October 9, 2024 9200 Basil Court Largo, MD 20774 Virtual Hearing

**Present:** Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair

Armando Camacho, Vice Chair Tammie Norman, 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

Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

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**

 t/a La Licoreria Wine and Liquor, Vikram Kansal, Member-Manager, Jeevindra S. Rana, Member, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, United Wine and Spirits, LLC, 8038 New Hampshire Avenue, Langley Park, 20783. – Request for a Delivery Permit.
 Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

**Mr. Kim** informs the Board that the application for the Delivery Permit was filed to the Board on August 15. It is true and complete. Mr. Kim has discussed RR.76 regarding Delivery Permits with the applicant to ensure his understanding of the specific requirements for the Board's approval.

**Commissioner Camacho** moves to grant the Delivery Permit to t/a La Licoreria Wine and Liquor, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

**2.** t/a Oxon Hill Liquor, Samranjit S. Gosal, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Jattputt, Inc., 6369 - 6371 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, 20745. – Request for a Delivery Permit.

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

**Mr. Gosal** states he applied for a delivery permit which will be used to deliver solely by the employees of Oxon Hill Liquors. He ensures he understands and will abide by the Board's Rules and Regulations.

**Commissioner Camacho** moves to grant the Delivery Permit to t/a Oxon Hill Liquor, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

**3.** t/a Brandywine Liquors, Mukeshkumar Patel, Managing Member, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Savita, LLC, 14121 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, 20613. – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Mr. Kim informs the Board that the application for the Delivery Permit is true and complete. Mr. Kim has discussed RR.76 regarding Delivery Permits with the applicant to ensure his understanding of the specific requirements for the Board's approval.

**Commissioner Camacho** moves to grant the Delivery Permit to t/a Brandywine Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

**4.** t/a Levi's Restaurant in Clinton, Wang Koo Lee, President/Treasurer, Seung Mi Lim, Vice President/Secretary, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine, and Liquor, FTM, Inc., 6410 Coventry Way, Clinton, 20735. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.

Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

**Corporal Hunt** from the Prince George's County Police Department testified that he has reviewed the rules and regulations with the licensee and found the security plan to be adequate.

Mr. Lee states the proposed program for putting this Special Entertainment Permit in use is karaoke and DJ on Tuesday's-Thursday's 6pm-10pm and Friday's 6pm-11pm.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Special Entertainment Permit to t/a Levi's Restaurant in Clinton, seconded by Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, motion carries.

**5.** t/a JCK Bar & Lounge, Novelette Ashmeade, President, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Jamaican Country Kitchen, LLC 7572 Annapolis Road, Hyattsville, 20784. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.

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

**Corporal Hunt** from the Prince George's County Police Department testified that he has reviewed the rules and regulations with the licensee and found the security plan to be adequate.

**Ms. Ashmeade** states her hours of operation are Tuesday's-Thursday's 3pm-10 pm and Friday's-Sunday's 3pm-2am. On Friday's she would like to have karaoke and provide customers with a space to have birthday celebrations for her business to grow.

**Commissioner Camacho** clarified to the licensee that she did not need an entertainment permit for any event before 9 pm. The only point of concern is any event she intends to have after 9 pm.

**Commissioner Camacho** moved to grant a Special Entertainment Permit to t/a JCK Bar & Lounge seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

6. Kai Tang, President/Treasurer, Meng Wei Wang, Vice President/Secretary, t/a Urban Crab Boil, 3310 Donnell Drive, Forestville, 20747, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation, R.R. No. 37(E) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. "Change in Mode of Operation" -Specifically, "based on the anonymous complaint from the public and investigative work, it was found to be in direct violation of Rules and Regulation #37 (E), Alterations and Additions: Changes in the mode of operation would include but not be limited to, entertainment, alteration of physical premises, and presentation of food, alcoholic beverages, seats and/or physical environment both inside and outside of the licensed premises. To wit: On Sunday, August 18, 2024, at approximately 9:30 pm, Inspector North, conducted a Special Assignment at Urban Crab Shack, located at 3310 Donnell Drive, Forestville, MD 20747. The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) received an anonymous complaint that Urban Crab Boil was operating beyond the scope of their approved BOLC alcoholic beverage license by having a live band after the hours of 9:00 pm, which is in direct violation of RR # 37 (E) Change in mode of Operation (having entertainment without entertainment license). In this case, the establishment was having entertainment without an authorized BOLC Entertainment Permit. The licensee has no previous violations in the past two years. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

**Inspector Haywood North of the BOLC** testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on August 18, 2024.

**Ms.** Carter proffered that she and Mr. Wong are not opposed to Inspector North's testimony. They acknowledge that the incident did occur. Joe had just recently been moved to this location because the owners were concerned that the restaurant was not run as well as it should be run. He did not have time to correct all issues already occurring before the incident took place.

**Commissioner Smith** requests to know how long Mr. Wong has been in the restaurant business.

Mr. Wong states he has been in the restaurant business for about 5 years. He has owned a couple of carry outs and is familiar with restaurant rules but is new to entertainment rules. Commissioner Camacho moved to find t/a Urban Crab Boil in violation of Rule and Regulation #37(E) and assessed a fine of \$1,500 and mandatory training, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

After Board vote, motion carries.

7. t/a Urban Crab Boil, Kai Tang, President/Treasurer, Meng Wei Wang, Vice President/Secretary, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, Crazy Crab Brandywine, Inc. 3310 Donnell Drive, Forestville, 20747. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Corporal Hunt from the Prince George's County Police Department testified that he has reviewed the rules and regulations with the licensee and found that the security plan to be adequate. There was an issue regarding who qualifies as a sworn security officer. It was explained to Mr. Wong that Brentwood or any municipality could not conduct security at their location, it would have to be security from the Sheriff's Department, Prince George's County Police or Maryland State Police. The security plan hours of operation were also altered to adhere to the Use and Occupancy.

**Ms.** Carter states the applicant intends to have a combination of karaoke, DJ, and live bands. They understand no reduction of police officers and security personnel can be made without consulting with Corporal Hunt first. Mr. Wong is apologetic for the incident that did occur under his ownership and agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Board. **Commissioner Camacho** moved to grant a Special Entertainment Permit to t/a Urban Crab Boil, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, motion carries.

8. Girishbhai B. Patel, Sole Member, t/a The Liquor Junction, 11201 S. Crain Highway, Cheltenham, 20623, Class A, 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. 1—SALES TO OR POSSESSION BY UNDERAGE PERSONS. To wit: On Friday, July 19, 2024, at approximately 7:10 pm, Inspector Hamilton, Inspector Kinney and an 18-year-old underage operative (D.O.B. 05/10/2006) from the Prince Georges County Summer Youth Program conduct an Underage Inspection at The Liquor Junction, located at 11201 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, Maryland 20623. The underage operative entered the establishment and proceeded to the counter to purchase one pack of Cutwater Lemon Drop Martini. The salesperson behind the counter sold the pack of Cutwater Lemon Drop Martini to the minor without requesting or viewing her identification. The sale to the underage operative,

witnessed by Inspector Kinney, was in direct violation of Section 6-304 and 26-2707of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule and Regulation #1: Sale to or Possession of Underage Person - A. a licensee or any of his/her employees or agents, may not sell, serve or furnish or allow the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages at any time to any person under the age of 21. The licensee has no previous violations in the past two years.

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

**Inspector Brandon Kinney** testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on July 19, 2024.

Raj, the employee who sold to the minor testified that there was a customer who came to the counter with a pack of Cutwater Lemon Drop Martini and informed him that the underage minor was with her. The customer who first came to the counter informed Raj that the minor with her wanted a pack for herself. Raj brought the second cutwater pack to the counter and charged \$32 through apple pay. Another minor came right after and said she wanted the pack of cutwater that was just sold to the previous customer and tried to pay with a \$20 bill. Raj informed the minor she could not be sold that specific one since it was already paid for. He testified that he gave cash back to the minor and more customers following asked if they could use that cash to pay and do different transactions through apple pay so that the minor could receive her intended purchase.

**Director Shepherd** informed the Board the underage operative was present to testify. **Commissioner Camacho** stated it was clear through the surveillance footage that the clerk did make direct contact with the underage and sold to her.

**Commissioner Smith** questioned whether the inspectors were able to hear any of the conversation between the clerk and the underage.

**Inspector Kinney** testified that all he was able to hear was the initial conversation that the Cutwater that was purchased was in a new box. They could not reach the box on the shelf which was the reason why the employee was bringing the Cutwater to the customers.

Raj testified the Cutwater was first brought to the counter.

**Inspector Kinney** testified the box was already opened and the first lady brought the first one but asked for a second box which is why he went to get the second pack for the underage minor who was with her.

**Commissioner Camacho** moved to find t/a The Liquor Junction in violation of Rule and Regulation #1 and assessed a fine of \$1,500 and mandatory training, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

**9.** Qi Wen Yu, President/Secretary, Wen Jie Zhang, Vice President/Treasurer, **t/a Three Road Liquors**, 13704 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, 20613 Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation, For an alleged violation of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County R.R. No. 1– SALES TO OR POSSESSION BY UNDERAGE PERSONS. To wit: On July 25, 2024, at approximately 7:25 pm, Inspector Clinkscale, Inspector Kinney, and an 18-year-old underage operative (D.O.B. 05/10/2006) from the Prince Georges County Summer Youth Program conducted an Underage Inspection at Three Road Liquor located at, 13704 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD 20613. Once inside the establishment, the underage employee purchased a bottle of Cîroc 750ml from

employee Robert Proctor without requesting to see the underage patron's identification. There was a monetary exchange of a \$20 bill. Inspector Clinkscale witnessed the underaged employee purchasing the bottle of Cîroc from Mr. Johnson. The sale to the underage operative, was in direct violation of Section 6-304 and 26-2707 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule and Regulation #1: Sale to or Possession of Underage Person- A. a licensee or any of his/her employees or agents, may not sell, serve, or furnish or allow the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages at any time to any person under the age of 21. The licensee has no previous violations in the past two years.

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

**Inspector Marcus Clinkscale** testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on July 25, 2024.

**Mr. Zhang** pleaded guilty and requested that the Board take in consideration the fact that he's been operating his business for many years with no previous violations when administering the fine.

**Commissioner Camacho** moved to find t/a Three Road Liquors in violation of Rule and Regulation #1 and assessed a fine of \$1,500 and mandatory training within 90 days, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.** 

After Board vote, motion carries.

10. Leon S. Bathersfield, President/Treasurer, Vaughn Jordon, Vice President/Secretary, Taste of the Caribbean, 505 A Hampton Park Blvd., Capitol Heights, 20743, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation, R.R. No. 37(E) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. "Change in Mode of Operation" -Specifically, "In the event a licensee decides to significantly alter the mode of operation and the format of presentation of alcoholic beverages to the public from that contained in the original application approved by the Board at the time of issuance of the license, such change must first be presented to the Board for approval. Changes in the mode of operation would include but not be limited to, entertainment, alteration of physical premises, and presentation of food, alcoholic beverages, seats, and/or physical environment both inside and outside of the licensed premises. To wit: On Friday, August 16, 2024, at approximately 11:20 PM, Inspectors Kinney and Caraway entered Taste of the Caribbean, located at 505 A Hampton Park Blvd, Capitol Heights, MD 20743 to conduct an Entertainment Inspection. Upon approaching the Taste of the Caribbean, we observed patrons entering and exiting the establishment. Once inside, we observed patrons were being carded at the door by one security personnel. While outside the establishment, both Inspectors Kinney and Caraway observed active entertainment, to include music being played by a DJ and patrons drinking. Patrons were actively consuming alcoholic beverages inside and outside the establishment. During our inspection, we noticed a tent set up in the parking lot. Additionally, we observed a patron exiting the establishment with a glass bottle of Corona in hand and walking towards his vehicle in the parking lot which is a direct violation of Rules and Regulations #37 – Alteration and Additions (Change in Mode of Operation). The licensee had a previous violation dated January 01, 2023, for RR #1 Sale to a minor, fined \$1,500. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Mr. Kim states he has no dispute to the charge. He was preparing to submit an RR. 37 to the Board but it was not enough time to be heard on this agenda. Back in 2020, the clients obtained a Temporary Use and Occupancy to use the outside of the restaurant during COVID and tents have been up since. That evening of the incident, there was no closure of the tent, leaving the access to not be restricted or limited. Mr. Kim explained to the licensees how that was not permissible to sell alcohol outside. The RR.37 that was submitted to the Board was a request for a fence to be constructed around the tents that requires the patrons to come in and out while also ensuring control over the service of alcohol. This was all a misunderstanding for the licensees. They did not understand that the permit that they were originally approved for was considered a Change in Mode of Operation for the Board.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find t/a Taste of the Caribbean in violation of Rule and Regulation #37(E) and assessed a fine of \$3,000, seconded by Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, motion carries.

Adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia

Administrative Aide BOLC