BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN	THE	MATTER	OF	THE	APPEAL	OF:)			
т.	LE,)	OTA	NO.:	21078259
				Ā	Appellar	nt.)			

CERTIFIED COPY

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Cerritos, California

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Reported by:

MARIE C. SANCHEZ CSR No. 13809

Job No.: 40541 OTA(B)

1	BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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5	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF:)
6	T. LE,) OTA NO.: 21078259
7	Appellant.)
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15	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, taken at
16	12900 Park Plaza Drive, Suite 300, Cerritos,
17	California, commencing at 1:42 p.m. and
18	concluding at 2:52 p.m. on Wednesday,
19	February 15, 2023, reported by MARIE SANCHEZ,
20	CSR No. 13809, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
21	in and for the State of California.
22	
23	
24	
25	

APPEARANCES:	
Panel Lead:	ALJ ANDREW WONG
Panel Members:	AIT ANDREW KWEE
ranci randers	ALJ KEITH LONG
For the Appellant:	MR. AND MRS. T. LE
ror one apperrance	PRO PER
For the Respondent:	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
_	DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION
	RANDY SUAZO
	JASON PARKER CHRISTOPHER BROOKS
The Interpreter:	DONALD PHAN
	Panel Lead: Panel Members: For the Appellant: For the Respondent:

1	I N D E X
2	
3	EXHIBITS
4	
5	(Appellants' Exhibits 1-22 were received at page 8)
6	(Department's Exhibits A through D and H were received at page 9)
7	page 9)
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1	CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023
2	1:42 P.M.
3	
4	
5	JUDGE WONG: All right. We are now going on the record.
6	The first thing I will do is swear in our interpreter.
7	Mr. Interpreter, could you please identify
8	yourself?
9	THE INTERPRETER: Yes. My name name is Donald Phan. I'm
LO	the Vietnamese interpreter.
11	JUDGE WONG: And are you certified to interpret from
L2	English to Vietnamese and Vietnamese to English?
L3	THE INTERPRETER: Yes, I am.
L4	JUDGE WONG: Okay. Please raise your right hand.
15	
L6	DONALD PHAN,
L7	was first duly sworn to interpret the English language to the
L8	Vietnamese language and the Vietnamese language to the
L9	English language to the best of his ability.
20	THE INTERPRETER: Yes, I do.
21	
22	JUDGE WONG: Could you
23	THE INTERPRETER: Yes, I do.
24	THE COURT: Thank you. Okay. Mr. Phan, feel free to
25	interrupt these proceeding to ask for clarification if

1 needed. 2. THE INTERPRETER: Okay. 3 All right. We are opening the record in JUDGE WONG: 4 the appeal of Le before the Office of Tax Appeals. This is 5 OTA Case Number 21078259. Today is Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, and the time is 1:00 -- 1:42 p.m. 6 We are holding this hearing in person in 7 Cerritos, California. I am Lead Administrative Law Judge 8 9 Andrew Wong. To my left is Judge Keith Long, and to my right 10 is Judge Andrew Kwee. We are the Panel hearing and deciding 11 Individuals representing the Appellant please this case. 12 identify yourselves. 13 MR. LE: My name is T. Le. 14 MS. LE: And I'm the wife to T. Le. 15 I'm sorry. I didn't understand her. THE REPORTER: 16 JUDGE WONG: Could you repeat that please? 17 MS. LE: I'm the wife to T. Le. I am so sorry. I have 18 been very ill lately. 19 JUDGE WONG: Thank you. And the individuals 20 representing the Respondent, Tax Agency California Department 21 of Tax and Fee Administration or CDTFA, please identify 22 yourselves. 23 Randy Suazo, Hearing Representative of CDTFA. MR. SUAZO: 2.4 Jason Parker, Chief of Headquarters MR. PARKER: 25 Operations Bureau with CDTFA.

1 MR. BROOKS: Christopher Brooks, Tax Counsel for 2 CDTFA. 3 JUDGE WONG: Thank you. Judge Kwee is substituting in 4 for Judge Daniel Cho on this panel. Mr. and Mrs. Le, do you 5 object to the substitution? 6 THE APPELLANT: 7 JUDGE WONG: No objection. Thank you. CDTFA, do you object to the substitution? 8 9 MR. SUAZO: No objection. 10 JUDGE WONG: Thank you. We are considering two issues 11 The first issue is whether adjustments to the amount of disallowed claimed exempt sales of food are warranted. 12 13 The second issue is whether adjustments to the 14 amount of unreported taxable sales are warranted. Is that a 15 correct statement of the issues, Mr. and Mrs. Le? 16 THE APPELLANT: Yes. 17 JUDGE WONG: CDTFA, is that a correct statement of the 18 issue? 19 MR. SUAZO: Yes, it is. 20 Thank you. All right. Let us talk about JUDGE WONG: 21 exhibits. Appellant has identified and submitted proposed 22 Exhibits 1 through 21 as evidence. 23 They have submit evidences or exhibits THE APPELLANT: 2.4 but they --

Sorry.

JUDGE WONG: Oh, I'm not done.

25

THE INTERPRETER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm just -- can I ask for clarification? They don't know how many --

JUDGE WONG: Well, Mr. and Mrs. Le have submitted proposed Exhibits 1 through 21, and today they submitted four additional new exhibits, proposing exhibits, I guess, total -- total exhibits of 25 exhibits.

CDTFA objected to three of the new exhibits on the grounds of timeliness and relevance, and the Panel is not allowing three of the four newly submitted exhibits as evidence. So we will be admitting Appellants' Exhibits 1 through 22 with Exhibit 22 being the photos of the business at issue.

(Appellants' Exhibits 1-22 were received in evidence by the Administrative Law Judge.)

JUDGE WONG: Okay. CDTFA has identified and submitted proposed Exhibits A through H as evidence. Appellants, did you have any objections to those? Oh, I'm sorry. Appellant did have an objection to -- let me double check -- proposed Exhibits E, F and G.

THE INTERPRETER: (Nods head)

JUDGE WONG: And so we are going to hold the record open to allow Appellants to identify which photographs are -- depict the business under -- when it was not on -- when they were not owners. So we'll just -- we will be admitting proposed Exhibits A through D as well as H, and then we'll

hold the record for Appellants' objections -- sorry. We'll hold the record open as to "E, F," and "G." Okay.

(Department's Exhibits A through D and H were received in evidence by the Administrative Law Judge.)

JUDGE WONG: Appellant has no witnesses; is that correct?

THE APPELLANT: Yes, that's correct.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. And then CDTFA has no witnesses.

MR. SUAZO: That is correct.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. We also clarify as to CDTFA's Exhibits E through F. These constitute -- okay. Never mind. Strike what I just said.

We've covered witnesses. And now we are going to turn to Mr. and Mrs. Le for your presentation. You have 50 minutes, 5, 0. Please proceed.

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16 PRESENTATION

THE APPELLANT: When I took over the business, we have done some remodeling. They also tried to find four new restaurant, but they would buy the raw chicken from them. And in 2017 the price for the chicken increase so the restaurant stopped buying from us. Oh, they did not stop buying, but they just buy less.

So at that time we selling restaurant supplies as well as instant food, like, Ramen Noodle. They also want to sell hot food but at that time In-N-Out was open near them so

nobody buy their hot food anymore. So they -- they tried to keep the business afloat but they're unable to, so in 2019 they sold the business. The wife adds that in 2015 when they take the business they sold a lot of raw meat, chicken, and all the meat for the apartment complex nearby.

The previous owner at that location already have some hot food -- selling some hot food, so they want to experiment and try that as well to see if that would be the way to go. So they -- they said that they set up some table and chairs in the store not to sell hot food but for the customer who come in and buy the meat, that their children can -- can sit there and sit and wait there.

Okay. So when the customer come in and buy the whole chicken, they would cut it up and so it take time. So the table it's just for them to sit and wait for the order, not for eating.

JUDGE WONG: Sorry. Can I interrupt really quick?

Mr. and Mrs. Le, sounds like you are making factual statements. Are you -- would you like to testify? Would you like to be sworn in and testify as to these facts or -- because if you do are sworn in to testify that these things actually happen, then the gentleman over here, CDTFA, can cross-examine you, but then the Panel could weigh your statements to evaluate -- to make findings of fact based on your statements?

1 THE APPELLANT: Yes 2 JUDGE WONG: So would they like to be sworn in at this 3 time? Okay. 4 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. 5 Okay. Please raise your right hand. JUDGE WONG: 6 MR. AND MRS. T. LE, 7 called as witnesses, and having been first duly sworn by JUDGE WONG, were examined and testified as follows: 8 9 MR. LE: Yes. 10 MRS. LE: Yes. 11 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. 12 JUDGE WONG: Okay. Please proceed. 13 THE APPELLANT: So the wife said, because of the nature 14 of the store when the customer come in and ask to buy certain 15 pounds they have to cut up the meat to meet that requirement, that pound. And so while they wait these are the table and 16 17 chair for them to sit and wait. 18 And so at the end of the day, if they have any 19 leftover they then would cook to make hot food for the next 20 day to take care of all these leftover meat that they have if 21 they could not sell it. 22 So it's not a typical butcher's shop. Also, it's 23 not restaurant or hot-food restaurant because depend on 2.4 whether they can sell the meat or not or whether they have 25 leftover or not that they would treat the leftover to make it out to something that they can sell the next day.

The chicken that she sold is certified organic chicken, so if they -- they leave it overnight or left it until the next day, then it's no longer can be deemed as organic. So they have to take care of all the leftover organic chicken on the same day. And so that's the reason why they also have the hot-food restaurant on the side to take care of the leftover, and then that's when they start putting advertisement on Yelp.

They have paid for advertisement before. It costs a lot and it didn't give a lot of result, so their children and their friends suggest to put it on Yelp. It's a -- less expensive, for one; and it also draw more attention for the people who frequent on the Yelp review. And so they put up a lot of pictures, one thing to draw more customer through that, and now they are paying for it. They feel sorry that they have put up a lot when in actuality did not sell that much.

And in 2017 the Health Department did not like us to have the table and have kind of like a small restaurant inside the supermarket, so they had to take it out. And ever since, the business just declined because no -- no customer come eating and the business itself is slow.

So since 2017 the Health Department comes and they said you cannot have both the raw food and the cook hot-food

- together. So they had to stop, and so their -- their
 business is -- was getting really slow, cannot sell anything.

 And so when the business slow, her children asked their
 friends to put up more pictures on the Yelp review so -- to
 draw more customer, but it's not -- there's some of the
 picture people standing outside taking the picture but they
 did not go in and buy.
 - She claim also some of the picture that CDTFA submitted are empty store, no customer, no one frequent, so it just the picture that they collected from the Yelp, but it -- it show it an empty store, empty restaurant. If I -- if we cannot sell, if we cannot make money, how could we pay taxes? We have no income.
 - And if we -- because we don't sell anything we don't collect sales tax, so it's difficult for us or it's -- it's not right that we have to pay the taxes.
- 17 JUDGE WONG: Thank you. Anything else?
- 18 THE APPELLANT: No.

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- JUDGE WONG: Okay. I'm going to turn it over to CDTFA to see if they have any questions for Mr. and Mrs. Le.
- 21 MR. SUAZO: No questions.
- JUDGE WONG: Thank you. We'll turn it over now to my
 co-panelists to see if they have any questions for
 Mr. and Mrs. Le, starting with Judge Kwee.
- JUDGE KWEE: Hi. This is Judge Kwee. So if I

understand correctly, from the time they acquired the mini-mart until 2017 there was both the cold-food-sale area and a restaurant and then after that it was shut down, the restaurant was shut down.

THE APPELLANT: Yes.

JUDGE KWEE: Okay. Thank you. I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

JUDGE WONG: Thank you. All right. Now I'll turn it over to Judge Long for any questions.

JUDGE LONG: When in 2017 did the Health Department shut down the restaurant portion?

THE APPELLANT: Well, the -- she wants to clarify that the Health Department did not shut down the hot food there. They just don't want them to have all of the raw meat or eggs or different things on display, so they had to put into a cooler, anybody want to buy it they would bring it out. And also due to the new regulation in 2017 so that's why they decided to stop doing the hot food.

MR. LONG: So then to follow up, when did -- when did -- THE APPELLANT: She said in the beginning of 2017. She doesn't recall when exactly, but in the beginning of 2017.

MR. LONG: Okay. Thank you. Can you maybe -- is there an explanation -- I'm looking at CDTFA's Exhibits E, and is there an explanation then for the conflicting evidence here where there's reviews for sandwiches and other food products

1 for the entirety of 2017 into 2018 as well? 2 THE APPELLANT: She said the customer who buy raw meat 3 did not give any review, only the review for those who eat. 4 But then some of the friends of her children also submitting 5 the picture and review but they did not eat there. So to clarify, Appellants' position is that 6 MR. LONG: these reviews from 2017 are not accurate and that hot food 7 was not served then? 8 9 THE APPELLANT: Yes, that's their position that the 10 picture that put up on Yelp and the review for the friends of their children they trying to help her to draw more customer, 11 but they said some would eat and give a review. Some would 12 13 just post a picture, but they have no way of knowing how -which one's which. 14 15 MR. LONG: Okay. Thank you. No further questions. 16 JUDGE WONG: Sorry. I have a few questions for Mr. and So the business started -- well, let me back up. 17 Mrs. Le. The previous owner had both the hot-food section and also 18 19 cold -- sold cold foods as well? 20 THE APPELLANT: Yes, that's correct. 21 JUDGE WONG: And you continued that when you took over, 22 looks like, in early 2015; is that right? 23 THE APPELLANT: Yes. 2.4 JUDGE WONG: And the name of the business at that time

was OC Poultry And Rotisserie Market?

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1 That's the old -- the old -- the THE APPELLANT: Yes. 2 former owner's name for business. 3 JUDGE WONG: Okay. And the rotisserie was referring to 4 the cooked chicken and the hot foods that he sold? 5 THE APPELLANT: That's correct. JUDGE WONG: Okay. And then, I believe, you changed the 6 7 name of the business in early 2017 to OC Tasty Chicken And That's spelled, B-A-N-H-M-I. 8 Banhmi. 9 THE APPELLANT: Yes. That's the name they changed in 10 2017. It is because the old one -- the old name is too long 11 and the Health Department also doesn't want them to sell raw meat or products so they take the name for the hot food. 12 13 JUDGE WONG: Okay. And then Banhmi is, like, a 14 Vietnamese sandwich; is that right? 15 THE APPELLANT: Yes. 16 JUDGE WONG: Were the fillings heated or were they cold 17 or it could depend? 18 THE APPELLANT: Both. Some would sell cold. Some they 19 would heat in microwave. 20 JUDGE WONG: Was the bread toasted at all? 21 THE APPELLANT: It's up to the customer if they wanted 22 toasted or not because they -- they bought the bread. 23 bought -- they didn't make it. They bought the bread and 2.4 then they put in the filling and the meat, so depend on if

the customer want to heat or toast the bread or not.

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JUDGE WONG: And then you also sold, I guess, curry and Udon noodles; is that right?

THE APPELLANT: So it's up to the sale of the day before if they had any leftover meat then they would make whatever dish for the -- the leftover meat for the next day.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. By your estimation, how much hot food did you sell as a percentage of all your sales versus raw meat or eggs?

THE APPELLANT: It's not consistent. It go month by month. Some are 30 percent. Some are 35, 40 percent of the total sales. They're not sure because it's not consistent. Every day is different from day-to-day, not just from week to week or month to month.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. Thank you. Okay. I'm going to turn it over to CDTFA for their presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Le, after their presentation you'll have an opportunity to rebut and make a closing presentation.

Okay. CDTFA, you have 20 minutes plus another 20 for interpretation, so 40 minutes total. You may proceed.

2.4

21 PRESENTATION

MR. SUAZO: Appellant was a sole proprietorship and operated a fast-food restaurant in a small mini-market in Anaheim, California.

JUDGE WONG: Mr. Suazo, can you pull the mic closer to

1 you? Thank you. 2 MR. SUAZO: The sellers permit commenced in 3 December 2015 and ceased August -- August 2019 as the 4 business was sold. The audit period is from fourth quarter 5 2016 through the close-out period in third quarter -- three quarter 2019. The majority of sales are for hot rotisserie 6 7 chicken, hot soups, hot sandwiches, and combination meals, Exhibit D, page 44. 8 9 The restaurant did have seating facilities for 10 customers --11 THE INTERPRETER: Could you repeat the last statement? The restaurant did have seating facilities 12 MR. SUAZO: 13 for customers to consume food on the premises, Exhibit D, 14 page 54. Appellant meets the 80-80 rule --15 THE INTERPRETER: Could you repeat that? 16 MR. SUAZO: Appellant meets the 80-80 rule. 17 THE INTERPRETER: Meet? 18 MR. SUAZO: Has more than 80 percent of gross Yes. 19 receipts --20 THE INTERPRETER: Could you repeat that whole thing 21 again, the 80-80 sentence? 22 Appellant meets the 80-80 rule, has more MR. SUAZO: 23 than 80 percent of gross receipts are from sales of food 2.4 products and more than 80 percent of the retail sales of food 25 products are taxable by virtue of consumers eating at the

facilities provided by the Appellant and/or sales of hot food products. Reported total sales amounted to around 512,000 and included a claim deduction for sales of exempt foods of just over 300,000, Exhibit E, page 32.

Gross sales and taxable sales were consistent throughout the audit period. Records reviewed were Federal Income Tax Returns for 2016, 2017, and 2018. Bank statements for 2017 and 1099-K reports for 2016 through 2018. No GL -- no general ledger, point of sale, or POS system reports, cash register -- cash register tapes, sales receipts or purchase invoices were provided.

Comparison of Federal Income Tax Returns for 2016 through 2018, to sales and used tax returns showed minor differences, Exhibit D, page 53. Comparison of Federal Income Tax Returns recorded sales to record a cost of goods sold showed inconsistent yearly markups for the audit period with an overall markup of only 137 percent.

THE INTERPRETER: 137?

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MR. SUAZO: Yeah. Exhibit D, page 50. The Department reviewed three similar businesses in the area and computed an overall average markup on those businesses of 188 percent, Exhibit D, page 42. For the Appellant, only 2018's recorded markup of around 184 percent was considered to be acceptable.

The 2017 bank deposits were scheduled and disclosed only ten percent of deposit amounts for cash,

Exhibit D, page 52. The Appellant has stated that not all cash is deposited into the bank account as they used cash to purchase inventory, Exhibit D, page 30.

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Due to lack of records, alternative methods were used to determine taxable sales for the Appellants' business. Again, Appellant did not provide detailed daily records or POS downloads to verify reported exempt food deduction taken on the sales used tax returns, as they stated all cash register tapes were thrown away, Exhibit D -- Exhibit D, page 30.

As stated earlier, the business was determined to be applicable to the 80-80 rule for restaurant sales. To account for non-taxable sales of exempt food from the small grocery section of the business, the Department determined 10 percent of total sales were exempt grocery store food sales.

The percentage was based on the type of items sold by the business and the amount of floor space dedicated to such merchandise, Exhibit A, pages 9 and 10, and Exhibit D, pages 29 and 44.

This allowed exempt food sales claimed amounted to over \$210,000, Exhibit D, pages 43 through 45. To compute taxable sales, a markup approach was used, Exhibit D, page 42. Recorded cost of goods sold for the Federal Income Tax Returns was adjusted for self-consumption and --

THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. "Was adjusted for

self-consumption of --"

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MR. SUAZO: -- of self-consumption and pilferage --

THE REPORTER: Pilferage?

MR. SUAZO: -- pilferage. The cost of goods sold was lowered an additional 10 percent to account for exempt food sales. The 2018 accepted markup of 184 percent was applied to the cost of goods sold for 2016 and 2017 to determine taxable sales for those periods.

Audited taxable sales were compared to reported taxable sales plus the disallowed food sales discussed earlier and differences were noted for the fourth quarter of 2016 and all -- all four quarters of 2017, Exhibit D, page 39.

Unreported taxable sales based on the market method calculated to just under \$20,000, Exhibit D, page 38. The disallowed food exemption combined with the unreported taxable sales totaled over \$230,000, Exhibit -- oh, sorry -- Exhibit D, page 37.

Appellant has stated that they did sell large volumes of uncooked meat for resale; however, no sales -- no sale invoices, cash register receipts, or other verifiable documentation has -- has been provided to verify an amount. Appellant has not provided records to support any adjustment to the established liability.

Concerning Exhibit G, a quick look of the Yelp

website done during their presentation showed that from page 290, row 6, picture Number 4 which has a rooster on it to page 292, row 5, middle picture was for -- was from when the business started in December of 2015 to before the audit period.

THE INTERPRETER: Could you repeat the page number?

MR. SUAZO: Sure. Exhibit G, page 290, row 6, picture

Number 4.

THE INTERPRETER: To what page?

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MR. SUAZO: To page 292, row 5. The middle picture actually starts -- row 5, the middle picture's actually the beginning of the audit period. It is October 6th, 2016, is when it's dated. So from there down is within the audit period.

Also, page 295 -- and unfortunately I didn't get the exact picture number because I was in a hurry doing this, but there's some tables and chairs that you see or -- I think it's the bottom one that is uploaded on July 5th, 2018, which is well after the 2017 time period discussed.

Then on page 297, pictures with tables and chairs in them are dated December 29th, 2018. January 12th, 2019. February 7th, 2019. Then on page 298, pictures of tables and chairs again. The -- dated August 5th, 2019.

MR. PARKER: Judge Wong, I would just like to add one thing to the presentation.

JUDGE WONG: Go ahead, Mr. Parker. Mr. Phan, do you need to translate that?

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MR. PARKER: So the taxpayer claimed that in early 2017 the Health Department made them remove their tables and their sales went down. If you look at Exhibit A, page 32 which is the reported sales for the taxpayer, Exhibit D -- my apologies -- the reported gross sales continued to increase from 2017 through second quarter '19.

Also the taxable transactions continued to increase from 11,000 up to almost 22,000 during the same time period.

MR. SUAZO: That concludes the Department's presentation.

JUDGE WONG: Thank you, CDTFA. I will now turn to my co-panelists for questions for CDTFA. Starting with Judge Kwee.

MR. KWEE: I don't have any questions, thank you.

JUDGE WONG: Judge Long, do you have any questions?

JUDGE LONG: No questions. Thank you.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. I was considering asking CDTFA to maybe submit a revised exhibit -- let's see -- Exhibit G because Exhibit G contains a lot of photos from Yelp. I was wondering if CDTFA would be willing to just submit photos submitted during the liability period to make it easier for both parties.

We would hold the record open 30 days to allow CDTFA to allow photos only relevant to the liability period and then we would give Appellants 30 days to object.

MR. SUAZO: Okay.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. Great. All right. All right. Just one second. Oh, I did have a question for CDTFA. Were the photos that you submitted in Exhibit G the photos that the auditor reviewed, or do we know what photos the auditor reviewed?

MR. SUAZO: I couldn't get a download of what the auditor had reviewed, so basically this is everything that was on Yelp. I just gave you everything, so this would incorporate everything that was on Yelp which is where they're basing their methodology from.

JUDGE WONG: Got it. Okay. I think submitting a revised Exhibit G will narrow down the photos and help us focus on what's relevant. Okay. We will now turn back to Appellant for your rebuttal and closing remarks.

So, Mr. and Mrs. Le, now is your chance to provide a closing presentation or address anything that CDTFA stated.

2.4

CLOSING STATEMENT

THE APPELLANT: Mrs. Lee said that in 2006 and 2007 because they just start the business so they don't know how to manage and to -- so they keep buying things, so the -- the

expense, it's more than the income. So the record that you have on the tax return in 2018 is actually when they know how to run the business and file -- or actually made some money.

2.4

They said it's unfair to compare them with the three other local restaurant because they're not a full restaurant. They are the -- kind of like a supermarket and then have a few table for the customer. It's not a full restaurant. So on the 2018 where they -- I guess the business is good, so they -- that's -- that they -- what they file on the tax, but it's not fair to compare with all the businesses around as well as the tax return on 2016 or 2017.

And they -- I guess they filed their own tax, so they don't know how to write all of the -- they said on the 2018 they had to write a higher markup because if they -- if they keep losing money they are not qualified for insurance -- health insurance. He has some health issue, so they have to show that they qualify or -- somehow so they can still be qualified for Covered California Insurance.

He also claimed that he has an old cash machine that doesn't have a lot of memories, and he said something about 2019 the -- the new -- the new owner that he sold the business want him to get out quickly so they can start their own business.

She admit -- she admit that they throw away the receipt, but when she tried to submit the journal you

wouldn't accept it.

2.4

JUDGE WONG: Anything else, Mr. and Mrs. Le?

THE APPELLANT: She claim that they make -- they make so little sales so is no point for them to have -- or to get a record of the POS. That's what she -- okay. So they -- they claim they have the old machine and they are waiting for the business -- it's getting better -- so they can upgrade to -- the machine with a POS, but the business did not pick up so they continued to use the old machine.

They claim at the end of the day he would tell her how much they sold that day and the taxes so she can input it into her Excel Sheet on her computer. That was her journal, journal keeping record. So she bundle all the receipt, but then when they move out for the new business come in they had mistakenly lost them or thrown them away.

She blame herself for being stupid, that when the people who want to buy her business they want to buy the business -- oh, somebody else want to buy her machine. She sold them, the old machine that she used instead of keeping it to show to you as exhibit.

JUDGE WONG: Anything else?

THE APPELLANT: And she said that's why she cannot provide any of the receipt because the machine is gone. She said it's in her journal but they don't accept her methods of recordkeeping.

1 Anything else? JUDGE WONG: 2. THE APPELLANT: No, sir. 3 JUDGE WONG: That was a no. Okav. 4 THE INTERPRETER: Yeah. 5 JUDGE WONG: All right. I will now, for the final time, turn to my co-panelists for any final questions for either 6 7 party, starting with Judge Kwee. JUDGE KWEE: I don't have any final questions. 8 Thank 9 you. 10 JUDGE WONG: Judge Long, did you have any final 11 questions? 12 JUDGE LONG: No final questions. Thank you. 13 JUDGE WONG: Hang on just a second. Okay. I just want 14 to go over Appellants Exhibit 22 really quick. This is the 15 pictures that Mr. and Mrs. Le submitted. So the first page, 16 that's not during your ownership; is that correct? No. 17 THE APPELLANT: 18 JUDGE WONG: And the second page is not your ownership 19 either; is that right? 20 THE APPELLANT: No, that's theirs. 21 JUDGE WONG: Okay. The second page is theirs. 22 THE APPELLANT: Yes. 23 JUDGE WONG: And then the rest of the pictures -- the 2.4 rest of the pages are during your ownership; is that right? 25 THE APPELLANT: Yes. Yes.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to confirm that. And then you had mentioned earlier that 2018 was a good year or not a good year for your business?

THE APPELLANT: Yes. That was a good year.

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JUDGE WONG: Okay. And then you had mentioned something about the markup with respect to qualifying for health insurance for your husband. Could you clarify that point really quick? I did not quite catch that.

THE APPELLANT: She says if she write the markup, too much markup, then her total income will be less and they would not be able to continue with the Cover California Insurance and they have to go on Medi-Cal.

She said it's not -- it's not about the markup but the amount of food that she had to throw away because again she cannot sell it. So those loss -- if she write too much to offset her income, then they would be on Medi-Cal and not on Covered California.

JUDGE WONG: Okay. Thank you. That's all the questions I had. Okay. Just a recap. We're keeping the record open. We are giving CDTFA 30 days to resubmit a revised Exhibit G to provide photos of Appellants' business during their ownership, and then we will give Mr. and Mrs. Le 30 days to respond to that submission. I'll be issuing an order with those deadlines later this week.

After that period, the record will close and then

the judges will meet and decide the case based on the evidence presented and the testimony taken today. After the record closes, we will send both parties our written decision no later than 100 days from the close of the record. This -- now we're going to conclude this oral Thank both parties for appearing today. We're hearing. going -- the next hearing will start in 15 minutes, and we're going off the record, so we'll be back in -- 3:10. you. (The Hearing concluded at 2:52 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand, which was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony given.

Further, that if the foregoing pertains to the original transcript of a deposition in a federal case -- before completion of the proceedings, review of the transcript [] was [] was not requested.

I further certify I am neither financially interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney or party to this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed my name.

Dated: MARCH 6, 2023

Marie C. Sanchez, CSR No. 13809
Certified Shorthand Reporter
For The State Of California

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