

January 13, 2021  
9200 Basil Court  
Largo, MD 20774  
Virtual Hearing

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair  
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman  
Tammie Norman, Commissioner  
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner  
Kenneth Miles, Commissioner  
Terence Sheppard, Director  
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Council  
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector  
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector  
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector  
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager  
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant  
Katrice James, Administrative Aide  
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide  
Jamie Schaefer, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:06 p.m.

1. **Tammy Kulick**, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Eastgate Liquors II, Corp, t/a **Eastgate Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article, 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, to wit; That on or about October 20, 2020 at approximately 11:00 a.m., **Agent Jack Morgan** from the Comptroller of Maryland, Field Enforcement Division conducted an inspection at Eastgate Liquors, located at 10505 Greenbelt Road, Seabrook, MD. During the inspection, it was discovered that numerous bottles of beer and liquor were purchased from a gas station and a local liquor establishment in Maryland, which are not wholesalers. These items were confiscated as evidence. Licensee is represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Tammy Kulick** is sworn in.

**Agent Jack Morgan:** of the comptroller's office is sworn in. He recalls the day of the violation in which a Jeep Wrangler was parked in front of the business. He watched a man unload 2 cases of beer and a case of Red Bull onto a "hand truck" and then followed the man inside. The subject began unloading the boxes into the store. **Agent Morgan** said he asked the man where he bought the alcohol from and the man cooperatively replied from a gas station because the business didn't need a lot of those products to by wholesale. When **Agent Morgan** asked if there was any other alcohol on the premises purchased from other than a wholesaler, the man (confirmed to be the Licensee's husband, **Mr. Kulick**) retrieved a few bottles of liquor in which he had purchased from a liquor store. **Agent Morgan** gave **Mr. Kulick** a receipt for the alcoholic beverages he took into custody.

**Linda Carter:** states that the licensee, Tammy Kulick, understands that she as the licensee is responsible for all violations. This is the first violation they have had in the last 2 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kulick now knows the rules and accepts the consequences.

**Commissioner Camacho:** makes a motion to find t/a Eastgate Liquors in violation as charged and to be fined \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Miles**. After Board vote, the motion passes.

2. **Monzurul Islam**, President, M & P Investment, Inc., **t/a Lee's Deli Mini Mart**, 5400 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, 20747, Class D, Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on or about May 7, 2019 a transfer application for a Class D, Beer and Wine was filed, that on or about July 23, 2019 approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after six months following approval being granted. The current license holder has an outstanding balance with the BOLC. Continued from December 9, 2020. Licensee appeared to be present in the hearing; however due to the inability to communicate with them, the hearing for **t/a Lee's Deli Mini Mart** was moved to the next available hearing date.
3. **Bianka Mbeng**, Authorized Person/Member (present to hearing with sister, **Blanche Mbeng**), Florence Ndi, Authorized Person/Managing Member, George Mbeng, Authorized Person, 5 Sisters LLC, **t/a 5 Sisters**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 6-304 "Selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R No. 1 "Sales to a minor" and R.R. No 32 "An Employee Failed to Cooperate with Representatives of the BOLC of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on or about Thursday, November 19, 2020 at approximately 9:20 p.m. One underage operative (20-years old) of the Prince George's County Police Cadet Program entered 5 Sisters Restaurant located at 12617 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, MD 20708. The 20-year old operative was served one 22-ounce bottle of Guinness Extra Stout. The serving of the alcoholic beverage was witnessed by an undercover police officer of the Prince George's County Police Department. Inspectors Caraway and Patterson of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners contacted the manager on the scene, who refused to provide the bartender's name and her name. Additionally, the manager was irate and uncooperative with the inspectors. Licensee is represented by **Leonard L. Casalino, Esquire**. Licensee, **Bianka Mbeng** and her sister, **Blanche Mbeng** are sworn in along with inspectors **Malik Caraway** and **George Patterson**.  
**Inspector Caraway:** begins by giving a summary of the violation. An officer and underage operative entered the establishment and took a seat at the bar. The operative ordered a Guinness and the server did not ID the operative. When approached, the male bar tender refused to give his name. When a female manager was approach and paperwork was being completed, the female manager became irate, would not provide her name or the male bar tender's name, and refused to sign the paperwork.

**Leonard Casalino:** confirms that the first violation was on account of the bartender serving a minor and the second violation was on account of the elderly female manager in whom became irate at the time of the violation.

**Inspector Patterson:** said there were two females present and the male bartender kept his distance.

**Leonard Casalino:** No names were exchanged at all?

**Inspector Caraway:** No names were exchanged.

**Leonard Casalino:** (to Blanche) You were not there that day, nor the manager on duty. Did you confront the bartender?

**Blanche Mbeng:** Yes, we spoke with him and retold him the rules. We even have an ID scanner to ensure a person is of age. Immediately the bar tender was fired, and I called my lawyer.

**Leonard Casalino:** Did you speak with the female manager on duty?

**Blanch Mbeng:** Yes, the kitchen manager.

**Leonard Casalino:** What did you tell her after she refused to cooperate?

**Blanche Mbeng:** She was suspended and reminded of the rules.

**Leonard Casalino:** (to Bianka) You have been in business for 5-years now and the past 5-months you have been closed?

**Bianka Mbeng:** Yes, and we are unsure of opened due to Covid-19. That evening, I left at 6:30. I asked the bar tender why he did not cooperate, and he said that he was scared. He was terminated.

**Commissioner Camacho:** Are all employees TIPS/TAMS certified.

**Bianka and Blanche Mbeng:** Yes.

**Commissioner Norman:** Was it a manager that refused to give names?

**Bianka Mbeng:** No, she is a kitchen manager. She refused because I had left, and she was unsure of what to do. I had left for an emergency reason and returned after the incident.

**Chairwoman Forbes:** Our inspectors are there for support. I'm taken aback by the response of the employees and you should make sure that they never act that way again.

**Commissioner Camacho:** makes a motion to find **t/a 5 Sisters** in violation as charged for a fine of \$6,000 over 3 payments of \$2,000 per month.

**Leonard Casalino:** I'm hoping these young ladies can be better moving forward. \$6,000 is too steep for a closed business.

**Commissioner Camacho:** This is their second violation, as compiled violations, and can be fined up to \$7,500. With an additional violation, they could lose their license. I already cut them a break.

The violation was reiterated, payment of \$6,000 payable over a 90-day period. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Miles**. After Board vote, the motion passes.

4. **Rodney Chambers**, Managing Member, **Ronald Covington**, Managing Member, Sky High Sports & Entertainment, LLC, **t/a Party HQ**, 15606 Emerald Way, Bowie, 20716, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 6-304 "Selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R No. 1 "Sales to a minor" of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit;

That on or about Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at approximately 7:00 p.m. One underage operative (20-years old) of the Prince George's County Cadet Program entered **Party HQ** located at 15606 Emerald Way, Bowie, MD 20716. The 20-year old was sold one 12-ounce bottle of Budweiser beer. The sale was witnessed by an undercover police officer of the Prince George's County Police Department. Inspectors **Bagby** and **Caraway** of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners contacted the manager Pedro A.J. Medley, on the scene.

**Mr. Chambers and Mr. Covington** are sworn in and waive their rights to an attorney.

**Inspector Caraway:** explains the events on the day of the violation. An officer and underage operative entered the establishment and took a seat at the bar. The bartender, Joshua Jackson, did not check the underage operative's ID and served the minor a Budweiser. All members of the staff were cooperative.

**Mr. Covington:** We are a family entertainment center and privately owned since we finished construction in 2018 and opened in October of 2020. We have bowling, laser tag, etc. This is our first time opening an entertainment center. We have had a lot of experience in the restaurant and bar industry. All our staff have attended TIPS training. We do not deny what happened that evening, but the employee who served the minor has been terminated, along with the bar manager. We have since hired a new bar manager that is TIPS certified and safe serve certified. We also have implemented a 100% ID check policy-no matter what the age. We have added signs stating that the restaurant and bar are closed at this time and we are not set up for outdoor dining. We are willing to put all employees through training again. We are learning, getting better, and improving.

**Mr. Chambers:** We learned in training how to be more careful with who we've hired and changed all our policies. 100% ID check, no matter the age. We do apologize.

**Commissioner Norman:** (to licensees) I specifically requested that we see you today. I remember you stressed over getting this license. Not even 30-days into having it, and you have a violation. We want you to be successful, but if you come back here before the Board for another violation, you could lose your license.

**Terrance Sheppard:** After 3 violations, the license can be suspended or revoked.

**Mr. Covington:** We understand.

**Commissioner Norman:** makes a motion to find **t/a Party HQ** in violation as charged to pay a fine of \$1,500 and complete Alcohol Awareness training, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. After Board vote, the motion passes.

5. **Ofobuie N. Okeh**, Member, for a Class B, Beer and Wine for the use of SOL Banquet Hall, LLC, **t/a VIP Stage**, 5005 Jackson Street, #B, Hyattsville, 20781. Continued from November 17, 2020. Licensee is represented by **Dennis Whitley III**, Esquire. Ms. Forbes begins by providing a recap of the last hearing to the best of her knowledge, given her absence for the previous hearing, to confirm that she and everyone present has the correct information.  
**Chairwoman Forbes:** Let me recap since I was not present for the previous hearing. During that hearing, there was a need for more information (10-day rule for additional evidence). An extension was requested so the city of Cheverly could meet directly with

the licensee and his attorney. This meeting happened sometime in October. We will discuss this meeting along with the evidence, then make a motion.

**Dennis Whitley III:** We met with the town of Cheverly to negotiate prior to the hearing.

**Jason DeLoach:** For the record, I represent the town of Cheverly. I will have limited input.

Licensee is sworn in. **Mayor Riazi** and **Dylan Galaway** from the town of Cheverly are sworn in as opposition.

**Mayor Riazi:** I have not been a part of any meeting with **Mr. Okeh** or **Mr. Whitley**.

**Mr. Galaway:** On October 29, 2020, we did not meet due to having more serious concerns of Covid-19 and the adult entertainment.

**Chairwoman Forbes:** We made the extension so that you could meet and make some sort of compromise. You are confirming that you did not?

**Riazi and Galaway:** Yes.

**Dennis Whitley III:** They didn't want a meeting, to cooperate, or anything to do with the licensee. He is willing to purchase the lease, DPIE will terminate the adult entertainment location. We're happy to give anymore the assurances they need, that there will be no adult entertainment next door. We can make this a positive change for the county.

**Chairwoman Forbes** We have a Vice trafficking investigative report submitted to us and shared with everyone.

**Cpl. Dominique Clark** is sworn in. On October 30, 2020, members of Vice Sex Trafficking Unit posed as potential customers to the event. The bouncer at the door said that they needed advance tickets, or it will be \$20 per person to get in. They paid \$40 between the two of them and were instructed to get a pat down before entry. No IDs were checked, and the female officer was not patted down like the male officer. Upon entering, one beverage was purchased, there was a live disc jockey, and no one was wearing a mask. Hookah was also available for \$40. Upon leaving the property, we saw more cars pull into the parking lot and more people enter the establishment.

**Mr. Okeh:** I was aware of the incident after the fact. It was the doing of my previous partner, I took away their key, and now I am the only authority.

**Chairwoman Forbes:** There was an event, at an establishment with no Liquor License, and there was bottle service.

**Dennis Whitley III:** (to **Mr. Okeh**) Have you had a Liquor License previously? (**Mr. Okeh-** yes.) Any violations? (**Mr. Okeh-** No.) A BLX license?

**Mr. Okeh-** Yes, I am buying out former partners to make sure that this place is a better vision for the county.

**Dennis Whitley III** Other than the sale of alcohol, is everything else seen on that night permitted by your use and occupancy permit? (**Mr. Okeh-** Yes.)

**Dennis Whitley III:** Was anything illegal done that day? (**Mr. Okeh** – No.) You applied for a Liquor License 2 years ago and you were denied? (**Mr. Okeh-** Yes.) You have a track record with this Board for several years with no violations, correct? (**Mr. Okeh-** Yes.)

**Commissioner Norman:** Looking at the floorplan, does this place have a kitchen?

**Dennis Whitley:** Yes, behind the bar. Did you get the letters of support from many other businesses on Jackson Street? (**Chairwoman Forbes-** Yes.)

**Dennis Whitley III:** Just to confirm with the town of Cheverly, we reached out to their attorney and the town did not want to enter any negotiation.

**Mr. Galaway:** They did contact us, but there was no meeting.

**Commissioner Camacho:** makes a motion to deny the request for a new Class B Liquor License, seconded by **Commissioner Miles**. After Board vote, the motion passes.

**Adjourned: 9:55 p.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jamie Schaefer*  
*Administrative Aide BOLC*