

**January 23, 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  
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  
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide  
Katrice James, Administrative Aide  
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

**Start Time: 10:03 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:**

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Hooters**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 14707 A Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20708, Alisa P. Cleek to serve as Authorized Person instead of Benjamin Benson, Authorized Person. Represented by **Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire**.  
**Ms. Cleek** is the Chief Legal Officer, Corporate Secretary and an Authorized Person of HOA Laurel, LLC. She oversees the liquor licensing, compliance risk, human resources, and the legal department.  
There will be no changes to the mode of operation.  
**Ms. Schrecengost** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Hooters, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**
2. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Residence Inn National Harbor Washington DC Area**, Class B(BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 192 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, 20745, Lizza Carter to serve as Assistant Secretary instead of Edwin Peters, Assistant Secretary. Represented by **Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire**.  
**Ms. Carter** is the Assistant Secretary and General Manager of the Residence Inn by Marriott, LLC. She is responsible for the overall operation of the hotel and the security of the staff and guests.  
**Ms. Schrecengost** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Residence Inn National Harbor Washington DC Area, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**
3. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Country Club at Woodmore**, Class C, GCC, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 12320 Pleasant Prospect, Mitchellville, 20721, Thomas H. Graham to serve as Authorized Person instead of Daniel Hayle, Authorized Person. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.  
**Mr. Kim** is the attorney of record, however his colleague **Ms. Kelly Kyllis** participated in the hearing.  
**Mr. Graham** is the Authorized Person and twenty-five percent member for this license.  
**Ms. Kyllis** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Country Club at Woodmore, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**TRANSFER**

1. Arti Kumar, Managing Member, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Plaza Beverages MD, LLC, t/a Great Plaza Liquors, 6439 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747 transfer from Plaza Beverages MD, LLC, t/a Plaza Liquors, 6439 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747, Hirabhai Patel, Member-Manager. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.  
**Mr. Kumar** is the Member-Manager and one-hundred percent owner of Great Plaza Liquors.  
**Ms. Kylis** asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the 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. Kumar** is Alcohol Awareness certified.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Great Plaza Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**NEW- CLASS B(DD), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR:**

1. Davonne Austin, CEO, Brandon Austin, Board Manager for a Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Marley's Bar & Grill Inc., t/a **Marley's Bar & Grill**, 6450 American Blvd, Suite 101, Hyattsville, 20782.  
Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.  
**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.  
An amendment has been made to remove Davonne Austin from the license.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the amendment removing Davonne Austin from the license, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**  
Marley's Bar & Grill will have a Caribbean and Southern concept. The anticipated opening date is February 16, 2024.  
**Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify for 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.  
**Director Sheppard** asked for clarification on a question from **Mr. Austin's affidavit regarding having a previous violation**.  
**Mr. Austin** states there were no violations during his tenure as a licensee for Outback Germantown. Outback in Germantown did have violations. I came on the license in May 2023, the incident in question happened in February 2023. The hearing for this incident took place in August 2023 once I was already on the license, so I was issued the notice.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor license for t/a Marley's Bar & Grill, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

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

1. Tanetta Nicole Merritt, Authorized Person, Susan Vogel, Authorized Person, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Apollo 109, LLC, t/a La'Caj, 4535 Telfair Blvd, Suite 109 and Suite 110, Camp Springs, 20746.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire.**

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**Ms. Carter** states Ms. Merritt has been operating Burgers@ Apollo for almost four years. There was a sale to minor violation, her staff completed the training requirement. Alcohol Awareness training will be a one-hundred percent requirement for the employees at La'Caj. There will be no employees under the age of eighteen. Ms. Vogel has been involved in commercial and residential real estate.

La'Caj is a Latin and Cajun seafood restaurant. The restaurant has approximately one-hundred and ten seats.

An amendment has been made to reflect the hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to accept the change of hours, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman.**

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Ms. Carter** asked the standard questions used to qualify for 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** makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a La'Caj, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR:**

1. Darnell Dinkins, Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of House of Comedy and Jazz Limited Liability Company, t/a House of Comedy and Jazz, 9430 Annapolis Road, Lanham, 20706.

Represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire.**

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

An amendment has been made to reflect the hours of operation will be Sunday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and Thursday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to accept the change of hours, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Mr. Pounds** states House of Comedy and Jazz had the opportunity to become the first comedy lounge and restaurant in Prince George's County, they've been open and operating since November 2023. It's one hundred percent owned and operated by Mr. Dinkins. He has decades of experience in the entertainment business. There will be a card policy in place for all patrons purchasing alcoholic beverages. Mr. Dinkins is Alcohol Awareness certified. All employees will be Alcohol Awareness certified and will undergo continuous training. No patrons under the age of twenty-one are allowed on the

weekends. We plan to come back before the Board to obtain a Special Entertainment Permit.

**Mr. Pounds** asked the standard questions used to qualify for 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.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a House of Comedy and Jazz, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

2. Shawn A. Demetrius, Member-Manager, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Southeastern Foods, LLC, t/a **Shantoo**, 1290 Crain Highway, Bowie, 20716.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**Mr. Kim** states Mr. Demetrius will be the one-hundred percent Member-Manager of Southeastern Foods, LLC.

Shantoo will be a restaurant serving Southern and Caribbean cuisine.

**Mr. Kim** asked the standard questions used to qualify for 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. Demetrius** is Alcohol Awareness certified; a copy of his certificate was submitted to the Board last week.

The anticipated opening date for Shantoo is approximately February 9, 2024.

A petition of support with one-hundred and twenty signatures was submitted to the Board.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Shantoo, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

3. Glaister Brooks, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of D&G Caribbean Grill + Bar, Inc., t/a **D&G Caribbean Grill + Bar**, 6946 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, 20715.

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

**Chief Clark** gave a maps presentation.

**Mr. Brooks** states he's come before the Board to obtain a liquor license. He's D&G Caribbean Grill + Bar is a family business. We're looking forward to giving the patrons a taste of our family recipes and be involved with the community.

**Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms** asked the standard questions used to qualify for 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.

An amendment has been made to the application to reflect there is no off sale permitted.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to amend the square footage for off sale on the application, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a D&G Caribbean Grill + Bar, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**Adjourned: 11:32 a.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Alecia L. Hughes**  
*Assistant to the Director BOLC*