

May 25, 2021
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Jamie Schaefer, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 10:03 a.m.

Commissioner Forbes: This is an open meeting for the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. Welcome to our house.

To ensure compliance with the law (Maryland Open Meetings Act) and our goal of transparency, to please identify yourself when speaking and speak audibly. As a professional courtesy, when not speaking, please mute your device. If someone from the public that is not providing testimony as a witness today, I will recognize you in the hearing and give you an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Everyone's voice matters at the BOLC. We understand that some of you may be passionate about what you have to say and that passion, in this regard, is permissible. What is not permissible is if truth, facts, and respect are not grounded in your voice. Thank you in advance for being truthful, respectful and honest during the entire proceeding.

Director Sheppard: During a typical hearing, there would be an exchange between the Board and the attorneys to exchange information as exhibits. Because this hearing is now virtual, we have implemented a 10-day rule to give those individuals here today, 10-days from today's date to add to the official record. I would ask that you email myself or the administrative staff for the BOLC. You may add information to the record long as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

- 1) Baljinder Singh, Managing Member, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Burke Liquors Limited Liability Company, t/a **Chillum Wine & Spirits**, 5813 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, 20782 transfer from Burke's Liquors, LLC, t/a Burke's Liquors, 7541 Landover Road, Landover, 20782, Geetika Sharma, Member/Authorized Person. **Eddie Pounds, Esquire** is representing. Maps presentation by Chief Clark.

Maps presentation Chief Clark: In the matter of t/a Chillum Wine & Spirits, there are no churches within 500 ft and no schools within 1,000 ft of the establishment. There are 5 liquor establishments within a 1-mile radius of the business, 1 being a liquor store.

Baljinder Singh is sworn in.

Mr. Pounds: As a preliminary matter, as you are already aware, the application before is a request for a transfer of license as well as a transfer of location for the business. We have submitted to the Board a copy of the signed management agreement, along with supplemental letters of support from city council such as Deni Taveras, a petition signed by over 100 residents/customers from the area, photographs of the interior and exterior, and floorplans.

Commissioner Forbes: Thank you, those have all been admitted to evidence.

Mr. Pounds: Mr. Singh, are you a citizen of the United States? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Have you ever been found guilty of committing a felony? (**Mr. Singh- No.**) Should the Board approve this license, do you understand that you will have 100% ownership and responsibility for the business? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Have you ever had a liquor license revoked? (**Mr. Singh-No.**) Have you ever held a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Singh-No.**) Do you have a financial interest in the business to be conducted under this license? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) How much time will you spend on the premises? (**Mr. Singh-About 25-30 hours per week, evenings and weekends.**) Can you provide a brief summary of how you plan to run the business?

Mr. Singh: A good friend of mine approached me, asking me to purchase the business and I have overseen management for the past 4 months. At this new location, we wish to provide more service and more space. I want to provide the community with wine and craft beer, as well as education on food pairings. The new location will be double the size and include the use of walk-ins. We will also have a 400 square foot space for international and regional wines.

Mr. Pounds: Could you elaborate more on the additional square footage?

Mr. Singh: We are looking to double or triple our skewers. Doubling the space for self-service and more storage. This space will provide a better opportunity for our customers to see, feel and learn about the products.

Mr. Pounds: Are you aware of any opposition from the community to the transfer of this business?

Mr. Singh: I am not aware of any opposition.

Mr. Pounds: Have the renovations been of a great expense to you?

Mr. Singh: About a half a million- all my life savings.

Mr. Pounds: What is the distance of the move from the current location?

Mr. Singh: About 8.6 miles from the current location.

Mr. Pounds: Do you believe that this business will benefit the community and truly accommodate their needs? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**)

Mr. Pounds: Tell me about your relationship with law enforcement. Will this business affect the health or safety of the community in any way?

Mr. Singh: There will be no threat to safety. We have an officer on duty for weekends. We want the public to feel safe and have that service available.

Mr. Pounds: Will that relationship with law enforcement be similar at the new location? (**Mr. Singh-Absolutely.**) Have you read the Rules and Regulations of this Board? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) How many employees do you have? (**Mr. Singh-2** currently.) How many employees will you have at the new establishment? (**Mr. Singh- 4 to 5 employees.**) Have they received Alcohol Awareness certifications? (**Mr. Singh- Yes, all employees and I are certified.**) Will you uphold this standard at the new location? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) What is the minimum age in order to serve alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Singh-18.**) You are also going to have wine tasting. Will the staff be trained to monitor people's behavior and decide when they've had enough? (**Mr. Singh- Yes.**) What is the minimum age in order to purchase alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Singh- 21.**) Can you tell me your policies for prevention of sales to an underage person?

Mr. Singh: We require alcohol awareness certification for all employees, no vertical IDs will be accepted, 100% ID check for all persons appearing under the age of 35 years, we will have a marker providing the minimum age to purchase, and a Date of Birth verification prompt when checking IDs.

Mr. Pounds: What will your Hours of Operation be? (**Mr. Singh- 9 p.m. closing on weekdays and 11 p.m. closing on weekends. These are our Covid-19 hours.**) Does your current location have a General Manager? (**Mr. Singh- Yes.**) Will the new location have a General Manager? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**)

Mr. Singh proves his knowledge of the 6 acceptable forms of ID for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

Commissioner Camacho: I see on your application that you listed Monday through Sunday sales. Sunday Sale privileges do not to apply to the new location.

Mr. Pounds: We would like to apply once they are available.

Commissioner Camacho: Can we amend the application to show that Sunday Sales are not available?

Commissioner Forbes: Yes. Mr. Singh, you said you read the Rules and Regulations of this Board. Do you agree to abide by those Rules and Regulations? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Do you understand these rules? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Do you agree to operate according to these Rules and Regulations? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Are you aware that any alterations to the business, you must first receive permission from the Board? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**) Do you understand that with 100% ownership, you will be held accountable for all protentional violations at your business? (**Mr. Singh-Yes.**)

Ms. James: On Mr. Singh's Affidavit, there was a question left unanswered, "Do you understand that a person other than the applicant cannot have a financial interest in the business to be conducted under the license?". Can we make an amendment to reflect the answer "yes"?

Commissioner Forbes: Is the any opposition to amending the application to reflect no Sunday Sales and the Financial interest question mentioned?

All Commissioners vote Aye, motion to amend application passes.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Transfer for t/a Chillum Wine & Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. After Board vote, motion carries.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of location for t/a Chillum Wine & Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. After Board vote, motion carries.

- 2) Luis R. Villatoro, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of Sabor Latino Restaurant, Inc., t/a **Sabor Latino**, 2338 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, 20783, transfer from Sabor Latino Restaurant, Inc., t/a Sabor Latino, 2338 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, 20783, Edwin Ramirez, President/Secretary/Treasurer. **Robert Kim, Esquire** is representing.

Maps presentation Chief Clark: There is a church near the business; however, Sabor Latino predates the church, nullifying the rule of being at least 500 ft from a church. **Luis Villatoro** is sworn in.

Mr. Kim: This case is a request for the transfer of corporate stock ownership with no changes to the business or operation of the business under a Restricted Class D on-sale license. Mr. Villatoro, are you a Citizen of the United States? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Are you a resident of the state of Maryland? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (**Mr. Villatoro-No.**) Have you ever been found guilty of violating any gambling or alcoholic beverage laws? (**Mr. Villatoro-No.**) Have you ever had a license revoked? (**Mr. Villatoro-No.**) Are you currently an alcoholic beverage license holder? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes**, a Class BWL in Montgomery County.) Have you had a violation since you've been with this establishment? (**Mr. Villatoro-No.**) Do you own any other businesses or hold any other licenses in Prince George's County? (**Mr. Villatoro-No.**) What will your position be under this license? (**Mr. Villatoro-** I am 34% stockholder, President, Secretary, and Treasurer.) How much time will spend on the premises? (**Mr. Villatoro-** 20-30 hours weekly.) Have you read the rules and regulations of this Board? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Do you agree to abide and comply with the rules and regulations? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Are you Alcohol Awareness Certified? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Madam Chair, we have submitted a few Alcohol Awareness certifications, we request those be moved to evidence.

Commissioner Forbes: Received, thank you.

Mr. Kim: Luis, what is the minimum age in order to purchase alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Villatoro-21.**) What is the minimum required age in order to sell alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Villatoro-18.**)

Mr. Villatoro proves his knowledge of the 6 acceptable forms of ID in order to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Kim: Luis, do you understand that you have an obligation to answer to the Board when they contact you? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**) Do you understand that you are responsible for any actions occurring at the establishment? (**Mr. Villatoro-Yes.**)

No further questions.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the transfer of stock ownership for t/a Sabor Latino, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 3) Neville Nugent, Owner, for a Class B (BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Foodie Vision, LLC, t/a Mad Cow Grill 2, 15904 G Crain Highway, Brandywine, 20613. No representation.

Maps Presentation Chief Clark: In the matter of t/a Mad Cow Grill 2, the Class BLX waives the rule to be at least 500 ft from a church and 1,000 ft from a school. There are 9 establishments selling liquor within a 1-mile radius, 1 of which is a liquor store.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Nugent, are you aware of your right to representation? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Do you agree to move forward without an attorney? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) **Neville Nugent** and **Ed Reynoso** are sworn in.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Nugent, are you a resident of the State of Maryland? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Are you a citizen of the United States? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Are all facts and statements on your application still true and correct from when they were submitted? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) How long have you lived in the state of Maryland? (**Mr. Nugent-15.5 years.**) Have you ever held a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes, Mad Cow Grill.**) Have there been any violations at this establishment? (**Mr. Nugent-No.**) Have you ever been found in violation of gambling laws? (**Mr. Nugent-No.**) Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (**Mr. Nugent-No.**) How much time will you spend on the premises? (**Mr. Nugent-25-30 hours per week.**) Can you describe Mad Cow Grill 2 for everyone here?

Mr. Nugent: Mad Cow is a family restaurant where everyone can enjoy the atmosphere. We respect our patrons. This is somewhere they can enjoy good food and good drinks.

Commissioner Forbes: Are you familiar with the Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Board? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Do you understand these Laws, Rules, and Regulations? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Do you agree to abide by these Laws, Rules and Regulations? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Are you aware that you must receive permission from the Board before any alterations are made to the business? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) Do you understand that as a licensee, you will be responsible and accountable for all happenings at your establishment? (**Mr. Nugent-Yes.**) What is the minimum age in order to purchase alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Nugent-21.**) What is the minimum age in order to serve/sell alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Nugent- 18.**) Can you list the 6 acceptable forms of identification for purchasing alcoholic beverages?

Mr. Nugent can list 5 out of the 6 acceptable forms of identification.

Commissioner Forbes: We will circle back to this question later.

Ed Reynoso: Thank you for allowing us to continue. We have had a successful location for over 3 years with no infractions. We met with the local police, they said we have a great reputation with them. We are always accessible to them and we are always wanting their opinions. With Covid-19, we hired a security guard to enforce mask wearing and social distancing. This would make things easier on myself and the staff to not be responsible for making food and enforcing social distancing rules. We did not hire a security guard because people were feeling unsafe. We will not have a full bar. We want to make Jamaican and Caribbean style drinks. We also have a Rum Punch that became very successful among our customers at Mad Cow 1. We want to

keep growing. We are grateful to have the opportunity to move forward. For those who don't know me, my name is Ed Reynoso and I am the Chef and Operator, Neville's right-hand man. We make sure our operations are successful.

Mr. Nugent, once again, lists 5 of the 6 acceptable forms of identification for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Reynoso, can you help Mr. Nugent?

Mr. Reynoso: Not off the top of my head, Madam chair.

Commissioner Forbes: You may take a break to do your research and we will circle back after we hear the other cases.

Commissioner Camacho: Can we take a moment to talk about their application for Class B BLX? Their seating capacity here says 40 seats. The BLX requires at least 100 seats and proof of revenue of 1 million dollars. The application says there are 60 seats outside and 40 seats inside.

Mr. Reynoso: Sir, that's incorrect. We even provided pictures. If that is what is on the application, I apologize. The seating capacity should be 140 seats.

Commissioner Camacho: That's fine, we just need to make sure that what we have is correct.

Commissioner Forbes: Katrice, can we amend the application, please. (Ms. James-Yes.)

Commissioner Norman: I have another question. Have we established investment?

Director Shepard: Verification of investment comes afterward.

Commissioner Norman: Okay.

Hiatus to hear other cases.

After the break, **Mr. Nugent** was successfully able to list the 6 acceptable forms of ID for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

Chief Clark: Earlier, the licensees said that they had no infractions. The licensees of Mad Cow 1 had a violation in August 1, 2020 for a Covid-19 infraction- having entertainment while entertainment was not allowed, resulting in a \$1,500 fine.

Mr. Reynoso: We thought that the "infraction" meant breaking rules serving alcohol. We apologize. We paid the fine. We didn't expect to be so busy when Covid-19 restrictions started letting up. We hired a Security Guard to ensure that patrons are following Covid-19 rules so that this mistake does not happen again. We voluntarily closed business around Christmas time. We meant no disrespect to the Board or the County. We have learned our lesson, learned the rules, and we plan to follow them.

Commissioner Camacho: The seating arrangement outside, can we clarify the number of seats including the patio? (**Mr. Reynoso**- 70 seats inside, 45 seats outside.) This is part of a strip mall, correct? (**Mr. Reynoso**-Correct.) Is the outdoor area accessible from the mall? (**Mr. Reynoso**-No, there is a fence.) That's what I was looking for, an enclosed area with a fence.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B (BLX) license to **t/a Mad Cow Grill 2**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 4) Tanetta Nicole Merritt, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer and Wine for the use of Greater3, LLC, t/a **Burgers@**, 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 108, Camp Springs, 20746. Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Maps Presentation Chief Clark: In the matter of t/a **Burgers@**, there are no churches within 500 ft and no schools within 1,000 ft of the business. There are 2 establishments selling liquor in a 1-mile radius.

Tanetta Merritt and **Dennis Green** are sworn in.

Ms. Carter: We submitted to the Board an Exhibit Book for evidence including floorplans, and a bar with full food service at all hours, so technically, not just a bar. Secondly, we submitted photographs of the food and of the menu. Section 3, these photographs are of the construction, new construction. There is a great need for sit-down dining establishments in the area of Camp Springs. We will accommodate the public with a variety of more sit-down restaurants opening alongside of **Burgers@**. Construction has been delayed, unfortunately. We were originally targeting the end of the month, now we are now generously targeting next month. Total construction costs came to about \$250,000, mostly of my clients' funding. Tanetta, is all the information from your application true and accurate from the day you filed it? (**Ms. Merritt-Yes.**)

Ms. Carter: However, you have been back and forth in the name since you filed the application?

Ms. Merritt: Yes, we would like to propose a new name. We would like the add "The Apollo" to the end because that's the location. So, the new name would be **Burgers@ the Apollo**. We would like the request approval of the amendment to change the name.

Commissioner Forbes: The Board will make 2 motions at the end.

Ms. Carter: Ms. Tanetta is new to the food industry but has a ton of experience in childcare. She has 4 child development centers, a degree in Early Childhood Development. She has a D.C. childcare license that requires Alcohol Awareness certification. However, is out of date, but she will take the Alcohol Awareness course to be certified again.

Ms. Merritt: I took it this past Sunday.

Ms. Carter: And you all are only applying for a Class D Beer & Wine license to accommodate customers, correct? It will mostly be about the food. (**Ms. Merritt-That is correct.**) How often will you be on the premises? (**Ms. Merritt- 15-20 hours per week.**)

Mr. Green? (Mr. Green-Open to Closing.)

Ms. Merritt: The facility is 1,450 square feet and we are anticipating about 700 customers per week. There will be No Entertainment. The theme will be Go-Go, like Chuck Brown Go-Go, the old school Go-Go. The walls will have artwork and records- very high energy.

Mr. Green: I have a background in Hospitality. I ran a café in D.C. with a similar concept before. We are going to have 8-10 employees. As a policy for training, they all must be Alcohol Awareness Certified. They will have House Rules for customer service and safety concerning the sales of alcohol. We understand that any changes made to the business must first be granted permissible by the Board.

Ms. Carter: Tanetta, what is the minimum age in order to serve alcoholic beverages? (**Ms. Merritt-18.**) What is the minimum age to purchase alcohol? (**Ms. Merritt-21.**)

Ms. Merritt lists the 6 acceptable forms of ID for purchasing alcoholic beverages. **Ms. Merritt:** We are working on a kid's menu and we have been involved with the community, building relationships with the residents and other businesses. We are looking to hire residents of the community, having military or family discounts, we are open to suggestions, and we want to plan events like a community/family fun day.

Commissioner Forbes: As the business owner, are you familiar with our Rules and Regulations? (**Ms. Merritt-Yes.**) Do you agree to abide by these Rules and Regulations? (**Ms. Merritt-Yes.**) Are you aware that you will be the one accountable should a violation occur? (**Ms. Merritt-Yes.**)

Ms. Little: I'd like to bring to attention, if the business wishes to change their name, there will be a \$50.00 fee in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order.

Ms. Forbes: So, noted. Do we have a motion? There are 2 requests on the table.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B, Beer and Wine license for t/a Burgers@, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the name change for t/a Burgers@ the Apollo, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 5) Richard Fray, CEO, Angela Fray, CMO/Secretary, for a Class B, Beer and Wine for the use of Fray Development Incorporated, **t/a Dat Jerk Caribbean Chargrill Glenarden**, 9101 Woodmore Town Center #322, Glenarden, 20706. No representation.

Maps presentation Chief Clark: In the matter of **t/a Dat Jerk Caribbean Chargrill**, there are no churches within 500 ft and no schools within 1,000 ft of the establishment. There are 8 liquor-selling establishments in a 1-mile radius.

Commissioner Forbes: Are you aware of your right to representation? (**Ms. Fray-Yes.**) Do you agree to move forward without legal representation? (**Ms. Fray-Yes.**)

Angela Fray and **Richard Fray** are sworn in.

Commissioner Forbes: Have you ever held a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. Fray- Wing Stop, we have had a few licenses at a few locations for Beer and Wine for 10 years.**) Have you ever been found in violation of the Rules of Regulations with those licenses? (**Mr. Fray-No.**) Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray-No.**) Have you ever been found in violation of any gambling laws? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray- No.**) Can you tell me about your business?

Mrs. Fray: We are here to represent our business chain, "Dat Jerk". We are fast, casual dining. We have been referred to as the "Caribbean Chipotle". Our roti is made fresh every day, traditional hours, we don't use MSG, and we make our own sauce and curry powder. We have been serving the Maryland community for 6 years, 4 of which in Prince George's County and hopefully, soon, in Greenbelt.

Commissioner Forbes: How much time will you spend on the premises? (**Mr. Fray-about 20-30 hours per week.**) Is the application still true and accurate to when you submitted it? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray-Yes.**) There have been no changes? (**Mrs. Fray-No, no changes.**) Are you familiar with our Laws, Rules and Regulations? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray-Yes.**) Do you understand them? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray-Yes.**) Do you agree to

abide by them? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray**-Yes.) Do you understand that any changes made to the business must first receive approval by the Board? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray**-Yes.) Do you understand that you will be held accountable for any potential violation of your business? (**Mr. and Mrs. Fray**-Yes.) What is the minimum legal age in order to purchase alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray**-21.) What is the minimum legal age to serve and sell alcoholic beverages? (**Mr. & Mrs. Fray**-18.)

Mr. and Mrs. Fray demonstrate their knowledge of the 6 acceptable forms of ID for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

No questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B, Beer and Wine license to **t/a Dat Jerk Caribbean Chargrill**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. After Board vote, the motion carries.

No questions or further commentary from the Commissioners, staff, or public.

Adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Schaefer
Administrative Aide BOLC