

**January 10, 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, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:01 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 Mi Patria Restaurant**, Selvin Adanil Gutierrez, Member-Manager/Authorized Person, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Mi Patria Restaurant, LLC, 5906 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20783. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.
Corporal Juan Hunt (Prince George’s County Police Department) states he conducted a site inspection, viewed their cameras, and discussed the Rules and Regulations. The security plan is adequate.
The plans for Mi Patria Restaurant are to provide karaoke for customers.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to Mi Patria Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 2. t/a Azteca Bar & Grill**, James J. Burick, Authorized Person, Mario E. Orellana, Authorized Person, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, Azteca Enterprises, LLC, 9505 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Maryland 20740. – Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.
Corporal Juan Hunt (Prince George’s County Police Department) states initially we had some issues with the U&O Permit, we cleared that up and discussed the Rules and Regulations. The security plan is adequate.
Mr. Orenalla states he would like to obtain the Special Entertainment Permit to continue generate more job opportunities.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to Azteca Bar & Grill, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 3. t/a Bell’s Drive In Liquors**, Milap N. Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Ambe Laxmi, Inc., 5901 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
The licensee agrees to spend the \$50,000 capitol investment within one year of today’s date.
Mr. Kim states we filed this application on November 30, 2023, with a detailed report of all the upgrades for this establishment.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Special Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Bell’s Drive In Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote the motion carries.
- 4. t/a Esquire Liquors**, Viraj J. Patel, Authorized Person, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, YuVi, LLC., 6108 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745 – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
Mr. Kim states I’ve explained the rule governing the Delivery Permit, Rule and Regulation seventy-six to Mr. Patel. He understands the requirements in connection with having a Delivery Permit.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Delivery Permit for t/a Esquire Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Tao Li, President, **t/a Latao-Sushi Cuisine**, 8700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A & B College Park, Maryland 20740, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation R.R. No. 11 Purchases by authorized retailer: No license holder shall purchase any alcoholic beverages except from a duly licensed manufacturer or wholesaler and RR#35 Trade Name: The Board of License Commissioners shall approve the trade name of the licensed premises. To wit; on or about Sunday, September 10, 2023, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Inspector Golato of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted a Routine Inspection at the licensed premises, located at 8700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A & B, College Park, MD 20740. Inspector Golato noticed the sign located on the outside of the establishment was different from the name on the license. Additionally, while inside the establishment Inspector Golato noticed 10 open alcohol bottles sitting on a countertop. The manager Mr. Zheng, admitted he purchased them from LAX Wine, Spirits and Bistro. 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. Continued from November 1, 2023, hearing and December 6, 2023, hearing, December 21, 2023. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Inspector Golato of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on September 10, 2023.

Mr. Kim states we have no disputes to Inspector Golato's report or testimony. The tradename has officially been changed to Latao Hotpot College Park. This is their first offense since opening in 2018. There's no excuse for the wholesaler This is a violation that'll never happen again.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Latao-Sushi Cuisine, in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$4,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Jeffrey Sze, Member, **t/a The Spot**, 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 101 Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and RR#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 Tuesday, November 6, 2023, at approximately 7:40 p.m., Inspectors Farmer-Johnson and Pascual of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted an Inspection at the licensed premises, located at 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 101, Camp Springs, MD. Inspector Farmer-Johnson and Pascual observed boxes and bottles with stickers from other establishments. When inquired about the invoices/records to identify which Authorized Retailer the alcoholic beverages were purchased from, the manager advised them that they didn't have any invoices. 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 **Lawrence Holzman, Esquire.**

Inspector Pascual of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 6, 2023.

Mr. Holzman states Mr. Sze is a first-time restaurant operator, he relied on his manager to handle the daily operations. He now understands the requirements for the rules and regulations and has fixed the problem. The manager who purchased the alcohol, is no longer an employee at The Spot.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a The Spot, in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$4,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

7. Dionicio Montero Castaneda, Co-Managing Member, William Martinez, Co-Managing Member, t/a **Taqueria Habanero**, 8145 Baltimore Avenue College Park, Maryland 20740, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 26-1903 A licensed holder may not provide entertainment unless authorized to do so, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No 37 (E) Change in mode of operation, of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; That on Monday, November 6, 2023, at approximately 6:14 p.m., Inspector Price arrived at Taqueria Habanero at 8145 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740, and noticed a food truck parked outside selling food. Also, there were four tables and chairs with patrons eating and drinking. 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 **Wesley Japp, Esquire.**

Inspector Price of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 6, 2023.

Mr. Japp states the shopping center in which the restaurant is located is in the process of evicting all the tenants. The license is in the process of being transferred to another location. The landlords gave my client sixty days, the property will be demolished. Mr. Martinez is a very experienced restaurateur; this establishment has been in business since 2019. The circumstances have caused him to do whatever he can to maintain the business during this time.

Mr. Martinez states we had to adapt to our current circumstances, we have found a new location. The food truck was a temporary fix, we're working closely with the City of College Park, the Health Department, and Fire Marshalls. We did put some chairs in the front of the restaurant, we wanted to attract customers because of the change in operation. There was alcohol being sold from the food trucks, however we let our customers know the alcohol can't go beyond the outdoor tables.

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

After Board vote, the motion carries.

8. Patrick Nwaokwu, Managing Member, **t/a GQ Palace**, 8833 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of RR #9, No licensee, his/her agent, or employee shall allow consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by patrons on the licensed premises during the hours when such sales or consumption is not allowed by the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; That on December 3, 2023, at approximately 1:30am, Inspector North, entered GQ Palace (undercover) located at 8833 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Inspector North purchased a drink at 2:58am and stayed at the establishment until approximately 3:20am, and he noticed patrons were still being served alcohol at the time. This is a violation of RR #9 selling, furnishing, dispensing alcoholic beverages after 3:00am. There is a prior violation for RR7, Consumption of Bottled Goods on Licensed Premises on 7/31/2022 an a fine of 7,500.00 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 an attorney.

Inspector North of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on December 3, 2023.

Mr. Nwaokwu states this was an oversight, I apologize for this violation. We have taken measures to ensure the bar is shut down by 2:00 a.m.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a GQ Palace, in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$10,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, motion carries.

The fine can be made payable over ninety days. The first month payment of \$4,000, second- and third-month payments should be \$3,000.

Director Sheppard states the Board will conduct research of the proper fine accumulation. This case will be continued to the next available hearing.

9. Rhonda Hall, Managing Member, **Ladies 1st Cigars**, 402 Coventry Way, Clinton, Maryland 20735, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of an alleged violation of RR #58 A(2) and A(5) There shall be employed a sufficient number of chefs and /or cooks to prepare food at all hours that the establishment is open. The licensee shall not deviate from the operating conditions allowed and defined by the Board concerning the operation of the restaurant. The operating conditions of the establishment include but are not limited to the hours of operation, type of menu, availability of food, and the number of tables and chairs provided for patrons. & RR #37(E) Change in Mode of Operation (Permitting smoking in the establishment) To wit: On Thursday, November 30, 2023, at approximately 10:00pm, Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the Board of License Commissioners entered the Ladies First Cigars, located 6402 Coventry Way, Clinton, MD. While inside she ordered food but was advised the chef left and that they had no food to offer. Also, Inspector Farmer-Johnson noticed patrons smoking cigars inside the establishment. This is a direct violation of RR# 58 A(2) and A(5). Also, a violation of RR #37 (E) Changing mode of Operation. 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.

Ms. Hall asked the Board to continue this case to return with her attorney.

No objections.

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

After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 10.** Otis L. Lonon, Resident, **The Carolina Kitchen (Brandywine)**, 15812 Crain Highway Brandywine, Maryland 20613, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and RR#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 Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at approximately 8:00p.m., Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted a Routine Inspection at 15812 Crain Highway, Brandywine Maryland (Carolina Kitchen). Inspector Farmer-Johnson observed two wine bottles with price stickers, which indicated the bottles were not purchased from a wholesaler. Also, Inspector Farmer-Johnson asked the manager for invoices and no invoices can be provided. This is a violation of RR #11 purchasing alcoholic beverages form other than a wholesaler and RR #26 A(7) failure to keep records. 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**.

Inspector Farmer-Johnson of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 29, 2023.

Mrs. Carter states this Carolina Kitchen location opened approximately six and a half years ago. However, they just received their liquor license a year ago. Even though the license was issued, alcoholic beverages are not being sold at this location due to staffing issues. The establishment remains carry-out only, there's no carry-out of alcoholic beverages. Alcohol will be served once my client can adequately serve his seated patrons. In July, Mr. Lonon had a party at his house, for the party he purchased alcohol from a liquor store. The alcohol from the party was placed in the truck used to transport merchandise to all Carolina Kitchen locations. Mr. Lonon needed to use the truck to transport construction items. He instructed his staff to unload the items from the truck in his office. The staff put everything in his office, including the alcohol. The inspector came in and was taken into his office, the alcohol was still there but not being used.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a The Carolina Kitchen (Brandywine), in violation, as charged, with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

11. Aster Haileselassie, Member, Authorized Person, **National Golf Club at Tantallon**, 300 St. Andrews Drive Fort Washington, Maryland 20744, Class C,GCC, 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 December 17, 2019, transfer application for a Class C,GCC, Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about February 25, 2020, 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 **Gregory Lee, Esquire.**

Mr. Lee states the National Golf Club at Tantallon was purchased by DC Dynasty in 2019. The transfer was approved in February 2020 while continuing construction of the business. I've provided all documents to Ms. Little for effectuation. However, there's a residency requirement that was not met. I didn't represent the business during the transfer, but they did find a person who will be acting as a resident agent. The individual will be a twenty-five percent owner and a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. We'll add this person to the license and get all required information to the Board.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to postpone this matter, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC