

**June 25, 2024
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 10:15 a.m.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms: At the Board of License Commissioners, we endeavor to be as efficient as possible in our virtual environment. Thank you for your patience. This is a public meeting subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act so a truthful, transparent, open, and honest dialogue and record is required. As such, there are some formalities that will take place that may appear redundant but nonetheless are important and required to ensure compliance with the law.

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 of the BOLC. You may add information to the record long as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

TRANSFER OF LOCATION

1. Phani K. Damaraju, Member-Manager, Shweta Kansal, Member for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Cheers N Beer, LLC, **t/a Cheers N Beers**, 3500 East West Highway, #1433 Hyattsville, 20782, transfer from Town Center Wine and Spirits, LLC, t/a Town Center Wine and Spirits, 6401 America Blvd, Suite 100, Hyattsville, 20782, Phani K. Damaraju, Member, Shweta Kansal, Member. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
The Transfer Application for t/a Cheers N Beers has been withdrawn.
2. Ashuta Tandon, Member-Manager for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Collington Wine & Spirits, LLC, **t/a Collington Wine & Spirits**, 3400 Crain Highway, Bowie, 20716, transfer from Town Hall Wine & Spirits, LLC, t/a Town Hall Restaurant & Liquor, 8133 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740, Ashuta Tandon, Member-Manager. Continued from the May 28, 2024, hearing.
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
No follow up discussion or questions regarding the transfer.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of t/a Collington Wine & Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
Commissioner Camacho presented for the record; the history of the license was originally issued in 1949. The license has tremendous longevity and there are no other Class A licenses within 6-7 miles. This business accommodates futuristic public interest as more residential homes are being built in the area.
Commissioner Norman reiterates all factors have been heavily considered. Reviewing the maps presentation has left the Board with no opposition to the transfer.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
3. Kumar Vinod, Owner, for a Class B +, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Eastover Liquor LLC, **t/a Eastover Wine & Spirits**, 5127 Indian Head Highway, Oxon Hill, 20745, transfer from 24/7 MH Grocery & Restaurant, LLC, t/a 24/7 MH Grocery & Restaurant, 3210 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, 20748, Israt Jahan, Member-Manager. Licensee Represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.
Opposition Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.
The establishment currently has five (5) pending violations.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to continue the case for t/a Eastover Wine and Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

TRANSFER

1. Debra Louise McDowney, Managing Member/Authorized Person for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge, LLC, **t/a Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge**, 7651 Metapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, MD, 20613 transfer from Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge, LLC, t/a Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge, 7651 Metapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, 20613, Christopher Feemster, Managing Member/Authorized Person. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**. **Ms. McDowney** has 10 years' experience in the Restaurant Business and has recently become the Owner and General Manager at Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge. She is Alcohol Awareness certified and currently has 45-55 employees. All her bartenders are at least 21 years of age, and the average patron is between 25 to 70 years old. Ms. McDowney is familiar with the Boards Rules and Regulations. **There will be no changes made to the mode of operation.** **Ms. Carter** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. **This establishment does not permit the use of vertical or electronic identification.** **Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor license for t/a Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

NEW – CLASS B(BLX), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. Tao Li, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Everland, Inc., **t/a LaTao Hotpot College Park**, 8700 Baltimore Ave, Suites A & B, College Park, 20740. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**. **Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation. **Mr. Kim** states LaTao Hotpot College Park has held a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor license that has been in use since 2018-2019. Due to administrative issues, Mr. Li failed to renew the liquor license for the year. **Mr. Li** states he had mailed the renewal application out one week before the deadline, but it was lost. **No changes have been made to the Restaurant since the first original application.** **A copy of Alcohol Awareness training has been submitted to the Board.** **Mr. Kim** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. **Commissioner Camacho** motioned to grant the Class B(BLX) License to t/a LaTao Hotpot College Park, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

2. Bloi-Dei Dorzon, Owner, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of 1123 Huncho House Experience, LLC, t/a **1123 Huncho House Experience**, 6450 America Blvd, Suite 105, Hyattsville, 20782.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho gets clarification on the correct address of residency from the applicant and requests to have it amended within the application.

Councilwoman Fisher of District 2 testified in favor of this business stating that Mr. Dorzon has been a good steward and gives culinary business learning opportunities to students in a school nearby. He is a person who invests in the community. She believes that 1123 Huncho House Experience is a high economic boost and asset for her District.

Mr. Dorzon states he is currently the first chef in Prince George's County to become Chef of the year in the state of Maryland. His plan is to bring fine dining and an upscaled, elevated experience to the county that he grew up in. The goal is for the Restaurant and lounge to be a place where patrons can gain knowledge on quality food and liquor.

Commissioner Norman asked the applicant what his projected opening date was and what the difference was from this restaurant (1123 Huncho House Experience) and his other restaurant (Huncho House).

Mr. Dorzon states his projecting opening date was the upcoming week. The difference between his restaurants is that Huncho House consists of only fine dining food and 1123 Huncho House Experience consists of a full bar, fine dining, and West African cuisine.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B(BLX) License to t/a 1123 Huncho House Experience, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS D, BEER AND WINE

1. Leachkena Keo, Owner, for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of Lisa Nails II, LLC, t/a **Top Super Star Nails**, 3419 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, 20748. Represented by Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

The applicant was initially unable to list the six forms of I.D.'s, as well as the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. After pausing this case, the applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho ensures Mr. Keo understands that he can only purchase alcohol through Authorized Maryland Wholesale Distributors.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class D Beer and Wine License to t/a Top Super Star Nails, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia
Administrative Aide BOLC