October 22, 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
James Cleaver, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Robert Clark, 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: 10:09 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.

REGULAR SESSION

TRANSFER CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 27, 2024

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.

Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Ms. Carter requested the Board continue this case.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to continue the case to the next available hearing, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board Vote, the motion carries.

2. Violet S. Fadimatou, Member-Manager, Lawrence N. Asonglefac, Member-Manager for Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Kitchen Near You, LLC, t/a Kitchen Near You, 5321 Ager Road, Hyattsville, 20782 transfer from Kitchen Near You, LLC, t/a Kitchen Near You, 5321 Ager Road, Hyattsville, 20782, Beatrice Managa, Member-Manager.

Represented by Sean Morris, Esquire.

Ms. Fadimatou introduces herself to the Board as the manager and part owner of Kitchen Near You. She informs the Board that she has previous business management experience working as a manager at a bar and lounge. She speaks on behalf of Kitchen Near You and expresses that it has been in operation for 17 years serving African American Cuisine. Ms. Fadimatou recently purchased Kitchen Near you in June 2024. There have been no significant changes to the business mode of operation since then. Mr. Morris asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D.'s, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Mr. Asonglefac was originally unable to list the six forms of ID.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Kitchen Near You, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Simerjit Kaur, Member-Manager for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Mega Licores, LLC, t/a Mega Licores, 6333 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912 transfer from Chatha Wine and Liquors Enterprises, LLC, t/a Fine Beverage Depot, 6333 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912, Sandeep Chatha, Managing Member.

Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire

Mr. Kaur anticipates spending 20 hours a week on the premises. He plans to have his father as the manager when he is not on the premises. Mr. Kaur is Alcohol Awareness certified and is familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations.

There will be no changes made to the mode of operation.

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.'s, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Mr. Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Mega Licores, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

- **4.** Didarul Islam, Secretary, Tipu Sultan, President for a Class D, Beer for the use of Brentwood Market, Inc., **t/a Brentwood Market**, 4413 37th Street, Brentwood, 20722 transfer from Brentwood Market, Inc., **t/a Brentwood Market**, 4413 37th Street, Brentwood, 20722, Shin Duk Kang, President, Nancy Kang, Secretary/Treasurer. Represented by **Mr. Jay Yoo, Esquire.**
 - **Mr. Islam** will be holding 25% as secretary for t/a Brentwood Market. He anticipates having his business operations open 24 hours a day. To ensure the sale of beer does not occur past 12 midnight, Mr. Islam will be closing at 11:55 pm. He plans on hiring four employees and informs the Board he will be requiring his staff to ensure a policy to I.D. any individual who appears to be under the age of 40.
 - **Mr. Camacho** makes a motion to amend the affidavit of the application to indicate that Mr. Islam is a registered voter in the State of Maryland, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Mr. Sultan is the president and 75% owner of t/a Brentwood Market. He informs the Board he has had previous experience handling beer and is familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations. He plans on working full time and ensures all persons hired will be Alcohol Awareness trained.

Mr. Yoo asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D.'s, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Mr. Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class D, Beer license for t/a Brentwood Market, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

TRANSFER OF LOCATION

1. Nidhi Khaneja, Member-Manager/Authorized Person for a Class B+, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Samosas and Spirits, LLC, t/a Samosas and Spirits, 10250-C Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740 transfer from EJ Developments Incorporated, t/a Mid Atlantic Seafood Restaurant, 13718 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, Edward H. Lee, President.

Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Kim informed the Board about a negotiation that was signed and approved between the City of College Park and Ms. Khaneja indicating that food will be served at all hours of operation.

Ms. Khaneja will be pairing Samosas with beer and wine. Her menu will include a pupusa like food that comes in vegetarian options and will cater to those who enjoy sweet and spicy flavors. She will also be offering a special party box of 20 Samosas per offering.

Ms. Khaneja obtained over 300 signatures in the area for a petition in support of her business. She is Alcohol Awareness certified and plans to ensure all her employees are as well.

A letter of support from the City of College Park was sent to the Board.

Commissioner Camacho voices an area of concern regarding the back and front door space for the off-sale package store.

Commissioner Camacho moves to continue onto the November 19, 2024, hearing for t/a Samosas and Spirits, contingent on a revised floor plan, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

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

1. Mark Titus Waldo, Managing Member, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of WCB Camp Springs, LLC, t/a Waldo's Chicken & Beer, 4575 Telfair Blvd, Suite 400A, Temple Hills, 20748.

Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.

This case was continued due to non-receival of the Background Check.

 John A. Ruzich, Member/Authorized Person, Daniel E. Smith, Member/Authorized Person, James L. Cook, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B(CAEVC), Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Legends Hospitality Maryland, LLC, t/a Maryland Club @ XFINITY Center, 8500 Paint Branch Drive, College Park, 20740. Continued from September 24, 2024.

Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Carter requests the Board to amend the application reflecting that Mr. John A. Ruzich will no longer be on the license. If approved, this license will allow the operation of infinity club, inside the Xfinity center at the University of Maryland. It is a concessionaire for several professional and collegiate sports venues throughout the country. This license would allow for elevated game and suite experience for attendees looking for it. Mr. Smith and Mr. Cook are both familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by them. Mr. Cook has been a licensee approved by the Board for other ventures. The infinity club has an estimate buildout of about \$4.5 million and will have about 50 employees who will be working part time and full time as well as Alcohol Awareness Certified.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D.'s, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Katrice James of the BOLC requests an amendment be made to question 2 on the affidavit to answer yes.

Commissioner Camacho motions to amend the application reflecting number 2 on the affidavit is answered yes, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B, (CAEVC), Beer, Wine, and Liquor for t/a Maryland Club @XFINITY Center, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board Vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS B, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR

1. Edwein Arbaiza, President, Juan Melgar, Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Izote La Corporation, t/a Latinos Bar & Grill, 9432 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, 20706.

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

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Arbaiza and Mr. Melgar requested that the Board grant them the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for their family restaurant. With this restaurant they plan to uplift the community. With the granting of this license, they plan to be opening within the next week. Mr. Arbaiza expresses he is a current licensee on an Alcoholic Beverage

License for Montgomery County. Both applicants understand the Board's Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by them.

Roneca Berryman of the Ciproc Acres neighborhood testified in opposition to this case. Ashley Williams of the Ciproc Acres neighborhood testified in opposition to this case. Jameel Johnson, president of the Prince George's County Muslim Council testified in opposition to this case.

Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho made a motion to amend the hours of operation to reflect Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Friday-Saturday 11am-12am, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Sandra Melgar, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of La Casa Sandritas, LLC, t/a La Casa Sandritas, 6928 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, 20715.

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

There is no opposition for this case.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Melgar is opening a small Mexican restaurant and would like the license to be able to sell beer. She plans to open in three weeks. Ms. Melgar understands the Board's Rules and Regulations and agrees to abide by them.

Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of 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.

3. Mi Kyung Kim, President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Honey Pig At College Park, Inc., **t/a Honey Pig BBQ,** 7326 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740.

Represented by Kevin Lee, Esquire.

There is no opposition for this case.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Lee informs the Board that the applicant has six establishments in Virginia, two in Maryland and a couple in Texas. This is a female ran business and would be the first in Prince George's County. It is not considered a franchise, but it employs over 350 people. There is no bar seatings and no special entertainment provided.

Ms. Kim informs the Board about their yearly events in which they host community events. Their plan is to bring Korean food into the community and provide a place for gatherings and community events.

Commissioner Camacho asked Ms. Kim if she had a property use agreement with the city of college park?

Ms. Kim has no current property agreement with the City of College Park.

Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of 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.

Katrice James of the BOLC questioned the number of shares and consideration that were given for each stock.

Mr. Lee confirms each share amount and consideration.

Commissioner Camacho moved to amend the affidavit, seconded by Commissioner Norman.

4. Michael Roy, Managing Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of InfinityFlow Ventures, LLC, **t/a Jerk at Nite-College Park**, 7313 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A, College Park, 20740.

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

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

There is no opposition for this case.

Mr. Roy has come before the Board to request the issuance of a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor. He has read and understood the Board's Rules and Regulations and agrees to abide by them. The restaurant has been opened and operating since August but is only open for takeout. There are no dining services.

Commissioner Camacho asked Mr. Roy if he had a property use agreement with the city of college park?

Mr. Roy has no current property agreement with the City of College Park. Commissioner Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of 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.

5. Edward H. Lee, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of EJ Developments Incorporated, **t/a Mid Atlantic Seafood Restaurant**, 13718 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707.

Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

This case has been continued onto the next available hearing.

6. Kenneth Ndeh, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of MMB Unlimited, LLC, t/a Bistro 64, 6494 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747. Represented by Paul Jackson, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

There is no opposition for this case.

Mr. Jackson proffers that Bistro 64 opened in January 2023. The Board has issued a liquor license to this address for the past 25 years. 7 months ago, Bistro 64 was undergoing an organizational change and unfortunately, was not able to renew the license. Through this organizational change, Mr. Ndeh is now the 100% owner. The restaurant has been closed for the past 4 months as Mr. Ndeh invested over 50 thousand dollars to include a new convection oven, stove, and grill. Bistro 64 opened their doors just last week.

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Mr. Jackson asked the standard questions used to qualify this type of 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.

Mr. Ndeh would like to bring some African Caribbean and African American cuisine to the community. He currently has 10 employees but is looking to hire more.

Mr. Gutye shared with the Board that he created a menu to show the community the food that was being offered. He feels this menu can cater to anyone's likings.

Beer, Wine, and Liquor Competition Results:

Top 4 Establishments with the highest points scored received the license.

- 1. Jerk at Nite College Park (85 Points)
- 2. Honey Pig BBQ (55 Points)
- 3. La Casa Sandritas (50 Points)
- 4. Bistro 64 (35 Points)
- 5. Latinos Bar and Grill (25 Points)

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Jerk at Nite College Park, Honey Pig BBQ, La Casa Sandritas and Bistro 64, seconded by Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia Administrative Aide BOLC