

**August 7, 2024
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:01 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. 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. **Continued from the July 23, 2024, hearing.**

Director Sheppard informs the Board that letters were received from the applicant and from the opposition. There is no further discussion.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor (Distillery) License for **t/a Free State Distillery**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

The application was amended to issue a **Distillery Tasting Permit**.

Commissioner Camacho moves to amend the application for a Distillery Tasting Permit, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant a Distillery Tasting Permit to **t/a Free State Distillery**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

2. **t/a Accokeek Liquors**, Yash S. Patel, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Accokeek Liquors, LLC, 15789 Livingston Road, Unit 116, Accokeek, 20607. – **Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Kim proffers to the Board that he has discussed and explained in great detail the requirements of Rule and Regulation 76 and that third party delivery will not be permitted to his client, and submits to the Board that he understands.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Delivery Permit to **t/a Accokeek Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

3. **t/a Great Plaza Liquors**, Arti Kumar, Member-Manger, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Plaza Beverages MD, LLC, 6439 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747. – **Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Kim proffers to the Board that he has discussed and explained in great detail the requirements of Rule and Regulation 76 and that third party delivery will not be permitted to his client, and submits to the Board that she understands.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Delivery Permit to **t/a Great Plaza Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

4. **t/a Osbourne Wine and Spirits**, Baldevbhai Patel, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Osbourne Wine & Spirits, LLC, 7603 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772. – **Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Kim proffers to the Board that he has discussed and explained in great detail the requirements of Rule and Regulation 76 and that third party delivery will not be permitted to his client, and submits to the Board that he understands.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Delivery Permit to **t/a Osbourne Wine and Spirits**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

5. **t/a Luxe Liquors**, Harvant Dhillon, President, Suman Sharma, Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, SD Liquors Inc., 13462 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707. – **Request for a Delivery Permit.**

Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney. Mr. Dhillon submitted a delivery application and is requesting that the Board approve the application. He is aware of and understands the rule and regulation including that third party delivery is not permitted in Prince George's County.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the delivery permit to t/a Luxe Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

6. **Kenneth R. Davis, II, President/Secretary/Treasurer, t/a Weis Market**, 12100 Central Avenue, Mitchellville Maryland 20716, Class D, DW(Off), Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause or an alleged violation, For an alleged violation R.R. No. 6(B) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. "R.R. NO. 6(B): Drinking or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages Not Authorized Under License: (B). A license holder shall not have in their possession, or in the possession of their agents, employees, or patrons or at any place on the licensed premises any alcoholic beverages not permitted to be sold under the establishment's alcoholic beverage license. To wit: on Monday, June 24, 2024, at approximately 6:42 pm, a Routine Inspection was conducted at the Weis Market, located at 12100 Central Avenue, Mitchellville, Maryland 20716. During the inspection, eight (8) 750 ml bottles of 19 Crimes Hard Chard were discovered on a shelf in the alcohol beverage aisle, and an additional seven (7) 750 ml bottles cooling in the freezer (containing 16% alcohol by volume). This alcohol by volume exceeded the 15.5% alcohol volume permitted by the license. A license holder shall not have in their possession any alcoholic beverages not permitted to be sold under the establishment's alcoholic beverage license. Based on the observation a violation was issued. The licensee has not had a violation within the past two years. 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 Bryce Ziskind, Esquire.**

Inspector Shea Farmer-Johnson testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on June 14, 2024.

Mr. Ziskind informs the Board that Weis admits to the violation and asks that no action be taken. He states that when this particular wine was first ordered in 2017, it was only 14% ABV, but the ABV has since changed. It was a complete mistake, the bottles have been removed, the SKU and UPC have since been blocked from the system and cannot be reordered. They have taken proper precautions for this to never happen again.

Commissioner Camacho moves to find t/a Weis Market in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500 and Alcohol Awareness Training for the employee responsible for the ordering/purchasing of the wine within 90 days, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Adjourned 7:46 p.m.