

**February 8, 2023
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:11 p.m.

Commissioner Camacho: I'm going to go over a few house rules. We understand that we're in a network situation with connectivity issues, we ask that you mute your computers or cell phones until you're called. We operate under the Maryland Open Meetings Act, any transactions, all of our testimony, and discussions between Commissioners is done in the open and totally transparent. When we do call cases and we experience connectivity issues we will pause that case, proceed to the next case, and allow you to reestablish connectivity with us. Additionally, I'll explain the procedure, the Director will call the case, I'll swear in whoever is going to be testifying, after the testimony is taken, I'll ask for a motion, someone will second the motion and then we'll take a vote. We normally have five Commissioners, but our Chairwoman isn't with us today and Commissioner Smith had to tend to an emergency.

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 Tony's Liquors**, Jaymin M. Patel, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Tony's Wine & Spirits, LLC., 12637 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

The licensee agrees to spend the \$50,000 capital investment within one year of today's date.

The upgrades include but are not limited to new floor tiles, renovating customer counters, adding shelves in the storage area, adding comfortable seating and tables in the lottery area, clean and paint interior walls, and new walk-in refrigerators.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Special Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Tony's Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. **t/a Tony's Liquors**, Jaymin M. Patel, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Tony's Wine & Spirits, LLC., 12637 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708 – Request for a Delivery Permit.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Kim states he has gone over R.R. 76 in connection with Delivery Permits with his client and reiterates deliveries are to only be made to individuals that are twenty-one years old.

Mr. Jaymin Patel states he has read and fully understands R.R. 76.

There is no opposition present at the hearing.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Delivery Permit for t/a Tony's Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. **t/a El Puente de Oro Restaurant**, **Ciro Castro**, President for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Castro Corp, t/a El Puente de Oro Restaurant, 1401 University Blvd, Unit G-5 & G-6, Hyattsville, 20783. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. Continued from May 4, 2022.

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

Corporal Juan Hunt (Prince George's County Police Department) testified that the U&O had some discrepancies in May 2022, the U&O now has the proper wording. The security plan from May 2022 still stands and is adequate.

The plans for El Puente de Oro Restaurant if granted a Special Entertainment Permit are to have a DJ and live bands Thursday through Sunday.

Commissioner Camacho requested Mr. Castro to send a copy of his entertainment schedule to the BOLC office for our records.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to El Puente de Oro Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Wilson E. Ceron-Jacome, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Lubia Ceron Vice President, **t/a Rancho Rio Bravo**, 2031-C University Blvd. Hyattsville, Maryland 20783, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 6-311 and R.R. #11, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. #26 A (7) "The failure of any licensee to keep records required by the Maryland Code or by the Rules and/or Regulations of this Board or the refusal to allow inspection of such records by duly authorized persons". To wit; on or about Monday, November 21, 2022, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted a Routine Inspection at the licensed premises, located at 2031-C University Blvd., Hyattsville, MD. Inspector Farmer-Johnson observed nearly empty bottles of liquor and inquired about the invoices/records to identify which Authorized Retailer the alcoholic beverages were purchased from and the manager advised she had no invoices nor could identify where any of the alcoholic beverages were purchased from. 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 **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Licensee Wilson E. Ceron-Jacome is not present at this hearing. Our agency attorney advises the Board they can move forward with one licensee present.

Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 21, 2022.

Ms. Lubia Ceron testified that she keeps the invoices locked up in the office, only she and the manager have keys to. She didn't know the invoices needed to be accessible for everyone. The items confiscated were ordered from approved wholesalers, but she couldn't locate the invoices.

Mr. Kim states this isn't a situation where they were buying alcohol from unauthorized wholesalers, but a situation of failure to maintain records. The alcohol was purchased from approved wholesalers. They understand now the records must be accessible to any employees so they can be reviewed by inspectors.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Rancho Rio Bravo in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Jeffery Miskiri, Owner, **t/a Suga & Spice**, 5557 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 100 Hyattsville, Maryland 20781, Class B(AE), Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Maryland Annotated Code 6-304 selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one and RR No. 1 Sales to a minor of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at approximately 12:45 pm one (1) underage female operative (18-yrs-old –Mejia) and Inspector Golato, of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners

entered Suga & Spice located at 5557 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 100, Hyattsville, MD 20781. The operative ordered a 16-ounce Henry Blossom Cocktail, while Inspector Golato observed as the server did not check for ID and provided the alcoholic beverage to the minor operative. 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.

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

Inspector Glenn of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on December 8, 2022.

Mr. Jeffrey Miskiri apologizes to the Board and states the staff member made a mistake and forgot to follow the procedures. We're guilty of this violation and will be retraining for TIPS.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Suga & Spice in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Diego Sanchez, Manager, t/a **BurgerFi**, 161 Fleet Street National Harbor, Maryland 20745, Class D(NH), Beer and Wine is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation R.R. No. 17 – Beverages from Faucets, Spigots, etc.; Labeling: No holder of any alcoholic beverage license, his/her agents, or employees shall furnish or serve any malt or brewed beverage from any faucet, spigot, or other dispensing apparatus unless the trade name or brand name of the product served appears in full view to the customer in legible lettering upon the dispensing apparatus. To wit; That on Monday, November 14, 2022, at approximately 6:45 p.m. during a routine inspection of BurgerFi at 161 Fleet Street, National Harbor, MD 20745, Inspector Clinkscale noticed that the tap had no handle or label even though there was a beer keg attached to it and it was being used to serve patrons according to the manager, which is a violation of R.R# 17 of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. 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.

Inspector Marcus Clinkscale of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 14, 2022.

Mr. Diego Sanchez states they were in the process of switching out the beer for a new specialty import beer from Spain. We took the handle off the beer we were no longer selling and received the keg before the handle that's why the Inspector saw the line was hooked up to a keg but missing the handle for the spout.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a BurgerFi in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

7. Michele Tekam, Member, **t/a Famous Lounge**, 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit# 150 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of RR No.#7 Consumption of Bottled goods on licensed premises (Bottle Service) and RR# 37 Alteration and Addition of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, Maryland. To wit: On Saturday November 12, 2022, at approximately 10:15 pm, two undercover Prince George's County Liquor Inspectors entered the Famous Lounge, located at 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit #150, Upper Marlboro MD 20772. Once inside, they observed bottles of Patron in clear carafes being delivered to a table with sparkling lights, also igloos, which are structures used to seat patrons, were placed on the outside of the establishment, and being utilized without the Board's 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 **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Inspector Farmer-Johnson testified about the incident that occurred on November 12, 2022.

Mr. Kim challenges the violation report and cross-examines Inspector Farmer-Johnson. **Inspector Bowden of the BOLC** is asked to answer questions about the night in question.

Mr. Kim asked for a motion to dismiss the allegations due to no concrete evidence.

Mr. Kim states the igloos were placed outside the establishment due to the Maryland state law that permits food and hookah be separated from alcohol and food service because of the health code.

Mr. Kim requested implementation of the ten-day rule to submit to the Board receipts from Famous Lounge and a picture of the POS system showing the establishment can't sell bottles on their cash register. No patrons were charged for bottle service that night.

Ms. Vanessa Etienne (Manager) testified that Famous Lounge has modified their business after receiving a violation for bottle service in June 2022.

No decision was made in this case, the Board will wait until after the submission of further evidence.

Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC