

**April 12, 2023
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, 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: 7:00 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, exceed 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 Village Pump Liquors**, Jayashriben Patel, President, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Nilkanth Varni, Inc., 4901 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20740. – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.
Represented by **Linda Carter, 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 the parking lot, doors, and expansion of the building.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Special Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Village Pump Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 2. t/a Chesapeake Liquors**, Chirag Patel, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Chesapeake 1, LLC, 8853 Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland, 20735. – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.
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 flooring, LED lights, ceiling tile, furniture, and counters.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Special Sunday Sales Permit for t/a Chesapeake Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
- 3. Jemima B. Ablorh**, Member, **t/a Aroma Ultra Restaurant Lounge**, 4000 Town Center Blvd Lounge LLC Bowie, Maryland 20716. Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 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 (Having entertainment without a permit), of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit; On Friday, February 3, 2023, at approximately 10:15 p.m., Inspectors North and Clinkscale entered Aroma Ultra Lounge at 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, MD 20716 based on a complaint and noticed a DJ playing Hip Hop, Reggae and Salsa music. At that time, the establishment did not possess an entertainment permit. 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 **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.
Inspector Marcus Clinkscale of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on February 3, 2023.

Mr. Pounds states this violation is related to an anonymous complaint that involved the City of Bowie, Bowie Police Department, and the Liquor Board. My client believes they're an unfair target. The DJ was playing pre-recorded music, he would only approach the equipment to change the music on the playlist.

Chief Clark states when you have a DJ, they're manipulating the music, if the music was just piped in it would play through a system. The music should be at a moderate sound level, customers would be able to have a conversation while dining.

Mr. Pounds states Mr. Umoh has made strides as a businessman, I'm counseling my client and Ms. Ablorh on steps they need to make to improve their business to keep their license.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Aroma Ultra Restaurant Lounge in violation as charged with a fine of \$7,500, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Jemima B. Ablorh, Member, **t/a Aroma Ultra Restaurant Lounge**, 4000 Town Center Blvd Lounge LLC Bowie, Maryland 20716. Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation for an alleged violation of RR No. #7 Consumption of Bottled goods on licensed premises (Bottle Service) of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County, Maryland. To wit; On Saturday, February 18, 2023, at approximately 1:00 a.m., Inspector North entered Aroma Ultra Lounge at 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, MD 20716 to investigate a noise complaint and staying open after 3:00am. While inside the establishment he observed a waitress serving customers a bottle of Hennessy VSOP and a bottle of Casamigos Tequila, which is a violation of RR 7. 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 **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.

Inspector North of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on February 18, 2023.

Mr. Umoh states management is preparing training videos, he hired consultants, a continuous training will be mandatory, and Alcohol Awareness training for all employees.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Aroma Ultra Restaurant Lounge in violation as charged with a fine of \$10,000 and submit copies of training for all employees, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Mr. Pounds asked the licensee can be placed on a six-month payment plan, because this is still a small business and they're still paying on the first violation.

The Board agreed to a four-month payment plan in the amount of \$4,500 per month for the licensee.

5. Neville Nugent, CEO, Food Vision, LLC, t/a Mad Cow Grill, 310 Domer Avenue, Laurel, 20708, Class B, 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 R.R No. 1 Sales to a minor of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County. To wit; On Wednesday February 1, 2023, at approximately 12:00 pm one (1) underage female operative (19 yr. old) and inspector Glenn entered Mad Cow located at 310 Dormer Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707. The operative asked the server for a Thirsty Cow Rum Punch Cocktail. The server checked ID and placed a glass containing the Thirsty Cow Rum Punch Cocktail in front of the minor. 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 Glenn of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on February 1, 2023.

Ms. Carter states her client does acknowledge the incident that happened, he's taking steps to ensure it doesn't happen again. The server involved is no longer an employee at the establishment. Everyone thirty-five and under were supposed to be carded, now there's a one hundred percent carding policy. If an employee fails to card someone, they'll be terminated. A training course is scheduled, all front house employees will be certified. There is now a prompt on their computer system, in a restaurant you can enter birthdays into the system. Vertical I.D.'s has never been accepted; this will stay in place.

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

After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Shneidine Jean Louis Adonis, Manager, t/a **Chic Bar & Lounge**, 300 Second Street, Laurel, Maryland 20707. Class D, Beer and Wine is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 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; On or about September 13, 2021, an application for a new Class D, Beer and Wine was filed, that on or about February 22, 2022, 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.

The licensee did not appear, and the Board proceeded without her presence.

The Board discussed the establishment's U&O, which does not allow for alcohol on the premises.

Commissioner Norman makes motion to rescind the license for t/a Chic Bar & Lounge, because the U&O is not in order, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC