

July 26, 2022
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
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: 10:05 a.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.

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark: 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.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Hooters**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 14707 A Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, Benjamin Benson to serve as Authorized Person in place of Scott Weber, Authorized Person.
Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire is representing.
Mr. Benjamin Benson is sworn in.
Ms. Schrecengost asked the standard questions used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.
Mr. Benson is the General Counsel and Secretary. He handles the day-to-day operations in the legal department, Board minutes, and resolutions.
Commissioner Forbes: We noticed there were some missing signatures especially regarding Mr. Scott Weber and a notary. His signature appears on the assignment of interests' page, there were several blanks within the application.
Ms. Schrecengost: I'm looking at page two of the application, at the top where it says statement of former officer Mr. Scott Weber signed that on May 6, 2022, it's notarized as well. There were counterpart pages to page two, Mr. Scott signed on one page and Mr. Benson signed on the second page.
Ms. Katrice James of the BOLC confirms Ms. Schrecengost did submit the correct paperwork.
Mr. DeLoach: I think the counterpart pages threw us off, we're good on that.
No further questions.
Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Hooters, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

REGULAR SESSION:

NEW- CLASS B(DD), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. Christopher A. Tomasso, CEO/President, Henry M. Hope III, CFO, Jay A. Wolszczak, Secretary/CLO, for a Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of First Watch Restaurants, Inc., **t/a First Watch Restaurant (Laurel)**, 14700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 102, Laurel, 20707.
John Thomas, Esquire is attorney on record. Not licensed to practice in Maryland.
The applicants or attorney were not present on the virtual hearing.
Commissioner Forbes: We're going to postpone this particular matter to another date. All three applicants would need to be present.

NEW- CLASS B(BLX), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. Jeffrey Sze, Member, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of CSFH, LLC, t/a **The Spot**, 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 101, Camp Springs, 20746.

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

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Jeffrey Sze is sworn in.

Mr. Sze: We have seven stores that sell a variety of Asian food. This is our third location with a bar. We'll only be accepting horizontal I.D.'s and all employees will be at least twenty-one years old. Any employees on site will be Alcohol Awareness certified. We plan to have three employees. We're expecting to spend two million dollars in construction.

Mr. Sze has never held a license previously.

Commissioner Forbes asked the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Commissioner Forbes advised the applicant to try again because Mr. Sze only named five acceptable forms of I.D. There's a copy of our rules and regulations on our website.

Commissioner Forbes: I have you on record saying you understand the rules and regulations. I'll come back to you after you've reviewed the rules and regulations again.

After tabling this matter, Commissioner Forbes once again asked the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

Mr. Sze was able to answer each question and name all six acceptable forms of I.D. in the State of Maryland.

Commissioner Camacho: You have three restaurants?

Mr. Sze: We have three locations in Rockville, Camp Springs, and College Park.

Commissioner Camacho: Does the one in Rockville have a liquor license?

Mr. Sze: It's under my partner's name.

No further questions.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a The Spot, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Xiao Yun Zhang, President, Yuk Yin Wong, Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Crafty Crab Clinton, Inc., t/a **Crafty Crab Clinton**, 8821 Woodyard Road, Clinton, 20735.

Robert Kim, Esquire is representing.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Xiao Yun Zhang is sworn in.

Ms. Yuk Yin Wong is sworn in.

Mr. Kim: This establishment will hold two hundred and fourteen seats. They have hopes of opening by the end of August.

Mr. Kim asked **Ms. Zhang** and **Ms. Wong** the standard questions used to qualify his client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicants were able to answer each question. Both applicants have completed Alcohol Awareness training. I've submitted copies of their certificates to the Board.

All employees will be Alcohol Awareness certified.

Ms. Zhang is currently a licensee for Crafty Crab District Heights for almost three years. This location hasn't had any violations.

Ms. Wong: It's a southern New Orleans style seafood restaurant. I'm the fifty percent stockholder, secretary, and treasurer. We'll have no problem meeting the million-dollar capital investment.

Commissioner Forbes: If Ms. Zhang is already a license in Prince Georges County is there a challenge?

Mr. DeLoach: No, not with this type of license.

No further questions.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a Crafty Crab Clinton, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Rajneesh Nagpal, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Rishi Malhtro, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of M&T Restaurant, LLC, t/a **Dog Haus Biergarten**, 7401 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 1A, College Park, 20740.

Linda Carter, Esquire is representing.

Mr. Robert Ryan (Witness) (Director of Public Services for the City of College Park) is sworn in.

Mr. Rajneesh Nagpal is sworn in.

Mr. Rishi Malhtro is sworn in.

Mr. Ryan: We've negotiated a property use agreement, it's finalized and in the process of getting all the signatures and once that's completed, we'll submit a copy to the Board. This establishment is in the City Hall building in College Park. We have a new City Hall that's a condominium type facility. There are four retail spaces, and the applicant will occupy one of those spaces. The mayor and council of College Park are in support of this application.

Ms. Carter: The establishment is already under construction and will contain one hundred and ten seats. They'll be spending well over one million dollars. Our exhibit number one includes a proposed layout, pictures of the food, plant-based menu, and the story of Dog Haus. Dog Haus partners with "No Kid Hungry." This will be Mr. Nagpal's first soiree into the restaurant business, he'll be hiring a full-time manager.

Ms. Carter asked **Mr. Nagpal** and **Mr. Malhtro** the standard questions used to qualify her clients for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicants were able to answer each question.

No questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a Dog Haus Biergarten, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Commissioner Forbes provided an explanation of the competition process that would be utilized to determine which establishments would be granted the Class B, Beer Wine and Liquor Licenses. Commissioner Forbes further explained there were only 3 licenses that would be granted and four establishments competing. After all cases are heard, in the competition, the involved establishments are ranked from most points to least number of points. The top three establishments with the most points are then granted the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License.

Commissioner Camacho takes the gavel at 11:05 a.m.

1. Blanca E. Villatoro-Canales, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Pollo Granjero, Inc., **t/a Pollo Granjero**, 1401 University Blvd East, Unit G8, Hyattsville, 20783.

Robert Kim, Esquire is representing.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

No one in opposition of t/a Pollo Granjero.

Ms. Blanca E. Villatoro-Canales is sworn in.

Mr. Louis Villatoro (Interpreter) is sworn in.

Mr. Kim: This is a Peruvian Rotisserie American Cuisine restaurant that has been open since October 2020. There are seventy-six seats at this establishment. They've had many requests from customers for alcohol to accompany their meals. Ms. Canales doesn't have another business in Prince George's County with a liquor license. There are eight employees and some family members who work at this establishment. Ms. Canales has completed Alcohol Awareness training. A copy of her Alcohol Awareness certificate has been submitted to the Board. Our exhibit includes a copy of the layout, menu, and a petition with one hundred and seventy-three signatures in support of this application.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions used to qualify his client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

There are five customers in support present at the restaurant. Mr. Kim asked to bypass traditional testimony, those five individuals stated their names, addresses, and they're in support of this application.

Commissioner Norman: When did you officially open the restaurant?

Mr. Kim: Pollo Granjero officially opened in October 2020.

No further questions.

2. Tanetta Nicole Meritt, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Burgers At, LLC, **t/a Burgers@**, 4531 Telfair Blvd, Suite 108, Camp Springs, 20746.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

No one in opposition of t/a Burgers@.

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

Ms. Tanetta Merritt is sworn in.

Ms. Susan Vogel (Testifying in favor of application) is sworn in.

Mr. Dennis Green (Testifying in favor of application) is sworn in.

Ms. Merritt: We currently hold a BW license and haven't had any violations since it was granted. Burgers@ is a gourmet burger spot, since obtaining the BW license we've had a huge demand on getting the BWL license. All our employees are TIPS certified. Our staff keeps their TIP cards on hand, we've never been out of compliance. Along with the great food, our customers want a good cocktail.

Commissioner Camacho asked the standard questions used to qualify the applicant for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman: How long have you been in business?

Ms. Merritt: We've been in business since October 2021.

Ms. Susan Vogel: I had the privilege to be the Real Estate Broker for Burgers@. The food and burgers are so high quality, and the service is phenomenal. The staff is well trained, every employee is tips certified and knows how to serve.

Mr. Green: I'm in favor of Burgers@ getting the liquor license, at least twice a day customers come in and ask for liquor and we must turn them down. Customers come to eat at our restaurant and then go to the next restaurant for a drink.

Commissioner Norman: Mr. Green, what capacity do you serve in the restaurant?

Mr. Green: I'm one of the managers at the restaurant.

No further questions.

3. Tajudeen Abubakar, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Remi and Associates, LLC, t/a **Tempoo Restaurant**, 9424 Annapolis Road, Lanham, 20706. **Linda Carter, Esquire** is representing.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Tajudeen Abubakar is sworn in.

No one in opposition of t/a Tempoo Restaurant.

There is no one to testify on Mr. Abubakar's behalf.

Ms. Carter: Of the five licenses in a one-mile radius, how many are Class A's?

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza: There are three Class A's and one B+.

Ms. Carter: We filed some amendments to the application; everything is still true and accurate. The applicant's exhibit number one includes the layout, the menu for carryout, the full menu, pictures of the food, and testimonials. We submitted six letters of support to Ms. James. Mr. Abubakar had a well-known interest in Mango Café. He opened Tempoo Restaurant in 2019. West African food is traditionally accompanied by alcohol. Customers walk away when they find out there's no alcohol. He currently has three employees; he anticipates his customers increasing with this license and that'll allow him to hire eight employees. A lot of his business is carryout. There are thirty seats in this establishment. He anticipates his customer count increasing to four hundred people a week. Mr. Abubakar and his wife are Alcohol Awareness certified. It's his intent to have everyone in the front of the establishment Alcohol Awareness certified.

Mr. Abubakar: We serve predominately Nigerian food. We pick one meal from West Africa and adopt it to our menu.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify her client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho: Where on 450 are you located?

Mr. Abubakar: We're across from the shopping center with TJ Maxx and the dollar store.

4. Christopher A. Tomasso, CEO/President, Henry M. Hope III, CFO, Jay A. Wolszczak, Secretary/CLO, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of First Watch Restaurants, Inc., **t/a First Watch Restaurant (Bowie)**, 15471 Excelsior Drive, Bowie, 20716.

John Thomas, Esquire is attorney on record. Not licensed to practice in Maryland.

The applicants or attorney were not present on the virtual hearing.

Commissioner Forbes: This establishment will not be able to participate because all applicants are not available to be on this call.

5. Mozeuenorinmi P. Okolie, Managing Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Calabar Kitchen & Lounge, LLC, **t/a Calabar Kitchen & Lounge**, 3524 Crain Highway, Bowie, 20716.

Traci Scudder, Esquire is representing.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

No one in opposition of t/a Calabar Kitchen & Lounge.

Mr. Mozeuenorinmi P. Okolie is sworn in.

Ms. Chika Enekwe (Business Manager) is sworn in.

Ms. Scudder: We have submitted an exhibit that includes the menu, drink menu, photos of interior, floor plan, petition of over one hundred signatures, and two letters of recommendation. Mr. Okolie held a liquor license previously outside of the country. There are currently twenty-nine seats in the restaurant. There will be nine employees. We have received our U&O permit and we're looking to open August 26, 2022. Mr. Okolie has completed Alcohol Awareness training. All guests will be required to show I.D.

Mr. Okolie: I want to bring an upscale dining experience to Bowie. I'd like to open a family-oriented restaurant introducing my family recipes. I was born into a restaurant family, and we had restaurants in Lagos, Nigeria. We'd like to bring the authentic West African food to the area.

Ms. Scudder asked the standard questions used to qualify her client for this type of license. Including the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Ms. Enekwe: All our employees will have consistent training. Each employee will know how to identify various levels of intoxication, customers food intake, and rate of consumption.

Mr. Okolie: The hours will be Monday through Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. it'll be a lounge and later in the evening we'll be serving light finger foods. On Wednesday through Sunday the hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Commissioner Camacho: Your hours differ from the original application. Submit those changes to the staff so we can have the correct hours.

Commissioner Camacho: On the application it says for the mode of operation is one hundred and thirteen seats, one thousand two hundred on sale, and six hundred ninety- six off sale. You can strictly have on sale only.

Ms. Scudder: We'll make that correction.

Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector Mendoza: Food must be always served while you're open.

Mr. Okolie: We'll be serving food the entire time we're open. We'll have finger foods for the later hours. Earlier in the day will be heavier meals.

Commissioner Norman: You are not currently open?

Mr. Okolie: We'll be opening on August 26, 2022.

No further questions.

Commissioner Forbes returned to the virtual hearing and recused herself from voting because she didn't hear all of the presentations.

Commissioner Norman: How many of the establishments already have a BW license?

Chief Liquor Inspector Clark: It's just one establishment, Burgers@.

Commissioner Smith: How many restaurants are currently open?

Commissioner Camacho: All of the establishments are open, excluding the last contestant, Calabar Kitchen & Lounge.

Beer, Wine and Liquor Competition Results:

Top 3 Establishments with the highest points scored received the license.

- 1. Burgers@ (33 Points)**
- 2. Tempoo Restaurant (25 Points)**
- 3. Pollo Granjero (14 Points)**
- 4. Calabar Kitchen & Lounge (0 Points)**

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Burgers@, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Tempoo Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Pollo Granjero, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes

Administrative Aide BOLC