

**July 12, 2023
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:02 p.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:

1. Gregory Jones, Member-Manager, Hope Jones, Member-Manager, **t/a Trinity Grill**, 3010 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Rule and Regulation #32 (Inspections: Uncooperative). To wit; on Friday, April 28, 2023, at approximately 2:15 pm during a routine inspection, the owner of Trinity Grill became irate over the phone with Inspector Pascual regarding the inspection process. The manager, who was on the scene and a female employee, began to challenge the inspector as he attempted to do his job. Further, the manager followed the inspector out to his vehicle and took a picture of the inspector's license plate as a way of intimidation. 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 their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Inspector Pascual of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on April 28, 2023.

Mr. Jones states if he was present for the inspection, things wouldn't have gone so badly. His son and niece were present at the restaurant and were skeptical about letting the Inspector inside the establishment. My son only took a picture of his badge to show it to me, I apologize, and it'll never happen again.

Commissioner Camacho reiterated that our inspectors need to be respected so they can do their jobs.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Trinity Grill in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Anna Zheng, Owner, **t/a New Rio Buffet & Bar**, 3745A Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Maryland Annotated Code 6-304 selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one and R.R No. 1 Sales to a minor of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; on Friday, April 28, 2023, at approximately 8:40 pm one (1) underage male operative (20 yr. old) of the Prince George's County Cadet Program and one (1) undercover police officer from the Prince George's County Police Department entered New Rio Buffet & Bar located at 3745 A Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, MD 20748. The operative ordered one 12 oz bottle of Heineken Beer, the cashier did not check for ID and 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 **Sharon Chu, Esquire.**

Inspector Bagby of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on April 28, 2023.

Ms. Chu states we deeply regret this incident and apologize that this happened. The individual responsible for this was a new employee, the manager wasn't present on this day. Ms. Zheng has held several meetings with the staff and now everyone must show I.D. She is taking remedial steps to address this.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to fine the licensee for New Rio Buffet & Bar \$3,000 if Alcohol Awareness Certificate is provided or \$4,500 if Alcohol Awareness certificate isn't provided. **No second, motion dies.**

Commissioner Sparkman makes a motion to find the licensee for New Rio Buffet & Bar, in violation as charged with a fine of \$6,000 and additional training for any employees serving alcohol, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Eloisa Guzman, President, t/a **La Sirenita Restaurant**, 4911 Edmonston Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781, Class DW(On), Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Maryland Annotated Code for an alleged violation of Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; on or about Wednesday, April 6, 2023, at approximately 8:10 p.m., Inspector Bagby, of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted an inspection at the licensed premises located at 4911 Edmonston Road, Hyattsville, MD. Inspector Bagby observed 11 1.75L bottles of Gold Margarita and 1 1.75L bottles Strawberry Margarita all Kirkland (Costco Brand), which is not an authorized distributor. 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.

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

Inspector Bagby of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on April 6, 2023.

Ms. Guzman states she did purchase two boxes of margaritas from Costcos for her birthday party. She was sick on the date of her birthday party, so the margaritas were never used or removed from the premises. The margaritas were purchased, but not to sell to customers.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a La Sirenita Restaurant in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500 and training, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC