

**January 28, 2025
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
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
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 10:02 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.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

SUBSTITUTION OF COPORATATE OFFICERS

1. **t/a Rosa Mexicano**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 153 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, 20745, Stefani DePrimo to serve as Authorized Person and Matthew Licciardello to serve as Authorized Person. Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.

Mr. Carter stated that this is a routine substitution of corporate officers application. There are no changes to the application and information provided is true and correct. There are no changes to the mode of operation. Both applicants are qualified. Both know the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the substitution of corporate officers for **t/a Rosa Mexicano**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

REGULAR SESSION

TRANSFER

1. Pavan A. Patel, Member-Manager for a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Mahek 117, LLC, **t/a Earl's Super Liquors**, 833 Southern Avenue, Oxon Hill, 20745 transfer from Scorpio Spirits, Inc., t/a Earl Super Liquors, 833 Southern Avenue, Oxon Hill, 20745, Dilbag Singh Dhillon, President. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

In response to questions asked by Mr. Kim, the applicant is a citizen of the United States. He has never been convicted of a felony, never been found guilty of violating any laws regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages or been found guilty of any offenses against the laws of the United States. He never had a license for sale of alcoholic beverages revoked, and does not own any other business in Prince George's County with an alcoholic beverage license.

He is 100% Member-Manager, and will be at the premises on a full-time basis. He is familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations and will make certain that all employees comply with the rules and regulations. He is alcohol awareness trained. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. He understands his obligations to this Board to answer any questions regarding the operation of Earl's Super Liquors, and accepts those responsibilities.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the transfer for **t/a Earl's Super Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

2. Radhika Gautam Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Big Z Holding Corporation, **t/a Big Z Liquors**, 3611 Forestville Road, Forestville, 20747 transfer from Big Z Holding Corporation, t/a Big Z Liquors 3611 Forestville Road, Forestville, Gita G. Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Ms. Carter provided background for both this case and the next case. The family is in the process of doing some family estate planning and restructuring. And so in this case, Geeta Patel, who was the licensee, is going to be coming off of this license and replacing her daughter in the next case in Sunnybrook. Her youngest daughter is going to be coming on to the Big Z license.

All of the information provided in the application are still true and correct and she is familiar with the Rules and Regulations. She is currently a fulltime college student. She will be the sole licensee and will spend 10-20 hours on site during the school year. She knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the transfer for **t/a Big Z Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

3. Kajal C. Makwana, Member/Authorized Person, Gita G. Patel, Member/Authorized Person for a Class B+, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Govind Krupa, LLC, **t/a Sunnybrook Tavern**, 9001 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, 20744 transfer from Govind Krupa, LLC, t/a Sunnybrook Tavern, 9001 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, 20744, Kajal C. Makwana, Member/Authorized Person, Dhara G. Patel, Member/Authorized Person. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Ms. Carter stated that an application was filed for a transfer to add Gita Patel's name on this license. Kajal Makwana remains the other licensee. Ms. Patel states that everything in that application still true and correct. She was the previous licensee at Big Z Liquors. She will spend 40 hours per week on site. She is alcohol awareness certified. She knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the transfer for **t/a Sunnybrook Tavern**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

4. Lal Bahadur Thapa, Member, Milan Thapa, Member for a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of Baniya Group, LLC, **t/a Kaywood Liquors**, 2205 Varnum Street, Mt. Rainier, 20712 transfer from ATSA MD, LLC, t/a Kaywood Liquors, 2205 Varnum Street, Mt. Rainier, 20712, Akeeb Tunji Salako, President. Represented by Abraham L. Hurdle, Esquire.

Milan Thapa is sworn in as the interpreter for his father. Mr. Hurdle stated that there is one change since the transfer application was originally filed. Lal Bahadur Thapa was a licensee for a Class D license in Baltimore County. He had ownership in that entity, and has filed to resign from that entity.

Milan Thapa testified that he was familiar with the Rules and Regulations. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. He has three (3) years of experience in the industry. Everyone in the store will be alcohol awareness trained. Everyone will be carded at the store. The hours of operation will be Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm and weekends from 9:00 am – midnight.

Lal Thapa is qualified by Mr. Hurdle. He has never had a license revoked and he is also alcohol awareness trained. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the transfer for **t/a Kaywood Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

5. Nisha C. Patel, President, Karan C. Patel, Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor for the use of CNKA Corporation, **t/a Astor Wine and Spirits**, 364 Domer Avenue, Laurel, 20707 transfer from Transformlife, LLC, t/a Astor Wine and Liquor, 364 Domer Avenue, Laurel, 20707, Bryan Mitkowski, Member. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Mr. Kim stated that the applicants are mother and son. Karan Patel will be 50% shareholder and serve as the secretary/treasurer. He will be on site fulltime. He has never been found guilty of violating any laws regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages or found guilty of any offenses against the laws of the United States. He has never had a license before and does not own any other business in Prince George's County with an alcoholic beverage license. He is familiar with the rules and regulations of this Board and will make certain that all employees comply with the rules and regulations. He is also alcohol awareness trained. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Nisha Patel has never been convicted of a felony and never been found guilty of violating any laws regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages or found guilty of any laws against the United States. She has never had a license revoked, and was previously a licensee on to (2) liquor licenses in Baltimore and Howard Counties. She will be 50% stockholder and President. She will be on site fulltime. She accepts the responsibilities of a licensee will make certain that all employees comply with the rules and regulations. She knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the transfer for **t/a Astor Wine and Spirits**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

NEW – CLASS B(DD), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. Bolaji Ayodeji Tubo, Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Tito Catering, LLC, **t/a Tito Spice Haven**, 900 4th Street, Unit 101, Laurel, 20707. Represented by Abigale Bruce-Watson, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. Churches are exempt in accordance with 26-1604(D)(3) of the Annotated Code of Maryland and there are no schools within a 1,000 feet. There are nineteen (19) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Ms. Bruce-Watson stated that her office submitted an package on behalf of Tito's Spice Haven, the package contained the interior and exterior layout of the property, a menu, some demographic information within one and two miles of the establishment, a map from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission detailing a specialty district for where this restaurant is located, Alcohol Awareness Training Certificate, health permit, use and occupancy permit, a letter of support from the mayor of Laurel, and petitions from supports that were signed by members of the public.

Mr. Tubo is a U.S. Citizen and a registered voter. He owns the restaurant in Laurel and has been operating this restaurant for the past over six months. Back in Nigeria, he managed a restaurant for over 10 years. So he has a lot of experience managing a restaurant. The restaurant will sell African American cuisine, American wings, mac and cheese, and several other types of food.

Ms. Bruce-Watson asked to amend the hours of operation. The application, indicated that the hours would be Monday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. To 12:00 a.m. They will now be closed on Monday. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. He accepts the responsibilities of a licensee and will comply with the rules and regulations.

Commissioner Camacho moved to modify the operating times of the restaurant; Monday will be closed. Tuesday through Sunday will be 11 a.m. To 12 a.m., seconded by **Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, motion carries.**

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant the Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor license to t/a **Tito Spice Haven**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, motion carries.**

NEW – CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Director Sheppard states that there six applicants applying for a new Class B beer, wine, and liquor, and this is a competition. The BOLC only has four Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses to issue today. The Rules of Engagement and scoring criteria are read.

1. 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. Continued from the October 22, 2024, hearing. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. Churches are exempt in accordance with 26-1604(D)(3) of the Annotated Code of Maryland and there are no schools within a 1,000 feet. There are sixteen (16) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Mr. Kim stated that there are three (3) people (Gina Walton, Leslie Washington and Kia Young) that wish to speak in support of this application and no opposition. Mid-Atlantic seafood has been a B+ license holder since 2011. Mr. Lee does not want the off-sale privilege; therefore the license was approved for a transfer back in November to Samosas and Spirits. This is a full-service restaurant, which I believe and maybe one of the most popular restaurants in the county.

Mr. Lee is a citizen of the United States, has never been convicted of a felony, and has never had any violations. He will be on-site 40-50 hours per week. He will serve as 100% stockholder, president, secretary, and treasurer. There are about 45 employees at the restaurant, and he will make certain that all the employees comply with the rules and regulations. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. A package was submitted to the Board containing signatures of support, photos of the interior and exterior of the restaurant, floorplan and menu. The restaurant services 4,500 – 5,000 customers per week.

Ms. Walton, Ms. Washington and Ms. Young all testified that they are regular customers of the restaurant, and Mr. Lee is very accommodating. They do not believe that having this license will pose a threat to the peace and safety of the neighborhood. They are 100% in support of the establishment receiving a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License.

2. German Escobar, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of German's Corporation, t/a Casa Dora II, 6211 Belcrest Road, Unit B101, Hyattsville, 20782.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney. There is no one present in support or in opposition of the application.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. There are no churches within 500 feet and no schools within 1,000 feet. There are nine (9) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Mr. Escobar stated that the restaurant previously held a license but did not renew because they planned to sell the restaurant. They are reapplying because they want to continue to operate the business. The food to alcohol ratio will be 95% food and 5% alcohol, and will serve a mix of Mexican food. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. The applicant is TIPS certified.

3. Ramoun Peterkin, Managing Member, Shanique Smythe-Peterkin, Managing Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Ramoun's Kitchen, LLC, t/a **Ramoun's Kitchen**, 15485 Annapolis Road, Suite 205, Bowie, 20715.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledged his right to an attorney and agreed to move forward without an attorney. There is no one present in support or in opposition of the application.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. There are no churches within 500 feet and no schools within 1,000 feet. There are eight (8) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Ms. Smythe-Peterkin stated that Ramon's Kitchen is a Jamaican fusion restaurant. They've been opened for a little over a year in the Bowie Marketplace Shopping Center in Bowie, Maryland. Last year they were awarded a beer and wine license and want to expand to a beer, wine and liquor license. Their customers are requesting and would like to enjoy cocktails with their meals in addition to beer and wine. They think that being able to expand our license would increase our sales about 30 to 35%. Additionally, they have some menu items that we would like to prepare that would use liquor.

Both are you familiar with the laws, rules, and regulations of the Board of Licensed Commissioners, and will conform with all laws. Both know the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. Mr. Peterkin will spend 10-13 hours per day on site, while Ms. Smythe-Peterkin will spend 10-20 hours per week.

4. Derrick Williams, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Infuse, LLC, t/a **Infuse Restaurant**, 6339 Allentown Road, Temple Hills, 20748.

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

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. There are no churches within 500 feet and no schools within 1,000 feet. There are six (6) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Mr. Williams stated that he had been a licensee for twelve (12) years but did not renew his license due to illness. He currently holds a beer and wine license. His plan is to continue to serve great meals at the restaurant. They are a staple in the Camp Springs, Temple Hills area. They've been in business since 2013. The menu consists of seafood, but also have traditional things like chicken alfredo. They have their own collard green spring rolls. The menu is a from scratch menu. Everything is made fresh. Mr. Williams knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's. He is familiar with the laws, rules, and regulations of the Board of Licensed Commissioners, and will conform with all laws.

Ms. Williams and Mr. Waller testified that they are customers of the restaurant receiving a beer, wine and liquor license. Ms. Williams is no longer a resident of Prince George's County but still supports the restaurant. Mr. Waller and his wife frequents the restaurant and stated that the licensees are great people, and are community oriented.

5. Ali R. Arellano, Member/Authorized Person, Gabriela Febres, Member/Authorized Person, Johnny Luciano Rodriguez, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Arepa Zone the Aster, LLC, **t/a Arepa Zone**, 4341 Calvert Road, College Park, 20740. Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation. There are no churches within 500 feet and the school's distance is under 400 in this case under Maryland Beverages and cannabis Law 26-1604(D)(2) are going to be exempt. There are twelve (12) liquor establishment within one mile of this location.

Mr. Carter stated that his office submitted an application on behalf of my clients for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License. Arepa Zone started as a food truck in Washington, D.C. 11 years ago. Due to the positive reception of their food they've been able to expand. They currently have a location at Union Market in DC and just getting that location was a highly competitive process when Union Market opened. Additionally, they have a location on 14th Street in Washington, D.C, which will be the most similar location to this location in College Park. They also operate a concession stand at Audi Field and Nationals Park. They have another restaurant in Fairfax, and they also operate a second concept in DC as well. This would be this group's seventh location overall in their first location in Maryland and Prince George's County.

They're hopefully going to be opening in six weeks. Despite what the site might look like right now, really the last remaining work is to just get approval to turn on the electricity and then to install the millwork. Based on their other locations, they anticipate about an 80 to 20 food to alcohol ratio. Two things make this restaurant unique. First is the food. Second, this would be the really the first Venezuelan restaurant in Prince George's County.

All three applicants know the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

6. Edwein Arbaiza, President, 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. Represented by Eddie Pounds, Esquire.

Mr. Pounds stated that this is the second time his client has appeared before the Board to apply for this license. They realized that they had not done the necessary work to cultivate a relationship with the community, which they have done since the last hearing. They are now ready to demonstrate that they are capable of accommodating a public need and are capable and willing to protect the peace and safety of the surrounding community. The applicant submitted revised hours of operation as a part of its application. Monday – Sunday opening at 10:00 a.m. Closing time Monday – Thursday is 10:00 p.m. Closing time Friday and Saturday is midnight, and closing time on Sunday is 11:00 p.m.

This is a family style restaurant managed and operated by family members. An exhibit book was submitted that included interior and exterior photographs of their restaurant. As well as their menu of food offerings. The cuisine is Tex-Mex and Latin American. He knows the ages to buy and sell alcohol and the six (6) forms of acceptable ID's.

Ms. Ashley Williams testified that the neighborhood association was in opposition of this application last year, however, both parties agreed to a memorandum of understanding. They changed their hours and will not seek an entertainment permit for the establishment. The restaurant will not disturb the peace and safety of the community and that they will maintain the integrity of a family establishment.

Dr. Rios, President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Prince George's County, testified that they are in support of this application, and that the restaurant will and can accommodate the public. Mr. Lionel testified that he knows the applicant's father and that a bar is needed to be able to eat and have a drink after work.

Mr. Kim asked to reopen the matter for t/a **Mid Atlantic Seafood Restaurant**. He asked to convert or amend the application to a BLX license, because he thinks they would qualify. The only issue would be because since it's been opened since 2007, they're not going to have invoices and checks but could probably get an appraisal. He thinks based upon the review of photographs submitted, the Board will agree that satisfying the million-dollar requirement is not a problem. He asked the board to keep that in mind in terms of potential reopening of the case.

Results were presented after all scores were tallied. The top 4 scores were granted a license.

1. **Mid Atlantic Seafood Restaurant (125 Points)**
2. **Latino's Bar & Grill (90 Points)**
3. **Ramoun's Kitchen (65 Points)**
4. **Arepa Zone (55 Points)**
5. **Casa Dora II (35 Points)**
6. **Infuse Restaurant (5 points)**

Commissioner Camacho made a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for t/a **Mid Atlantic Seafood Restaurant, Latinos Bar & Grill, Ramoun's Kitchen** and **Arepa Zone**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. After Board vote, motion carries.

Adjourned 12:58 p.m.