

November 17, 2020
9200 Basil Court
Largo, Md 20774

Present:

Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Kenneth Miles, Commissioner
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Council
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
Katrice James, Administrative Aid
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aid
Jamie Schaefer, Administrative Aid

Start time 10:13 a.m.

Preliminary Matters

1. In the matter of t/a **Tubby's** transfer of Class B liquor licensure, sole custody and licensure to Mr. Patel. Erin McAuliffe representing. Commissioner Norman makes motion to approve transfer of Class B licensure to Mr. Patel, seconded by Mr. Miles. Made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman and Mr. Camacho.

Regular Session #1

1. In the matter of t/a **El Puente Del Oro**- failure to comply with Entertainment without Entertainment Permit. Mr. Camacho reminded the defendants that this is their fourth violation and that they are one violation away from revocation. Commissioner Norman motioned for a 30-day suspension of licensure, seconded by Mr. Miles. It was reiterated that the suspension includes sales of all alcoholic beverages, not just their Entertainment Permit. Made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman and Mr. Camacho.
2. In the matter of t/a **Martini's**- In violation of having entertainment without an Entertainment Permit. Commissioner Norman motioned for Martini's to be fined \$6,000 payable in three payments over 90 days. Mr. Miles seconded and made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman and Mr. Camacho.

Regular Session #2

1. In the matter of t/a **Buffalo Wild Wings**- Transfer of 3 locations to 3 authorized persons. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire. Linda Carter states that her clients have no violations and there are no changes I personal information. Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve the transfer for all three locations to new authorized persons, seconded by Mr. Miles and made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman and Mr. Camacho.
2. In the matter of t/a **Muse Paint Bar**- Linda Carter esquire representing. All three applicants are present at for the hearing and swear in. Chief Executive officer of Muse Paint Bar, Denise Conroy, explained that all her servers are trained in alcohol awareness and that all her servers are above the age of 21 years old, despite the legal age to serve being 18 years old. Ms. Conroy then listed all acceptable forms of ID to be presented when serving alcohol and stated that she took an alert class in Montgomery County to ensure even more awareness on how alcohol sales affect the community. Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class D license for Must Paint Bar, seconded by Mr. Miles. Made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman and Mr. Camacho.
3. In the matter of t/a **VIP Stage**- Dennis Whitley III representing.

Dennis Whitley: stated that this is the second time that he has been before the board to request a liquor license to a business next to an established adult entertainment business. He states that his client, Mr. Okeh, is willing to take on a large financial risk by buying and leasing the adult entertainment establishment next door to his restaurant if he is guaranteed to be granted Class B liquor licensure. He also states that the issue of having adult entertainment next door would be eliminated before any handlings of liquor licensure.

Mayor Riazi: begins by thanking members of the Board and states that she is firmly opposed to VIP Stage's application for Class B liquor licensure. She states that VIP Stage had applied for liquor licensure in 2017 and appeared in a 2018 hearing where the town of Cheverly had very strong opposition to this application. She continues that VIP Stage has a history of violation of liquor laws, a lack of advertising plans for future business, as well as a history of abuse of occupancy, trafficking of persons, amongst other illegal activities. She believes that if VIP Stage can serve liquor, it would create bad business for the community and that the BOLC can be an ally in preventing this.

John Rogers: states that the Office of Compliance is in firm opposition to VIP Stage being granted Class B liquor licensure based on their track record. Based on town findings, Mr. Okeh is listed as a member of Soul Banquet, LLC and has applied for liquor licensure before. He continues to state that there is a hall that connects the two units, which would allow for the passage of alcohol behind VIP Stage and the adult entertainment business without visibility from the outside. He then states that the certificate of occupancy from October 29, 2020 is recorded in the name of Soul Banquet, LLC and it was determined that Mr. Okeh had claimed 100% ownership of the establishment before selling in 2011. Mr. Rogers also states that VIP Stage does not have legal parking for their occupancy and that Mr. Okeh has been falsifying the record by stating that the parking lot the business uses for customers belongs to a Limousine company. Rogers also reminded the Board that a lease can be dropped, and Mr Okeh's promise of shutting down the adult entertainment establishment is not a guarantee.

Commissioner Norman: addressing Mr. Okeh, asks why he answered “No” to the question asking if he would conform to all laws and regulations pertaining to having a Liquor License. Due to the virtual setting, both the applicant and the opposition have a 10-day extension to add information that would assist their respective cases before the next hearing.

Commissioner Norman: asks Mr. Okeh ‘why would he not get ownership and occupancy in order before applying for the Liquor License?’

Mr. Camacho: The Board will be putting the 10-day rule into place.

Dennis Whitley: reiterates the financial risk his client is taking and that he needs validation for such risk. He then states that they will put the promise of the leasing of both buildings in writing.

Mayor Riazi: Asks where VIP Stage has a plan for success. Any business without a plan for advertising and promotion of business is not a place to trust.

Mr. Camacho: Tells Mayor Riazi and applicant to put these questions and anything else they have to provide in writing and submit to the Board. He then states to Mr. Okeh, “Faces have changed, but the story is still the same.”

Robert Clark: for the record, states tat there are no churches or schools within 500 ft.

Adjourned 11:31 am