

**May 8, 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  
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

**Start Time: 7:05 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

May 8, 2024

- 1. t/a House of Comedy and Jazz**, Darnell Dinkins, Authorized Person, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, House of Comedy and Jazz Limited Liability Company, 9430 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.  
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.  
**Corporal Juan Hunt (Prince George’s County Police Department)** states he conducted a site inspection, viewed their cameras, and discussed the Rules and Regulations. The security plan is adequate. There was a small discrepancy in the Use and Occupancy Permit. The number of patrons and closing time will be altered until it is corrected.  
**Mr. Dinkins** testified that the plans for House of Comedy and Jazz are to provide customers with live comedy and jazz, music, saxophonists, and harpists.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to t/a House of Comedy and Jazz, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**
- 2. Kashmir Singh**, President/Secretary/Treasurer, **t/a Brother’s Liquors**, 12788 B Old Forte Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause 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 and R.R. #26 A (7) "The failure of any licensee to keep records required by the Maryland Code or by the Rules and/or Regulations of this Board or the refusal to allow inspection of such records by duly authorized persons". To wit: on Wednesday, January 29, 2023, at approximately 8:31 p.m., Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted a Routine Inspection at 12788 B Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744 (Brother's Liquors). Inspector Farmer-Johnson observed seven (7) cases of Flavored Barefoot Wine missing the shipping label and no current invoices. This is a violation on of R.R. #11 purchasing alcoholic beverages from other than a wholesaler and R.R. #26 A(7) failure to keep records.  
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.  
**Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the BOLC** testified about the violation that occurred on January 29, 2023.  
**Mr. Kim** states Mr. Singh will be at the Liquor store on a regular basis. He will monitor and approve each order so that this incident is not repeated. There is no dispute on the report.  
**Commissioner Camacho** moves to find the licensee for t/a Brother’s Liquors in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$3,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

3. James Riley, Chairman, **t/a Veterans Cigar Club**, 6409 Old Alexander Ferry Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735, Class C, Veterans, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County RR No. 37- Changes in the mode of operation. To Wit: Inspectors with the BOLC conducted a three (3) day undercover operation on the following dates: February 9, 13 and 16, 2024 to investigate an anonymous complaint. It was discovered that as a membership club, the establishment was allowing entrance into the club without checking whether the inspectors were members or with an active member of the club. Based on the investigation, the licensee is in violation of R.R. #37, Change in the Mode of Operation. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**. **Inspector North of the BOLC** testified about the incidents that occurred on February 9, 13 and 16, 2024.

**Mr. Carter** states there is no dispute to the report. Mr. Riley has instituted an access control where members are now given a key fob to enter the clubhouse. There is an enforcement of a members only policy at the door. No person can enter the building without the company of a member who has their fob. Names and phone numbers have also been checked within the database to ensure accuracy of member's status at t/a Veterans Cigar Club.

**Commissioner Norman** questions Mr. Riley's intent and requests an explanation on the reoccurring incidents.

**Mr. Carter** explains Mr. Riley did not properly put together an IRS Regulation with the Board's Rules and Regulations. There is an IRS Rule and Regulation regarding 501 C7 organizations operating like t/a Veterans Cigar Club that explicitly states 25% of the business revenue can come from non-members. Mr. Riley interpreted this Rule and Regulation as non-members being accepted. Currently, less than 25% of the business revenue comes from non-members.

**Mr. Riley** states in 2019, he met with the Director and Deputy Chief of the BOLC, to provide them a thorough walkthrough of the business mode of operation. No inadequacies were identified. In the case of inadequacies being identified following after, immediate measures were taken to fix them. He has been operating to the standard he presumed adequate.

**Commissioner Camacho** moves to find the licensee for t/a Veterans Cigar Club in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

**An amendment to the motion was made by Commissioner Norman.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Veterans Cigar Club in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500 and mandatory Alcohol Awareness Training, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

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

4. **t/a Prime Restaurant**, 2024-2025 Renewal Protest.

Licensee Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Ms. Carter** notifies the Board that a Settlement Agreement between t/a Prime Restaurant and Representative of the Community, Mr. Gigliotti, Esquire, has been made.

t/a Prime Restaurant has operated virtually incident free for more than 8 years.

Ms. Kumbumbara obtained a Special Entertainment Permit 4 years ago. The area in which t/a Prime Restaurant is located in, is surrounded by commercial businesses and residential apartments who have made music noise complaints.

The Settlement Agreement provided to the Board states Ms. Kumbumbara will be surrendering her Special Entertainment Permit. Live entertainment will end at 9:00 p.m. and there will be no music that will prevent a conversation in normal tone of voice from taking place. Issues with the business hours of operation were also expressed. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the last call for alcoholic beverages will be at 11:30 p.m. and the sale of food will remain until 1:00 a.m. There were also aesthetic concerns expressed by the community.

Ms. Kumbumbara will be fencing in her dumpsters. Bricks, windows, and blinds will also be repaired or replaced.

**Mr. Gigliotti** reiterated the concerns of the community and ensured the Board that the community is in agreement to settle and move forward from the protest.

**Commissioner Norman** makes a motion to grant the renewal of the license for t/a Prime Restaurant based on the Settlement Agreement, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Adjourned: 8:07 p.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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