

**December 4, 2024
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the 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

Start Time: 7:13 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. **t/a Aroma Ultra Lounge** – continued from the November 6, 2024, hearing. **Represented by Eddie Pounds, Esquire.**

During the November 6, 2024, hearing, the Board requested copies of all contracts for events through the end of the year by Thursday, November 7, 2024. The establishment provided invoices. During this hearing, the Board met to determine whether the invoices met the legal definition of a contract.

Perry Uhmoh testified that each time there is a booking, an invoice is generated, not a contract. Additionally, when invoices are printed, the current date is printed and not the date the invoice was first generated.

Commissioner Camacho found the explanation to vague and arbitrary. **Commissioner Norman** stated by Maryland Law, an invoice does not constitute a contract.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find that the documents provided were not credible and call for immediate revocation, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **Commissioner Smith** abstained. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

2. **t/a Hyattsville Spirits and Grill** – status hearing to comply with the Circuit Court Order remanding the case back to the BOLC. **Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire. The City of Hyattsville is represented by E. I. Cornbrooks, IV.**

Mr. Kim stated that the transfer requirement for this establishment was satisfied based on 26-1602, and that the Board did properly grant the transfer. The decision to cease operation of the restaurant was permitted under 26-1104. He stated that this was not the issuance of a new license but a transfer of location.

Mr. Cornbrooks stated that it is the City of Hyattsville's position that the applicant is not entitled to the license. It is unlawful, they do not meet the requirements for a B+, and have never been in compliance.

Mr. Deloach asked if both attorneys came up with a plan to move forward? Mr. Kim proposes that his clients be given thirty (30) days to have a discussion with the city. His clients do not want to upset the city and want to be good citizens. Mr. Cornbrooks stated that the city is willing to have a discussion. They will put a briefing schedule in place. Will attempt to reach an agreeable solution within 60-90 days.

Mr. Deloach stated that the Board should follow the schedule laid out by Mr. Cornbrooks and agreed to by Mr. Kim. Briefing is in the best interest of both parties. 30-days should be allowed for the brief, 30-days for Mr. Kim to respond, and 15-days for Mr. Cornbrooks to reply.

Commissioner Camacho moved to accept the offer of 75-days procedural period to allow the attorneys to submit the proper briefs for their case, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

3. **t/a D and S General Store**, Magdy Ebeid, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class D(Off), Beer and Wine, (With Off Sale Privileges) SM Commerce, Inc., 3507 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville 20721. – Request for a Delivery Permit.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney.

Licensee stated that he is applying for a delivery permit. He testified that he is familiar with the laws, rules and regulations and agrees to abide by them. However, he was unable to answer the question posed by Commissioner Camacho regarding the length of time required to keep deliver records. Commissioner Norman asked if he read the rules, and his response was two (2) months ago.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Delivery Permit to **t/a D and S General Store**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

4. **t/a Crestview Wine and Spirits**, Kamaljit Kaur, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Crestview Wine & Spirit, LLC, 6707 Annapolis Road, Landover Hills 20784. – Request for a Delivery Permit.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney.

Licensee stated that she is applying for a delivery permit. She testified that she is familiar with the laws, rules and regulations and agrees to abide by them. However, she was unable to answer the question posed by Commissioner Camacho regarding the length of time required to keep deliver records.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Delivery Permit to **t/a Crestview Wine and Spirits**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

5. **t/a Skyvibe Restaurant and Lounge**, Adebayo Bello, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 352-354 Main Street, Laurel, 20707. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Corporal Hunt from the Prince George's County Police Department testified that the City of Laurel does not allow entertainment on the rooftop area. Otherwise, he has reviewed the rules and regulations with the licensee and found that the security plan to be adequate.

Ms. Carter stated that this business is in the City of Laurel and the request for entertainment was filed with the city. Nothing has changed since the filing of the application. Currently, any entertainment provided will not go past 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Special Entertainment Permit to **t/a Skyvibe Restaurant and Lounge**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

- 6. t/a Marylou's**, Keyanna Coward-Morant, Member/Authorized Person, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 731 Cady Drive, Fort Washington, 20744. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Corporal Hunt from the Prince George's County Police Department testified that there were concerns regarding the hours of operation, but they will be closing earlier than Martini's so there are no concerns. He has reviewed the rules and regulations with the licensee and found that the security plan to be adequate.

Ms. Carter stated that an application has been filed with this board to which there are no changes or amendments at this time. Everything in the application remains exactly as the licensee wants it. The licensee is aware that DPIE imposed a restriction that all live entertainment must end at midnight. Licensee has had entertainment, but it is ended prior to 9:00 p.m. on all occasions.

Commissioner Smith asked about the spike in crime. Corporal Hunt responded that there was a carjacking last week, but it was not associated with the business.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Special Entertainment Permit to **t/a Marylou's**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

- 7. t/a Lewisdale Market**, Pratham D. Patel, Member/Authorized Person, Class D(R), Beer, Lewisdale Market, LLC, 7701 23rd Avenue, Hyattsville, 20783. Request for a Conversion. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Ms. Carter proffered that her client purchased the business a year and a half ago for \$380,000 and put another \$250,000 to remodel the establishment. It is a thriving business for breakfast. The store sells eggs, juice, milk, tortilla, laundry detergent, and other items that cater to Hispanic clientele. Drinking is not allowed inside the premises. Employees monitor the parking lot to ensure there is no loitering. The establishment closes at 9:00 p.m. because it is best for the community. The licensee wants to improve the establishment so all members of the community will want to shop there. Adding wine will not alter the business. Beer and wine will not be on the floor, only behind the counter. They will not be selling canned or wine in a box. They are trying to make improvements, but it takes community effort. Since this ownership, there have not been any complaints submitted.

Vanessa Romero (representative for Senator Augustine), Wanika Fisher (Councilwoman, District 2), Reeda Butler, Alison Flores and Anna Flores all testified in opposition of the request for conversion. All had concerns regarding the safety and welfare of the community, adding wine will increase crime, unsanitary conditions, issues with loitering and drunkenness.

Commissioner Camacho moved to deny the request for conversion to **t/a Lewisdale Market**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

8. Zheng Hai Zheng, President/Secretary/Treasurer, **t/a Not Just Crab**, 3901 Branch Avenue, Suite 4225 A & B, Temple Hills, 20748, Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: that on or about November 23, 2021, a new application for a Class B(DD) Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about August 23, 2022, approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after 6 months following being granted approval. 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 Linda Carter, Esquire.

Ms. Carter stated that her client is frustrated. The landlord is responsible for the sprinkler system that was not properly permitted when they put it in or doesn't meet the current requirements. As a result, her client cannot get his U&O. They have no control over the landlord and don't know when this sprinkler system is going to be resolved. He has spent \$1.5 million on the restaurant. We are once again requesting an extension of time.

Commissioner Camacho moved to dismiss the show cause, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Commissioner Camacho stated that the Board understands what the problem is and it's not with the licensee, and no time restriction was given.

9. Shoukat P. Choudhry, President/Secretary/Treasurer **t/a Friendly Market**, 11500 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, 20744, Class DW(R), Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of R.R. No. 35 and R.R. No. 10 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at approximately 8:15 pm, Inspector Farmer-Johnson conducted a Routine Inspection at Friendly Market, located at 11500 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Inspector Farmer-Johnson pulled into the parking lot and immediately noticed the illuminated name on the establishment was "PIZZA BOLI'S". The Inspector thoroughly checked the front, in search of a smaller sign with the name "Friendly Market" but there was none. Once inside, Inspector Farmer-Johnson introduced herself and position to the two (2) cashiers on duty. One cashier introduced himself as Jamshaid Mayo and stated he would be the employee with signing authority for the inspection that night. He then proceeded to lead her to the alcoholic beverage license on the wall. The Inspector scanned the license and took note that the trade name on the license was different from the trade name on the exterior of the establishment. At this time, the employee contacted the owner, identified as Zahid Wahlla. Inspector Farmer-Johnson explained to Mr. Wahlla and the employee that the incorrect name on the front of the establishment (PIZZA BOLI'S) was different from the approved trade name by the Board, identified as "Friendly Market" which is a direct violation of R.R. No. 35 - TRADE NAME. (No licensee shall use a trade name without Board approval). Further, Inspector Fanner-Johnson noticed a cooler containing approximately five (5) plastic cups filled with ice. The lids of the cups were crosscut, for straw insertion. I also informed Mr. Wahlla that he was in direct violation of R.R. No. 10 (3) - PUBLIC NUISANCES: Cups of Ice. (Ice may not be sold in small quantities). The licensee has no previous violation within the past two years.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Shea Farmer-Johnson testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on August 23, 2024.

Mr. Choudhry testified that the sign was broken so he put up an old Pizza Boli's sign. It has been upgraded with the correct name. A photo was submitted to the Board.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find **t/a Friendly Market** in violation of Rule and Regulation #35 and assessed a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Commissioner Camacho advised the licensee that he had another violation, with cups of ice, and that is a serious violation. If it happens again and it is discovered, it's going to be very expensive fine.

10. Mozuenorinmi P. Okolie, Member-Manager, **t/a Calabar Kitchen and Lounge**, 3524 Crain Highway, 20716, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of R.R. No. 37 and R.R. No. 83 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: On Wednesday, October 8, 2024, at approximately 10:08 pm, Inspector Fanner-Johnson, arrived at the Calabar Kitchen and Lounge, located at 3524 Crain Highway, Bowie, Maryland 20716, to conduct a Routine Inspection. Upon entering the parking lot, Inspector Fanner-Johnson could hear music coming from Calabar Kitchen and Lounge. As she entered the establishment, Inspector Fanner-Johnson confirmed the music was indeed coming from inside Calabar. There was an employee, who was identified as Beto Tamu, the Manager, standing behind what appeared to be a DJ station. Inspection Farmer-Johnson noted the establishment had no Special Entertainment Permit. Mr. Tamu was using the laptop to play music after 9:00 pm. Which is a direct violation of Rule and Regulation #37: ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS/CHANGE IN MODE OF OPERATION. Further, Inspector Fanner-Johnson approached the bartender identified as, Michelle Blair. Inspector Farmer-Johnson requested to see a menu and inquired if she had taken an Alcohol Awareness Training and the bartender stated that she had before in a different state but had no current certification. Inspector Farmer-Johnson also asked Mr. Tamu if he had taken an Alcohol Awareness Training and he also stated he had no training. He mentioned that the owner did have a certification, but he was not present in the restaurant. Which is a direct violation of Rule and Regulation No. 83: ALCOHOL AWARENESS. The licensee had a previous violation in the past two years or violation of Rules and Regulations No. 1 Sale to Minor.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Shea Farmer-Johnson testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on October 8, 2024.

Mr. Okolie testified that Calabar is a respected establishment in the community. He follows all laws and all rules of entertainment. It is not a club but a fine dining restaurant. The manager, Mr. Temu, know nothing about manipulating the DJ system. The DJ was told to

shut down by 8:45 p.m. and Mr. Temu was only standing in the booth to remove their laptop and to turn You Tube on, which is connected to the central speaker system. He was not manipulating the music. Regarding no one being alcohol awareness certified at the establishment, Mr. Okolie stated that he is normally on site, however, he had a family emergency and had to leave. The new bartender in the process of taking alcohol awareness.

Chief Clark explained that music can be piped into the establishment through speakers in the system. Anytime you do anything other than that where you have to manipulate it change it, make a change on YouTube, turn something else on. Now you're DJing. You're starting to manipulate to get the songs that you want. The genre of music that you want, you're starting to make changes to the system. If a human being has to be involved and anything in regard to the music being in the music played inside that establishment, you're DJing.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find **t/a Calabar Kitchen and Lounge** in violation of Rule and Regulation #37, alterations and additions change in mode of operation and Rule and Regulation #83, alcohol awareness and assess a fine of \$3,300, payable in three monthly payments of \$1,100 each, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

- 11. Mohammad Noor E. Alam Bhuiyan, President, t/a Super Food & Convenience, 5301 Sheriff Road, Fairmont Heights, 20743, Class DW(Off), Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of R.R No. 9 - Consumption or Sale During Prohibited Hours of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: On Friday, October 25th, 2024, at approximately 12:15 am, Inspector Pascual and Inspector Farmer-Johnson conducted an After-Hours Inspection at Super Food & Convenience, located at 5301 Sheriff Road, Fairmont Heights, MD. 20743. Inspector Pascual entered the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage after the authorized hours based on the alcoholic beverage license. Once inside the establishment, the Inspector approached the cooler where the beer was kept and observed that it was locked. At this point, he signaled the employee to enquire if the beer was available for purchase. The employee opened the cooler and Inspector Pascual asked for a six-pack of Corona. The employee unlocked the cooler, took the six-pack behind the register, and gave it to the employee who was checking out customers. The second employee proceeded to check out and process the payment with the credit card provided by Inspector Pascual. With the receipt in hand, Inspector Pascual exited the establishment and provided the evidence to Inspector Farmer-Johnson who then entered the establishment to issue the violation for R.R. No. 9- CONSUMPTION OR SALE DURING PROHIBITED HOURS.**

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Shea Farmer-Johnson testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on October 25, 2024.

Mr. Bhuiyan testified that it was their mistake. The cooler was locked, an employee went to the restroom and a new employee opened the cooler. They do not disagree that the cooler was opened after hours. Mr. Bhuiyan stated that he spoke to Ms. Little to let her know that he already paid a fine of \$1,000 and provided a copy of the receipt.

Ms. Little stated that she tried to explain to Mr. Bhuiyan that the receipt he provided was not issued by our office.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find **t/a Super Food & Convenience** in violation of Rule and Regulation #9 and assessed a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Adjourned 10:54 p.m.