

**March 26, 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
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 10:04 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 National Golf Club at Tantallon**, Class C, GCC, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 300 St. Andrews Drive, Fort Washington, 20744, Mulugeta Tesfakiros to serve as Managing Member, Aster Haileselassie, Member, Sentayehue Abebaw Desta to serve as Member/Resident Agent instead of Timothy O'Brien, President/Secretary. Represented by **Gregory Lee, Esquire**.
Ms. Desta will be the resident agent holding twenty-five percent membership interest of DC Dynasty, LLC. She will be attending Alcohol Awareness training soon and the certificate will be submitted to the Board.
Mr. Lee asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. The applicant was able to answer each question.
Commissioner Camacho asked what the six acceptable forms of I.D. are, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.
The applicant was initially unable to list the six forms of I.D., after pausing this case the applicant was able to answer each question.
Director Sheppard asked if anyone else is being added to the license as there were two names listed on the agenda.
Mr. Lee confirmed that the two licensees currently existing are Mr. Tesfakiros and Ms. Haileselassie. We are adding Ms. Desta to the license.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a National Golf Club at Tantallon, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

REGULAR SESSION

1. **t/a Bistro 64**, Gilda Mae Williams, Managing Member, Class B(R), Beer, Wine and Liquor, MMB Unlimited, LLC, 6494 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747. – Suspension Hearing.
Attorney Richard Basile representing Kenneth Ndeh who holds eighty-four percent of MMB Unlimited LLC. **The Board allowed Mr. Basile to admit his appearance.**
Ms. Williams states that at the time of the violation she was out of the country. Her son Brian Williams is the manager and runs the daily operation. Mr. Williams had trouble notifying his mother of the incident.
Mr. Williams states he was aware that there should not be a DJ after nine' o clock, as the inspector was entering the establishment the DJ was breaking his equipment down.
Mr. Williams states the violation and late fee can be paid by this upcoming Friday, March 29, 2024.
Director Sheppard states that the Board of License Commissioners has no record of a majority stockholder, if there is anyone who needs to be added to the license, this information needs to be disclosed by March 29, 2024.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to hold the show cause in abeyance until Friday when the payment is made in full, and all management agreements for licensees be updated immediately, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

REQUEST FOR CONVERSION

1. **t/a Town Hall Restaurant and Liquors**, Ashuta Tandon, Member-Manager, Town Hall Wine and Spirits, LLC, 8135 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740. See letter dated December 28, 2023, requesting for the conversion of the Class B+ License to a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License during the renewal period between February 1, 2024, through March 1, 2024. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Continuation from March 6, 2024, hearing.

Our agency attorney advised the Board there has been previous testimony and evidence on record. The Board can move forward based on this information.

There was no opposition present on the hearing.

The Board was satisfied with the testimony provided from the previous hearing.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to confirm the conversion of the license from a Class BL+ to a Class A license for t/a Town Hall Restaurant and Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

REQUEST FOR DELIVERY PERMIT

1. **t/a Manokeek Liquors**, Nirubean K. Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Manokeek Wine and Spirits Corporation, 7091 Berry Road, Suite B, Accokeek, 20607. – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Kim states that Mr. Patel agrees to abide by the Board's Rules and Regulations #76 in connection with Delivery Permits.

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

After Board vote, motion carries.

2. **t/a Laurel Beer, Wine and Spirits**, Sukhchain Singh, Managing Member, Harkesh Manocha, Member, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Laurel Wine and Spirits, LLC, 8501 Cherry Lane, Laurel, 20707. – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Kim states Mr. Singh agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations #76 in connection with Delivery Permits.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Delivery Permit for t/a Laurel Beer, Wine and Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, motion carries.

3. **t/a Central Avenue Liquors**, Dinah Ok Min Chin, Director, Unsuik Chin, President, Nicholas Chin, Vice President, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Youngtaemin Corporation, 6115 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, 20743. – Request for a Delivery Permit.

Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Commissioner Camacho ensures that the licensees understand the importance of validating customer ID's, using his own vehicle and holding records for eighteen months.

Commissioner Smith questions whether licensees know about any oppositions to this Delivery Permit as there were previous oppositions within the community.

Mr. Chin states they have resolved all community issues surrounding their business.

Commissioner Norman requests to know the last date of inspection for t/a Central Avenue Liquors.

Mr. DeLoach states that the Board has not received any official notice for the opposition of this Delivery Permit.

Deputy Chief Inspector Mendoza shows the last record of inspection was on January 3, 2024, there were no issues found during the inspection.

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

After Board vote, motion carries.

TRANSFER

1. Harold J. Lawlor, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and for the use of Barbeque Integrated, Inc., **t/a Smokey Bones Bar and Fire Grill #7565**, 15209 Major Landsdale Blvd, Bowie, 20715, transfer from Barbeque Integrated, Inc., t/a Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill #7565, 15209 Major Landsdale Blvd, Bowie, 20715, Nicole Milnthorpe, CFO, James O'Reilly, CEO.

Represented by Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire.

Ms. Schrecengost states the applicant has held an alcoholic beverage license previously. There is a new hundred percent owner by a new parent company triggering the transfer. There will be no changes to the mode of operation.

Ms. Schrecengost 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. Applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B license for t/a Smokey Bones Bar and Fire Grill #7565, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Mohammad Noor E. Alam Bhuiyan, President for a Class D(Off), Beer and Wine for the use of Super Food & Convenience, Inc., **t/a Super Food & Convenience**, 5301 Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, 20743, transfer from Aida Convenience, Inc., t/a Sheriff Road Carry-Out and Beer & Wine, 5301 Sheriff Road, Fairmount Heights, 20743, Aida A. Leon, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Venes B. Zebenay, Assistant Secretary.

Represented by Kevin Lee, Esquire.

Mr. Bhuiyan is the President of t/a Super Food & Convenience. His Alcohol Awareness certificate has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Lee 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. Applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho asked Mr. Bhuiyan what safeguard procedures he has in place to ensure no alcohol is being sold past 12:00 a.m.

Mr. Bhuiyan states his cashiers know that they cannot serve past that time and agree to abide by the Board's Rules and Regulations.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class D license for t/a Super Food & Convenience, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Manila Kapur, President for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Mahalashmi, Inc., **t/a Laurel Lakes Liquors**, 14132 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, transfer from Mahalashmi, Inc., t/a Laurel Lakes Liquors, 14132 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, Asha S. Khatri, President, Subhash J. Khatri, Vice President/Secretary. **Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.**

Ms. Kapur is Alcohol Awareness certified and will be recertified soon. She is familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations and understands it will be her responsibility if any violations occur.

Mr. Carter 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. Applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Laurel Lakes Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Jennifer Cho, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Queens Knight, Inc., **t/a Queens Chapel Liquors**, 3108 Queens Chapel Road, Hyattsville, 20782, transfer from Queens Chapel Liquors, LLC t/a Queens Chapel Liquors, 3108 Queens Chapel Road, Hyattsville, 20782, Richard Norris Goetzinger, Authorized Person/Member, Yun Yi, Member. **Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.**

Ms. Cho previously held a Class A license and has prior knowledge of the Board's Rules and Regulations. There will be no changes made to the application.

Mr. Carter 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. Applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Queens Chapel Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Imran Bhuiyan, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class D(off), Beer and Wine for the use of Parkway Center, Inc., **t/a Parkway Market**, 5670 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, 20710, transfer from Parkway Center, Inc., t/a Parkway Market, 5670 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, 20710, Steve Kyu Pak, President/Secretary/Treasurer. **Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Bhuiyan will be holding fifty percent stock ownership and serve full time as the President, Secretary and Treasurer for Parkway Market. A copy of Mr. Bhuiyan's Alcohol Awareness certificate has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Kim 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. Applicant was able to answer each question.

Mr. Bhuiyan confirms he understands his responsibility to answer any questions about the operation of business the Board may have.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class D license for t/a Parkway Market, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS D, BEER AND WINE

1. Temitope Popoola, Partner, Dean Eluma, Partner for a Class D(on), Beer and Wine for the use of OCPS, LLC, t/a **Myste Lounge**, 349 Main Street, Apt. 1, Laurel, 20707. Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Director Sheppard states we will need an amendment to the applicant's titles on the application.

An amendment has been made to the application to reflect that Temitope Popoola will serve as Managing-Member and Dean Eluma as Member.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Eluma states Myste Lounge is a small hookah establishment providing an environment for relaxation. The anticipated opening date is April, latest by May. There is no other establishment like it in the area. We have received approval from the zoning Board to open.

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

There is no opposition present for this case.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class D(on) license for t/a Myste Lounge, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia
Administrative Aide BOLC