

September 11, 2019
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION:

PRESENT:

Daphne Turpin Forbes, Chairman
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Ken Miles, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Benjamin Rupert, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Nikole Bennett, Administrative Aide
Katrice James, Administrative Aide

Time: 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that the hearing is for the Special Sunday Off Sale Permits; that there are 16 applicants; that there are four permits available; that each applicant will be given five minutes to tell why they should be granted a permit; that anyone in opposition will be given one minute; that the applicant will also have a one minute rebuttal; that they will continue through all the applications that way; that he would like anyone in opposition to come forward; that there is no one in opposition; that they will hear from every applicant; that they will each write down their top six; the applications with the highest votes will get the permit; that if there's a tie and the Commissioners can not agree, they will openly deliberate.

In the matter of **t/a Avenue Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, DHRUV, LLC, 3318 Walters Lane, Forestville, 20747– Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Applicant is represented by Roland Lee, Esquire.

Rekhaben Patel stated that she is the owner of the business; that the stores name is Avenue Liquors; that they would like a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that their customers have been asking for them to have one; that there is not a liquor store nearby with one; that there is a shopping center two miles away; that it is a residential area around the store; that the landlord recently renovated the exterior of the shopping center; that the permit would benefit the public; that she hopes a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit will increase her sales; that the addition of Sunday sales won't threaten the peace and security; that the landlord has security; that her employees have gone through TIPs; that they have owned the license for 15 years; that they have had one minor sale in 2015; that they donate money to the Fire Department and other people who request donations; that depending on the request they donate money or supplies.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Bell's Drive In Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, OHMKAR, INC., 5901 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, 20743 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Ajay Patel stated that he is a resident of Laurel; that he brought pictures with him of the business; that he is the owner and operator of the business; that he has been the owner for approximately 20 years; that he is a good citizen; that they participate in local activities with town hall; that they have been awarded by the town for being a model business; that they are currently open from 6:00 a.m. to midnight six days a week; that they have security from 8:00 p.m. to midnight for the safety of the citizens and the employees; that they are the only store in the area not enclosed by safety glass; that customers do not have fear when they come in the store; that it is a gateway between Prince George's County and Washington, D.C.; that there is a liquor store on the Washington, D.C. side 50 feet away; that they have had a change in law in Washington D.C. that allows them to sell on Sunday; that he believes he is losing approximately \$600,000 in business per year; that the county and state are losing out on the money as well; that he believes he has shown why he is a prime candidate for the permit; that he has applied the previous three years; that he was denied previously; that he hopes he will be successful this time; that his business is approximately 3,500 square feet; that it is the largest in the area; that they are located in a strip shopping center; that they have seven employees; that four employees live locally; that they will increase the number of employees with Sunday sales; that they will have to add at least three employees; that they are an active part of the community; that they participate in community days, school functions, and work with a local church on Thanksgiving and Easter; that he brought the church administrator with him the last time he applied.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Big Daddy's Barbeque & Discount Liquors**, Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Big Daddy's Barbeque & Discount Liquors, LLC, 9430 Annapolis Road, Lanham, 20706 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Supreet K. Melhi stated that she is a resident of Clarksville; that per the photos they submitted their store is clean; that the community enjoys coming to the business; that the employees are all TIPs and TAMs certified; that they have security; that they actively invest in the property; that they just added six LED security lights in the parking lot; that they were hurt by the addition of the Special Sunday Sales Permit; that they aren't able to compete the same; that they are a large store; that they try to accommodate all customers, but that makes it expensive to operate; that they are a one stop shop and customers like that; that they have a drive thru as well; that they have gotten customers to sign a petition; that they didn't bring it with them; that they should be granted the permit because they are responsible and abide by the Rules and Regulations; that they will use the permit to the fullest potential; that she is a licensee; that she also works in the store; that Mr. Panetta is also on the license; that he is present; that security comes in the evening; that they are an organization; that they are not part of the Prince George's County Police Department; that they have received a certificate of appreciation from the Prince George's County Police Department Athletic Club for involvement with donations; that they offer community support to anyone; that they have fundraisers and events; that they are a restaurant

and liquor store; that the certificate's date is October 6, 2018; that she has owned and been in business over ten years.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Blue Sky Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Blue Sky Wine & Spirits, LLC., 6430 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, 20743 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Shaileshkumar Patel stated that he is the owner; that he is a resident of Clinton.

Prianka Patel stated that she is a resident of Clinton; that she is Mr. Patel's daughter.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that they bought the business a little over a year ago; that they changed the store when they purchased it; that the business had a bad reputation before; that they were enclosed in glass before; that it is now open; that they have spent \$250,000 in renovations; that they would increase the number of employees if they were granted a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that the Sunday sales would equal sales on Monday through Thursday if not greater; that there is not a licensee on Central Avenue with Sunday Sales from Washington, D.C. to the beltway.

Prianka Patel stated that they are involved with the community; that they donated 100 cases of water and juice for Seat Pleasant Day; that they also donated \$1,000 to the Prince George's County Police Department Athletic Club; that they have been there for one year.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that all the applicants are deserving; that Mr. Patel has done more than was asked to; that the store is one anyone would want in their community; that they actively participate in the community; that there are citizens that have taken time out of their day to be here.

Mr. Camacho asked how big the business is.

Prianka Patel stated about 4,000 square feet; that it is across from the Addison Metro Station; that her family owns the shopping center; that they have a Prince George's County Police Officer for security at night from about 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Brothers Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 2 Brothers, Inc., LLC, 12788 B Old Forte Road, Fort Washington, 20744 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant was represented by Paul Jackson, Esquire.

Paul Jackson, Esquire stated that Mr. Singh is the sole owner; that there are five members of the community in support; that he would like if Mr. Polsey can speak; that Brothers Liquors is located in a shopping center; that in 2000-2010 there were hardly any tenants at the shopping center; that there was only a 7-Eleven and a Planet Fitness; that now there are 16 stores there; that the granting of a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit will allow for an increase in sales and traffic at the shopping center; that they request that the \$50,000 investment be waived; that they have invest approximately \$125,000 in renovations.

Kashmir Singh stated that he is a resident of Laurel; that he provides community contributions in the form of money, water and sodas to churches and schools; that his weekly average sales are \$20,000 – 25, 000; the business is 2,900 square feet; that there was a new build out in 2016; that he is able to provide proof of the money spent.

Gordon Polsey stated that he is a resident of Fort Washington; that he has been in the area since 1993; that the shopping center has picked up business; that there aren't people hanging out there using bad language or asking for money; that everything has gotten better since 2016 with the new changes; that the shopping center has been revitalized.

Paul Jackson, Esquire stated that they have a letter in support from Bob Hall.

Kashmir Singh stated that the shopping center provides security; that he currently has four employees; that the Special Sunday Sales Permit will cause him to need more employees; that it is his third time applying for a permit.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Burke's Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, H&H LIQUOR, INC., 7541 Landover Road, Landover, 20785 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Himal Bikram KC stated that he doesn't have an attorney; that he didn't bring anyone in support; that he was added to the license last year; that there is a big community behind the shopping center; that the owner sold the business last year; that that he has made a large investment in the business to make improvements; that he has been struggling to attract customers; that customers have asked for Sunday sales to be added; that it is a very safe and secure shopping center; that the security is provided by the shopping center at night; that it is an armed police officer; that it is a small store.

Ms. Turpin Forbes asked if Mr. KC is requesting a waiver for the \$50,000 investment.

Himal Bikram KC stated that he is asking for a significant decrease at least.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Capital Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Capital Liquors, Inc., 5950 Martin Luther King Highway, Seat Pleasant, 20743 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that this is a new client; that she was retained this evening; that in one day she has gotten 200 signatures for a petition requesting the addition of a Special Sunday Sales Permit; that this building was a Popeyes previously; that the previous owner liked coolers and walk ins; that this store has more walk ins than any other store; that the business was purchased in the last year or two; that they want to open the store and have merchandise out and available to customers; that they are not asking for an exemption to the waiver; that they believe the business will increase 20% with the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that they want to have Redskins Sundays; that they believe that Sunday sales would be close to the sales on a regular weekday; that the business is 1 mile from Washington, D.C. border; that the family bought the

laundromat in the area as well; that what they have done with that space is indicative for their plans in this space.

Gurpartap Singh Randhawa stated that he is a resident of Virginia; that he has participated in Seat Pleasant Community Day; that they have an open parking lot; that they let the community use the parking lot for events; that they provide free bottled water on holidays; that the space is 4,000 square feet; that not all of that is open to the public; that it is also used for storage. A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a District Heights Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 6136 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Mitchell David stated that he is a resident of Bowie; that he is here to apply for a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that the liquor stores around his business have Sunday Sales; that his customers ask why he doesn't; that his clientele go to other stores for Sunday sales and he can't get them back; that in the little strip mall his business is in there are two other stores; that it is a walk in; that there is not a drive thru; that he is not requesting a waiver for the \$50,000 investment; that his business is approximately 1,800 square feet; that he doesn't own the property; that he doesn't have much community involvement; that he has three employees; that he has done at least \$50,000 in improvements since 2017; that he will do more if the permit is granted; that the business use to have the employees behind glass; that he took that down and made the store open. A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Fine Beverage Depot**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Chatha Wine and Liquors Enterprises, LLC, 6333 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20785 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Applicant is represented by Faisal Gill, Esquire Faisal Gill, Esquire stated that Fine Beverage Depot is at a significant disadvantage; that they are right on the Washington, D.C. line; that they have lost business since the law change; that their sales are down 30% last year; that the store close by has Sunday sales; that the business is 8,500 square feet; that it is fairly open; that they are not behind bullet proof glass; that it is well lit; that they are requesting an exemption from the \$50,000 investment; that last year Mr. Chatha spent \$50,000 on new coolers, racks, lighting, and other equipment; that since their violation they have retrained their employees; that they passed the Board's underage sale check for 2019; that they have eight employees currently; that they plan to increase the number of employees if the permit is granted; that they are in a unique situation since they are on the county line; that it is their third try; that they have seen the business decline; that they are involved with the community through the Fire Department, Police Department and schools; that they provide water for events and the booster clubs.

Sandeep Chatha stated that he is a resident of Virginia; that this is large store with a large selection; that there is a store across the street that is in Washington, D.C. that can sell alcohol on

Sundays; that there is another store close by that is also in Washington, D.C. and can sell on Sunday.

Faisal Gill, Esquire stated that they have owned the business for ten years; that the business has been there for 35 years; that they have requested a waiver, but they still have more improvements to make; that there is more they can do; that they don't want to fall short of the \$50,000 mark since they've already done so much.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Special Sunday Sales Permit with the \$50,000 capital investment waived, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of **t/a Hilltop Wine & Spirits**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Hilltop Liquors, Inc., 6856-6858 Racetrack Road, Bowie, 20715 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Robert, Kim, Esquire.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that Hilltop Liquors had a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit previously; that they were told by their landlord they had to move and if they didn't he wouldn't renew their lease; that they relocated to a larger space in the same shopping center; that they increased by about 2,000 square feet; that the space is brand new; that they have a wide variety of products; that they are requesting a waiver for the \$50,000 investment; that the landlord has contributed over \$300,000 in improvements; that Mr. Yoo has invested over \$100,000 in fixtures; that in 2015 they were awarded the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that they paid for the permit when they renewed because they were still at the other location; that the permit did not transfer location with the license; that they donate to schools, veteran organizations, and the Fire Department.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a NuWave Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, NuWave Liquors, LLC, 956 East Swan Creek Road, Fort Washington, 20744 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Sunil Khanna stated that he is a resident of Virginia; that the business is located in Fort Washington in a shopping center; that the space is 3,000 square feet; that the area is clean and has recently been renovated; that they have beer, wine, liquor and lottery; that it is convenient for customers with the grocery store in the same shopping center; that their sales have declined with the addition of the permits; that this is their fourth attempt at a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that their customers go elsewhere; that they are in the same area as Brothers and Silesia; that they have security in the evenings; that they are three miles from the Charles County line; that they have three employees; that they try to hire locally and students; that they offer incentives to students; that if they work at the store long enough they will assist with supplies and tuition; that they have set aside money to donate every year; that they have been there since 2006; that their lease renews next year and they expect the rent to increase; that they are not requesting a waiver; that the shopping center won't allow exterior changes; that they renovate the interior; that they will do whatever improvements are needed; that there is a Safeway next door; that it is a family friendly upscale area.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Special Sunday Sales Permit with a \$50,000 capital investment, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of **t/a Oxon Hill Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, T.Y.C., Corp., 6369 – 6371 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, 20745 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Kwen Cheung stated that she is a resident of Oxon Hill; that she lives seven minutes away from the store and where she works.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that the legislation did no one favors regarding the Special Sunday Off Sale Permits; that the Board, licensees, community and everyone suffers; that she has lost track of the number of times Ms. Cheung has applied; that the business started as a Class B+ license before the addition of the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that she could sell on Sunday to go with the license; that she had to have the restaurant open; that the restaurant flourished; that it was the only Chinese restaurant in the area; that as more restaurants came in and the competitors increase, the restaurant died; that she kept a cook and the wait staff to keep the liquor store portion open; that she surrendered the Class B+ license the fourth time she applied to have it transferred to a Class A license; that with the addition of the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit Ms. Cheung's sales has plummeted; that she has never had a violation; that she has a petition with over 800 signatures requesting the addition of Sunday sales; that Ms. Cheung has made renovations totaling over \$300,000; that the business always participates in community donations including the Prince George's County Police Department Athletic Association, Oxon Hill High School and senior citizen organizations.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Special Sunday Sales Permit with the \$50,000 capital investment waived, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of **t/a Strick's Restaurant**, Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Strick's Inc., 3211 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, 20748 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Giles Fletcher stated that he is a resident of Temple Hills; that he does not have an attorney; that he lives above the store; that he has been on the license since his father passed away in 1973; that his father bought the business in 1953; that previously they could stay open later than the stores in Washington, D.C. and had a lot of business from there; that they have lost sales because of the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that Prince George's County Police Department use their parking lot to sit and observe traffic so there is a lot of security; that the business is approximately 5,000 square feet; that the size includes the basement; that if they get the permit they will renovate the basement to better use it for storage; that doing so will increase the size of the space in the store itself for customers; that they have a bar and restaurant still; that they will do a lot of improvements with a \$50,000 investment; that they already have a commitment from Bank of America for \$100,000 loan to expand with Sunday sales; that having Sunday sales will add revenue; that the community will benefit; that they have seven full time employees; that they have donated to the Prince George's County Police Department and Fire Department; that they had a baseball team in the community that they lost due to revenue lose; that without the Special Sunday Off Sale Permit they probably won't be able to do the renovations.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Suitland Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, M and M Beverage Corp., 7601 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Robert Kim, Esquire stated that the business previously had a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit; that Prince George's County took the property for county use; that since October 2018 they have been looking for somewhere to move; that they took over Buno Supermarket; that they picked up the new license recently; that they originally did not want to continue the grocery aspect of the store, but talked to the community and saw that the business was in high demand; that there is a need in the community for a grocery store, especially one where it is one stop shop; that they don't plan to be open on Sunday without a Special Sunday Off Sale Permit to avoid an accident sale on Sunday; that Mr. Hundal owns the property; that the building needs at least \$60,000 in renovations; that he believes there will be a large community draw; that he has also submitted a request for a name change to match the new location; that they paid for Sunday Sale when they renewed the license; that they Special Sunday Off Sale Permit does not transfer locations.

A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

In the matter of **t/a Tucker's Restaurant and Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Aaryan, LLC, 9205 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, 20772 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Marva Jo Camp, Esquire.

Marva Jo Camp, Esquire stated that she has brought written statements, pictures and a petition; that the business has been in the community for years; that arsonists burned down the store; that Mr. Patel purchased the business and turned the eyesore into something to be proud of; that he has spent an excess of \$3.5 million in investing in the land, construction and renovations; that there is a state of the art security system; that the attached restaurant is close to being completed; that they do not have any violations; that the store is bright; that the cameras help to keep the area secure; that all the changes Mr. Patel has made makes the community feel safe.

Mary Price stated that she is a resident of Clinton; that she has seen hundreds of customers try to go in on Sunday; that her business is next door; that she owns a home heating oil company with her husband.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Special Sunday Sales Permit with the \$50,000 capital investment waived, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of **t/a Zach's Liquors**, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Yaani, LLC, 6519 Annapolis Road, Hyattsville, 20784 – Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.

Applicant is represented by Roland Lee, Esquire.

Roland Lee stated that the business is owned by Ms. Patel; that they have had one violation; that they have been through Alcohol Awareness training with the employee; that they have corrected the issue; that they are involved with the community; that they donated 24 cases of water in July for the parade for the town; that they have lots of foot traffic; that they were thriving initially; that they bought the new space; that they have made the are business brighter; that it is a good area with a Wal-Mart across the street; that there are lots of other franchised businesses in the area; that the community requests they be open on Sunday.

Sushilaben Patel stated that she is a resident of Waldorf; that their revenue is pretty good; that on Friday and Saturday their sales are approximately \$10,000; that they believe Sunday sales would almost match that amount; that they believe the permit will accommodate the public; that the customers they have are off on Sunday; that they want to be able to purchase alcohol and have fun; that they are less than two miles from Washington, D.C.; that they believe about 35% of their customers are from Washington, D.C.; that they will reinvest in the building; that they will replace the shelves, flooring, counters; that they have renovated once before and they will do it again; that they have 2,500 square feet of space; that they are in Capital Plaza shopping center. A Special Sunday Off Sale Permit was not issued to the applicant; that there was a limited number of Special Sunday Off Sale Permits available for issuance and the permits were issued to another applicant.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that the decision was not easy; that there were 16 applications submitted; that they are limited by statute; that they ranked and selected the top four after hearing testimony and reviewing the information submitted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikole Bennett
Administrative Aide

Adjourned 9:17 p.m.