

**July 23, 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  
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector  
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager  
Katrice James, Administrative Aide  
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide  
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide

**Start Time: 10:17 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.

## PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Mango's Restaurant & Lounge**, Class B(R), Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 1404 University Blvd E, Unit #G12, Jose Portillo to serve as President.

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

**Mr. Portillo** has been a licensee for more than 10 years throughout various establishments located in Prince George's County. He understands and agrees to abide by the Board's Rules and Regulations.

**Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Mango's Restaurant & Lounge, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

2. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a El Puente De Oro Restaurant**, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 1401 University Blvd E. Unit G#5, College Park, 20740, Francisco Amadeo Perez to serve as President.

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

**Mr. Perez** stated he has a familiar affiliation (cousin) with the owner of El Puente de Oro Restaurant and requests to be added as the main license holder.

**Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a El Puente De Oro Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

## REGULAR SESSION

### TRANSFER

1. Alexander Rivera, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B(DD), Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of A R & R, LLC, **t/a Costa del Sol Restaurant Bar & Grill**, 4819-21 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, 20710 transfer from GFA Corp., t/a Casa Dora III, 4819-21 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, 20710, Jose Escobar, President, Dora Escobar, Secretary/Treasurer, German Escobar, Vice President.

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

**Mr. Rivera** stated the restaurant was recently sold and formerly known as Casa Dora. There is a new Owner and President for the establishment.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions 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** makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B(DD), Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for t/a Costa del Sol Restaurant Bar & Grill, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

### NEW – CLASS B(AE), BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR

1. Mfon-Obong Edet, Owner, Warapat Ozouf, Owner, Ratana Poowasuwan, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Siam Thai Cuisine, LLC, **t/a Siam Thai Cuisine**, 5501 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 104, Hyattsville, 20782.

Applicants do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**An Exhibit book was sent to the Board.**

**Ms. Edet** stated the restaurant was formerly known as Tara Thai. It has been an established business in the Hyattsville community for the past decade. In 2023, Tara Thai underwent new management and ownership. The plan is to still bring authentic Thai Cuisine into the DMV area. The menu currently consists of 23 entrees, 18 appetizers and a select few desserts for guest dining experience. Siam Thai Cuisine would like to expand their beverage menu by creating cocktails to pair well with signature Thai dishes for true authentic Thai experience.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. **One applicant was initially unable to list the six acceptable forms of I.D., after pausing this case the applicant was able to answer each question. The two other applicants were able to answer each question.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B(AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor, license for t/a Siam Thai Cuisine, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

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

1. Jin Gao, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Seok Won Yi, Resident Agent, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of The Twisted Crab-Bowie Towne Mall, LLC, t/a **The Twisted Crab Seafood and Bar**, 15535 Emerald Way, Suite E, Bowie, 20716.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

Applicants do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

**Mr. Gao** stated that this establishment previously had a license. The license holder is no longer with the corporation. He requests that the Board allow The Twisted Crab Seafood and Bar to obtain a new Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for the establishment.

**Commissioner Norman** requests to know who will oversee operating the business and whether those in charge have been Alcohol Awareness certified.

**Mr. Yi** lets the Board know that he and Mr. Gao will not be on the premises very often, but the general store manager and bartender who will be on the premises have been Alcohol Awareness certified.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, license for t/a The Twisted Crab Seafood and Bar, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

## NEW – CLASS B, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR

### (Distillery)

1. Floyd Wheeler, CEO/President, Jamel Blagmon, Director, Cedric Wilson, Director, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor (Distillery) for the use of Free State Distillery, Inc., t/a **Free State Distillery**, 1001 Prince George’s Blvd, Suite 200, Upper Marlboro, 20774. **Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

Applicants do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

**Mr. Wheeler** requested permission to mix spirits created on site with mixers to have a cocktail bar at the tasting lounge inside of their distillery. The distillery was founded in 2019-2020. They are approved by the federal government (TTB) as a distillery and wholesaler as well as the Maryland State Board. It is zoned in an industrial area. This destination is not only a place to produce wine and spirits but a place where guests can gather without having to travel far. The business is not open yet, there are last minute updates that are being made to the Use & Occupancy. There will be light fare and snacks available to patrons. The grand opening is expected to take place in October.

**All three applicants have been Alcohol Awareness certified.**

**Mr. Adams**, President of Adams and Company Commercial Brokers Inc. management for Keystone business center, condominium, testified in opposition of this case.

**Commissioner Sparkman, Commissioner Norman and Commissioner Smith** cross examined the witness.

**Mr. Adams** requested to invoke the ten-day rule.

**Director Sheppard** invoked the ten-day rule.

**Board Attorney DeLoach** assured both parties can add to the record and submit files to the Board and clarified this case may be reopened for questioning after the ten-day rule.

**This case will be reconsidered on the August 7, 2024, hearing.**

## NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR

**Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms** provided an explanation of the competition process that would be utilized to determine which establishments would be granted the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses. Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms further explained there were only four licenses that would be granted and six establishments competing. After all cases are heard, in the competition, the involved establishments are ranked from most points to least number of points. The top four establishments with the most points are then granted the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License.

**There were no objections to the rules of engagement.**

## NEW – CLASS B, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR

1. Maria D. Aguilar, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Charcoal Chicken, Inc., **t/a Brazas Tex-Mex Bar & Grill**, 6315-6317-6319 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, 20748.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

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

**Ms. Aguilar's** plan for the restaurant is to provide Peruvian Chicken and Tex-Mex, chipotle style cuisine. This is going to be a family friendly restaurant.

She is requesting an alcoholic beverage license to be able to provide patrons with happy hour.

**Director Sheppard** informed the Board the applicant did not qualify for this kind of license as she is the sole member applying but not a resident of the county.

**Ms. Aguilar** clarified she had Ms. Mejia listed in the application as a stockholder who is a resident of the county. The application could be amended to qualify Ms. Mejia as a licensee instead of a stockholder.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

**Commissioner Norman** requests the projected opening date of the business.

**Ms. Aguilar** plans to open her business as soon as they are granted the license.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to amend the application t/a Brazas Tex-Mex Bar & Grill to reflect that Olga Mejia is a co-licensee, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to amend the application to reflect the change in business hours to 10:30 am- 10:00 pm seven days a week.

**After the Board vote, the motion carries.**

**There is no opposition present for this case.**

2. Kenneth Ndeh, President/CEO, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of MMB Unlimited, LLC, **t/a Bistro 64**, 6494 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**Mr. Ndeh** stated that the construction of the business began in 2021 and began operating in 2023. Bistro 64 previously had an alcoholic beverage license. Mr. Ndeh was a silent investor of the business and since losing the license, he has moved in full scale. The previous licensee is no longer affiliated with the business. The business has been closed since June 2024. Mr. Ndeh's goal is to provide Mediterranean, African, and African American cuisine, operating solely as a restaurant.

**Commissioner Norman** requests the projected re-opening date of the business.

**Mr. Ndeh** informed the Board his intention is to open in early August 2024. He recently held an open house to hire new employees.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify 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.

**There is no opposition present for this case.**

3. Jose B. Martinez, President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of JC Martinez, Inc., **t/a El Sitio Restaurant**, 5837 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, 20737. Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

**This establishment previously lost their alcoholic beverage license during the Renewal season.**

**Mr. Martinez** explains to the Board that at the time of renewal, he was ill. He had sent the manager of El Sitio Restaurant to renew the license, but he was not well informed of the process. He did not meet the renewal deadline. The license was expired.

**Commissioner Camacho** requested to know the time he held the license for.

**Mr. Martinez** has been a licensee for thirteen years with no prior violations.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify 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.

**There is no opposition present for this case.**

4. Blanche Mokoso, Co-Owner/CEO, Patrick Kamgang, Co-Owner/President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Map Grill House, Inc., **t/a Map Grill House**, 4503-4505 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, 20737. Represented by **Michael D. Herman, Esquire.**

**Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

**Katrice James, Administrative Aide of the BOLC requests clarification on the spelling of the trade name and location of the restaurant.**

**Mr. Herman** clarifies the name of the restaurant is Map Grill & Bar and the location is 4503 Queensbury Road.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to amend the application to show that the name is Map Grill & Bar and located at 4503 Queensbury Road.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**An Exhibit book has been submitted to the Board.**

**Mr. Herman** stated this location was formerly known as Geppetto Catering which closed during the pandemic. There were two commercial buildings that were ready to be used in the town of Riverdale Park. The Mayor and Council of the town of Riverdale Park requested approval and support of this application. The operation of the takeout next door at 4505 Queensbury is already open during extended business hours. The goal is to have the Bar & Grill open so that both can continue more elaborate food service. This establishment will be offering traditional and West African cuisines that are unique to the area and Riverdale Community as there are no other restaurants serving this kind of menu.

There are approximately 78 seats indoors, entrees ranging from \$20-\$30 and cloth tabletops. 15-20 people will have jobs because of this operation. They are currently

undergoing a hiring process. There are many neighbors and community members in support of this application. The plan is to be operational and fully open in August 2024.

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

**There are no oppositions present for this case.**

5. Ghazal Fatima Amir, Managing Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Crab Cab, LLC, t/a **Crab Cab**, 9100 Alaking Court, Suite 120, Capitol Heights, 20743. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

**Ms. Manosh**, a frequent patron of Crab Cab located in Virginia, testified in favor of this application.

**Mr. Parker**, a resident of Prince George's County testified in favor of this application.

**Ms. Coyoca**, a patron of Crab Cab and resident of Prince George's County, testified in favor of this application.

**Ms. Carter** informs the Board Ms. Amir has been in hospitality since she was twelve. She had a food truck and when the pandemic arose, she started donating her food to hospitals and first responders. The food truck became very successful. She opened her first location in Alexandria, Virginia. The restaurant has made \$1.6 million dollars a year. Ms. Amir found a location directly across from the Ritchie Marlboro developmental district and was denied the location when she first tried to open her business. The landlord saw how successful her location in Virginia was and allowed her to take the vacant spot she originally wanted. There are very few sit down restaurants in the area let alone, serving seafood. Her total buildout is 1 million dollars. There are 46 seats inside and 22 outside. Ms. Amir anticipates serving 250-300 people a week. She will have 30-40 employees with a payroll between \$400-600k a year. She has committed to making sure every front house person is Alcohol Awareness certified.

**An exhibit book has been submitted to the Board.**

**Ms. Carter** stated all permits have been approved. The projected opening date is October. A petition has been filed with an excess of 250 signatures of many Maryland and DC residents that have come to her Virginia location. Her food to alcohol percentage is currently 70% food and 30% alcohol in Virginia which will be very similar to this new location. It will be a full-service restaurant. Ms. Amir has hired Mr. Gadson who has had 30 years in the restaurant business and 15 years' experience at Jerry's seafood as her consultant who will be helping her and spending most of his time at this new location.

**Ms. Amir** states she wanted to come to Prince George's County because she lives here. A lot of her customers are from Prince George's County and have stuck around since having her food truck. This location will help more people to be able to come experience her food rather than needing to travel from Maryland or DC to Virginia.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify 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** made a motion to amend the application to show that question 6 on the affidavit is answered as no, indicating no gambling violations, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**There are no oppositions present for this case.**

6. Moises Diaz, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Vany, Inc., t/a **Los Antojitos Mexican Grill**, 9123 Riggs Road, Adelphi, 20783.

**Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

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

**Mr. Diaz** requested that the Board grant him the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for Los Antojitos Mexican Grill.

**Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify 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.

**There are no oppositions present for this case.**

**Commissioner Camacho** made a motion to amend the application to show that question 2 on the affidavit is answered yes on the application, indicating he understands that a person other than the applicant cannot have financial interest in the business, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

#### **Beer, Wine, and Liquor Competition Results:**

**Top 4 Establishments with the highest points scored received the license.**

1. **Crab Cab (100 Points)**
2. **Map Grill House (90 Points)**
3. **El Sitio (80 Points)**
4. **Brazas Tex-Mex Bar & Grill (70 Points)**
5. **Los Antojitos Mexican Grill (35 Points)**
6. **Bistro 64 (0 Points)**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Brazas Tex-Mex Bar & Grill, El Sitio, Map Grill House, and Crab Cab, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

#### **NEW – CLASS C, BEER, AND WINE**

Linda Milligan, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrative Officer, Thomas S. Milligan, President, CEO for a Class C, Beer, and Wine for the use of Milligan Enterprises, Inc., t/a **Gunpowder Golf Club**, 14300 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, 20707. Represented by

**Linda Carter, Esquire.**

**Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

**This establishment has previously had an alcoholic beverage license.**

**Ms. Carter** explained to the Board that the license was not timely renewed this year. She requests that the Board issue out the same exact license that has been at this facility for the last 15 years. Mr. Milligan's family were the original owners of the Golf Course before it was sold to the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Milligan and Ms. Milligan continued operating the Golf Course within the family. Since operating without the license, many issues have aroused. Angry patrons have tried to bring their own bottles. The license was first issued in 1964. They have never had a sale to a minor violation since then.

**An exhibit book has been submitted to the Board. A copy of the lease will be submitted as well.**

**Ms. Carter** asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class C, Beer, and Wine, license for t/a Gunpowder Golf Club, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

## **NEW – CLASS C, GCC, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR**

1. Mulugeta Tesfakiros, Sole Managing Member, Aster Haileselassie, Member, Sentayehue A. Desta, Member for a Class C, GCC, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of DC Dynasty, LLC, **t/a National Golf Club at Tantallon**, 300 St. Andrews Drive, Fort Washington, 20744. Represented by **Charles Walton**.

**Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

**Mr. Walton** informs the Board that the National Golf Club at Tantallon has existed for almost 60 years and have previously held licenses over the years. The license was expired under the previous owner. The club was acquired before covid in 2019. There were a series of delays in transferring the license due to the pandemic. The application was made a day late, causing the license to expire. An application was later submitted to the Board under the new owners. The club has been a social hub in the community for many years, offering many recreational amenities including a club house, swimming pool as well as hosting of events including weddings and other celebrations in the community. The golf club is a place where Tantallon citizen association hold their monthly meetings. The golf club benefits the community from an economic perspective. Many businesses rely on the events held at the golf club for catering, florists, and entertainers. The club supports local businesses and has been very charitable in its efforts to donating the club space for those organizations in need or with lower funding.

**Mr. Tesfakiros** testified to the Board that about 2 million dollars have been spent to renew the Golf Course. It employs about 48 people and stayed open even during the pandemic. He is happy to be able to serve in different aspects within the community and requests that the Board grant the alcoholic beverage license again.

**Ms. Desta testified about the immense loss in profit since the license has been expired and requests that the Board issue out a new license.**

**Commissioner Norman** questions the timeline of the purchase of the club.

**Ms. Tesfakiros** explains to the Board that the club was purchased in September 2019 and the license was maintained under the prior owner until March 2024. The license expired June 2024. The new owners were not familiar of the renewing process of the license and now understand the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

**Mr. Walton** asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. All applicants were able to answer each question.

**Commissioner Norman** asked the applicants if alcoholic beverages had been sold since June 30, 2024, the date the license was set to expire.

**Mr. Watson** explains that they had filed an application prior to the license expiring. On May 16, 2024, a request was made for extension and to not allow it to lapse. Liquor was briefly served and discontinued once learned that there was no extension.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to continue the application for another 60-90 days, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to amend his motion to continue the application for 60 days, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Adjourned: 2:40 p.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Ariana Posada-Mejia**  
*Administrative Aide BOLC*