

July 23, 2019  
9200 Basil Court  
Largo, MD 20774

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION:

PRESENT:

Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman  
Tammie Norman, Commissioner  
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner  
Benjamin Rupert, Esquire, Counsel  
Terence Sheppard, Director  
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector  
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector  
Kelly Markomanolakis, Administrative Assistant  
Nikole Bennett, Administrative Aide

Time: 10:03 a.m.

In the matter of a Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 15650 Excelsior Drive, Bowie, 20716, Michael L. Kaplan to serve as Vice President/Secretary, Sarah Anne Mussetter to serve as Assistant Secretary, Lynn Schweinfurth, to serve as President/Treasurer in the place and stead of David Hansen, Treasurer.

Applicant is represented by Adam Scharff, Esquire.

Lynn Schweinfurth stated that she is a resident of Texas; that there are no changes to the application; that she has not been found in violation of any gambling or alcohol laws; that she is the Chief Financial Officer for the parent company; that she is the President/Treasurer of t/a Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews; that she oversees the financial operations; that there are no changes to the operation of the business; that she has read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that she will not be involved with the day to day operations, but her license group and management team will keep her informed; that she understand she is responsible for any possible violations.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a substitution of corporate officers, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of James Natty, Member, Noumbisie Simo, Member, for a Class B (R), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Safari Restaurant and Lounge, LLC, **t/a Safari Restaurant and Lounge**, 9624 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, 20707, transfer from TVT, Inc., t/a Sullivan's Steak and Beverage, Teresa A.M. Haas, President, John Corbet, Secretary/Treasurer.

Applicants are represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that he understands there is opposition present; that he believes the concern from the opposition is that believe they are affiliated with the Safari Restaurant and

Lounge in Washington, D.C.; that he has an order to show that they are not the same owners from that location and they are not affiliated.

James Natty stated that he is a resident of Silver Springs; that he has no relation to the Safari Restaurant and Lounge in Washington, D.C.; that he also found later there is another location in Virginia; that he has no affiliation with that one either; that he is willing to change the name; that he is a United States Citizen; that he has been a resident of Maryland for 27 years; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has never been found in violation of any alcohol or gambling laws; that he has never had a license revoked; that he doesn't have a financial interest in any other business in Prince George's County; that he has never had an alcoholic beverages license before; that he will be there over 20 hours per week; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that he will ensure his employees comply with the Rules and Regulations; that he has gotten his alcohol awareness certificate; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol and 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that there are no changes to the application; that he is responsible for answering any questions the Board may have that he has been working there for one year under the current owner Ms. Haas; that he is familiar with the operations.

Noumbisie Simo stated that he is a resident of Severn; that he is a permanent resident; that he has been a Maryland resident for 20 years; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he was finger printed in April of 2017; that it was a traffic issue and he was convicted of Reckless Driving; that he has had no violations of alcohol laws; that he has never had a license revoked; that he has never held an alcoholic beverages license before; that he has no relation to either the Washington, D.C. or Virginia locations with the same name; that he does not have an interest in any other business that holds an alcoholic beverage license in Prince George's County; that he is a 50% member; that he had read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that he will ensure his employees abide by the Rules and Regulations; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that he is willing to change the name of the business to avoid confusion.

Mr. Camacho stated that they would now hear from the opposition.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that he objects to the opposition; that the only burden for a transfer is proving that the applicant is fit and proper.

Ted Agres stated that he is a resident of Laurel; that he is the Co-Coordinator for the Coalition of Laurel Area Safety and Prosperity; that he has been a resident for 37 years that he is in opposition to the transfer of this license; that he has been before the Board previously when concerned about other licenses; that they have seen problems arise from businesses coming in and security concerns; that the issues with inadequate security end in violence and murders; that there are reasons for concern; that the two applicants do not have prior experience in the industry other than Mr. Natty working the restaurant for the past year; that they purchased the business for a large sum of money and he is unsure of how or if the new owners can also handle any possible problems; that they have contracted a member to run the nightclub aspect; that as recent as yesterday the new business is not in Good Standing with the Comptroller of Maryland; that there are zoning, procedures and other steps with the city of Laurel that have not been addressed; that until those matters are addressed he doesn't feel they are fit and proper to hold the license; that he was given the documents to provide clarification of the owners of the business in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Camacho stated that the license has already been issued; that they are only transferring; that to pick up an updated Use and Occupancy Permit is needed; that the zoning and permitting issues are a different matter; that if they can't resolve those issues the license may be moot.

Garold Stone stated that he is a resident of Laurel; that he is the Coordinator for South Laurel Community Association; that they are concerned; that he did receive information that this business is not tied to the one in Washington, D.C.; that there is a long history of violence with other businesses in the area; that he has concerns about the restaurant and lounge aspect; that Rule and Regulation Number 46 states that "The granting of the license is necessary for the accommodation of the public."; that they don't want the business; that there is no alcohol sales in Laurel after 11:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m.; that he requests the Board take all that into account and asks that they place the following restrictions on the license; that they change the name of the business to not have further confusion; that they close at 11:00 p.m.; that they keep it family friendly as the previous owners did.

Mr. Camacho stated that the license has been issued already; that accommodating the public is a moot point; that he understands and takes the concern seriously; that he served on the Board from 2005-2010; that he spearheaded the removal of any problem businesses; that he takes this very seriously; that they will inspect; that the current Board does not take any silliness and will ensure the Rules and Regulations are followed; that he does recommend they change the name; that the business does hold a Special Entertainment Permit.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that they have no objections to changing the name; that he believes the applicants are fit and property.

Mr. Camacho asked who is operating business; he also asked if there was a manager.

James Natty stated that there is a manager and that it is not an absentee ownership; that he has Ms. Haas as a manager; that she will stay on to help operate.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the transfer application with the special entertainment permit, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of Monzurul Islam, President, for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of M&P Investments, Inc., t/a Lee's Deli Mini Mart, 5400 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, 20747, transfer from Amita, Inc., t/a Lee's Deli Mini Mart, Chung Soon Lee, President/Secretary/Treasurer.

Applicant is represented by Abraham Hurdle, Esquire.

Monzurul Islam stated that he has been working in the business for three months; that he has gone through TAMS; that all employees will go through TAMS; that the current owner is staying to help; that they're open for 24 hours, but that they only sell beer and wine; that the hours for beer and wine sales is 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; that the conflict with the management agreement has been resolved; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that he doesn't have an interest in any other business in Prince George's County with an alcoholic beverage license.

Mr. Camacho stated that the current licensee was before the Board at the last hearing for issues with the transfer and the management agreement.

Monzurul Islam stated that he did not have experience with alcohol before; that he has been working there with the current owner to learn.

Ms. Norman stated that there have been issues in those three months he has been at the store; that he was not familiar with the Rules and Regulations since those issues occurred.

Monzurul Islam stated that he is familiar with the Rules and Regulations now.

Mr. Camacho stated that Mr. Islam must understand that as a new licensee any changes to the physical building, hours, or any other business matter must be approved by the Board before they are made; that if Mr. Islam has any questions he should ask the office; that if he doesn't follow the Rules and Regulations there will be additional fines.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the transfer application, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of Rosa Isabel Cruz Granados, President, Martin Granados Sanchez, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of Ku & Shim, Inc., **t/a The Store**, 3811 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, 20783, transfer from Ku & Shim, Inc., t/a The Store, Andy Kim, President, Mimi Kim, Vice President/Secretary.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Carla Ramirez stated that she is a resident of Silver Springs; that her parents are in the process of purchasing the business; that she will work there approximately 20 hours per week; that she has read the Rules and Regulations; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; that someone from the family will always be there.

Rosa Isabel Cruz Granados stated that she is a resident of Hyattsville; that the application is true and correct; that she will be there 40-45 hours per week; that she has read the Rules and Regulations; that there will be two employees working in addition to family; that out of everyone three of them have taken alcohol awareness training including her.

Martin Granados Sanchez state that he is a resident of Hyattsville; that he won't be on the premises much; that he will be there approximately 20 hours per week; that he is familiar with the Rules and Regulations; that the application is true and correct.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the transfer application, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of Leia Burks, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Taseen Abdalbarr, Member/Authorized Person for a Class B (BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Center Pocket, LC, **t/a Center Pocket Billiards and Café**, 4931 Tesla Drive, Bowie, 20715.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that they are here to apply for a better location for the establishment.

Mr. Camacho asked if the information and qualifying statements are the same and the only aspect that is changing is the location.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that yes, it will be in the Melford Business Park in Bowie.

Leia Burks stated that she is a resident of Bowie; that the information is correct.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that the problem with the other location was not that the person in opposition had a non-compete agreement with the shopping center, but the grocery store did; that they were unable to work out the issue.

Leia Burks stated that she understands the Class BLX requirements of a minimum of 100 seats and a \$1 million investment; that she expects to spend at least that amount; that the costs of construction are least \$500,000; that the building is valued at 3 million; that the landlord has already provided the HVAC system and electrical panel which is a substantial amount as well;

that she is sure the rest of the furnishings will be over the requirement; that they will still work with law enforcement to ensure they create a security plan even though there is not an entertainment permit or requirement for one; that they submitted the plan to Corporal Cicale; that they will notify them of changes and work to gain approval even though it is not required; that they anticipate the capacity to be at 240 people; that they don't believe they will ever hit capacity with the way tournaments flow; that it is run similar to a bowling alley; that they have a lot of support in the new location and their current location in Crofton; that they have letters, emails and signatures in support; that food will be available at all hours; that they will be open 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.; that they may want to change the hours later and will request permission from the Board; that they don't believe the establishment will be a threat to the peace and safety; that they do not have parking concerns; that they don't believe there will be traffic issues; that it is not adjacent to a residential area; that they hope to have a revenue of \$750,000 in the first year; that they hope to grow each year; that they previously appeared and were approved; that they understand the standards of a BLX license; that they will comply with the Rules and Regulations; that there will be ten employees to start; that it could grow.

Ms. Norman asked if the HVAC system could be a part of the \$1 million investment.

Terence Sheppard stated that it doesn't say they are unable to use it.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that she will submit the costs if the license is approved; that she believes their investment will be approximately \$1.3 million; that she proffers there are no other changes; that there are several people in support and they can talk if the Board would like to hear from them; that there is one person in opposition.

Leia Burks stated that she met with Michael Esteve; that he is a city council member for Bowie; that he is in support of the business; that he brought their information to the city council meeting to tell the others.

Laura Eacho stated that she is a resident of Deale; that she is in opposition; that she works for Educational Systems Federal Credit Union; that their back office is opposite and across from the establishment; that they are across the parking lot; that there are concerns because the back offices houses their entire database and occasionally receives cash deposits; that perhaps this is not the correct area for the establishment; that she has had an opportunity to meet with the owners; that she is willing to work with the owners; that she has concerns; that she also now understands two of the new owners have law enforcement backgrounds; that they are not open 24 hours a day, seven days a week typically; that they are open extended hours occasionally; that it is an office park area; that parking may become limited.

Mr. Camacho stated that the applicants have been here before; that they worked with the community; that it is not a typical pool hall; that he feels that with their backgrounds they will ensure the establishment is responsibly represented.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor license, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of Rodney Chambers, Managing Member, Ronald Covington, Managing Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Sky High Sports & Entertainment, LLC, **t/a PartyHQ**, 15606 Emerald Way, Bowie, 20716.

Rodney Chambers stated that they would like to amend their application to reflect an application for a Class BLX license; that he feels like they will meet the requirements; that he is a resident of

Hanover; that they want to bring a new concept to Bowie Town Center; that it will be in the old food court; that they will have ten lanes of bowling, a 2,500 square foot laser tag area, virtual reality games, arcade games, a restaurant and a bar called “The Parent Trap”; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve, named the five acceptable forms of identification; that they will serve burgers, pasta, salad and desserts; that he has his Alcohol Awareness Certificate; that he has with him the Vice Mayor of Bowie Henri Gardner, Director of Marketing for Bowie Town Center Dionna Davis and AJ Medley their General Manager; that the closest school is 1.1 miles away and the closest church is 1.4 miles away; that he will be there approximately 40 hours per week; that his General Manager will be there approximately 50-60 hours per week; that all the employees will go through Alcohol Awareness training; that they will have a refresher on the training quarterly; that there will be approximately 90 employees with 8 managers; that he is a United States Citizen; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has passed the criminal background check; that he has never had a license before; that he has never been found in violation of any alcoholic beverage laws; that they hope to open in November around Thanksgiving; that they expect to invest at minimum \$1.3 million; that the patio is closed off with signage not to remove drinks; that they will be open Friday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to midnight Monday – Thursday and 11:00 a.m. to midnight on Sunday.’

Vice Mayor Henri Gardner stated that he has been on the City Council for eight years; that he goes outside the town to recruit business to come to Bowie; that they lose businesses to Crofton; that many residents are concerned that the Bowie Town Center will turn into the Largo Boulevard; that they want to see it Bowie Town Center stay open; that himself and the entire city council approves.

Ronald Covington stated that he is a resident of Hanover; that he is very excited to come to Bowie; that they want to create an entertainment facility for people to go to; that the General Manager is ServSafe and TIPS certified; that they are working to ensure all employees are certified as well; that he has his Alcohol Awareness Certificate; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Camacho asked if they are using the entire space for alcohol or just the bar

Rodney Chambers stated that they are using the entire location for alcohol, especially the bowling alley; that there will be some no-sale areas.

Mr. Camacho stated the concern will be people taking alcohol out into the mall or outside.

Rodney Chambers stated that they agree with the concern and will have security to ensure alcoholic beverages are not taken outside.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor license, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of Jesus Mejia, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of El Mexireno Restaurant, Inc., **t/a El Mexireno Restaurant**, 5494 Saint Barnabas Road, Oxon Hill, 20745.

Applicant is represented by Melvin J. Kodenski, Esquire.

Melvin J. Kodenski, Esquire stated that his client, the applicant, had a license previously; that he had a family emergency; that he had to go to El Salvador; that being out of the country he was

unable to renew the alcoholic beverage license; that the business has stayed the same; that they stopped serving May 30, 2019.

Jesus Mejia stated that everything Mr. Kodenski has said is true.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor license, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

In the matter of German E. Escobar, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of ARE Corporation, **t/a La Chiquita**, 5705 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, 20737.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

German Escobar stated that he is a resident of Shady Side; that he previously applied for a license for this location; that there were multiple applicants for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, so he agreed to transfer the license of a Class B, Beer and Wine that was applying instead; that he surrendered the license he was granted; that he wasn't ready to pick up at the time; that he is ready to pick up now; that he has gotten approval from WSSC; that the operation is the same; that there are no changes to the application.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor license, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho

In the matter of Wilson E. Ceron-Jacome, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Lubia A. Ceron, Vice President for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Ipala Ceron, Inc., **t/a Rancho Rio Bravo Restaurant**, 2031-C University Blvd, Hyattsville, 20783.

Applicant is represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that the applicants are current licensees since February 2018; that they are here to add liquor to their license.

Lubia Ceron stated that she is a resident of College Park; that she was here in February 2018; that nothing has changed from the previous application; that there have been no violations since they received their license; that she runs and operates the business with her father; that since they received the first license many customers have requested mixed drinks; that she has a petition of 91 signatures asking for the upgrade license; that there are no changes to the business, operation, layout, menu, or anything else; that she has no reason to believe it will disturb the peace and quiet of the community.

Wilson Ceron stated that he is a resident of College Park; that everything in the application is the same as in February 2018; that he is here to request liquor be added to their license at the request of the customers.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor license, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho

In the matter of a Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Blow Fish Restaurant**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 11436 Cherry Hill Road, Beltsville, 20705, Yue Zhi Lin, to serve as President in the place and stead of Bin Yao, President.

Bin Yao stated that he is coming off of the license; that he holds a 25% interest in the business; that his mother is currently a licensee; that his mother is Ms. Lin; that Ms. Lin has 75% interest in the business; that Ms. Lin will stay on the license and run the business; that there are no other changes.

Ms. Norman moved to approve the application for a substitution of corporate officers, seconded by Ms. Sparkman and made unanimous by Mr. Camacho.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikole Bennett  
Administrative Aide

Adjourned 11:35 a.m.