

March 6, 2019

9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION:

PRESENT:

Thomas Graham, Chairman
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Kenneth Miles, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Commissioner
Benjamin Rupert, Esquire, Counsel
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Derrick Anthony, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Kelly Markomanolakis, Administrative Assistant
Nikole Bennett, Administrative Aide

Time: 7:01 p.m.

In the matter of Dandy Chukwuezi, Managing Member, Base Lounge and Restaurant, LLC, **t/a Base Restaurant**, Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule 1 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on January 8, 2019 at approximately 7:50 p.m., Inspectors Davis and Glenn of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners observed an underaged operative purchase and in possession of one 12-ounce bottle of Corona Extra that was provided by an agent of the licensee. Furthermore, the licensee was previously found in violations of: After Hours and a threat to the peace and safety on May 3, 2017 and a fine of \$4,000 was imposed and After Hours on September 13, 2017 and a fine of \$7500 was imposed.

Licensee is represented by Paul Jackson, Esquire.

Inspector Jerry Glenn stated that he is an inspector with the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners; read his report into the record.

Paul Jackson, Esquire stated that they are not disputing the violations; that they understand it is the third violation; that they would like to request leniency and mercy; that the other violations were more administrative than substantive; that it is a small business with a few employees; that they would rather have a fine than be faced with a suspension or revocation of the license; that they request the fine by \$2000.

Ben Rupert, Esquire stated that they are not given leeway in the amount of the fine; that for third violation the option is suspension/revocation and/or a fine in the amount of \$7,500.

Mr. Camacho cautioned that the licensee is close to suspension or revocation; that there have been 3 serious violations and they must take them seriously.

Mr. Graham stated that he agrees; that they should not appear again within two years.

Mr. Camacho moved to fine the license \$7,500, seconded by Mr. Miles and made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman, Ms. Turpin-Forbes and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of **t/a MGM National Harbor**, Request to be exempt from R.R. No. 78 – Use of Promoters Prohibited.

(And)

In the matter of **t/a Gaylord National Harbor**, Request to be exempt from R.R. No. 78 – Use of Promoters Prohibited.

Licensee is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that she is requesting that both licenses be given the same exemption from R.R. No. 78 that caterers are given; that the definition of promoters was not provided in the rule; that Gaylord did not realize they may have been violating this rule previously unknowingly since the definition is not given; that both establishments have banquet facilities where organizations and groups may want to come in and hold an event; that wanting to sell tickets may make them fall under promoters; that the main concern with the rule is establishments relinquishing control to these events; that neither of these establishments would relinquish control to a third party; that they will require that the food, drink, security, staff, etc. be provided by them; that Gaylord is the premiere convention facility in the area; that they host several of these events a year; MGM holds different types of events; that currently MGM sells the tickets for their events; that they also have banquet halls that might get rented by someone who sells their own tickets for an event instead; that both companies are billion dollar investments; that they are two of the largest employers in Prince George's County; that they won't jeopardize their business; that MGM is an entertainment facility; that being a casino is part of what they do; that there are lots of catering licenses, but there can only be one MGM and one Gaylord.

Monroe Hanson stated that he is a resident of Washington, D.C. and is the Director of Public Affairs for Gaylord National; that everything Ms. Carter mentioned is accurate; that they only relinquish staff being added by someone renting the venue is one particular event and they bring in additional wait staff employed by the renter; that it is during a season where they are typically lighter staffed; that during this event they have all security on hand; that there are also 75-100 Prince George's County Police Officer's for the event as well; that it is the only possible conflict; that this matter was brought up by a Prince George's County Police Officer, but not in terms of being in trouble; that he did not realize the possible conflict; that he has not booked any other events until this matter is resolved; that he is holding back booking other large events; that one event typically brings in a revenue of approximately \$400,000 in rooms alone; that food and beverage can bring in an additional \$600,000-\$700,000; that losing even one event is a large deal.

Michael Rochinski stated that he is a resident of Virginia; that he is the Director of Nightlife Operations and Events at MGM National Harbor; that the statements are correct; that they would never relinquish control to a third party; that all employees must have a gaming or non-gaming license; that the promoter using their staff would not be an option; that they do not do these types of events currently; that they could have some in the future.

Linda Carter, Esquire requested that the amendment be posted and published with a public hearing.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the request to have the proposed amendment to the rule be posted, published and a public hearing to be held, seconded by Mr. Miles and made unanimous by Ms. Sparkman, Ms. Turpin-Forbes and Mr. Graham.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikole Bennett
Administrative Aide

Adjourned 7:35 p.m.