

**April 26, 2022
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 10:05 a.m.

Commissioner Forbes: This is an open meeting for the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. Welcome to our House. To ensure compliance with the law (Maryland Open Meetings Act) and our goal of transparency, to please identify yourself when speaking and speak audibly. As a professional courtesy, when not speaking, please mute your device. If someone from the public that is not providing testimony as a witness today, I will recognize you in the hearing and give you an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Everyone's voice matters at the BOLC. We understand that some of you may be passionate about what you have to say and that passion, in this regard, is permissible. What is not permissible is if truth, facts, and respect are not grounded in your voice. Thank you in advance for being truthful, respectful, and honest during the entire proceeding.

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 **Top's Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 4422 Wheeler Road, Oxon Hill, 20745, Navdeep K. Teja, to serve as Secretary/Treasurer in the place instead of Rupinder K. Chahal, Secretary.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Ms. Navdeep Teja is sworn in.

Ms. Carter states the establishment hasn't had any violations before and they've been operating since 2002.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

No questions from Commissioners.

Once the series of questions were completed, **Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Top's Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

REGULAR SESSION

CONTINUATION- APRIL 13, 2022

Hyattsville Spirits & Grill 2022-2023 Renewal Protest

Hyattsville Spirits & Grill is represented by **Bob Kim, Esquire**.

The Public is represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Kim and Ms. Carter, we've received some documents from both of you within the last 24-48 hours. We have a lot going on in this matter. What I think is the best next steps is for us to consume all the information that has been provided to us. Ms. Carter you sent in your written response. Mr. Kim, we want to give you the opportunity to provide a written response as well. From that, we would move forward with having the Board consider any written response that you would have to Ms. Carter's response.

Mr. Kim: I thought at the hearing the Board noted my objection and sustained my objection. I think whatever has been submitted by Ms. Carter is really sort of rehashing the objections that I raised, and the Board sustained. I'm not exactly sure why that's still an issue, we had a hearing, there was significant testimony from the supporters in connection with the applications for renewal. The licensees believe that we have proven and shown that we're footing proper that it's necessary to combat the public, and it's not going to disturb the peace and quiet in the neighborhood. There was virtually no testimony from the opposition group led by Maryland News Center. That disputed the combination issue, disputed the disturbing the peace and quiet in the neighborhood, but there's certainly no testimony about whether they're fitting proper people. The issues raised we had really nothing to do with those and my objection again was sustained. I thought I did submit a response saying that I objected to it, and I think that whatever's been filed subsequent, he should be stricken because again, it's not a new matter.

Commissioner Forbes: You don't have to respond to the latest that Ms. Carter submitted, we wanted to give you the opportunity to do so. There's no doubt there's a lot of stuff going on in this particular hearing. We were dealing with Mr. Farrar, we haven't heard from Mr.

Farrar. We've heard from Ms. Carter, we've heard from you, Ms. Carter, submitted a very comprehensive, fulsome response. I wanted to give you the opportunity to respond in any way that you may see fit, and then take all of that response, and all of the testimony under advisement, because there's a lot and we don't want to inadvertently step in it, Mr. Kim, if you will and we need to get it right.

Mr. DeLoach: Mr. Kim, the Board is giving you an opportunity to respond substantively to the arguments that Linda Carter, on behalf of her clients, is making. To have a full record of responses to the legal issues.

Commissioner Forbes: Based on the response that we received from Ms. Carter; we want to give you ten days to do a substantive response. Then the Board will take both of those responses under advisement. The Board will come back to you and decide what the next steps are.

No further questions from Ms. Carter or Mr. Kim.

No comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Kim, we look forward to your submission you have ten days, and we'll continue Hyattsville Spirit & Grill the renewal protest from April 13, 2022.

TRANSFER

1. Geetaben S. Patel, Member-Manager, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Marlton Spirits, LLC, **t/a Marlton Liquors**, 9518 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772 transfer from Marlton Liquors, LLC, t/a Marlton Liquors, 9518 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772, Bhogilal J. Patel, Member.

Robert Kim, Esquire is representing.

Ms. Geetaben S. Patel is sworn in.

Mr. Atish Damania (Interpreter) is sworn in.

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. They've submitted a copy of the Alcohol Awareness certificate.

No questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Marlton Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Girishbhai B. Patel, Sole Member, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of SkyHill, LLC, **t/a The Liquor Junction**, 11201 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, 20623 transfer from My Hicks, LLC, t/a W. Carlton Hicks, 11201 S. Crain Highway, Cheltenham, 20623, Betty Armwood, Member/Authorized Person, Rajendra T. Babaria, Member.

Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire is representing.

Mr. Girishbhai B. Patel is sworn in.

Ms. Schrecengost states this is a transfer of ownership at the location known as Hicks Liquor, but we are also changing the trade name at the time of this transfer. Once the settlement is complete, it'll be known as The Liquor Junction.

Ms. Schrecengost 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.

No questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a The Liquor Junction, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Manjit Kaur Kullar, Member-Manager, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Community Beverages, LLC, t/a **Bill's Wine & Liquor**, 7431 Annapolis Road, Hyattsville, 20784 transfer from Community Beverages, LLC, t/a Bill's Wine & Liquor, 7431 Annapolis Road, Hyattsville, 20784, Jatinder Gosal, Member-Manager.

Robert Kim, Esquire is representing.

Ms. Manjit K. Kullar is sworn in.

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. They've submitted a copy of the Alcohol Awareness certificate.

No questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Bill's Wine & Liquor, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Jaymin M. Patel, Member-Manager, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Tony's Wine & Spirits, LLC, t/a **Tony's Liquors**, 12637 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, 20708 transfer from Laurel Bowie 197 Liquors, Inc., t/a Tony's Liquors, 12637 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, 20708, Kaushik Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer.

Robert Kim, Esquire is representing.

Mr. Jaymin M. Patel is sworn in.

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.

No questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Tony's Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS C, GCC, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Joseph G. Cotton, Resident Agent for a Class C, GCC, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Troon Beverages of Maryland, LLC, t/a **Bowie Golf & Country Club**, 7420 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, 20715.

Paul Jackson, Esquire is representing.

Mr. Joseph Cotton is sworn in.

Mr. Thomas Basil is sworn in.

Mr. Nick Spurgin is sworn in.

Mr. Jackson asked the applicant and two witnesses the standard questions used to qualify for the Class C license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant and the witnesses were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman asked the following questions. What is the percentage of individual residence taxes? What does the membership costs? The requirement is that we must have members pay the dues. How do we equate the taxes to dues? What are the average costs of dues for the golf course? What's the monthly fee? If I'm not a Bowie resident, how much am I paying? We must show that you have 200 due paying members. So, we're talking \$540 a year to play all year long and for non-residents? On average every month, you have an excess of 200 people paying \$45 at minimum to play golf?

Mr. Spurgin and Mr. Basil answered the series of questions. The membership costs are part of the taxes. The taxes equate to dues, it is a fee, but it's paid towards the service. The residents pay a certain percentage of real estate taxes, income taxes for all kinds of services in the city of Bowie. They pay for the service being provided. Members pay a monthly fee and then they get a better rate for golf. The monthly fee is \$25 a month for residents and \$45 a month for non-residents and you get a discounted rate on golf. The \$45 a month gets those individuals a \$20 rate during the week and \$25 rate during the weekend. So, they're paying that monthly fee and then they're still paying when they come to play golf. There are 200 members.

Commissioner Camacho: The Bowie Country Club held a Class C license previously?

Mr. Spurgin: The previous arrangement we had with the city was a leased operation. There was an entity that leased the property, now the arrangement is that we have partnered with a management firm. Someone comes in and manages the facility for us. All revenue and liability come back to the City of Bowie.

Commissioner Camacho: Mr. DeLoach, have we satisfied the requirement based on the testimony provided?

Mr. DeLoach: That is clearly up to the Board. Mr. Jackson, is there anywhere on the city's website that indicates the residents are members of the Golf Club?

Mr. Spurgin: Bowie residents clearly understand it is an owned facility by the City of Bowie, they clearly demonstrate an ownership right to the property. Regarding the website, I'd have to go back and search to see if that information is out there. If that's a requirement of the Board, that's not a problem to take care of.

Mr. DeLoach: Mr. Jackson, the statute that you're trying to comply with it's 200 members and a \$75 per year membership dues. Is that correct?

Mr. Jackson: We're not going under that clause. We're applying under C2, this golf club doesn't have a tennis court or swimming pool.

Mr. DeLoach: What is your understanding of the requirements under that clause?

Mr. Jackson: My understanding is that an establishment has at least 500 members who pay dues.

Mr. DeLoach: Vice Chair the testimony before you today is that they have at least 500 members, and they become members by virtue of a portion of their real estate taxes being submitted to the general fund. As a result of their tax payment, they become members.

Mr. DeLoach: If there is a Bowie resident who fails to pay taxes, are there benefits for amenities in the city of Bowie? That's a small percentage of Bowie residents that don't pay their taxes. It's the Board's decision to determine whether you are comfortable with that payment plan.

Mr. Spurgin: Ultimately, those real estate taxes are collected. We have greater than 18,000 residents, there is a very small percentage of vacant properties.

Commissioner Norman: This money is coming from property taxes? Does that mean that the Bowie residents who live in apartments and don't own property, don't get the advantage of the residential discount? They aren't paying property taxes.

Commissioner Camacho takes the gavel at this time.

Mr. Spurgin: It's not just property taxes, it's also income taxes. We use the Maryland Real Property Database tool as a guide at Indigo Bowie Golf Management. So that we have the proper tools to be able to look up addresses. All the apartments in Bowie get the membership rate.

No further questions.

Chief Liquor Inspector Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class C license for t/a Bowie Golf & Country Club, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS C(CLF), BEER, WINE & LIQUOR

Leon Dodson, Adjutant, Daryl Smith, Post Service Officer, Warren Parham, 2nd Vice Commander, for a Class C(CLF), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of The American Legion, William Francis Smith Post No. 235, Inc., t/a **William Francis Smith American Legion Post #235**, 7813 Old Muirkirk Road, Beltsville, 20705. Continued from February 22, 2022.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Benjamin Carter, Esquire is appointed by Ms. Carter to handle this case.

Mr. Carter states we previously applied for a Class C Veterans organization license, there was a question on the February 22, 2022, hearing as to whether their membership qualified for this license. We amended the application, so that it's a Class C Fraternity Beer, Wine, and Liquor license. Except for the change in the license class, there has been no changes to the application. For the record, this lodge previously had a Class C Veterans license. It's our understanding, the applicants all previously testified in the

February 22, 2022, hearing. We'd like for that testimony to carry over today. Should the Board require anything from any of the applicants, we have them here with us this morning.

Mr. Carter is allowed to proffer for his clients. He states that the three applicants are the top officers at the post, they are familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations, and they agree to abide by those rules and all applicable laws by the state of Maryland.

Commissioner Camacho: Mr. DeLoach, have they in fact met the bar for the change of license?

Mr. DeLoach suggests we need to hear an argument from counsel on how they meet the requirements.

Mr. Carter: The post has 100 members, not all are veterans. We submitted a package to the Board, that includes a list of members, they are a service organization, and a veteran's organization.

No further questions.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class C license for t/a William Francis Smith American Legion Post #235, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

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

1. Walter Andino, Member, Ioannis Korologos, Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Cuscatlecos, LLC, **t/a Double T Diner**, 14550 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Benjamin Carter, Esquire will be handling this case.

Mr. Walter Andino is sworn in.

Mr. Carter states that Mr. Andino and Mr. Korologos previously had a license before at this establishment. They made the decision at one point not to renew and subsequently decided it made since to have a license again.

Mr. Carter asked the applicant, Mr. Andino, the standard questions used to qualify his client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. The applicants had no violations with their previous license for this location. No other changes to the application. Mr. Korologos did testify in a previous hearing.

Mr. Carter: Mr. DeLoach, if the Board would consider the fact Mr. Korologos previously testified for a license at this establishment, we respectfully request the Board grant this license today.

Mr. DeLoach: In conjunction with this application, you're saying your client has testified?

Mr. Carter: No, he previously testified for this Board, when they initially filed for a Class B license when they let the license lapse. This Board did not award them a license at that hearing. Mr. Korologos testified at that time as well.

Commissioner Camacho: At the time it was contested, and they were not chosen.

Mr. DeLoach: To make the record complete, my advice to the Board is we should get Mr. Korologos testimony. You can suspend this hearing right now, if they can get him back on the line later. You can pick up where you left off, or you can postpone it.
Commissioners agree to wait for Mr. Korologos' testimony.

2. Marlon Selmon, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Blacktie Cow, LLC, t/a **BLVCK COW**, 6133 Highbridge Road, Bowie, 20720.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Marlon Selmon is sworn in.

Ms. Carter: We have filed an exhibit book with this Board, we'd like to submit it into evidence. We request that the application be amended to change the hours. There will be at least ten employees that will be Alcohol Awareness Certified, including all of the managers and bartenders. All bartenders will be at least 21 years of age, even though they can be 18 years of age. This establishment will not be accepting vertical I.D.'s.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify her client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. We have filed an exhibit book to this Board, we'd like to submit into evidence.

Commissioner Camacho: You spelled black with a V is there any symbology behind that?

Mr. Selmon: Just to be a little different.

No further questions.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a **BLVCK COW**, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Michael T. Isley, Member, Carlos Isley, Member-Manager, Tonya Dodson, Member-Manager, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Restaurant 55, LLC, t/a **Restaurant 55**, 5005 Jackson Street, Suite B, Hyattsville, 20781.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Tonya Dodson is sworn in.

Mr. Michael Isley is sworn in.

Mr. Carlos Isley is sworn in.

Ms. Carter: Mr. Pounds was retained by the town of Cheverly, that had concerns regarding the address. The Board may remember this property, several years ago this was a strip joint. The town of Cheverly with good reason was concerned that strip joint may reappear. I think they were satisfied when they went to my client's establishment and saw what it was. The permitted uses in the zone have changed so that a strip joint is not permitted in that zone right now. The town also had some concerns about the U&O permit. My clients have a temporary U&O permit that's issued in the name of the building owner and doesn't show the occupant. The

building permit does show the proper occupant and I told the town that the Liquor Board requires the U&O be issued in the same name as the applicant for the Alcohol Beverage license. I think that issue has been put to bed.

Mr. DeLoach: I want to put on the record that I am the attorney, I represent the town of Cheverly. I'm their town attorney, but I have not discussed this issue with them to the extent that anything from a legal standpoint needs to be resolved here today on this issue. I'm going to have to excuse myself. I don't think we're going to have any issues, but I needed to put that on the record.

Mr. Pounds: Everything Ms. Carter stated up to this point is accurate. The town of Cheverly is my client. Mr. Galloway the town administrator is present. I've updated him on all of my conversations with Ms. Carter on behalf of her client. We are satisfied up to this point, that we will have a wonderful working relationship. I do want to remind Ms. Carter that although her client's location is not within a defined municipality, the town of Cheverly has been called on in the past for incidents at that location. I anticipate should there ever be an incident in the future, the town's police force will be called to that site. I just ask that we continue to work together in devising a safety plan to keep the peace and safety of the community.

Commissioner Camacho: Is this location where the Pepsi Plant used to be?

Mr. Pounds: I don't think so. I think that Pepsi Plant is still there.

Ms. Carter: Mr. Pounds could you go back, there have been no calls to my client's location. It was actually to the adjacent strip joint.

Mr. Pounds confirms that is correct. It was the location next to it.

Commissioner Camacho: Is that location otherwise known as Fuegos? Are they still there?

Mr. Pounds and **Ms. Carter** confirms it was Fuegos and they are no longer at this location. They are prohibited.

Ms. Carter states we have filed an exhibit book to this Board, we'd like to submit into evidence. The temporary U&O has been issued. My clients have seven employees that are currently Alcohol Awareness Certified. They plan to have all employees Alcohol Awareness certified. We gave several assurances to the town of Cheverly through Mr. Pounds. Ms. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify her client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman: Director, can you clarify the U&O? Are we good on that?

Director Sheppard: The U&O permit is a document that must be provided at the time of effectuation. It will not be effectuated without a valid U&O. However, Ms. Carter said that they do have a temporary U&O and that will be good enough to start.

Mr. Pounds: On behalf of the town of Cheverly, they are looking forward to a wonderful establishment. That will add to the viability, safety and economic development of the community. This has never been about the actual tenant, but the past history of that location in general.

Commissioner Norman: Is the restaurant open now?

Ms. Carter: We're opening the first week of June.

Commissioner Smith: Chief Clark, how many liquor stores are in the vicinity?

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark: There are 5 liquor stores within a one mile radius.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a Restaurant 55, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Commissioner Forbes takes the gavel at this time.

Commissioner Forbes 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 Forbes further explained there were only 3 licenses that would be granted and five 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 three establishments with the most points are then granted the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License.

1. **Jamie M. Arbaiza**, General Manager, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of La Castia Pupuseria Laurel, Inc., **t/a La Castia Pupuseria and Comedor**, 14311 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707.

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

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Jamie Arbaiza is sworn in.

Mr. Arbaiza: We are a group of restaurants, date back to family businesses. We're celebrating 20 years; we've expanded and we're trying to come to Prince George's County. This will be our sixth location, it's necessary to not only have a presence in Prince George's County but we want this location to be a flagship.

Commissioner Norman: What's your prospective opening date?

Mr. Arbaiza: The opening date has been pushed back a couple times due to the permits. We're pushing for mid to late August.

Commissioner Forbes asked the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Mr. Arbaiza has held a liquor license before in Montgomery County.

Commissioner Forbes asked **Mr. Arbaiza** if he had any violations as a Montgomery County licensee. His response was no, he's never had any violations at any other locations.

Commissioner Camacho: I believe the Chair asked you, have you had any other violations at any of your other locations where you worked, and you said no.

Mr. Arbaiza: That's correct, yes.

Commissioner Camacho: Your application has a violation; you were a manager in 2016 and received a violation for selling to a minor.

Mr. Arbaiza: I apologize for the oversight. The information on the application is correct.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. Arbaiza, do you recall how you remedied that scenario with the 2016 sale to a minor?

Mr. Arbaiza: We instilled an alert training for all staff, we instilled awareness training for all management staff, all bartenders and anyone serving. We had weekly meetings, weekly pre-meetings, monthly meetings, and as many memos as you can possibly imagine. That was our only violation.

No further questions.

There is no one to testify on Mr. Arbaiza's behalf.

No one in opposition of t/a La Castia Pupuseria Comedor.

2. Monique Simms, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Milk'd Restaurant, LLC, **t/a Milk & Honey Market and Pancake Factory**, 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 201, Camp Springs, 20746.

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

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Monique Simms is sworn in.

Ms. Simms: Milk & Honey was established in 2016 in the DMV area. We expanded to Beltsville, College Park, Bowie, and Woodmont which gave us 5 locations in Prince George's County alone at that time. During the pandemic, I was able to sell the Milk & Honey brand to a larger hospitality group, Thompson Hospitality. In that deal it carved out two locations, Atlanta, Georgia and Suitland, Maryland. I no longer own the brand, but it has become a staple in the DMV area. This locations lease was signed in 2019, in a new development called Restaurant Row at Apollo. We're asking to be granted this license to be competitive with other restaurants in the plaza who have liquor licenses. I'm a bartender by trade since 1998, I've been in the hospitality industry for over 20 years.

Commissioner Forbes asked the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

No questions from Commissioners.

There is no one to testify on Ms. Simms' behalf.

No one in opposition of t/a Milk & Honey Market and Pancake Factory.

3. Walter A. Santizo, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Acapulco Restaurant and Grill, Inc., **t/a Acapulco Restaurant and Grill**, 643-645 Main Street, Laurel, 20707.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Walter Santizo is sworn in.

Ms. Carter: Mr. Santizo grew up in a restaurant, his parents for many years operated an Acapulco in Hyattsville. They are Alcohol Awareness certified and have never had a violation. This is Mr. Santizo's opportunity to strike out on his own. On Friday,

everything permitting they'll be opening to the general public. We have filed an exhibit book with this Board, we'd like to submit into evidence. El Salvadorian and Mexican food requires Alcoholic beverages. Mr. Santizo is already Alcohol Awareness certified. He will have six other employees and everyone in the front of the house will be trained in responsible Alcohol service. His U&O permit has issued. This location in downtown Laurel hasn't had a lot of restaurants due to the church and school issue.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify her client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman: You are not currently on any license for the other restaurant, are you?

Mr. Santizo: No, I'm not.

No further questions.

4. Temi Ijiti, Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of TMI International, LLC, t/a **Mason Restaurant and Bar**, 4508 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, 20710.

Traci Scudder, Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Temi Ijiti is sworn in.

Ms. Kenshana Letts (Manager) is sworn in.

Ms. Scudder states we were before the Board back in January, so in the interests of time I won't have Mr. Ijiti testify.

Ms. Letts: Mason Restaurant and Bar will be an Afro Caribbean Fusion restaurant. We're going to be bringing a taste of home to the DMV area. 62.01% of Prince George's County are black or African American, and 19.02% identify as African. There's a strong presence for this demographic, we aim to serve that group. We're confident we can attract interests from other ethnic and cultural groups. This will be an opportunity to share our cuisines and culture, which includes the music. We aim to have an upscale dining experience. While there are some restaurants within Prince George's County area that serve African and Caribbean food there aren't many options for a fine dining experience.

Ms. Scudder asked **Ms. Letts** the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. There will be three or four employees serving alcohol and bartending.

Commissioner Forbes: Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Ijiti is the applicant and I know he's spoken with us before. Is there anything procedural that we need to do to make sure that his previous testimony, where Ms. Scudder qualified him transferred over to this hearing?

Mr. DeLoach: Since he's here, I think it's better for the record.

Commissioner Forbes: Ms. Scudder, can you go through the qualifying questions to make sure we have it on the record today?

Ms. Scudder asked **Mr. Ijiti** the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman: Ms. Scudder said they came before us already; do they currently have a license? They were before us for what?

Ms. Scudder: No ma'am. Back in January we applied for one of the liquor licenses at that time. There were eight restaurants competing for three licenses, so we're back today.

Commissioner Smith: What is the occupancy total on the U&O permit?

Mr. Ijiti: The U&O hasn't been issued yet.

Ms. Scudder: They don't set the occupancy until they issue the U&O.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza: I believe they stated they were going to close the kitchen an hour earlier and keep the place open? Our regulations say there must be food available while you're open.

Ms. Letts: I basically was saying we'll stop taking orders an hour before closing, because the food is made from scratch. The food will still be available.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark: The comment was being made because food must be made when alcohol is being served. That was probably the concern.

No further questions.

No one in opposition of Mason Restaurant and Bar.

5. Mana Shi, Managing Member, Yandan Li, Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of ONI College Park, LLC, t/a **Onikama Ramen Bar**, 3711-A Campus Drive, College Park, 20740.

Eugene Mark, Jr., Esquire is representing.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Mana Shi is sworn in.

Ms. Yandan Li is sworn in.

Mr. Robert Ryan (Director of Public Services for the City of College Park) is sworn in.

Mr. Mark: We have been in touch with the City of College Park. I've spoken to council for the city of College Park, Ms. Ferguson and we have paired a property use agreement that will be presented to the city at a future date. This restaurant will be a nice addition to the area.

Ms. Shi: Onikana is owned by two experienced women, we've been in the restaurant business for many years. Onikana is a charming upscale restaurant that specializes in Japanese cuisine. Our goal is to introduce Japanese culture and tradition to Prince George's County. Personally, I grew up in Prince George's County and there aren't slot of options for us.

Ms. Shi has previously held a license in Upper Marlboro, MD. She's had one violation around 2015. One of the servers sold Alcohol to a minor.

Mr. Mark asked the applicants the standard questions used to qualify his clients for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Ms. Shi and **Ms. Li** have completed Alcohol Awareness.

Ms. Li had one violation at her Waldorf, MD location in either 2014 or 2015. The server omitted to check I.D. and sold Alcohol to a minor. All the servers were retrained after this violation.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Mark and city attorneys have an application to draft, one of our famous property use agreements. The terms of that agreement are to limit the average daily sales of Alcoholic beverages to food to 30% Alcohol and to maintain 80% of the menu items available; at the time Alcohol sales are taking place. We have a property use agreement in the form that our council will approve once we meet. We have an agreement from the applicants, and we'd like to proceed should they be granted a license.

Commissioner Camacho: When are you looking to open?

Ms. Shi: We just scheduled our fire inspection and then we'll wait for the final inspection. Approximately late June.

Commissioner Forbes: Ms. Li, are you a current or former licensee at the location in Waldorf?

Ms. Li: A current licensee.

Commissioner Forbes: Director, are we able to have two licenses?

Director Sheppard: I'll have to check the statute, but I believe that you're allowed to have two licensees if they're not in Prince George's County.

No further questions.

Beer, Wine and Liquor Competition Results:

Top 3 Establishments with the highest points scored received the license.

- 1. Milk & Honey Market and Pancake Factory (95 Points)**
- 2. Acapulco Restaurant and Grill (60 Points)**
- 3. Mason Restaurant and Bar (50 Points)**
- 4. La Castia Pupuseria and Comedor (35 Points)**
- 5. Onikana Ramen Bar (10 Points)**

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Milk and Honey Market and Pancake Factory, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Acapulco Restaurant and Grill, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Mason Restaurant and Bar, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes

Administrative Aide BOLC