

**August 27, 2024  
9200 Basil Court  
Largo, MD 20774  
Virtual Hearing**

**Present:**

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, 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  
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager  
Katrice James, Administrative Aide  
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide  
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide  
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

**Start Time: 10:01 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.

1. Alexander Rivera, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of La Fogata Tequila Bar & Mexican Kitchen, Inc., t/a **La Fogata Tequila Bar & Mexican Kitchen**, 14933 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707 transfer from La Chiquita Corp., t/a CHI'BAL Tequila Bar & Mexican Kitchen, 14933 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, German Escobar, President/Secretary/Treasurer.

**Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge her right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.** Mr. Rivera testified that he has a new place and is trying to make something different for the community.

**Commissioner Norman** mentions that there are questions and is asking for the case to be postponed.

**Commissioner Norman** motioned to postpone the transfer until which time additional information has been acquired, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**
2. Tejinder Sandhu, Member-Manager for a Class B+, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of 7611 Old Branch, LLC, t/a **Fish Market Restaurant**, 7611 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735 transfer from Fish Market Restaurant of Maryland, Inc., t/a Fish Market Restaurant, 7611 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735, Sherry Lynn Giovannoni, President/Vice President/Secretary. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

**Mr. Kim** informs the Board that the applicant does not own any other businesses within the county. His position at Fish Market would be sole member, full-time. He has received a copy of the board rules and regulations and is familiar with them. The applicant has also received alcohol awareness training, which has been sent to the board.

**Mr. Kim** asked the Questions used to qualify the transfer of this license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of ID., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

**Katrice James** informed the Board that question 7b was not answered on the affidavit.

**Commissioner Norman** motioned to amend the affidavit to answer question 7b as no, stating the applicant has never had a violation, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

**Director Sheppard** informed the Board about the Board's Rules and Regulations #45 stating that a person who applies must be a registered voter in the state of Maryland. He or she who is not a registered voter must add another applicant to the license who is.

**Mr. Kim expresses** his concern regarding a Permanent Resident's inability to be a registered voter.

**Board attorney DeLoach** states the Board can move forward with approving this transfer if there was an R.R. in place and readiness to formalize the process. The Board could vote to postpone the case or allow Mr. Kim to submit a memorandum before the ruling on the transfer. This may be a matter that may need to be resolved by the Supreme Court and Delegation.

**Commissioner Norman** motions to postpone the ruling on the transfer and ownership of license for Fish Market, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**
3. Dinora Valladares, President, Jorge Menedez Colocho, Secretary for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of JVER Group, LLC, t/a **La Caverna Seafood Sports Bar & Grill**, 1500-B University Blvd E, Hyattsville, 20783 transfer from JRE Corporation., t/a Casa Dora I, 1500 University Blvd, Hyattsville, 20783, Dora Escobar, President/Secretary/Treasurer.

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

**The Board did not receive Background Checks for all licensees. This case was postponed until background checks are received.**

4. Sarojben M. Patel, Member-Manager for a Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of a Poonam, LLC, t/a **Hangar Club**, 6410 Old Branch Avenue, Camp Springs, 20748 transfer from Bucks-Up, Inc., t/a Hanger's Sports Bar and Lounge, 6410 Old Branch Avenue, Camp Springs, 20748, Kishor N. Rajpara, President/Secretary/Treasurer.

Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

**Mr. Kim** informs the Board that the applicant is a permanent resident with no voter registration.

**Commissioner Norman** motioned to postpone the transfer of the license, seconded by **Commissioners Sparkman**.

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

5. Kimberly Sherrae Burke, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Skyline Enterprises, Inc., t/a **Falsetto Kitchen & Bar**, 16951 Melford Blvd, Suites 103-108, Bowie, 20715.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**Ms. Carter** expresses that the applicant has been before the board on two separate occasions. The first occasion was when she was approved by the board for a B, BLX license in Oxon Hill. The property did not qualify for lending. The second occasion was a location she was approved for in Bowie. Due to restrictions on the property, she was not able to run the business she had initially intended to. Ms. Burke is applying for a license for a location in Milford in which the St. John property has been working closely with.

**An exhibit book has been sent to the board.**

The build out for this new property cost roughly \$2.5 million. The applicant is in the process of submitting applications and is expecting to open within a year. The location has 250 seats.

**There have been no changes to her personal information since the first or second filing of the application.**

**Ms. Carter** asked the standard questions used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of ID., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

**Ms. Burke** states that the location is built around a shopping center. There will be approximately 20 to 25 employee all of which will be Alcohol Awareness certified.

**Ms. Carter** states the applicant's hospitality experience is somewhat limited. She hired a consultant for this process and manager with experience. Ms. Burke is soon to retire and will be working full-time. The gross income is predicted to be \$3 million. The estimated clientele daily is predicted to be 2 to 300 persons. The hours of operation will be from 11 AM to 12 PM Monday through Thursday and 11 AM to 1 PM Friday through Saturday. This establishment is modeled after Half Note and will be for adults. Jazz will be provided.

**Commissioner Norman** motioned to approve the class B, BLX license for t/a Falsetto Kitchen and Bar, second by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

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

6. Leho Poldmae, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of GT College Park, LLC, t/a **The Greene Turtle**, 7356 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740.

**Represented by Mr. David Mister, Esquire.**

**Chief Clark** gave a Maps presentation.

**Mr. Mister** informs the Board that the applicant is a United States citizen and registered voter in Baltimore County. Mr. Poldmae and Mr. Wells will be on the license. Mr. Wells is the majority member of this LLC. This will be the applicants first license in Prince Georges County. The applicant has held licenses in 10 other locations in the state of Maryland and is a current licensee on five other locations. Mr. Poldmae entered into negotiation and appeared in front of the city council of College Park, Maryland reaching a property agreement with the city of College Park. The applicant will be mindful of who can consume alcoholic beverage. At The Greene Turtle, there is a policy put into place that any person who appears to be under the age of 40 will be carded. Employees are all Alcohol Awareness trained within 30 days of employment. All managers and servers are also Alcohol Awareness certified.

Mr. Poldmae will be present on a weekly basis. It is anticipated that the establishment will have approximately 100 employees, five of which will be managers. There will always be one manager on the premises, whose names will be registered to the board. The average food sale to alcohol consumption is 65% food, and 35% alcohol. The hours of operation are expected to be 11 AM to 2 AM daily. It will be a requirement to always sell food. This will be a primarily food service and family community restaurant. There will be an ID scanner on the premises. Mr. Poldmae has been in the restaurant business since 1995. There is an approximate capital investment of \$1,100,000. The entire budget will be 1.4 million. The predicted opening date is early October. There will be 225 seats for dining at the premises. **Commissioner Bridgewater Simms** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of ID., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

**The applicant was originally unable to list the six forms of ID.**

**Ms. Anderson** on behalf of the City of College Park, City Attorney, testified in favor of this establishment and confirmed that on August 7, 2024, the agreement was made.

**Commissioner Norman** motioned to approve the Class B, BLX license for t/a The Greene Turtle, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

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

**Adjourned: 11:05 a.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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