent was \$8,800 a month, was the rent ever reduced in that -- related to that 6 7 property? 8 THE WITNESS: Yeah, we did a reduction during 9 COVID. THE COURT: Okay. And how much was that 10 11 reduction for, or what was the amount after --12 THE WITNESS: We credited him \$3,000 per month 13 for five months. 14 THE COURT: Okay, so 5,500 a month is what he 15 would be paying in March, starting March of 2020? 16 THE WITNESS: It started April. I'm just trying 17 vo find it here.

THE COURT: Yeah, no problem. And it stayed at that amount? When did that amount change? Or is it still that amount?

THE WITNESS: No, it went back up to the original amount. I want to say it's April, May, June, July, August he was given the rent credit relief. And then September it went back to the original amount.



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**HEARING** June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

And I think you said -- and for the 1 THE COURT: 2 5501 building, what was the month of the last 3 payment. THE WITNESS: I want to say March, I'm trying to 4 5 find the document on my computer. 6 THE COURT: No problem, take your time. 7 THE WITNESS: Okay, I'm showing March, I believe 8 he made the payment in March -- excuse me, in April 9 but it was applied to the March rent that was still 10 outstanding. 11 THE COURT: Okay. So the March rent was the 12 last that was paid for the 5501? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. THE COURT: And then for the 175 property, no 14 15 rent was for that one, right? 16 THE WITNESS: No rent was paid. THE COURT: Okay, all right. Okay I -- was 17 18 there any other questions for Ms. Levitt? 19 MR. BRADFORD: On direct? You're asking on 20 direct? 21 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Bradford, I 22 didn't give you an opportunity to question her. 23 MR. BRADFORD: I have not begun my cross, no. 24 THE COURT: Okay, go ahead, sir. I forgot --25 THE COURT REPORTER: Your Honor. It's two



1 minutes until 4 o'clock. 2 THE COURT: Okay. The best I can do is Friday 3 if you all are available. 4 MR. BRADFORD: I'm not available, your Honor. 5 I'm traveling on Friday and I will be unavailable for 6 a week's time there. 7 THE COURT: Well, we can do this tomorrow then? Ms. Wilson, we can go off the record for scheduling 8 9 purposes, and you can go ahead and get to your next 10 hearing. 11 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you, your Honor. 12 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded.) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25



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CERTIFICATE	OF.	REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF BROWARD

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I, LISA WILSON, Florida Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Florida, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report and transcribe the foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Witness my hand and official seal this 30th day of June, 2021.

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LISA WILSON, FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL REPORTER NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

Commission No.: GG-261176

Commission Exp: September 23, 2022

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	IIVEET VSTIVANIN			\$120,00040-ye
	45:10,16	55:2,18,	17:24	215
\$	48:6 57:3	20 56:19,	26:21	12:11
	58:5 63:8	23 57:16	28:18,21	17:4
\$128,000	74:24	58:11,18,	34:10,15	32:24
10:8,9	77:12	22 59:11,	36:15,24	33:2,7
	78:4,8,9	15,20	42:9,10	34:9,23
21:8	10 500	60:3,20,	44:1,21	40:3
\$15,000	10,500	22 61:11,	47:11	22
77:10	66:2	21,24	54:6,7	23
4150 000	12	69:4,5	62:18	72:17
\$150,000	10:19	70:6,8,	63:1	23rd
65:1		18,20,22	83:17	15:13
\$19,300	128,000	71:2	85:2,7	74:15
67:11	21:14	75:19	03.2,7	
	23:24		2020	29
\$192,500	12th	79:7,22	10:19	57:19,20
65:2	66:25	80:1,17	47:11	
<b>\$3,</b> 000	00.25	83:14	61:4	
73:10,11	175	85:3	65:11	3
	4:2,14	87:14	66:8	
82:10,11,	8:5	19th	67:1,3,16	3
25 86:12	11:19,23,	28:18	68:15	36:11,14
\$5,000	25 12:15,	20.10	72:17	
66:7,8,	19,23	1st	73:22	3,000
12,15,16	16:6,10	62:18		28:25
	17:11,14,	85:5	75:9	29:4
\$6,000	15,25		76:6,9	77:14
76:4,7	18:15		77:13,19	31
\$66,000		2	86:15	63:7
73:7	19:6,13,		2020-	73:22
	18 20:3,	2	021636-CC-	13.22
\$76 <b>,</b> 000	6,8,12	26:2	05	31st
20:6,14,	23:19	33:11,20	4:4	65:10
19 48:8,	25:5,18	35:18	1.1	
16	32:11	47:21,25	2021	
+0.000	33:2	48:7 57:7	61:22,23	4
\$8,000	38:9,14		73:6	-
67:13	39:19	74:20	0000	4
\$8,800	40:3,4,7,	76:6	2022	41:17
66:2,5	9,14	78:4,8,10	62:25	45:4 75:9
86:5	41:8,25	20	63:6,7	88:1
00 0	42:5 44:4	53:14	2025	00.1
	46:22,23		62:25	40-50
1	49:3	2014	63:1	35:5,10
	50:18	70:16	03-1	36:20
1		2018	206	37:25
1	51:8,10		78:10	38:1
24:20	52:19,20	34:2,7	20+6	
35:19	54:21	2019	20th	40-year
			66:15,16	



### June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE Index: 45,000..adjusted

79:1,11	23 78:16,		absconded	8:10,14
	20 79:12		49:1	11:9,12
45,000	80:6,22	6	- -	13:25
28:25	81:7,18,		absconding	15:24
	19,21	6,000	8:18	16:4
-	86:4	83:7	absolute	
5			- 68:2	23:7,12,
	87:2,12	_		22 32:20,
5	5524	7	absolutely	22 35:10
47:2,20	49:4		40:15,19	36:2
5,500	54:22	7-day	47:15	41:24
29:5	56:9,12	60:21	63:23	42:5 51:9
86:14	5500	70 000	68:4	78:1
00.14	5528	70,000		action's
55	49:4	27:12	access	10:14
33:2	52:18	75	83:16	
1	54:22	20:13	accompanied	actions
5501	56:9,12	<b>55</b> 000	4:15	8:14
7:25 8:3	60:14	75,000	-	25:11
11:10	55th	21:9	accordance	26:9
12:22	4:2,14	75th	73:9	60:12,16
13:13	8:5	71:2	account	acts
16:16	11:19,23,		10:18	10:3
17:15,21	25 12:11,	76,000	68:11	22:22
18:13		23:25		22.22
20:12,18	15,19	58:18	accounting	Actual
23:12	16:6		84:19	68:10
24:19	17:4,25	8	accruing	
25:4	32:11,24		44:22	additional
27:21	33:8		11 22	47:1
32:15,18,	34:9,23	83	accurate	address
22 33:2,	38:9,15	25:21	48:10	12:11,12
4,25 34:8	40:3,7	83.232	68:7	16:16,18
38:12,19	41:25	25:24	accurately	21 17:3
40:5 49:5	42:5	26:7	21:12	25:12,13
50:15,19	50:18		42:4	51:13
51:9,11	54:21	29:20		70:22
54:22	55:3 60:3		47:16	
55:5,20,	70:7,8,	A	acquisition	addressed
21 56:8,	21,22		70:16	34:23
25 57:13	75:20		3	adjacent
	78:10	abetted	Act	12:9
62:1,6,21		21:4	10:13,15	17:2,22
63:22,25	5800	ability	21:3	34:14
	77:20	85:16	acting	
65:24		00 10	61:25	52:19
69:5				
69:5 75:19		abruptly		adjusted
69:5		abruptly 14:5,16	action 7:24	<b>adjusted</b> 66:11



# June 30, 2021 Index: admission..argue

			macx.	- admissionarge
admission	70:2	10,11,15	Amendment	21:13
24:20	Agency	79:2,5	57:20	application
admit	4:9 8:1,2	82:14	American	s
58:4	11:11	83:15	64:9	59:4
74:15	21:6	85:22		
		agreements	amount	applied
admitted	17 55:6	9:1,2,9	4:24 7:9	8:20
45:8	61:8,9,	54:3	12:20	21:15,20
47:24	12,14		21:8	68:14
49:14	76 <b>:</b> 23	ahead	30:24	87:9
74:19	80:21	15:16	43:19	applies
advantage	86:1	41:12	48:10,13,	10:15
21:10		43:15	15 54:10	-
	agree	52:12	64:25	apply
advise	43:9	63:15	65:23	39:4,7
70:5	agreed	87:24	76:3	applying
affidavit	12:15	88:9	82:10,15	12:25
13:8,19	26:23	aid	85:18,22	
15:7,8,9,	30:25	64:11,14	86:1,11,	approximate
10,12	40:22	65:2	19,20,22,	ly
19:15	44:10		25	42:8 48:8
48:19	45:20,23	aided	amounts	61:2 72:3
50:12,13,	46:15	21:4	24:1	77:10,14
14,17	59:24	air	68:13	April
51:7	71:23	18:3	00.13	17:24
67:11	83:1,20	47:14	and/or	26:21
72:16,21,	85:10,11		48:13	28:18,21
23,24	03.10,11	air-	ands	34:10
73:3,17,	agreement	conditioner	82:6	44:1,21
18 74:14,	13:7,11	s		62:18
19 75:5	18:14	40:25	announce	63:1
76:1,11,	26:5,25	Airbnb	4:4	67:18
20,21	27:13	80:20	anticipatio	77:12
82:9 86:5	28:19		n	85:2,5
	38:13	allowed	55:19	86:16,22
affirm	39:17	83:16		87:8
31:20	40:2,4	allowing	apologize	
69:17	44:2	65:12	39:8	area
aforementio	45:20,22		54:15	9:14
ned	46:5,6	altered	58:16	40:12
8:13	53:8,11,	57:24	62:3	42:12
	12,21,24	alternative	74:24	46:18,19
afternoon	54:4,8,17	29:25	75:8	80:14
4:13,18,	55:18	amondod	appearance	areas
20,21	57:11,13	amended	4:5	53:2
24:15 32:7,8	63:14	75:6 76:20	application	argue



attornegg	29:4 11	13:10	blowing
			21:2
29.14			21.2
audio		03.24	bogged
5:1,2		bathrooms	28:5
August		53:1	books
		Battista	66:23
			bottom
			22:4
			bound
	11:5	51:15	65:16
	bad	bear	1 1
10:5		41:14	bound-
Avenue		•	commercial
7:25 8:3			25:15
			Bradford
	73:5		4:6 5:15
	bands	43:17	20 6:3,22
		begin	7:12,14,
		71:13	19 14:14
		h	15:6,11,
			13,18
	68:11		16:18,23,
	banks		25 17:7,
	49:11		12,16,18,
	59:4	83:21	20 18:17,
	1	begun	23 19:4,
		87:23	10,20,23
aware		hahalf	22:12,24
	65:15		23:3
	bars		24:6,10,
	9:23	04.21	13 29:11,
	basa	below-	17 30:9,
		market	11,13,17
78:17,24	00.2,5	28:24	31:1,2,
	based	44:3	11,15
B	8:15,19	Povorago	32:1,6
	9:13 31:9	<del>-</del>	33:12,18
	49:15	0.2 32.17	35:16,24,
	57:16	big	25 36:10,
	60:1	11:6	12 37:9,
	hagigall	bit	13 38:4,
			5,25
			39:2,8,
21:1,21	$\bot \angle \cdot \bot \cup$	11.77	
25:6,19		70:10	11,13,16
	5:1,2  August 61:4 67:11 73:10,12, 22 76:9 86:23  authority 10:5  Avenue 7:25 8:3 11:11 32:15,18 33:5 34:1,9 40:5 49:4,5 50:16 52:18 55:5 57:1 62:1 76:22,25 80:7  aware 14:3 34:17,24 42:21 48:15,18 75:14 78:17,24	29:14       31:4         audio       43:25         5:1,2       52:6         August       56:23         61:4       74:14         67:11       75:3         73:10,12, 86:21,24         22 76:9       86:23         86:23       background         10:5       42:16         Avenue       balance         7:25 8:3       54:1,24         32:15,18       54:1,24         33:5       bands         34:1,9       80:14,19         40:5       banks         49:4,5       22:9         50:16       68:11         52:18       55:5 57:1       banks         62:1       49:11         76:22,25       59:4         80:7       bar         aware       8:24         14:3       65:15         34:17,24       bars         42:21       9:23         48:15,18       75:14       66:2,5         based       8:15,19         9:13 31:9       49:15         57:16       60:1         basically       10:8         10:16       10:8 <td< td=""><td>29:14       31:4       61:15,16         audio       43:25       63:24         5:1,2       52:6       53:1         August       56:23       53:1         61:4       74:14       Battista         67:11       75:3       4:7 7:20         73:10,12,       86:21,24       Bauderer         22 76:9       background       49:22         86:23       11:5       51:15         authority       bad       bear         10:5       42:16       41:14         Avenue       balance       began         7:25 8:3       54:1,24       13:15         33:5       bands       43:17         33:5       bands       43:17         40:5       banks       66:1,10         49:4,5       22:9       begin         40:5       68:11       30:20         55:5 57:1       banks       66:1,10         62:1       49:11       83:21         76:22,25       59:4       begun         8ware       8:24       4:9,11,14         48:15,18       7:14       66:2,5         84:15,18       below-market         78:17       <t< td=""></t<></td></td<>	29:14       31:4       61:15,16         audio       43:25       63:24         5:1,2       52:6       53:1         August       56:23       53:1         61:4       74:14       Battista         67:11       75:3       4:7 7:20         73:10,12,       86:21,24       Bauderer         22 76:9       background       49:22         86:23       11:5       51:15         authority       bad       bear         10:5       42:16       41:14         Avenue       balance       began         7:25 8:3       54:1,24       13:15         33:5       bands       43:17         33:5       bands       43:17         40:5       banks       66:1,10         49:4,5       22:9       begin         40:5       68:11       30:20         55:5 57:1       banks       66:1,10         62:1       49:11       83:21         76:22,25       59:4       begun         8ware       8:24       4:9,11,14         48:15,18       7:14       66:2,5         84:15,18       below-market         78:17 <t< td=""></t<>



#### June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE Index: bring..claims

170112 0011101	1111221 73117.1141	CEII DA CEE		idex. billigoldilli
41:13,16	18:2		ceased	chose
42:22	34:7,23	С	27:10	25:8
43:3,13,	37:11,14		anilina	46:22
16 44:8	38:11	call	ceiling 40:17	ahoaon
45:2,11,	39:19	31:16	40.17	chosen 22:2
14 47:19	40:19,24		ceilings	22.2
48:3	41:1 53:2	68:23	42:17	Churchill's
49:19,20	55:20	76:10	center	8:21,23,
50:1,3,9,	62:5,6	campaign	8:23	24 9:22
10,23	78:16,17,	9:24	25:11	12:6,9
51:4,6,	19,24	capable		17:22
20,21,25	79:3,20,	41:4	certificati	33:10
52:6,11	22 80:3,	41.4	on	40:10
54:14,15,	4,5,23	care	79:12	41:5
16 55:2,7	81:15,16	70:25	certified	46:11
57:2,6	86:4 87:2	77:2	14:24	55:21
62:14		Cares	11.21	60:6
63:15,16,	building's	10:12,15	cetera	61:7,10,
18 68:1,	43:21	21:3	25:17	14 65:2
19 72:4,	buildings	21.3	challenges	78:9
11 74:18	25:2 80:7	case	64:7	Oh
84:5,20	1	4:3 5:14		Churchill's
87:19,21,	business	6:11 7:22	change	33:6
23 88:4	8:20	8:22 9:10	5:5 86:19	circuit
	9:20,22	11:8,10	changed	7:23,24
bring	10:9,22,	15:9	60:16	8:14 11:9
72:15	25 12:8,	16:16		13:16
81:3	13 19:24	18:21	Chapter	14:2
bringing	20:20	21:16,18	25:20	15:24
6:19	21:10,21	23:5,13	characteriz	16:4,16
	22:21	24:16,21	ation	18:20
brings	35:25	30:3	37:10	ai maumatana
11:2	36:1,4,5	32:10,15		circumstanc
brinksmansh	46:17	37:17	charge	es
ip	64:5,6,	50:24,25	82:21	13:21,24
21:22	11,12,16,	58:20,21	charged	23:11
	22 65:13	65:21	12:23	City
broker	66:12	76:21		12:3,13
22:19	70:25		charges	17:7
brought	80:21	cases	82:11	34:16
52:23	businesses	8:23 28:2	charging	36:4 53:6
74:23	27:17	cash	19:15	59:14
hudas+	59:3	9:12	abort	79:19
budget	64:19	10:10	charity	80:24
49:8	V 1 17	aataa	20:21	81:23
		category	chock	
building		70.7	0110 011	
building 17:22,24		78:7,8	13:9	<b>claims</b> 26:9



clarify	84:22	commercial	computer	confused
78:7	client's	25:19	14:11	67:14
clarity	9:25 11:4	44:23	87:5	confusion
30:13	21:1	46:8	concept	9:15
55:3	33:15	companies	49:7	9.13
68:3,8	60:12	8:8 64:23	49.7	Congress
00.3,0	00.12	0.0 04.23	conception	64:20
lean	clients	company	85:15	connected
42:15	20:13	8:6,9	concepts	57:5
46:15	21:5	10:22	49:8	37.3
71:13	23:24	26:22	49.0	connecting
lear	44:10	61:9	conclusion	62:3
6:22	close	complained	61:20	connects
13:14,22	64:7	22:5	condemn	58:11
13:14,22	04./	22.5	19:12	30.11
	closed	complaint	19.12	consent
22:17	64:5,8	26:16	condemnatio	58:12
23:4 24:3	closely	complete	n	considerat
29:22,24	8:6 14:23	19:16	16:8	on
39:5	0.0 14.23	35:5	39:21,23	67:19
42:15	co-utilized	65:20	condemned	
44:17	61:13	05.20	12:3,13,	considered
67:7	coached	completed	18 13:1	16:7 30:
learing	14:4,8,16	27:1	16:22	60:4
83:17	15:2	completely	17:9	constitute
85:5	13.2	6:23	18:16,22	26:5
	cocounsel	17:25	19:1,9	20.3
lient	24:16	19:13,14	20:2	contact
4:16 8:15	code	20:4		75:16
9:1,11,13	52:23		25:6,9	contained
10:4,7,9,	81:3	30:21	38:10	51:23
17,24	01.3	43:21	39:19	
11:22,24,	coincides	completion	40:11	contemplate
25 13:7,	85:10	56:25	62:6	đ
11 16:11	collective	complicated	78:16,24	54:19
18:14	9:5	66:24	condition	contentious
20:4,18	J. J	00.24	34:24	49:2
21:14,24	column	complies	43:17,21	
22:5 24:4	77:12	31:19	46:16	continue
25:7	commence	69:16	aamallel	9:21
27:3,17,	27:7,8	components	conditionin	27:1,5
24 28:7	82:22	64:1	<b>g</b>	57:25
29:1			18:3	continued
30:23,24	commencing	Composite	47:14	5:9 14:6
21.12	77:12	45:10,16	confronted	23:10
31:13		47.01		
31·13 44:14	comment	47:21	66:24	38:11



173 NE 33111 01	INCLI VS I INAIM	CIII D/CLL	macx.	ContractCredited
41:8 74:2	58:19	county	24 36:7	11,16,22
contract	59:16	8:25 14:2	37:4,8,	81:2,7,
	62:8	39:3,7	15,23	11,18,20
59:10	66:18		38:3,23,	82:2,8,
contractor	67:1,23	couple	25 39:3,	14,19,24
27:13	79:13,17,	29:17	6,7,10,	83:6,13,
59:10	23 81:1,	court	12,15,23	19,24
aantmaatama	19,23	4:2,11,	41:6,12	
contractors 59:6	82:3 83:8	18,19,21,	42:22	23,24
59.0	85:20	22 5:7,	43:5,8,	85:11,17,
control	_	11,18,23,	15,24	21 86:2,
70:25	counsel	24 6:6,9,	44:7	10,14,18
77:2	5:21 7:6	16 7:5,8,		87:1,6,
conversatio	14:9,14	9,10,13,	47:22,24	
	15:1	17,18,23,	49:18,25	21,24,25
n 05.25	23:14	24 8:14,	50:8,12,	88:2,7,11
85:25	24:19	16 11:9	14 51:2,	
conversatio	25:3	13:16,17	19,24	Court's
ns	29:18	14:2,3,6,	52:2,8,	6:20
49:2 54:6	30:19	19,23	12,20	courts
84:17	39:22	15:6,15,	53:3,14,	16:11
cooperation	40:13	24 16:2,	21 54:4,	28:5
62:11	43:18,24	4,6,12,	7,13	
02.11	46:7	15,16,20,	55:9,23	courtyard
copper	63:19	24 17:6,		25:10
40:19	72:8	9,14,17,	62:17,22	80:14
сору	84:21	19 18:12,	63:1,5,	cover
24:19	Counsel's	18,20,24	11,15	23:25
60:24	37:11	19:3,6,	65:22	
00121		18,21	66:4,14,	covered
corners	counter-	22:11,23,	19,21	17:21
30:2,4	claims	25 23:9	67:3,7,	20:12
correct	26:8	24:5,9,	14,21,24	covers
5:15	counter-	11,14	68:18,22	19:1
16:23	defendant	26:15,20	69:1,5,7,	COVID
17:16	8:9	27:21	10,14,17,	
18:17		28:11,17,	22 70:6	86:9
32:12,13,	counterclai	21 29:9,	72:12,17,	credit
22 36:22	m O - 1	15,23	72·12,17, 21,25	28:24,25
41:10,11	8:1	30:7,10,	73:23	43:1 55:1
43:6,7,25	counterclai	12,16	73.23 74:3,5,8,	86:23
48:25	ms	31:1,3,		credited
50:5	8:13	10,14,17,	9,12,17, 19 76:14	26:3 44:2
52:11	32:16	20,25		
53:9		32:19,25	78:3,12	49:12
54:12	country	33:3,17	79:10,15,	65:3 96:13
55:16	64:19	35:3,17	21,25	86:12
33.10		JJ•17,44,	80:4,8,	



# June 30, 2021 Index: credits..determining

credits	4:3,10	62:19,23	73:5	den
20:7	8:15 12:5	63:13	defendant's	19:17
21:15	26:21	71:24		
43:11	27:8	72:6	33:20	denied
53:13,20	31:16,17	73:21	45:9 57:3	5:17
54:2,11,	32:3,7	75:5,8	63:8	department
18,19	33:19	76:5	defense	22:21
64:3	36:14	77:23	4:23,24	
67:20	37:18	85:9	6:12	depict
68:10,13,	38:6		35:18	42:4
14 77:6,9	41:7,18	day	41:17	47:16
·	42:24	10:19	45:4,16	deponent
criminality	43:10	67:3	47:2,20,	15:4
22:18	45:15	dead	21,25	
cross	48:4	21:25	48:6	deposit
22:10	51:21			13:16
87:23		dealt	defenses	derailed
07.23	52:9 53:3	5:19	26:11	55:22
CROSS-	55:10,14,	debt	defer	
EXAMINATION	23 57:11	66:13	22:16	desperation
55:12	58:10	00.13	22.10	18:10
	62:12,22	debts	defining	detaching
crystal	63:19	10:6,7	68:8	10:2
6:22 24:3	66:14	21:7	definition	
29:22	68:20	decided	46:9	determinati
39:5	79:6,22		40.9	on
cultural	82:17	35:9 38:9	delapidated	16:5
18:7	84:17	65:11	17:25	23:13,16,
	85:1,25	81:5	4-144	17 25:25
cure	Dale's	82:15	delivered	67:8
60:21,22	21:6	decision	34:2	83:22
curious	21.0	38:7	demand	d
39:2	Danita		10:24	determine
	4:17	default	11:3 49:5	4:23 5:4,
custody	13:8,19	5:13,14	58:24	19 6:10,
70:25	21:4	6:8 27:25		17,24,25
77:2	48:13	defendant	demanded	13:17
cut	68:24	25:8 26:7	49:3,9	18:21
31:3	70:4	28:9	demands	23:19
31.3		32:10	60:13	29:24
	date	76:23		30:14
D	23:10	78:1	demolish	determined
	28:9	70.1	62:5,7	16:3 20:1
	44:25	Defendant's	80:3,4	82:13
dailv	45:18	5:4 58:4	demolished	83:20
<b>daily</b> 34:4 5				03.40
34:4,5	56:5,16,	defendanta	80:9 12	
	56:5,16, 19,22	<pre>defendants 4:9 21:6</pre>	80:9,12, 23	85:19



## June 30, 2021 Index: detriment..establish

	REET VS FRAIN			etrimentestablis
7:9,10	discussion	33:14,21,	due	28:10
25:25	78:15	23,24	4:24 5:1	55:18
	80:17	36:3,8,	18:21,24	62:19,22,
detriment	85:12,14,	16,19	20:8 24:1	25 70:11
24:4	22	37:2,6,12	43:20	
develop		52:4	73:5,8	ending
9:6	discussions	58:13		60:17
	82:17	76:14,17,	duly	63:6
development	84:9	19 87:5	32:4	enrich
8:4,10,11	disinfect	10 07.5	69:23	49:15
10:23	42:16	documentati	dumpsters	
32:19	42.10	on	42:13	enriching
64:22	dismiss	58:21	42.13	22:8
Dexter	7:1 29:22	documented	duplicative	enter
18:2	30:1,8,18		23:7 24:3	38:13
10.2	dismissal	8:17		45:3
difference	23:6	documents		40.0
78:5	23.0	11:17	E	entered
dilapidated	dismissed	39:13		26:17
	7:4 23:5	49:15	earlier	35:1
19:13,22	30:3	58:25	40:13	45:12,16
20:4	22		60:19	54:3
30:21	dispute	dog	_	59:25
43:21	42:24	40:17	early	60:6
dipping	distributed	dollar	83:17	66:10
12:24	64:15	41:3 86:1	85:7	74:21
	**		easy	
direct	district	dollars	11:18	entire
13:20,23	4:9 7:25	54:25		60:3
32:5 33:4	8:2 9:6	68:4,11	een	81:10
69:24	11:11	doors	27:11	entirety
87:19,20	21:6	40:18	effect	35:7 66:7
disagree	32:11,16,	47:14	63:9,13	
26:13	17 55:5	64:7,8	03.7,13	entities
20115	61:8,9,	04.7,0	effective	8:18 21:8
7 t				
disagreemen	12,14	double	75:8	25:10
disagreemen t	12,14 76:23	double 12:24		
_			electricity	entry
t	76:23	12:24 14:12	electricity	
t 27:7 57:17	76:23 80:21 85:25	12:24 14:12 doubled	electricity 18:3 30:22	entry
t 27:7 57:17 discounted	76:23 80:21 85:25	12:24 14:12	electricity 18:3 30:22 40:18	<b>entry</b> 85:2
27:7 57:17	76:23 80:21 85:25	12:24 14:12 doubled	electricity 18:3 30:22	entry 85:2 error 84:4
t 27:7 57:17 discounted	76:23 80:21 85:25	12:24 14:12 <b>doubled</b> 73:15	electricity 18:3 30:22 40:18	entry 85:2 error 84:4 essentially
t 27:7 57:17 <b>discounted</b> 27:5	76:23 80:21 85:25 <b>DLA</b> 67:12 <b>docket</b>	12:24 14:12 <b>doubled</b> 73:15 <b>doubles</b> 83:7,11	electricity 18:3 30:22 40:18 53:2	<pre>entry   85:2 error   84:4 essentially   12:22</pre>
t 27:7 57:17 discounted 27:5 discovered 33:24	76:23 80:21 85:25 <b>DLA</b> 67:12 <b>docket</b> 15:8	12:24 14:12 doubled 73:15 doubles 83:7,11 drug-addict	electricity 18:3 30:22 40:18 53:2  Elizabeth 4:8	<pre>entry    85:2 error    84:4 essentially    12:22    16:13</pre>
t 27:7 57:17 discounted 27:5 discovered 33:24 discussed	76:23 80:21 85:25 <b>DLA</b> 67:12 <b>docket</b> 15:8 74:16	12:24 14:12 <b>doubled</b> 73:15 <b>doubles</b> 83:7,11	electricity     18:3     30:22     40:18     53:2  Elizabeth     4:8  employees	<pre>entry    85:2 error    84:4 essentially    12:22    16:13    17:4 18:4</pre>
t 27:7 57:17 discounted 27:5 discovered 33:24 discussed 5:25	76:23 80:21 85:25 <b>DLA</b> 67:12 <b>docket</b> 15:8 74:16 78:4	12:24 14:12 doubled 73:15 doubles 83:7,11 drug-addict 18:1	electricity 18:3 30:22 40:18 53:2  Elizabeth 4:8	<pre>entry    85:2 error    84:4 essentially    12:22    16:13</pre>
t 27:7 57:17 discounted 27:5 discovered 33:24 discussed	76:23 80:21 85:25 <b>DLA</b> 67:12 <b>docket</b> 15:8 74:16	12:24 14:12 doubled 73:15 doubles 83:7,11 drug-addict	electricity     18:3     30:22     40:18     53:2  Elizabeth     4:8  employees	<pre>entry    85:2 error    84:4 essentially    12:22    16:13    17:4 18:4</pre>



## June 30, 2021 Index: established..filed 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

170111 00111 01	1100110	CEII O CEE	Пасх	. cotabiloricaiiic
84:16	48:2	82:10	exterior	60:7
established	51:16	exhibits	47:9	82:13
64:20	52:5	11:18		fairly
01.20	58:5,8	60:25		42:3
estate	74:15,22		F	47:16
22:19	evidentiary	expectation		
46:8	6:2	20:9 56:7	face	familiar
64:22	11:14,15	60:17	28:7 57:8	32:9
82:7	13:18	expend	63:8 64:8	33:20,23
et al	14:20,22	48:5	facing	41:18,21
4:3	15:25		28:1	47:2,5
1 3	22:13,14	expended		76:17
event	28:4	48:10	fact	families
11:16	20.4	expenses	9:13	64:13
13:5	exact	50:13	11:18,24	04.13
21:19,20	44:25		14:24	fantastic
22:1	59:23	expiration	15:22	27:9
39:9,17	85:9	63:13	16:18	feces
50:4	examination	expired	18:1,7	40:17
evict		56:13,17,	19:14	
20:22	13:21,24	18 65:9,	20:15,22	federal
20.22	32:5	10	21:23	8:19
evicted	63:17		22:5	feel
11:4	69:24	explain	27:24	28:9 56:5
eviction	exception	33:3	28:8	
18:6	36:6	explained	34:18	felt
20:25	0	51:22	43:10,20	83:4
22:10	excuse 39:6		64:4	figure
25:12,13	39.6 40:12	explanation	Es et en	46:21
		53:17	Factor	82:24
evictions	73:23	express	26:2	
8:13	87:8	7:2 58:15	factors	file
24:22,25	exhibit		26:2	50:17
25:15	33:11,20	expressed	facts	51:7,9
27:15	35:18,19	58:12,16		filed
evidence	36:14	extended	37:16	4:23 7:6
13:5 14:8	41.10		failed	8:2
TO.0 T4.0	41:17	28:4	Tattea	() • /.
24.20	41:17 45:4,12,		27:16	
24:20		extending		15:13,16
29:12,15	45:4,12,		27:16 35:5	15:13,16 24:19
29:12,15 31:7,9	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21	extending	27:16 35:5 <b>failing</b>	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7	extending 28:7	27:16 35:5	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14 35:18	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7 57:3,20	extending 28:7 extent 7:14 10:7	27:16 35:5 <b>failing</b>	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11 50:14
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14 35:18 37:3	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7 57:3,20 58:5,7	extending 28:7 extent 7:14 10:7 11:13	27:16 35:5 <b>failing</b> 24:23	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11 50:14 57:2
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14 35:18 37:3 39:4,7	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7 57:3,20 58:5,7 63:8	extending 28:7 extent 7:14 10:7 11:13 12:22	27:16 35:5 <b>failing</b> 24:23 <b>failure</b> 37:25	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11 50:14 57:2 58:21
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14 35:18 37:3 39:4,7 43:22	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7 57:3,20 58:5,7 63:8 73:16,17	extending 28:7 extent 7:14 10:7 11:13 12:22 16:1,11	27:16 35:5 failing 24:23 failure 37:25 fair	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11 50:14 57:2 58:21 72:16
29:12,15 31:7,9 33:14 35:18 37:3 39:4,7	45:4,12, 16 47:2, 20,21 48:1,6,7 57:3,20 58:5,7 63:8	extending 28:7 extent 7:14 10:7 11:13 12:22	27:16 35:5 <b>failing</b> 24:23 <b>failure</b> 37:25	15:13,16 24:19 25:3 26:8 27:11 50:14 57:2 58:21



June 30, 2021 Index: filing..hand-in-hand

73 NL 3311131				iirigriariu-iir-iiai
filing	59:13	front	53:19	governs
57:5	68:2	65:14	54:10	55:4
final	forced	67:6	60:16	
		72:18,19	83:18	great
61:20	21:19	<b>5</b>		65:25
finances	forecast	frustration		66:13
84:2	60:2	55:24	G	greater
financial	foreclosure	full		68:13
21:7 22:7	28:7	6:24 13:9	gave	
	28 • 7	38:12	31:5	greed
49:3,7	forgot	40:10	52:9,10	18:10
58:24	80:22	46:24		Group
60:2	87:24	47:9 54:1	Genovese	8:2 21:5
financially	<b>C</b>	81:13	4:7 7:20	22:6
29:8	form		give	32:17
	30:2,4	fully	5:12	
financials	37:1	22:1	31:21	growth
60:13	39:20	functionall	69:18	46:18
find	49:16	У	87:22	quess
72:20	forma	7:1	-	19:7
86:17	49:8		giving	35:16
87:5		functioning	46:14	71:20
	forward	18:4	59:20	79:16
finding	16:3	fund	glad	80:17
48:25	22:13	49:13	24:18	81:2,12
fine	23:2,21	67:13	24.10	01.2,12
33:17	26:11	07.13	global	guests
78:25	found	funding	56:10	34:5
84:23	34:1	10:15	Glover	anna.
04.23	24.1	21:10	18:2	<b>guys</b> 48:16,22
firm	fraction	funds	10.2	40.10,22
4:6 15:20	18:9	5:22 6:18	God	-
floor	Franklin		31:23	H
40:17		7:4 8:18	69:20	
42:20	4:3,10	10:12,16,		77-1-1
42.20	8:15 12:5	18,25	good	Haiti
Florida	21:6	11:2	4:13,18,	8:4,10,11
22:20	31:16	13:16	19,21	10:23
25:20	32:3 79:6	21:3,12,	24:15	32:19
83:10	82:17	20 23:9	32:7,8	half
- 1	85:25	49:1	70:2	25:3 27:4
focused	fraudulent	60:12	government	
42:1	22:8	64:15,21	8:20	hand
folks		67:20	10:12	31:18
19:24	Friday	furniture	21:10	69:15
20:21	88:2,5		64:11,14,	hand-in-
	fro	85:8		hand
follow	77:25	future	18	51:12
	11.43			$\supset \bot \cdot \bot \angle$



# HEARING June 30, 2021 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE Index: handed..initial 53:23 hearing honestly 83:25 59:3,7,8, handed 5:3,22 25:19 84:20 25 71:16

53:23	hearing	honestly	83:25	59:3,7,8,
handed	5:3,22	25:19	84:20	25 71:16
44:25	6:1,4 7:7	55:22	87:25	inaccurate
85:15	11:14,15	honor	88:4,11	13:10
02.12	13:15,18	5:15,20	II am am l m	13.10
handle	14:4,5,		Honor's	inappropria
62:9	17,20,22	7:14,22 8:22	68:6	te
handling	15:20,22,		hour	16:14
84:2,3	25 18:20	10:4,21	25:4	22:15
04.2,3	22:14	11:6,12,		23:2
happen	49:24	13,22		المحدد المحدد
38:2	50:22	13:5,14,	I	inclined
h	67:8	15,20		23:8
happened	70:11	15:14,18	id	included
9:18	74:6	16:19	18:24	34:12
14:18	74:0	17:8,13,		41:9
19:25	88:10	16,20	idea	
20:1	00.10	18:6,17	62:5,7	income
36:23	hearings	19:1,11	identificat	27:18
37:6,18	28:4,5	21:16	ion	inconsisten
38:6	h	22:16	47:2	cies
53:16	hearsay	23:8		13:9
65:7	35:20,23	24:13	identify	13.7
happening	36:6	25:23	77:6	incorrect
25:1,12,	held	30:9,19	immaterial	6:23
13 29:7	64:19	33:12,16	38:22	indefinitel
13 29 • 7	70:15	35:4,11,	49:24	У
hard		17,21	49.24	60:8
9:22	Hillary	36:1,10,	immediately	00.0
27:15	4:13	25 43:14,	30:20	indication
28:4	hired	16,23	43:20	5:18
	59:6		imprograion	individual
hardest		44:5,8,	impression	
9:21	history	18,19	38:21	20:16
hardship	33:25	45:2,7,11	improper	inextricabl
28:1	hit	47:19,23	39:22	У
75:21	9:21	50:6,20	J	7:23 11:8
		52:11,15	improve	13:25
hear	hold	53:19	60:15	
24:11	5:11	55:1,8,11	improvement	infestation
37:22,23	15:15	62:15	s	40:23
39:1	22:25	64:2	40:21	information
79:13	43:5	65:1,3,7,	41:4	21:7 22:7
heard	66:14	18,25	42:25	36:9
	83:11	66:20	43:1,11	
5:8,16	84:6,24	67:6	49:7,11	iniquity
6:9 18:19		68:16		19:17
24:17	hold-over	74:8	51:10	initial
79:21	73:14	. 1 0	52:22	THICIAL



## June 30, 2021 Index: initially..lease **HEARING** 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

54:6	28:14	66:24	knowing	larger
	58:22	67:1,3,	20:15	25:16
initially		17,18,21		46:18
83:15,16	involved	68:15	knowledge	80:14
85:1	33:1	76:9	57:16	
inspection	involvement	86:23		law
38:1,2	84:13	_	L	4:6 83:12
81:24	involves	June		laying
		10:19	1 -1	29:19
instructing 60:14	32:21,24	15:13	labor	50:13
60.14	irrelevant	42:8,10	42:14	1 1 - 1
instrument	50:22	66:25	lacked	leaking
58:1	65:20	67:17,18	18:3	42:17
intend		72:17	1.23	leaks
	issuance	73:6	laid	42:19
56:19,22	75:10	74:15	52:15	1
59:18,19,	issue	86:23	land	<b>lease</b> 8:25 10:1
21	5:1 6:19		17:1	
intended	7:4,6,15	K	landlord	11:11,20,
59:21	25:5		25:22	21,22
64:21,24	29:20			12:3,7,16
	51:1	Kauderer	27:25	13:6,12,
intention	72:16	8:4,12	39:18	13 14:1
80:2 82:5		10:6	40:23	15:23
intentions	issued	12:14	52:17	16:7,8
81:2	36:3 61:3	21:3	53:24	17:20
	76:5	22:6,20	56:24	18:23,25
interest	It's	37:21,24	60:14,20,	19:7
9:4 17:21	33:2	48:13	22 65:11	20:17
interesting	_,	58:25	66:6,25	23:23
7:21	I'm	keys	67:12	24:19
	43:25	44:23,25	68:11	25:3,4,
interior		·	70:23,24	19,21
47:9	J	45:18,24	71:7	34:8,12,
interrupt		46:7,9,14	82:13	13,20
73:24		85:15	83:2	35:1
	Joblove	kind	landlords	38:8,19
intertwined	4:7 7:20	84:11	18:9	40:5,10
7:23 11:9	judge	1.2.41	42:21	45:22
13:25	14:5,16	kindly		46:22,23
introducing	23:13,15,	57:3	lapse	51:11
	18,20	knee	10:2	52:18
33:14				55:4,20
33:14		21:25	large	JJ. + , 40
33:14 invoice	July		<b>large</b> 42:13	
33:14 invoice 20:8	<b>July</b> 34:15	knew	<b>large</b> 42:13	56:8,10
33:14 invoice	July 34:15 36:15,24	<b>knew</b> 20:10		56:8,10 57:1,13,
33:14 invoice 20:8	<b>July</b> 34:15	knew	42:13	56:8,10



## June 30, 2021 Index: leased..making 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

60:17 62:1,18, 19,23	<b>lessee</b> 9:1,2	4:19 <b>list</b>	loans 64:21	40:13,14, 15 42:24
19,23		1:46	64:21	15 42:24
	10 6			10 10 01
62.0.2	12:6	21:5	located	43:2,10,
63:2,3,	letter	21.5	17:24	18 48:15
22,25	28:13	listed	33:25	51:21
65:14,23	20.13	32:10	33.43	52:23,24
68:14	letting	57:17	location	53:7,22
74:24	10:2	listen	38:2,10	54:4,17
79:4	29:14	37:16	44:4 46:1	59:25
82:23	level		80:18	66:22
leased	21:22	listing	81:6	67:16,22
9:13 35:7		21:7	long	87:8
52:16	Levitt	litigation	27:14,19	maintain
52.10	4:17	33:1	28:2	70:17
leases	13:9,19	50:19	63:20	70.17
25:16	14:8,11	56:14	70:15	make
56:9,12,	21:4 22:6		71:19	6:11 9:3
13,15,16	48:13	live		13:14,22
59:22,25	68:24,25	4:9 7:25	longer	15:17
85:10	70:4	8:2 9:6,	81:11,22	16:15
leasing	72:18	19 11:11	looked	18:18
11:23,24	75:2	21:6	48:21	23:15
34:3	76:17	32:11,16,		26:23
45:19	77:15	17 55:5	losing	28:17
	78:7,15	61:8,9,	28:1	31:12
leaving	79:11	12,14	loss	41:1,6
59:22	84:2,25	76:23	15:9	44:14,17
ledger	87:18	80:21	1	48:18
44:22	license	85:25	lost	53:12
48:11,12,	10:1	lives	5:1 82:6	59:6
19 50:12,	65:9,10,	64:9	84:25	60:20
13,18	12,15,16	110	lot	64:21
51:7		<b>LLC</b> 4:14 7:25	8:7 25:6	65:14
54:24	licensed	8:3,5	42:14	68:19
67:6,10	59:6	11:11,19,	52:24,25	69:11
70:17	lieu	24 32:11,	low	71:22
73:3,9	71:17		70:11	74:11
77:11	limited	12,15,18 41:25	70111	83:13
86:4	26:1	57:1		making
lodgerg		70:7,9	M	14:18
ledgers 77:3	liquor	70:7,3		21:17
11.5	10:1	75:20	made	31:6
left	65:8,9,	76:22,23	6:9 10:24	40:21
74:3	10,12,15,	70:22,23	23:1 26:3	41:4
lengths	16		32:14	43:18
		loading		
21:24	Lisa	41:15	36:14	53:8



60.11	m om c		20.4	ma+1-
60:11	memo	mine	29:4	mouth
Mallory	48:20,23	6:4	66:17	72:7
8:4,12	51:13,17,	minute	67:11,22	move
10:6	22 52:3	27:21	77:14	12:18
12:14	60:23		82:11	16:2
21:3	61:2 65:1	minutes	86:5,12,	35:17
22:19	memorandum	53:15	14 87:2	38:9,24
37:21,24	52:14	88:1	month-to-	45:3
48:13		misappropri	month	47:19
49:1	memory	ation	13:12	50:1
	5:12	21:2	26:17	55:24
manageable	mental		27:6	56:1
66:12	38:21	mischaracte	28:13,24	79:25
manager		rization	29:7	84:20
70:8,13,	mention	72:5	73:13	01.20
17 77:1	21:9	mixing	83:9	moved
1, ,,,,	25:5,17	6:2	03.9	40:3 41:5
mandated	36:14		monthly	44:1 48:1
65:13	mentioned	Mm-hmm	73:8	53:4 58:
March	29:18	58:3	mantha	79:22
63:7	36:20	MOD	months	85:1,3
65:8,10	48:23	6:8	56:17	
66:8,15,		0.0	76:7	moves
	50:11	moment	77:14	83:14,15
16 67:18	56:12	31:15	86:13	moving
77:19	mere	35:11	mortgage	9:5 39:18
86:15	18:5	41:15	27:24	53:7
87:4,7,8,		57:21	75:24	85:12
9,11	Miami	73:25		
narked	12:4,14	76:12	mortgages	multiple
33:20	17:7		27:17	9:14 14:3
47:1,20	34:17	money	motion	59:25
	36:4 53:6	18:24	4:23,24	60:1
market	80:24	42:14	5:4,5,13,	music
26:24	81:23	61:23	16,19,21,	9:6,19
27:2 29:5	Miami-dade	64:25	22 6:4,8,	J • O , ± 9
83:23	8:24	66:25		mute
matter		moneys	12,17,18,	75:7
7:4 18:6	middle	8:15 9:9	20,23,25	muted
	15:25	58:22	7:6,7,22	muted
71:9	Midguard		13:16,17	31:23
76:12	21:4 22:6	monitor	22:25	37:22
77:7	ZI.4 ZZ.0	14:23	29:20,21,	54:14
Mcintosh	mind	monol oggio	24,25	
4:8	30:18	monologue	30:14,17	N
	49:23	65:20	motive	
meant	74:5	month	13:4	
58:15		28:25	T7.4	named



June 30, 2021

	IIVEET VSTIVANN		IIIUEX	. Harrowoperator
18:2	19,23,25	76:1,3	objection	15,18
narrow	12:11,15,	80:25	7:16 15:1	80:9,11,
11:7,18	19 16:6	noticed	35:22	20,23,24
11.7,10	17:4,25	11:15	36:8	81:8,11,
naturally	32:11,15,	14:22	38:21	17
22:4	18,24	39:19	45:5,9	-1
nature	33:4,8	39.19	47:22	oldest 8:24
20:24	34:1,8,9,	notificatio	49:17,23	0.24
32:20	23 38:9,	n	50:6	Omar
52.20	15 40:3,	79:19	51:16	4:6 6:2
nay	5,7 41:25	notified	72:4	7:19
22:1	42:5	34:6,7	74:17,18,	45:21
necessarily	49:4,5	35:8	20 84:5	51:4
82:4	50:15,18	37:20	objections	once-in-a-
-	52:18		objections 14:4	lifetime
needed	54:21	noting	14.4	21:11
6:1 20:2	55:3,5	35:4 65:7	occupied	21.11
46:18	56:25	number	18:1	one-term
47:15	60:3 62:1	4:3	occupy	63:4
53:1	70:7,8,	25:12,13	34:13,15	ongoing
64:20	21,22	36:11	34.13,13	42:11
78:24	71:2	47:25	occurred	
79:12,16	75:20	57:3	15:3 27:6	onset
81:25	76:22,25	82:25	offered	13:14
82:22	78:10	83:1,4	66:6	open
negotiation	80:6			32:14
84:3	notating	numerous	office	
	10:16	52:15	12:1,13,	open-air
nightclub	10.10		18 13:1,2	82:5
25:17	noted	0	16:9	operate
nine-year	15:1		17:3,10,	65:12,14
60:6	notes	a la d' a m la	23 18:13	operating
non-	6:6,7	object	23:20	12:1
evidentiary		14:7,12	26:22	16:10
22:13	notice	35:12	33:9	61:25
22.15	20:9	36:25	34:14	
nonpayment	34:1,16,	39:20 43:10	38:7	operation
15:12	22 36:15,	43:10 49:16	40:5,12,	9:20 12:9
72:23	16,24		22 41:5,9	17:21
75:21	37:18	50:7,21	46:12,17,	operational
76:20	39:21,23	65:18	19,24	52:24
82:9	47:13	objected	47:8,12	
Northeast	53:5	14:15	51:11	operations
4:2,14	60:21,22	objecting	52:24	12:18
7:25 8:3,	73:17,18	84:15	61:5,11	operator
5 11:10,	75:4,6,	01-10	78:22	9:3 12:5,
,	10,14,16		79:3,12,	



1/5 INE 551 F 51	REEIVSFRANN	LIN DALE	index: oppo	ortunitiespictures
12	owed	30:23	40:2	83:19
opportuniti	8:15 9:10	44:11	45:20	87:3,8
	10:6,7,9	53:25	58:1	
es	12:20	54:1,9	63:10,13	payments 26:3
49:12	21:7,14	59:11	74:5	
opportunity	23:24	61:21,23		67:16
31:6	54:25	65:24	partner	PDF
87:22	68:4	66:17,19	84:3	57:5
onnoging		67:4,12	partners	nondina
opposing 24:18	owing	77:17,19	8:4,10,12	<pre>pending 24:16</pre>
_	24:1	81:7	10:23	
25:3	43:20	82:18	32:19	26:12
opposition	63:24	85:18,23	48:4	27:16
43:4	owned	87:12,16		28:2
	65:9	·	past	people
order		paid/	64:4	64:21
5:5 6:18	owner	credited	path	
16:11	37:20	77:12	22:1	perceived
23:8	60:15	pandemic		18:10
40:21	64:6,11	9:18	pay	performed
41:1	owner/	18:10	10:16	20:5
64:21	operator	21:11	16:12	
original	12:6	64:5,10	27:1 29:5	period
86:22,25	•	65:8	38:11	23:5
	owners	66:1,7,9,	40:7 41:8	permits
originally	17:15	10	64:17	29:2
26:22	64:12	10	65:4,5,6	59:14
out-of-	ownership	parcel	71:15	
pocket	9:4 17:21	15:23	75:24	permitting
77:22	61:13	parent	76:1	59:9
		8:6,9	paying	person
outdoor	owns	10:22	12:17,21	13:19
80:14	12:14	61:9	26:23	14:6
outfield			34:19	nowsono11
51:18	P	part	38:18	personally 70:24
011+a+ond-1		9:8 13:3	40:9 41:9	
outstanding		15:22	44:12,14	71:6
54:24	package	16:7,8	46:10,11,	85:24
87:10	49:10	34:12	24 53:16	photos
overrule	paid	38:8	60:8	42:12
52:12	7:5 9:11,	48:20	63:21	physical
0	12 10:10	51:11	86:15	physical
	16:1,4	71:20	00.10	68:10
			narmant	
50:8 51:2		79:4	payment	picture
Overruled 50:8 51:2 owe	18:24	79:4 85:12,14	40:11	11:6,7
50:8 51:2	18:24 20:10,12	85:12,14		
50:8 51:2 <b>owe</b>	18:24		40:11	11:6,7



	REET VS FRANK	CENT DI CEL	mack. pigg	jy-backprogram
41:18,21,	play	14:25	premises	10:14
22 42:2,	80:15	15:21	43:11	nminginolg
3,7 44:18	1 3	24:6	55:15,18	principals 9:11
45:6,8,15	played	29:13	56:6,20,	
47:1,3,5,	24:18	30:7	23 57:17	22:18
6,7,8,10,	pleadings	70:5,6,15	58:18	prior
16 48:5,6	11:21	76:24	59:15,20	34:3
	nloaguro		60:8,22	42:23
piggy-back	<b>pleasure</b> 62:13	positions	61:5,12,	59:17
6:21	02.13	43:3	21,24	82:16
place	plot	possession	69:4	85:5
8:25 10:4	17:1	28:14	70:18,21	
19:16	plumbing	44:21	71:1,13	privilege 44:15
20:3,23	18:4	55:14	77:3	44:15
34:9	30:22	56:6,23	78:23	pro
	40:18	59:20	80:5,6	49:8
plaintiff		71:12	81:10,16	
4:12,14,	47:13	75:11	83:10	pro-bono
16 8:5	pocket	85:4		20:21
9:10	61:21,23		prepaid	problem
10:14,23	67:19	possibiliti	20:7 54:2	36:10
16:14	68:7,9	es	55:1 64:2	57:6
38:14	77:18,25	24:7	67:20	86:18
55:10		posture	68:3,10,	87:6
65:9	point	5:6	12,14	
68:25	14:18		prepared	problems
70:6 71:7	21:14	potentially	11:16	76:13
73:21	24:11	24:1	14:21	procedural
75:19,20	27:9 30:8	PPP	17:8	5:6
76:23	44:8,12	67:13	22:12	
Plaintiff's	53:21		22.12	proceed
9:10	67:12	practice	prepayment	6:12
14:23	71:14	46:8	9:15	15:16,20
15:12	73:15	80:19	10:11	31:25
44:13	79:24	pre	present	69:22
70:20	82:17	33:20	72:18,19	proceeding
70:20	85:6,7,	47:20	72.10,19	14:20
72:23	17,21		preserve	
72.23 74:16,20	portfolio	premarked	26:11	proceedings
76:11	49:10	35:18	presumptive	74:2
70.11		36:13	ly	Professiona
Plaintiffs	portion	41:17	68:6	1
22:17	25:24	45:4		22:22
İ	33:15	premise	previously	<b>DM</b> 06
nlan	77:19	<del>-</del>	5:8,16	program
<b>plan</b>		59:7		10.12
<b>plan</b> 9:5 60:1	82:2	59:7 81:17	11:15	49:13
_		59:7 81:17		49:13 programs



### June 30, 2021 Index: progress..raise

173 NE 33111 31 NELT V31 NAINNEIN DALE			iliuex. progressiaise	
64:20,23	20:1,5,	provided	purposes	50:7,9
prograga	15,16,18,	10:5	10:7 16:9	51:3,5,19
progress	19 23:19	13:19	21:9 22:7	52:2,13
60:11	25:2,6,9,	28:14	33:13	55:25
promised	18 27:22	29:3	48:5	56:3
59:24	28:15	34:22	49:24	58:20
	29:8	43:12	50:5 88:9	59:17
promoters	34:3,6,	44:20,23		61:20
34:5	17,25	48:12	pursuant	62:4
proof	35 <b>:</b> 7	53:13,25	8:17,25	63:19
27:13	38:12,14	77:6,9	16:8	65:19,23,
28:14	40:16		25:24	25 68:2,
	41:24	pub	45:19	7,17,20
properly	42:4,15,	8:21,24	purview	69:12
26:3,4	16,25	9:1,3,4,	65:19	72:15
properties	44:13,15	22 12:6,	03 17	75:5
9:14 11:4	46:15	9,10 13:1	put	79:10
12:2		16:9,10,	5:22 22:5	
22:10	50:14	17,19,21	26:10	83:25
24:24	52:17,21,	17:22,23	29:12,14	84:12
25:16	25 53:4,	19:2	39:14	87:22
26:14	18 54:18	33:6,10	40:25	questioning
28:1	55:4	34:13	41:3	35:13
32:21	60:3,15,	40:10	43:22	74:4
33:1	16 62:6	41:9	44:18	
44:24	63:20	46:11	60:2,25	questions
49:6,11	70:16	53:17		37:3 38:3
52:16	77:18	55:21	putting	54:13
54:22,25	78:10,12,	61:14	72:7 85:8	55:7,9
1	17,20	65:3 78:9		62:15
55:24	79:22	81:8	Q	67:24
56:10	80:1,17		<b></b>	69:1 86:3
59:23	81:13	pull		87:18
60:1,12	83:3,5,14	33:11	qualify	quick
62:3 78:1	85:2,4,13	36:11	36:5	29:17
81:21,22	86:7	59:14	question	62:17
property	87:14	75:3	15:21	
10:2		pulled	19:5	quickly
11:25	propose	29:2	23:18	15:7
12:8,14,	6:14	29.2	27:14	75:25
16 15:21	proud	purpose	28:8 33:4	
16:6,10,	64:6	12:25	35:15	
21,25		43:13,16	37:1,5,	R
17:10	provide	45:23	13,17	
18:13,15,	17:8 49:6	46:14	38:25	raise
22 19:2,	58:24	49:9		8:11
	59:18,19	58:25	39:9,21,	31:17
6,8,11,	75:11	78:19	24 45:21	69:15
12,22		-	49:19	



### June 30, 2021 Index: raised..renewal **HEARING** 175 NE 55TH STREET vs FRANKLIN DALE

70:10	30:23	reduced	50:18	36:1
raised	36:23	30:24	reflective	relevance
54:8	37:18	40:11	51:10	35:12
51.0	45:18	86:6		
rate	65:2	reduction	reflects	relevant
26:24	77:22,25	66:6	12:7	33:14
27:2,5	receiving	86:8,11	36:19	relief
28:24	36:15	00.0,11	51:8	86:24
29:5 44:3	37:5	refer	refresh	
Re-ask	37.3	25:19,23	5:11	remain
38:25	recertifica	57:19		60:7
30.23	tion	73:2,16	refused	remainder
ready	35:6,10	75:25	59:5	52:1
24:8 75:2	36:20	77:5	regard	
81:17	79:1		70:21	remained
real	81:24	reference	70.21	67:13
22:19		32:14	registry	remains
	recertified	40:13	5:23 7:5,	9:23
46:8	79:20	51:21	11 13:17	9.23
60:14,15	recess	referenced	16:2,12	remarkable
62:17	74:1	5:21	18:25	21:23
64:22	_	36:17	23:9	remedied
82:6	recessed	51:14	26:10	46:21
reality	14:5,16			40.21
15:19	recitation	referring	regulating	remedy
24:10	11:1	15:11	22:21	46:23
		57:14	Regulation	62:8
realized	recognize	73:19	22:22	
29:13	36:16	77:20		remedying
reason	57:11	refinance	regulations	38:7
11:8,21	recollectio	49:10	22:21	remember
21:25	n	49.10	relate	19:12,23
31:4 44:9	72:1	refinancing	14:1	30:1 37:5
51.1 11.5	72.1	22:8 50:5	76:21	
reasons	record	58:25		rendered
7:2	35:25	reflect	related	8:17
recall	36:4,6	11:18	7:16 8:6,	renderings
78:25	67:2		23 24:24	49:8
70.25	70:3,25	43:17	50:13	
receipts	73:24	44:18	86:6	rendition
27:10	88:8	46:25	relation	52:16
58:21	magada	69:2	26:13	renew
receive	records	77:11	∠0.13	65:12,17
	49:3,7	reflected	relationshi	·
10:12	71:2	21:13	p	renewal
54:18,19	redirect		71:4,5	62:25
		reflecting		63:4,9,12
received	62:14	48:12	relative	



# June 30, 2021 Index: renovated..rightfully

770112 001110	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	\ \ D/ \LL	midox. re	novateaigittialiy
renovated	46:10,11,	64:16	replacing	response
55:21	24 51:1	65:4	40:4	5:5 6:21
renovation	53:13,16,	rooporod	roportor	68:6
20:5	19 54:2,	reopened 9:24	reporter 4:19,21	rognorgog
	18,19	<b>フ・ム</b> 4		responses
47:9,15 51:8	55:1 60:8	reopening	74:5,8 87:25	29:18
	63:21,24	66:8		responsibil
82:21,22	64:2	repair	88:11	ity
renovations	65:24	44:13,15	represent	37:22,25
20:14,19	66:2,4,6,	44.13,13	49:11	restate
23:25	11,16,19	repair/	59:3	49:19
40:14,15	67:4,8,20	upgrade		49・19
48:16	68:3,10,	28:19	representat ions	restraining
52:25	13,14	repairing		9:25
53:7,9,12	71:14,15,	44:24	8:19	result
54:8	17,24	60:13	representin	16:13
	73:8,15	83:17	g	22:9,16
rent	75:21	03.17	4:16	75:21
4:23,24	76:1	repairs	roprogonts	75.21 81:6
5:4,19	77:6,9,	26:23	represents	01.0
6:10,17,	22,25	27:4,8	76:8	resulted
24,25	78:4,8,9,	29:2	requested	20:6,14
7:3,9	10 81:7,	30:20	38:1	results
12:17,20,	12 82:13,	43:11,18	58:23	24:3
21,23	18,21	58:18	64:25	24.3
13:17	83:11,22	59:15	requesting	resumed
16:1,4	86:5,6,23	60:21	27:10	5:2
18:21	87:9,11,	71:13,16	27.10	retaliate
19:16	15,16	85:6	required	21:24
20:7,8,			59:8 79:1	
10,11,12	rental	repeat 42:1	requirement	retaliated
21:15	26:24	42:1 45:21	25:21	60:10
25:25	27:2,18		26:10	retaliation
26:1,5,10	28:24	46:3 51:4		11:3
27:22,23	29:5	56:2	resolution	
28:21	54:3,11	repeatedly	48:21	retaliatory
29:24	69:3	29:1	respect	10:3 13:4
30:14,22,	rented	repetitious	10:1	20:24
24 34:19	78:20,23	50:7	24:15	return
38:11,18	82:3	50 • /	39:18	74:14
40:6,9,	04.5	rephrase	40:7 68:7	
10,11	rents	39:9		review
41:8,10	9:15	replacement	respond	57:21
42:13	10:11	16:9	75:13	reviewed
43:19	12:25	20:11	responded	13:8
44:10,11,	21:21		14:11	
13,15	61:21	23:19	T I • T T	rightfully
				64:13



ROI	screen	58:14	showing	12 80:5
60:2	14:12	serve	33:17,19	81:16
role	33:13	9:14	36:13	smaller
70:20,21	39:10	9.14	47:1 87:7	11:7 25:9
70.20,21	41:14,19	served	shows	11.7 23.9
roof	46:25	17:3,23	20:23,24	so-called
60:15	57:4	34:16	25:4	51:17
roofs	72:15	51:14	25.4	sort
60:14	76:11	76:6	side	9:6 11:6
00.14	scrolled	services	62:5	13:4 17:1
room		8:16 20:5	sides	21:19
14:25	41:19	23:24	29:10	23:20,21
rule	45:15	53:25	29.10	24:6
36:6	section	53.45	sight	30:15
30.0	57:19,20,	set	28:10	30.13
rules	21,23	5:21 6:4	sign	sorts
22:20	1-	7:7 14:5	18:8 34:8	22:22
23:21	seek	22:14	10.0 34.0	gought
39:3,6	16:5		signed	sought 22:6
rulings	23:12	setting	13:7	22.0
6:9	seeking	15:4	34:20	space
0.9	23:16	share	58:1	12:1 17:2
running	49:15	33:13	simple	25:10
40:18	60:20	34:3	18:6 19:4	30:22
		39:10	20:25	34:14
	sense	41:14	33:4	38:7 41:4
S	44:14	46:25	33.4	46:17
	separate	57:4	simply	61:6,11
safety	7 <b>:</b> 5	72:14	13:10	79:3,6,
62:10	12:10,12,	76:11	44:15	16,18
64:9	20 17:2		simultaneou	82:6
SBA	23:22	sharing	sly	
60:12	24:22	76:13	65:8	speak
67:19	25:10,11,	sheller	03.0	31:5,6
07.13	18 43:19	18:5	sir	40:14
scenes	45:19,22	ah +	31:23	43:3
84:2	46:4,6	shooting	34:21	specific
schedule	78:12	21:24	47:18	16:5
60:2		shopping	87:24	24:18
	separately	25:11	aituation	59:18
scheduling	20:23	al and	situation	
88:8	55:20	short	46:24	specificall
schemes	September	74:1	slash	У
22:9	75:9 76:6	show	13:17	10:15
22.7	86:24	29:1	small	11:23
scope		41:17		32:20
50:21	series	42:19	21:9 25:5	spend
84:8	10:3		64:6,10,	-F



TO THE GOTTI OTTREET VOTTO MARKETT BALE			maex. spenc.swom	
59:4	starting	28:25	35:3,6,9	
spent	74:16	storage	36:15,24	12:20
28:15	86:15	78:21	37:2	sued
42:14	state	79:6	38:11	8:12
48:16	49:23		46:20	
51:8	63:9 70:2	story	62:8	suffering
58:17,22	83:23	24:22	stuck	27:18
		strategy	28:3	29:8
spot	stated	46:18	5.5	75:20
18:15	42:23	Streer	stuff	suggested
19:19	49:9 63:7	4:2	30:5	30:19
squatted	71:20	4.2	42:20	suggesting
40:20	statement	street	style	19:15
squatter	52:8,9	4:14 8:5	6:24	19.13
18:2	stating	11:19,23,	styled	summary
10.7	27:12	25 12:11,	7:24	22:10
staff	27.12	15,19	11:10	summons
34:4	status	13:2 16:6	32:10,15	15:9
64:17	9:2 29:2	17:4,24,		
65:4	statute	25 25:1,	<del>-</del>	support
staging	29:20	18 32:11,		64:12
80:14	83:10	24 33:8	10:1 12:3	supposed
		34:9,23	15:22,23	26:1 27:3
standard	statutes	38:10,15		30:22
29:19	22:20	40:3,8	20:17	42:25
44:23	25:20	41:25	36:1	
46:8	stay	42:5	41:24	<b>sustain</b> 36:7
start	27:15	50:18	42:4	37:15
28:20	63:20	54:21	submitted	68:18
35:9	68:5	55:3 60:4	7:21	00.10
44:24	80:19	70:7,8,22	11:13	sustained
69:13	stayed	75:20	48:19	35:14
71:25	86:18	Street's	50:15	49:18,25
83:17	00.10	70:21	subsection	65:22
85:6,7,16	stepped	strict	26:1	swear
started	62:9	71:24	20.1	31:20
42:12	64:18	71.24	subsection2	69:17
44:22	stick	strike	26:4	
46:9	37:16	38:17,24	substitute	switch
62:18		39:23	38:10	29:4
65:8 85:8	stipulate	84:20	41:5	switcheroos
86:16	39:4 43:9	structure	46:19	8:8
	stopped	12:11	79:6	<b>41.10.10</b> 1
starters	60:11	33:25		sworn
45:2	atona	34:2,4,6,	successful	32:4 69:23
	stops	16,19	10:17	03.43



June 30, 2021

Index: spent..sworn

173 NE 33111 31 NELT V31 NAINNEIN DALL			index. Syncinonizedtrasii		
synchronize	60:1	terminology	84:12,13	10:24	
đ	tenancy	39:22	things	11:3,13	
56:8,9,10	13:11	termites	13:10	14:1,20	
59:22	25:23	40:24	52:15	15:20	
60:5	26:18,20	40.24	52.15	22:3,12	
arrat om	38:13	terms	thought	23:9	
<pre>system 28:3</pre>	55:17	26:20	5:3 6:20	27:11,25	
40.3	71:9	35:2	14:10	28:6	
	73:14,21	56:16	43:24	29:21	
T	75:14,21 75:6 83:9	71:11	53:9 62:4	34:21	
	75.0 03.9	Terrace	84:25	41:25	
takes	tenant	78:10	three-day	47:12	
43:4	24:23	70.10	76:1,3	65:10	
43.4	25:22	testified	70.1,3	79:22	
taking	26:2	13:20,23	three-year		
8:18	44:20	32:4 36:8	62:24	today's	
14:10	71:12	58:17	63:3	15:22	
21:10	73:3,14	71:9	time	78:15	
35:9 48:5	75:11,13,	testify	5:10,13	toilets	
66:25	16 77:7,	25:7 27:3	19:16	47:14	
67:19	17,23	31:8,13	24:17		
81:5	79:2,5	37:7 69:8	27:19	told	
talk	84:4	71:23	28:3	49:22	
29:14		84:19,21	34:20	53:15	
29.14	tenant's	04.19,21	41:2	72:11	
talking	26:10	testifying	44:6,7	tomorrow	
15:7	tenants	52:4		14:6 88:7	
19:18	73:8	72:13	45:18 54:17	L	
21:16	Lank	testimony		topic	
24:25	tent	29:15	59:23	13:23	
25:25	40:24	31:21	60:3	total	
30:6 52:9	term	33:15	64:19	65:2 73:5	
<b>+</b> 000	60:6 63:5	34:21	66:5	totality	
<b>tear</b> 25:8 82:5	terminate	42:23	67:18	66:1	
23.0 02.3	29:6	44:20	77:17	00.1	
technical	73:21	45:1	78:21	towing	
5:1 76:12		60:19	87:6 88:6	22:18	
telling	75:6		times	trade	
24:21	terminated	69:10,18 72:5	18:8	9:25	
84:14	28:12	12.5	bimalaral		
04.14	73:13	theft	tirelessly	train	
temporary	83:9	8:18	64:3	84:25	
19:8,11	termination	thing	today	transition	
ten	56:5	7:21	4:22 5:9,	41:1	
56:11	73:17,18	22:17	22 6:4		
20.11			7:3,7,15	trash	
ten-year	75:4,6,8,	65:13	8:16 9:23	40:17	
	17	83:6			



	TREET vs FRANK			ex: travelingwa
traveling	55:17	62:8	40:20	violation
88:5	58:2	unsafeness	variety	46:20
trusted	60:23	34:22	7:2 19:25	vis-a-vis
15:4	61:3 65:1	35:2	vehemently	38:19
truth	66:11	updated	26:12	visiting
31:21,22	83:12	76:20	20.12	80:19
69:18,19	84:1,18	70.20	Velez	00.19
09.10,19	understood	upgrades	4:15	voice
turned	31:12	26:23	35:20,23	70:10
20:22	37:20	27:4,9	36:3,25	
turning	58:17	uploaded	37:4,7,10	W
20:15	undertook	42:19	38:21,24	W
56:22	40:21		39:20	
30-22	40.21	upset	49:16,23	wait
	unfortunate	34:18	50:6,20,	5:7 15:15
U	76:12	usable	24 51:16	27:21
	uninhabitab	79:16,18	52:4	39:6 52:8
ultimately	le	·	61:17,18	67:17
7:16	19:14	Ut	65:18	84:6
13:21	30:21	22:4	68:16	waives
20:13	40:16	utilities	vendor	26:9
	43:22	64:18	10:8	
unable	44:12	65:5	10.0	walls
75:24	44.12		vendors	40:17
unavailable	${\tt units}$	utilize	64:13,17	wanted
88:5	47:14	10:6	65:6	6:10
	unknown	34:13	venue	15:17
under-	64:9	54:25	9:6,19	18:18
market	04.9	utilized	9.0,19	25:9
82:12	unobjection	10:11	verbal	68:23
underlying	able	21:12	25:23	80:13,18
11:12	14:17	64:16	58:15	20 82:8
	unopened	78:11	71:10	84:16
understand	9:23		82:16	01.10
7:8 22:1			versus	war
23:11	unrelated	V	4:3 6:18	18:7
35:12	24:24		8:3	water
38:18	25:10	vacate	32:11,16,	18:3
55:23	unsafe	28:10	18 76:23	30:21
64:10	33:25	83:10		40:18
67:9	34:2,4,6,		videos	42:17,19
understandi	7,16,17,	vacating	42:18	12:1,110
ng	19 35:6,8	56:19,22	violating	ways
48:20,24	36:15,24	59:19	9:25	9:12
51:14,17,	37:2,11,	vagrant	22:20	10:10
22 52:14	14 38:11	18:1	· _ · _ ·	18:8
	11 30-11			19:25



week's	46:23	you're	zoom	
88:6	writing	54:14	14:4,10	
welshed	22:5		15:4	
41:2	25:22	Z		
	58:1,10			
whatsoever	62:2 66:9	_		
9:16	75:13	Zalman		
whistle		4:13 5:3,		
21:2	written	9,25		
-11-1	10:24	6:14,17		
wholehearte	58:12,16	14:7		
dly	wrong	15:11		
14:7	43:2,25	23:14		
Wilson		24:12,15		
4:19 74:7		26:15,19,		
88:8	Y	21 27:23		
windfall		28:12,20,		
16:13	year	23 31:5		
10.13	24:17	35:11		
witnesses	26:12	43:5,7,9,		
31:8 72:5	27:4	25 44:5,		
words	35:5,10	19 45:7		
37:11	36:20	47:23		
72:7	37:25	49:17		
12.1	61:22	55:11,13		
work	82:20	56:4		
20:3,21		57:2,7,10		
23:14,15	year-and-a-	58:4,9		
44:3	half	61:17,19		
50:18	71:21	62:11,21		
53:1,2	72:2,10	63:7,12		
54:10	year-and-a-	67:1		
59:11,14	half's	68:21,22,		
76:15	44:6,7	24 69:4,		
79:17	110000	6,9,13		
81:15	<b>years</b> 9:8	70:1		
worked		72:9,14,		
34:4 64:3	56:10,11 60:5 64:4	23 73:1		
	00.5 04.4	74:3,10,		
working	yesterday	13,23		
9:7,8	13:13,15	75:1		
33:9	14:1	76:15,16		
85:16	15:2,3	78:6,14		
worth	VO	79:9		
35:4 65:7	<b>yo</b> 86:17	83:25		
	00.1/	84:7,10,		
write		16		



June 30, 2021

Index: week's..zoom