

**July 10, 2024
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

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
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 7:07 p.m.

Commissioner Camacho: 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

- 1. t/a Calverton Liquors**, Jayshree J. Shah, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Jay, Inc., 11717 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, 20705. – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.
Calverton Liquors has recently undergone a transfer of location.
Ms. Carter and Ms. Shah requested that the Board grant the Sunday Sales Permit for the new address. An estimate of \$500-\$600k will be spent in building out the new location.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant the Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Calverton Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 2. t/a Brightseat Liquors**, Naresh C. Bhardwaj, President, Manish Patel, Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, GOPI VRAJ BASNA, Inc., 2600 Brightseat Road, Landover, 20785. Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
There will be no changes made to the application.
Mr. Kim stated Mr. Bhardwaj and Patel understand the requirements for expenditure and will be investing 50 thousand dollars to improving their liquor store.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant the Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Brightseat Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 3. t/a Apollo Wine & Spirits**, Harshadkumar Patel, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Eastover Wine & Spirits, LLC, 4585 Telfair Blvd, Suite #300A, Camp Springs, 20746. – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**.
This license was recently approved for a Transfer of Location.
Mr. Carter informs the Board the estimated opening date is in October or November of this year. Mr. Patel will be spending well over \$50,000 building out the premises.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant the Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Apollo Wine and Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 4. t/a 92 Chicken Wine and Spirits**, Youn Sook Kim, President, Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Youn's Corp., 10820J Rhode Island Avenue, Beltsville, 20705. Request for a Special Sunday Sales permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
Mr. Kim stated Ms. Kim understands the requirements for expenditure.
6 major items and photographs have been sent to the Board to improve and renovate the interior and exterior of 92 Chicken Wine and Spirits.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant the Sunday Sales Permit for t/a 92 Chicken Wine and Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. **t/a Greenbelt Liquors**, Lakshit Gaind, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, P.K. Liquors, Inc., 6000 Greenbelt Road #68, Greenbelt, 20770. – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.
Ms. Carter states Mr. Gaind agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations #76 in connection with Delivery Permits and #23 in connection with prohibition against deliveries to student housing.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Delivery Permit for t/a Greenbelt Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
6. **t/a Andrew's Restaurant**, Gwendolyn Sanders, Member-Manager, Devon Hall, Member-Manager, Class B(R), Beer, Wine and Liquor, K&W Kitchen, LLC, 6407-13 Suitland Road, Morningside, 20746. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
This establishment was approved for a transfer a year ago.
Mr. Kim informs the Board that at the time of the Transfer, a renewal application for a special entertainment was not filed. Therefore, the special entertainment for the premises expired. This is a refiled application under different license holders.
Corporal Hunt was able to meet with Mr. Whitney Young and made corrections to the security plan. They are approved for part time through the Office of Secondary Employment. The U&O and Rules and Regulations were also discussed. The security plan is adequate as approved.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant the special for t/a Andrew's Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
7. **t/a De Ranch Restaurant**, Paschal Agubuzo, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, De Revolution 2000, Inc., 3511 Maryland Avenue, Cheverly, 20785. – On November 14, 2023, the Board issued a provisional Special Entertainment Permit with a duration of six (6) months to specified conditions for compliance. The Board intended to conduct a follow-up of the premises to decide on granting a permanent Special Entertainment Permit.
Corporal Hunt has been monitoring calls for service regarding the Special Entertainment Permit and their probationary period. They have not since November 1st of last year had a call for service registered. No criminal activity or noise complaints.
Commissioner Norman asked Mr. Agubuzo if off duty police officers are usually used for security during his events?
Mr. Agubuzo stated additional security is present when he has entertainment events one to two times a month, outside of his normal course of business.
Ms. Sandra Plenty Carmon (Landover Resident) testified in opposition of this application.
Mr. James Carmon (Landover Resident) testified in opposition of this application.
Commissioner Norman requested to know if there was any feedback regarding the probation period from City of Cheverly.
Director Sheppard informed the Board no feedback or concerns have been made.

Commissioner Camacho explains that the six-month probationary period for the special entertainment period has been completed with minimal concerns from the public or residing areas.

Commissioner Norman motions to grant a permanent Special Entertainment Permit for t/a De Ranch Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

8. Miguel Venutra, President, Secretary, Treasurer, **t/a Anthony's New York Pizza & Pasta House**, 15480 Annapolis Road, Suite 220, Bowie, Maryland 20715, Class B, Beer and Wine, To wit: on February 7, 2024, the licensee was fined and ordered by the Board to attend or have an employee of the establishment attend Alcohol Awareness training, within ninety (90) days of the hearing for violation of Rule and Regulation #6. To date, proof of Alcohol Awareness Training has not been provided to the Board. Note: Even if proof of training is provided, the licensee must appear for this hearing. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.
9. Moises Juan Ramirez, President, Secretary, Treasurer, **t/a Mexico Lindo Restaurant of Maryland**, 5652 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710, Class BL(R), Beer, Wine and Liquor, to wit: on September 9, 2023, the licensee was fined and ordered by the Board to attend or have an employee of the establishment attend Alcohol Awareness training, within ninety (90) days of the hearing for violations of Rule and Regulation #9 and #32. To date, proof of Alcohol Awareness Training has not been provided to the Board. Note: Even if proof of training is provided, the licensee must appear for this hearing. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.
10. Marlon Selmon, Owner, **t/a BLVCK COW**, 6133 Highbridge Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, to wit: on February 7, 2024, the licensee was fined and ordered by the Board to attend or have an employee of the establishment attend Alcohol Awareness training, within ninety (90) days of the hearing for violation of Rule and Regulation #11. To date, proof of Alcohol Awareness Training has not been provided to the Board. Note: Even if proof of training is provided, the licensee must appear for this hearing. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Director Sheppard requested that the Board dismiss cases #8, 9 and 10 as Alcohol Awareness requirements have been satisfied. Commissioner Norman moved to dismiss case # 8, 9 and 10 as well as all show cause orders, seconded by Commissioner Sparkman. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

11. Zheng Hai Zheng, President, Secretary, Treasurer, **t/a Not Just Crab**, 3901 Branch Avenue, Suite 4255 A&B, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748, Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause or an alleged violation For an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: that on or about November 23, 2021, a new application for a Class B(DD) Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about August 23, 2022, approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after 6 months following being granted approval. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Ms. Carter explains that the reason this license has not been placed in operation after six months is because the premises failed the first fire inspection. It is undergoing a re-inspection soon. Mr. Zheng has invested 1.2 million dollars towards the construction cost of the business.

The projected opening date is within the end of the month.

Ms. Carter requests that the Board allow 90 days to put the license to use.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant a final 90 days for extension, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

12. Joseph A. Giovannoni, President/Treasurer (Deceased), Sherry Lynn Giovannoni, Vice President/Secretary, **t/a Fish Market Restaurant**, 7611 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland 20735, Class BL+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause or an alleged violation R.R. No. 37(E) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. "Change in Mode of Operation" -Specifically, the establishment was having entertainment without an Entertainment Permit. "In the event a licensee decides to significantly alter the mode of operation contained in the original application approved by the Board, at the time of issuance of the license, such change must first be presented to the Board for approval. Changes in the mode of operation would include but not be limited to, entertainment, alteration of physical premises, and presentation of food, alcoholic beverages, seats and/or physical environment both inside and outside of the licensed premises." To wit: on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, at approximately 10:08 pm, Liquor Inspectors Farmer-Johnson and Kinney of the Board of License Commissioners conducted an Entertainment Inspection at the Fish Market Restaurant located at 7611 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Upon exiting their cars, they heard music coming from inside the establishment. They observed a security guard just inside the door checking IDs. As they entered the establishment, the music became louder, and it was obvious that the music was being amplified from a speaker. They inspected the alcoholic beverage license to check for the presence of a Special Entertainment endorsement. There was none. The license clearly stated, "NO ENTERTAINMENT PERMITTED". They immediately proceeded over to the DJ to gather photo evidence of the DJ at his station and the amplified speakers hooked to his equipment. The DJ continued to switch songs and work between two (2) separate tables on his platform. Based on the observation a violation was issued. The licensee had a previous violation dated June 02, 2023, for RR #1 Sale to a minor, fined \$1,500. The licensee is subject to all potential

penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.

Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Kinney of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on April 20, 2024.

Ms. Giovannoni stated she was not present at the time of the incident. Music is played through an iPod on speakers. She was informed the bartender had risen the sound and had access to manipulate the iPod through the speakers. At the time of the incident, Ms. Giovannoni was told that the speakers were not adequate although previous inspectors had no concern before.

Commissioner Camacho asked for previous history of attaining a Special Entertainment Permit.

Ms. Giovannoni explained that she has had a Special Entertainment Permit before that was surrendered.

Commissioner Norman questioned the hours Ms. Giovannoni is present within the premises and when the last time a Special Entertainment permit was held?

Ms. Giovannoni explains she is on duty Tuesday to Sunday but was not there on the day of the incident. She has not had the permit since the previous year.

Commissioner Smith requests previous violation within the past two years.

Commissioner Camacho informs the Board there has been one sale to minor violation on June 2, 2023.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to find the licensees for t/a Fish Market Restaurant in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$5,000 within 90 days, \$2,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

13. Israt Jahan, Manager/Member, t/a **24/7 MH Grocery and Restaurant**, 3210 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, Maryland 20748, Class B, BL+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause or an alleged violation for multiple alleged violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commissioners, for Prince George's County to include R.R. No. 4, R.R. No. 26, R.R. No. 32, R.R. No. 37, and R.R. No. 83. To wit: on Friday, May 10, 2024, at approximately 11:10 am, Chief Liquor Inspector Clark, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspectors Mendoza, and Vauss from the Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) and Inspector Stanton from DPIE conducted a Focus Inspection at 24/7 MH Grocery and Restaurant, located at 3210 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, Maryland. Upon arrival to 24/7 MH Grocery and Restaurant, we conducted a visual observation of the outside perimeter of the establishment. We instantly noticed that the restaurant associated with the liquor store had a handwritten notice, taped on the front door, informing the community that the restaurant was now closed. Therefore, the licensee was in violation of R.R. NO. 37 -CHANGE IN MODE OF OPERATION. The Chief then asked to see the inventory and all invoices associated with all the alcohol. Mr. Maid replied, this is all the alcohol we have on site. He was unable to provide invoice records to prove the purchase, which is a direct violation of RR. NO. 26(A7)-RECORDS. We asked Mr. Maid to provide employee records to ensure he was an employee of the establishment and he replied, "I do not have any". He was then informed that he was in direct violation of R.R. NO. 4 -RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES. Since Mr. Maid was in charge

of 24/7 MH Grocery & Restaurant and the only person working at the establishment. He was asked if he was Alcohol Awareness certified and he replied "no". For this reason, he was advised that he was in direct violation of R.R. NO. 83 -ALCOHOL AWARENESS.

Throughout the investigation, (Mr. Maid) the individual working as an employee at 24/7 MH Grocery and Restaurant was very dismissive and would not assist with locating the owner. For these reasons he was in direct violation of R.R. NO. 32 -INSPECTIONS. The licensee has one previous violation in the past two years (May 5, 2024). The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.

Linda Carter, Esquire, representing secured creditor of the business, Malkeep Singh.

Vinayak Saxena, Esquire, representing three members of the LLC.

Mr. Saxena states the 70% owner was not aware of the selling of the license the day the citations were given; the members of the LLC were not present as the licensee illegally filed a false peace order request to keep them off the property, that was litigated and dismissed. The peace order was dismissed on May 11th, a day after the fines were given.

Ms. Carter requests that the Board hold and suspend the right to sell and use the license while decisions about proceeds can be determined by the three creditors.

Mr. Saxena requests the Board to hold the license while there are pending litigations before the circuit court to the ownership of the corporation holding 70%.

Ms. Jahan was initially on the hearing, at the time of testimony, the Board could not get in contact with her.

Commissioner DeLoach granted approval of proceeding with the case without the licensee.

Deputy Chief Vauss of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on May 10, 2024.

Mr. Saxena further explains that his clients are the main operators of the store who keep records and invoices maintained properly. Ms. Jahan and her husband were operating in a way that was not compliant with the Board's Rules and Regulation. Due to the false peace order, on the day of the inspection, his clients were not allowed within 50 feet of the premises or made aware of the selling of the license. To clarify, Mr. Mohammed is a family friend, he is not affiliated with the store.

Ms. Carter had no further statements. She had no knowledge of Mr. Saxena's clients until now. No objection to indefinite suspension of the license.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to assess a fine of \$7, 500 and suspend the license indefinitely, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia
Administrative Aide BOLC