

**May 4, 2022  
9200 Basil Court  
Largo, MD 20774  
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair  
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman  
Tammie Norman, Commissioner  
Dennis Smith, Commissioner  
Tammy Sparkman, 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  
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant  
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager  
Katrice James, Administrative Aide  
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide  
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

**Start Time: 7:01 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.

- 1. t/a El Puente De Oro Restaurant:** Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.  
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.  
**Mr. Ciro Castro** is sworn in.  
**Corporal Hunt** of the Prince George's County Police Department is sworn in.  
Mr. Castro's plan if he is granted the Special Entertainment Permit is to have live bands, DJs on days there are no live bands, and comedy shows.  
**Corporal Hunt** testifies that he spoke with Mr. Castro about the 12:00 a.m. cutoff for music only to be piped into a system after that time, and the regulations of his U&O. He suggests Mr. Castro needs to obtain a new U&O if he wanted the live entertainment aspect. Mr. Castro advised Corporal Hunt he would check into getting his U&O updated. El Puente De Oro Restaurant's security plan is adequate.  
**Director Terence Sheppard** states he needed to get verification from DPIE. It's possible they might be allowed to have patron dancing, entertainment not to pass 12:00 a.m.  
**Chief Robert Clark** advises to pass this case to do a little more research. There was confusion with the use and occupancy.  
**BOLC will continue with the case and invite Mr. Castro back based on what is learned. BOLC will be in touch with next steps.**
- 2. t/a 5 Sisters:** Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.  
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.  
**Mr. DeLoach** confirms it's fine to move forward with only one licensee present.  
**Ms. Bianka Mbeng** and **Mr. Yancy Spencer** (Restaurant Manager) are sworn in.  
**Commissioner Forbes** states we've received five letters of opposition.  
**Mr. Stone** wishes to testify in opposition of 5 Sisters Restaurant being granted a Special Entertainment Permit and is sworn in.  
If granted the Special Entertainment Permit 5 Sisters Restaurant plans to have live jazz on Fridays and Saturdays, live African Music Fridays and Saturdays, karaoke once a week, comedy shows, and a DJ once a month 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  
**Mr. Stone** speaks for two minutes in opposition of 5 Sisters he refers to incidents that occurred some years back.  
**Mr. Yancy Spencer** is allowed to make a one-minute comment in response to **Mr. Stone**.  
**Mr. Yancy Spencer:** In 2005-2007 5 Sisters Restaurant wasn't in existence and the incidents that took place were with previous owners. The current owners were not in Maryland at the time of the incidents Mr. Stone is referring to. Mr. Spencer says 5 Sisters Restaurant will be a place where the youth can showcase their art. The youth have nowhere to play for their family and friends locally, so they must go outside of

the community, and we've already been working with a lot of different foundations to give back to the community of Laurel.

**Commissioner Norman** asks about the previous terms of agreement for 5 Sisters that they would not apply for Special Entertainment Permit.

**Bianca Mbeng** states that after the terms/conditions were met, 5 Sisters Restaurant can come back and reapply for an entertainment Permit. The oppositions concern was security issues. Two police officers have been on site every weekend to keep the peace. The Board said if we can prove the community is peaceful without anything happening for a period of time. From 2015-2022 there have been no shootings or no violent crimes have taken place. 5 Sisters is here to serve the community and conduct our business, following the rules given by the law.

**Commissioner Norman** asks Bianca Mbeng about the previous violation for selling to a minor back in 2020.

**Bianka Mbeng** states their establishment has put things in place to prevent this from happening again. Such as you must show your I.D. whether you're a minor or not. After 9:00 p.m. minors aren't allowed in the facility. She states that Yancy Spencer and herself are in the facility every night.

**Corporal Hunt** states that he met extensively with Mr. Spencer to go over the paperwork, and they went over the 12:00 a.m. cutoff as far as the live entertainment. 5 Sisters Restaurant is currently trying to obtain their dancehall Permit. The security plan is adequate as presented.

**Commissioner Smith:** When you have the live entertainment, what is the proximity of residential community to the restaurant?

**Yancy Spencer** replies to **Commissioner Smith** stating that their facility is across from interstate 197 and wouldn't interrupt any neighborhoods, homes, or apartments. 5 Sisters Restaurant is in a shopping center.

**Mr. Stone:** Given the no dance Permit provision of the current license, would that supersede any dance Permit from other agencies? The conversation has been can other agencies grant dancing, in opposition to the former Board's decision back in December 2016.

**Commissioner Forbes:** This agency is in the business of issuing a Special Entertainment Permit, the Special Entertainment Permit comes with rules that are listed on the Use & Occupancy. The dancehall Permit comes from a separate agency that is not this agency, that is DPIE. When we grant a Special Entertainment Permit, we check in with Corporal Hunt to make sure the security plan is adequate, we also check in to make sure if we do grant a Special Entertainment Permit it's going to be in line with the U&O and only the parts that we have jurisdiction over. In this case, the U&O says no live entertainment past 12:00 midnight. If we issue the Permit, we'll make sure the licensee knows whatever the entertainment is they have listed on their application, that's basically governing the Special Entertainment Permit that we issue. We have no control, we have no oversight, no superseding of anything that DPIE has jurisdiction over which is the live entertainment passed a certain hour as well as the dancehall Permit. Once they get a Special Entertainment Permit and they do want a dancehall Permit, they can go to DPIE. DPIE would be totally responsible for issuing it.

**Director Sheppard** confirms this is correct, DPIE issues dancehall licenses we do not.

**Mr. DeLoach:** I believe Mr. Stone is asking, would DPIE be required to follow the terms of agreement from 2016 regarding no dancing? What impact if any would our agreement have on DPIE's decision to issue a dancehall Permit? I think DPIE should be made aware of this agreement and then they can act accordingly. I hope Mr. Stone understands what I just said.

**Mr. Stone** confirms that was his question.

**Commissioner Forbes:** Are you still in opposition of 5 Sisters Restaurant being granted a Special Entertainment Permit, Mr. Stone?

**Mr. Stone:** No, with the Board providing oversight.

**No further questions.**

**Commissioner Norman** makes motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to 5 Sisters Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**

**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**

3. **t/a El Charro:** Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.

**Mr. Baldomero Avalos** has his son **German Avalos** present as his interpreter.

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

**Mr. Baldomero Avalos** and his son **German Avalos** are sworn in.

**Mr. German Avalos** states the plans for El Charro if they are granted their request for Special Entertainment Permit. Their plans are to have karaoke Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

**Commissioner Forbes:** On your application it reads you're expecting to have a DJ. Your U&O Permit only allows for karaoke. If we grant your Special Entertainment Permit, your entertainment is limited to karaoke, but if you want to have a DJ there is a special exception that you must work with the planning commission in Board of appeals.

**Corporal Hunt** states a reinspection was conducted after making a visit in November, some issues needed to be resolved with the county. Possibly county taxes that needed to be cleared up at the time. Adequate security plan after being checked out on May 3, 2022.

**Commissioner Forbes:** Amend application because we have on the record Mr. Avalos intends to apply for Special Entertainment not family entertainment. Allowing only for Special Entertainment.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to El Charro, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

**Special Entertainment Permit allows for karaoke only.**

**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**

4. **t/a Remington's Restaurant of Beltsville:** Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.

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

**Mr. Meral Kantar** is sworn in.

**Mr. Kantar:** states the plans for Remington's Restaurant of Beltsville are to have Trivia Thursdays 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. and karaoke on Saturdays 9:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m.  
**Corporal Hunt:** Security plan is adequate, and a visit was made on May 3, 2022.  
**Commissioner Norman** makes motion to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to Remington's Restaurant of Beltsville, seconded by **Commissioner Camacho**.  
**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**

5. **t/a Kaywood Liquors:** Request for a Delivery Permit.  
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.  
**Mr. Akeeb Salako** is sworn in.  
**Commissioner Forbes:** Are you aware of the rules regarding having a delivery permit for your establishment?  
**Mr. Salako:** Yes ma'am.  
**Commissioner Forbes:** Can you tell the Board, what are the rules governing the delivery permit?  
**Mr. Salako:** We must check I.D. when we deliver, we cannot deliver to minors. I've read everything and I know. I'm sorry.  
**Commissioner Forbes:** It's okay, this is a serious thing. I looked at your application and so did the other commissioners, you checked the box for rule 76. Make sure that you are familiar with that rule.  
**Mr. Salako:** Yes ma'am.  
**Chief Robert Clark** presents the rules and regulations for delivery Permits.  
**Commissioner Forbes** advised Mr. Salako to review the regulations regarding delivery Permit.  
**Commissioner Camacho** makes motion to grant the Delivery Permit to Kaywood Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.  
**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**
6. Jeffrey Miskiri, Owner, Suga & Spice, LLC, **t/a Suga & Spice**, 5557 Baltimore Ave Suite 100, Hyattsville, MD 20781, new Class B (AE), Beer, Wine, and Liquor is summonsed to show cause 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: That on or about August 16, 2021, an application for a new Class B (AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about October 26, 2021, approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after six months following being granted approval.  
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.  
**Mr. Jeffrey Miskiri** is sworn in.  
**Mr. Miskiri** provided an explanation why the license has not been placed in use.  
**Mr. Miskiri** states that due to the pandemic he opened his establishment in a rush, he had to pay rent for the facility, he didn't have any bartenders, he couldn't keep quality staff and he's very big on customer service, fulfilling To-Go orders, and just simply couldn't focus on the bar.

**Mr. Miskiri** asks the Board to grant him 30 days to effectuate the new Class B (AE), Beer, Wine, and Liquor license into use.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes motion to grant an additional 30 days to effectuate the license for Suga & Spice, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**

7. Johnny West, Executive Director, **t/a Artsgroup**, 4719 Stamp Road, Temple Hills, MD 20748, Class C, CLF, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 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 June 29, 2021 a new application for a Class C, CLF, Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about August 24, 2021, 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. Continued from April 6, 2022.

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

**Mr. Johnny West** is sworn in.

**Mr. Johnny West** states it's their U&O, they've had several job cards. They're at the end of the process and DPIE is scheduled to come tomorrow. The U&O was delayed due to the pandemic. It seems like with DPIE if you identify as an art center or auditorium you must provide an extra explanation with DPIE certifiers, to make sure you aren't doing anything illegal. You must be very detailed with a 501(c)(3) to get a way to fundraise. The establishment hasn't been open or operating. **Mr. Johnny West** asks the Board to grant him four days to effectuate the license.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes motion to grant an additional 30 days to effectuate the license for Artsgroup, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After the Board votes, the motion carries. Motion passes.**

8. Dinah Ok Min Chin, President, Youngtaemin Corporation, t/a **Central Avenue Liquors**, 6115 Central Ave Old, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743, Class A, 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 at approximately 6:45 pm one (1) underage male operative (20 yr. old) of the Prince George's County Cadet Program and one (1) undercover police officer from the Prince George's County Police Department entered Central Avenue Liquors located at 6511 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. The operative retrieve one (1) 25oz can of Bud light beer while the undercover watched. The cashier did not check ID and accepted the payment (money exchange).

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

**Ms. Dinh Ok Min Chin** and **Mr. Unsuk Chin** are sworn in.

**Mr. Unsuk Chin** will be interpreting for his mother.

**Inspectors Bowden** and **Brockington** of the BOLC are sworn in.

**Inspector Bowden** testifies about the incident that occurred on January 27, 2022, at approximately 6:45 p.m., a 25oz can of Bud Light Beer was sold to a minor. The can of beer was confiscated, and a picture was submitted to the Board as evidence. She states that all members of Central Avenue Liquors were cooperative.

**Inspector Brockington** had nothing to add to **Inspector Bowden's** testimony.

**Mr. Chin (Interpreter)** provides Ms. Chin's explanation to what happened on the evening in question. He states the I.D. function was disabled, the person who sold the beer to a minor is no longer an employee and some changes have been put in place since the incident. Central Avenue Liquors is 100% checking I.D.'s and now no sales can be completed without scanning an I.D. If the cashier doesn't scan an I.D. for any purchases that require an age verification, the sale cannot be completed.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Central Avenue Liquors in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

9. Shaileshkumar C. Patel, Member-Manager, Blue Sky Wine & Spirits, LLC, t/a **Blue Sky Liquors**, 6430 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743, Class A, 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 for Prince George's County. To wit: On Thursday January 27, 2022, at approximately 6:45 pm one (1) underage male operative (20 yr. old) of the Prince George's County Cadet Program and one (1) undercover police officer from the Prince George's County Police Department entered Blue Sky Liquors located at 6430 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. The operative retrieved one (1) 12oz bottle of Bud light beer while the undercover watched. The cashier did not check ID and accepted payment (money exchange).

Licensees are represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Shaileshkumar C. Patel** and **Brijeshbhai Patel** are sworn in.

**Linda Carter** states that the incoming licensee is responsible for making the sale to a minor that took place on this night.

**Inspectors Bowden** and **Brockington** of the BOLC are sworn in.

**Inspector Bowden** testifies about the incident that occurred on January 27, 2022, at approximately 7:09 p.m., a 12 oz. Bud Light beer was sold to a minor. The cashier didn't request to see an I.D. The can of beer was confiscated, and a picture was submitted to the Board as evidence. All employees of Blue Sky Liquors were cooperative.

**Inspector Brockington** had nothing to add to **Inspector Bowden's** testimony.

**Linda Carter:** My clients acknowledge the incident happened that night and the question is, why? What are we doing so it doesn't happen again? Mr. B. Patel was recently approved as a licensee, for this very license we just haven't gone to settlement yet. He is Alcohol Awareness Certified as of October 9, 2021. He's worked at the store for ten years and has never been a part of any incident. That night he was busy, had a long line, and in his own words he simply just forgot. As he and I

discussed, forgetting is not an excuse. He didn't forget for ten years, and we hope it'll be another ten years before he makes that mistake. He is embarrassed by this incident, and apologetic for it. The store has three employees, two are Alcohol Awareness Certified and one who will soon be. They've implemented a scan machine, no longer accept MD vertical I.D.'s, and they require an I.D. card for anyone who looks under the age of 40. That will be our case Madam Chair.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Blue Sky Liquors in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

10. Ajay Patel, President/ Secretary/Treasurer, OHMKAR, Inc., t/a **Bell's Drive in Liquors**, 5901 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743, Class A, 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 for Prince George's County. To wit: On Thursday January 27, 2022, at approximately 7:09 p.m. one (1) underage male operative (20 yr. old) of the Prince George's County Cadet Program and one (1) undercover police officer from the Prince George's Police Department entered Bell's Drive Inn Liquors located at 5901 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. The operative retrieved one 25oz can of Bud light beer from the freezer while the undercover officer watched. The cashier did not check ID and accepted the payment (money exchange).

Licensee is represented by **Linda Carter**.

**Ajay Patel** is sworn in.

**Inspector Bowden** testifies about the incident that occurred on January 27, 2022, at approximately 7:30 p.m. one 25oz can of Bud Light beer was sold to a minor. The can of beer was confiscated, and a picture was submitted to the Board as evidence. All employees of Bell's Drive in Liquors were cooperative with inspectors.

**Inspector Brockington** had nothing to add to **Inspector Bowden's** testimony.

**Linda Carter:** My client, Ajay Patel, wasn't on the premises at the time this incident occurred. My client has been working 40-60 hours a week on the premises to make sure this doesn't happen again. The employee that is responsible for making this sale received a one-month suspension after this occurrence and has been required to get Alcohol Awareness Certified. The employee was previously certified. Bell's Drive in Liquors has upgraded their POS system (I.D. system), it automatically prompts the clerk when an item that requires proof of age to scan I.D., this establishment doesn't accept vertical I.D.s, and everyone is asked for I.D.

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Bell's Drive in Liquors in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

11. Jemima Ablorh, Member, Aroma Restaurant & Lounge LLC, t/a **Aroma Ultra Lounge**, 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, Maryland 20716, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 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 Monday, March 28, 2022, at approximately 5:15 p.m., Inspector's Tredway and Galato entered the Aroma Ultra Lounge, located at 4000 Town Center Blvd., Bowie, MD to conduct an inspection. While checking the inventory, inspectors requested invoices to compare against alcoholic beverages located in the establishment. No invoices could be located; however, receipts were provided by Mr. Perry Umoh, the owner, who identified the alcoholic beverages were purchased from a local liquor store, TIA name LAX Wine & Spirits dated 03/25/2022 for \$8,694.00. Alcohol that could support the violation was confiscated as evidence.

Licensee is represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire.**

**Jemima Ablorh** and **Perry Umoh** (General Manager) are present.

**Jemima Ablorh** is sworn in.

**Perry Umoh** is sworn in.

**Inspectors Tredway** and **Galato** of the BOLC are sworn in.

**Inspector Tredway** testifies about the incident that occurred on March 28, 2022, at approximately 5:15 p.m. the inspectors conducted the inspection based on an anonymous complaint. When Inspectors Tredway and Galato entered they noticed an empty TITO Vodka Liquor box with a label from RIPS Country Inn. The licensees were asked to provide invoices, the invoices couldn't be located. While waiting for the owner to arrive the Inspectors took inventory and pictures. No other violations were detected. The owner provided receipts from a local liquor store, LAX Wine & Spirits. Inventory was confiscated to submit with the violation report. At all times everyone associated with the licensee were respectful and cooperative.

**Inspector Galato** has nothing to add to **Inspector Tredway's** testimony.

**Mr. Pounds:** Ms. Ablorh is the licensee and I understand that this violation falls on her. The General manager, Mr. Umoh's responsibility is to purchase inventory, he is there 24/7. Mr. Umoh comes to us from Montgomery County where he has significant experience running and operating a restaurant in that county. The rules are somewhat different in Montgomery County. In the sense, that their rules regarding purchasing inventory don't mirror our rule 11. I know that ignorance of the law isn't a true defense, but I truly believe that what happened was simply an honest mistake on Mr. Umoh's behalf. Simply from confusing our rules with Montgomery County's, and the anxiety of getting his business up and running. I have counseled Mr. Umoh and Ms. Ablorh on the importance of reading and reviewing the Boards regulations. They've both agreed to do this and have done so. We respectfully, request given the nature of the mistake and our commitment this will never happen again. Also, I ask that the Board consider Mr. Umoh spent more purchasing his alcohol inventory from a non-wholesaler, than he would have had he purchased from a wholesaler. We ask that you take all that into consideration. We ask that you grant this license holder some leniency for their first and hopefully only violation.

**No questions from Commissioners.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Aroma Ultra Lounge in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

12. Victoria Navarette, Member/Resident Agent, Juan Ponce, Managing Member, KO-ME, LLC, t/a **Mile High Restaurant**, 6420 Aaron Lane, Clinton, Maryland 20735, Class B(BL+), 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 Friday, March 11, 2022, at approximately 10:32 p.m., Inspector Brockington entered Mile High Restaurant located at 6420 Aaron Lane, Clinton, MD 20735, and observed exotic dancing and music being played from a laptop. At that time, the establishment did not possess an entertainment Permit. Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

**Ms. Victoria Navarette** is absent.

**Mr. Juan Ponce** is sworn in.

**Inspector Brockington** testifies about the incident that occurred on March 11, 2022, at approximately 10:32 p.m., he observed exotic dancing and music being played from a laptop. Inspector Brockington informed the manager the establishment needs to cease and desist. The manager stopped the entertainment upon request. Members of Mile High Restaurant were cooperative with the members of the investigative team.

**Mr. Ponce** responds to the testimony given by Inspector Brockington; he takes full responsibility of this mistake. Moving forward he will apply for a Special Entertainment Permit, to be in compliance.

**No questions from Commissioners.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Mile High Restaurant in violation as charged with a fine of \$1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

13. Sekwang Yoo, President, Jane Son Decruise, Secretary, 25 House, Inc., t/a **25 Hour Market**, 3316 Dodge Park Road, Landover, 20785, Class DW (R ), Beer and Wine is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of R.R. No #11 Other than a Wholesale of the Rules Regulations for Prince George's County and 6-311 of the Maryland Alcoholic Beverage Annotated Code. To wit: That on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at approximately 9:45 a.m., Agent Vaughan #007 and Agent Morgan #012 of the Alcohol Tobacco Commission enter the 25 Hour Market located at 3316 Dodge Park Road, Landover, MD 20785, to conduct an investigation. While at the establishment, numerous cases of Sutter Homes Wine, was located in the rear of the store and the cases of Sutter Homes had labels on them addressed Lee's Deli Mini Mart. The clerk, Nor Hnidoy, advised it was brought to the store by the manager. No invoices were provided for the wine and no Bulk Transfer paperwork was provided.

**Mr. Sekwang Yoo** is represented by **Traci Scudder, Esquire**.

**Mr. Yoo** is sworn in.

**Agent Morgan** of MD Alcohol and Tobacco Commission is sworn in.

**Agent Morgan** testifies in February 2022 we received a complaint, and he was advised that 25 Hour Market was selling single cigarettes and not using a wholesaler. On March 22, 2022, Agent Von was in undercover capacity and went inside this establishment and was able to purchase a single cigarette. The agents spoke with the clerk, and the trader's license presented was expired. The owner did present a current liquor license. Upon checking the inventory in the store, we located numerous amounts of illegal contraband tobacco. In the back room of this establishment, we located numerous boxes of Sutter Home wine. On the boxes of wine there were labels from Lee's Deli Mini Market. This wine was ceased along with the tobacco contraband at that time. There was a total of 819 bottles of wine that were ceased. On March 25, 2022, we came back to this establishment and conducted another inspection and were able to cease another large quantity of illegal contraband tobacco. The owners were able to provide invoices for the alcohol that was in the store at that time.

**Traci Scudder:** Mr. Yoo is in the middle of transferring this liquor license. The transfer is currently pending effectuation. My co-counsel and I are working on the items needed for this transfer. Unfortunately, this is a business in transition. The current owner of the business has been operating the convenience store. I think these latest violations have been the result of this transition, it's changing hands, employees are all new and I don't know if they've been properly trained, this is an issue that needs to be addressed. I'm not making any excuses here, but Mr. Yoo and his wife are here tonight they're no longer involved in the day-to-day operation. However, I understand they are the license holders until the transfer is complete. They'll be turning over this business and transferring the license. The Yoo's went many years without any violations. This violation was the result of new employees not being aware of the rules and made some mistakes. On behalf of my client, I'd like to apologize for these latest offenses.

**Co-Counsel Julian Hafner** is present and has no material to add to the defense or the matter at hand.

**Commissioner Norman:** Who was running the store?

**Traci Scudder:** The business has been transferred, the new owner and her managers have been running the store.

**No further questions.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a 25 Hour Market in violation as charged with a fine of \$12,000, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

**The fine can be paid over three equal monthly installments of \$4,000.**

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

14. Sil Mudsi, Member-Manager, Balkonie Restaurant Group, LLC, t/a **Balkonie**, 6323 Greenbelt Road Berwyn Heights, MD 20740, Class B(BLX), 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 Friday, March 4, 2022, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Inspector's North and Caraway entered, Balkonie Restaurant located at

6323 Greenbelt Road Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740, in an undercover capacity and noticed a Live Band playing music and singing. At that time, the establishment did not possess an entertainment Permit.

Licensee is represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

**Sil Mudsi** is sworn in.

**Inspectors North** and **Caraway** of the BOLC are sworn in.

**Inspector Caraway** testifies on Friday, March 4, 2022, at approximately 10:00 p.m. himself and Inspector North paid a \$25 cover charge at the door for live entertainment. There was a live band playing Go-Go music, pictures and recorded evidence are available. This establishment had entertainment without a BOLC Special Entertainment Permit.

**Inspector North** had nothing to add to **Inspector Caraway's** testimony.

**Linda Carter:** Mr. Mudsi is trying very hard to run an establishment in accordance with the laws, but he clearly made some missteps along the way. He has called me, and we have had multiple conversations about what he can and cannot do. The particular day in question, he was running entertainment from 11:00 in the morning to 6:00, and then from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Unfortunately, when the band tried to set up, they ran into technical difficulties. Mr. Mudsi wasn't there, and they started about an hour late and instead of ending at 9:00 they took it upon themselves, and management didn't stop them to continue until 10:00. Mr. Mudsi knows he can't do that until he comes before this Board and applies for a Special Entertainment Permit. Any entertainment that he has must end before 9:00 p.m. no if ands or buts. He understands this cannot happen again and has given me his assurances. He is ensuring that staff members know the hours of entertainment must end before 9:00 p.m., because unfortunately he can't be there 24/7. He is satisfied that they all understand. Mr. Mudsi has a U&O which he is in the process of addressing with DPIE. So that when he comes before you with this application everything will be in order. He's working on putting together a security plan, he has Corporal Hunt's information. He's very apologetic.

**Commissioner Norman:** When was the last fine?

**Director Sheppard:** The last fine was May 15, 2021, for another Entertainment Violation.

**No further questions.**

**Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to fine the licensee for t/a Balkonie in violation as charged with a fine of \$12,000, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

**After Board vote, the motion carries.**

**15. t/a Old Town Inn- Renewal Status Update.**

Licensee, Donnell Long, is represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.

Scott Bell is present but not being represented by Mr. Pounds.

Ralph Powers was not served.

**Mr. Scott Bell** is sworn in.

**Mr. Donnell Long** is sworn in.

**Mr. Pounds:** There is one other member Mr. Ralph Powers, but it's been brought to my attention that he hasn't been served. He is not with us tonight. I have submitted to Director Sheppard and Counsel DeLoach additional materials one being a full release

signed by Mr. Scott Bell and Mr. Long. That agreement was executed by the parties here. Mr. Bell has resigned and should no longer be included with respect to the renewal obligations under the license. Technically, we know the Board cannot renew until we get the background checks for Mr. Bell and Mr. Long. Which is why we, for the past eleven years, I believe we used the decision from the Palmer Restaurant Circuit Court Case. We would still assert, but our position is that it's now time to clean up any lingering issues that are outstanding. Aside from Mr. Bell, which we believe is no longer an issue there's Mr. Powers. Mr. Powers and I have negotiated and have reached a full settlement and release. Mr. Bell sold interest to Mr. Long and the Agreement in Principle, reflect the Board's approval for the transaction. There has been full consideration given to Mr. Powers as of 3:00 p.m. today. I do believe we can have this matter cleaned up within a week or so, before the end of the month.

**Commissioner Forbes:** Mr. Bell we understand there is a release document between you and Mr. Long dated in 2013. Just for the record, are you out of here?

**Mr. Bell:** I am, I sold my interest to Mr. Long and everything at that point.

**Commissioner Forbes:** Thank you for that.

**No questions from the Commissioners.**

**Mr. Pounds:** Madam Chair and Commissioners, may I interject? I do believe you have a redacted version of the agreement. I'd like for the record to reflect the Board's approval of the transaction. Reading and reviewing the rules and regulations there is hardly anything you can do without the Board's blessing. So, I included language within the agreement that conditions the sale and release and wanted the Board's approval of the transaction. If that is proper.

**Mr. DeLoach:** There is no requirement, the Board can't interject its opinion on private business transactions. However, if the agreement is conditioned upon it, I urge the Board to give it's blessing to it.

**Mr. DeLoach:** The renewal should be able to go forward, the Board will review the agreement.

**Director Sheppard:** No need for a formal decision from the Board. A few documents that haven't been obtained such as the background checks from Mr. Bell and Mr. Long.

**Action Tonight:** Hear him out. No action than to review the agreement in principle. Mr. Long is operating normally.

No further comments from the public, commissioners or staff.

**Adjourned: 10:05 p.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Alecia L. Hughes*  
*Administrative Aide BOLC*