

**March 8, 2023
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, 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: 7:06 p.m.

Commissioner Forbes: This is an open meeting for the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. Welcome to our House. To ensure compliance with the law (Maryland Open Meetings Act) and our goal of transparency, to please identify yourself when speaking and speak audibly. As a professional courtesy, when not speaking, please mute your device. If someone from the public that is not providing testimony as a witness today, I will recognize you in the hearing and give you an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Everyone's voice matters at the BOLC. We understand that some of you may be passionate about what you have to say and that passion, in this regard, is permissible. What is not permissible is if truth, facts, and respect are not grounded in your voice. Thank you in advance for being truthful, respectful, and honest during the entire proceeding.

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 Clout Southern Cuisine & Lounge**, Edward Reynolds, Member, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Clout Southern Cuisine & Lounge, LLC, 731 Cady Drive, Fort Washington, 20744. Clarification on the purchased agreement and information in the affidavit that was submitted with the application.
Represented by **John Walker-Turner, Esquire.**
Commissioner Forbes states the Board asked for clarification on the purchased agreement, the Board is reconsidering the decision due to some newly discovered items.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to reconsider the motion made at the previous hearing, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.
Commissioner Forbes states there were some discrepancies on the affidavit, these documents will be forwarded to Mr. Walker-Turner for review. Some additional paperwork has been brought to our attention.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to continue this case for March 28, 2023, hearing based on the information we previously found, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 2. t/a Party Time Liquors** – Sandeep Singh Deol, President, Harwinder Singh, Vice President, Jatinder Pal Singh, Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Party Time Liquors, Inc., **t/a Party Time Liquors**, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, 20712. – Request for a Delivery Permit.
Represented by **Ben Carter, Esquire.**
Ben Carter states the owners recently purchased Party Time Liquors last summer, and they've been trying to enhance it. Obtaining a Delivery Permit is the next step to doing so, they would like to provide a curbside option. There will be an online portal where the customers can enter their name, date of birth, billing information, and home address. An employee will go out and ensure that the person picking up is the person who placed the order, run the transaction after the I.D. is checked. A delivery log with all the information will be kept for at least one year. The employee tending to the curbside pickup will be Alcohol Awareness certified. My clients understand they must inform the Board if they want to deliver to homes.
Our agency attorney advised the Board there is no problem with this establishment doing curbside deliveries if the I.D. protocol is followed.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Delivery Permit for t/a Party Time Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 3. Michele Tekam**, Member, **t/a Famous Lounge**, 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit# 150 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of RR No.#7 Consumption of Bottled goods on licensed premises (Bottle Service) and RR# 37 Alteration and Addition of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, Maryland. To wit: On Saturday November 12, 2022, at approximately

10:15 pm, two undercover Prince George's County Liquor Inspectors entered the Famous Lounge, located at 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit #150, Upper Marlboro MD 20772. Once inside, they observed bottles of Patron in clear carafes being delivered to a table with sparkling lights, also igloos, which are structures used to seat patrons, were placed on the outside of the establishment, and being utilized without the Board's 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. Continued from the February 8, 2023 and February 28, 2023 Regular Session Hearing.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Commissioner Forbes states we've done some research and located three menus. We can send those over for Mr. Kim's review, it's public information. We'll allow you time to review the evidence we discovered.

Ms. Vanessa Etienne (Manager) states we've had four menus since we opened, we just updated our menu three weeks ago. Those were old menus, before we had our first hearing and were fined. Our menu was changed three weeks ago due to food items being deleted and added.

Mr. Kim states the evidence isn't there, the inspector could've asked for bottle service. The inspector's testimony has been disputed. They did have a previous violation, but they changed their operation and learned. Their POS system prevents them from selling alcohol by the bottle. They can't be found guilty of this, the rule on alterations is in connection with sale and service of alcohol. The Health Department doesn't permit you to sale food or alcohol with smoking. This rule and regulation isn't applicable to the igloos.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Famous Lounge in violation as charged for R.R. #7 with a fine of \$6,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Famous Lounge in violation as charged for R.R. 37 with a fine of \$7,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

However, these fines have been reserved in order for the Board to conduct a review of how fines were assessed in previous cases. The Board will make the final determination at the hearing on March 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

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 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; that on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Inspector North entered Aroma Ultra Lounge at 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, MD 20716 for an entertainment inspection and noticed a DJ playing music with DJ equipment. 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 North of the BOLC testified about the incident that occurred on November 10, 2022.

Mr. Pounds states that Mr. Umoh was first approved in January 2021. The licensee was approved for Special Entertainment but had a tax hold that hadn't been resolved to receive the Permit. We are not in dispute of the charge, on February 9, 2023, a tax clearance letter was received from the Comptroller of Maryland. There's now a new General Manager and Assistant General Manager for oversight.

Mr. Umoh states they would like to provide an upscale product for the new Bowie, this is our first year so we're working out the kinks. Several employees have been terminated, we're doing our best learning the rules and regulations. We apologize for the mistake.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a Aroma Ultra Lounge in violation as charged with a fine of \$5,000 and training, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**
Fine can be made payable over 90-day period.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Laxmi Narendra Babu Vinnakota, Member/Authorized Person, **t/a LAX Wine & Spirits**, 11011 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, 20705. Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Maryland Annotated Code 2-315. Interaction between wholesaling entities and retailers, to wit; On Monday, December 20, 2021, at approximately 9:45am Agent Vince Allen of the Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission witnessed Murray Kyle Francis from Republic National Distributing Company rotating wine bottles inside of the cooler in a licensed establishment. A wholesaler may not provide things of value, make a gift, or offer a gratuity to a retail dealer.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire.**

Agent Vince Allen (Maryland & Tobacco Commission) testified about the incident that occurred on December 20, 2021.

Ms. Carter asked **Mr. Murray, Mr. True (General Manager), and Mr. Vinnakota** a line of questions.

Ms. Carter states Mr. Murray absolutely rotated the wine, that's not a dispute. Mr. Murray didn't know he was doing anything wrong. The Comptroller's office never said you can't rotate wine. There had never been a charge for rotation of stock.

Commissioner Smith makes a motion to find the licensee for t/a LAX Wine & Spirits in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 9:35 p.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC