

September 24, 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
Tammie Norman, 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

Time: 10:01 a.m.

In the matter of a Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a D and S General Store**, Class D, Beer and Wine, 3507 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, 20721, Magdy Ebeid to serve as President, in the place and stead of Amir Abdel Mlak, President.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that Magdy Ebeid has been on the license since he bought the business with his partner, Mr. Mlak; that Mr. Mlak is very sick and doesn't have long left; that Mr. Ebeid will be the only licensee.

Magdy Ebeid stated that he understands the Rules and Regulations; that he has been on the license; that he has his Alcohol Awareness certificate; named the acceptable forms of identification; that the application submitted is true and correct.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officer's application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of a Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Gee's**, Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 3415 52nd Avenue, Cheverly, 20781, Siddhartha Maharjan to serve as Member/Manager, in the place and stead of Rajendra Maharjan, Member/Manager.

Applicant is represented by Jason Deloach, Esquire.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that this is simply a substitution of corporate officers; that Mr. Maharjan will take the place of his father; that he has been working at the liquor store since March; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that the mode of operation for the liquor store will remain the same.

Siddhartha Maharjan stated that he is a resident of Rockville; named the acceptable forms of identification.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that Mr. Maharjan listed a violation on the affidavit, but that he has not been employed at a business with a violation.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that the violation was based on the prior licensee not just the client.

Mr. Camacho asked if there is just a liquor store since the license is a Class B+ license.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that it is only liquor; that the restaurant is separate.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officer's application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Hooters**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 14707 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, Cal Everett to serve as Authorized Person, in the place and stead of Claudia K. Levitas, Authorized Person.

Applicant is represented by Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire.

Leanne Schrecengost stated that they are here today to apply for a Substitute of Corporate Officer's application.

Cal Everett stated that he is a resident of Georgia; that there is no change to the personal information; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has not been found in violation of any gambling or alcohol laws; that he is the General Counsel for the company; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that he understands that if there is a violation on the licensed premises he is responsible for appearing before the Board; that the legal age to consume alcohol is 21, 18 to serve; named the acceptable forms of identification; that there will be no change to the operation of the business.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that the question regarding if he has read the Rules and Regulations was left blank on the affidavit.

Cal Everett stated that he has read the Rules and Regulations.

Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire requested to amend the affidavit to reflect that yes, Mr. Everett has read the Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Camacho moved to amend the affidavit attached to the application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officer's application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of the Proposed Revisions R.R. No. 1 – Sale to a Minor.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the revisions to R.R. No. 1 – Sale to a Minor, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of the Proposed Revisions R.R. No. 2 – Presence of Minors on Licensed Premises.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the revisions to R.R. No. 2 – Presence of Minors on Licensed Premises, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of Jose L. Lazo, President, for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of NSPKH, Inc., **t/a Eastern Beer, Wine & Azteca Restaurant**, 15101 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707, transfer from NSPKH, Inc., t/a Eastern Beer, Wine & Azteca Restaurant, Yashwant D. Kathrotiya, President, Manisha Kathrotiya, Secretary/Treasurer.
Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Carter, Esquire stated that the current owner at Azteca is an engineer with NASA and is retiring; that Mr. Lazo has worked with the current owner for many years; that they have filed an amended application to update some information.

Jose Lazo stated that the affidavit filed now is true and correct; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that he will work there 30 hours per week; that he will keep his day job for now; that Pedro Vargas will help with the business; that he doesn't have much experience with the restaurant or alcohol business; that no changes to the current operation will occur; named the acceptable forms of identification; that the legal age to consume alcohol is 21, 18 to serve.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a transfer application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of Dean J. Manternach, President, M. Christopher Evans, Secretary, Lavonne Snowden, Assistant Secretary for a Class B (BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of R.I. of Ritchie Station, Inc., **t/a Residence Inn Upper Marlboro/Joint Base Andrews**, 1700 Ritchie Station Court, Capitol Heights, 20743.

Applicant is represented by Jason Deloach, Esquire.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that the applicants are familiar with the county even though many of them are out of state residents; that they are on two other licenses in the area as well; that the new hotel is at the Richie Station complex near Dave and Busters.

Dean Manternach stated that he is a resident of Minnesota; that he is a United States citizen; that he is an officer in the corporation; that his role is President; that they are applying for a license for the new hotel; that it will be a Residence Inn; that there will be 112 rooms and four stories; that alcoholic beverages will be sold off of the lobby during an evening reception; that there will be a buffet and dining; that there will be a set food menu; that it will rotate daily during the week; that the alcoholic beverages will be consumed in the lobby area, in the patio off the lobby space and in the rooms; that they will only serve beer and wine; that the hotel is not open yet; that the opening date depends on the state elevator inspection; that they anticipate the opening date to be November 14, 2019; that they will have 25-30 employees; that they will all have their TIPs certification; that the alcohol awareness training is a Marriott mandate; that he currently oversees 50 hotels; that he will visit quarterly; that the information in the affidavit is true and correct; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; named the acceptable forms of identification.

Ms. Turpin Forbes asked how the guests will take alcohol back to their rooms without allowing access to minors.

Dean Manternach stated that there isn't much assurance he is able to give currently; that the key card given to guests is what allows for entry to the rooms and elevators and doors other than the lobby; that they can identify minors when guests check in; that they take the number of guests and divide between adult and child; that it is extended stay; that they have a written policy of their rules that guests sign; that they have a no party policy.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that she is not so much concerned about families, but of a 22-year-old dating a 16-year-old; that they must be careful.

Dean Manternach stated that the alcohol will only be open to customers; that it will not be self-serve.

Mr. Camacho asked if they will only have beer and wine with no liquor.

Dean Manternach stated that there will only be beer and wine on the premises.

M. Christopher Evans stated that he is a resident of Colorado; that he is an officer of the corporation; that he is the Secretary for the corporation; that he is a United States Citizen; that he is on the license for the new Residence Inn; that his level of participation will be limited; that he will visit one to two times per year; that he will be in contact constantly; that the affidavit he completed is true and correct; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that they hold the licenses for two other hotels within five minutes of this location; named the acceptable forms of identification.

Lavonne Snowden stated that she is a resident of College Park; that she is on the license for this new hotel; that her position with the corporation is Assistant Secretary; that her level of participation will be daily; that she works at the Residence Inn around the corner; that the affidavit is true and correct; that she has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; named the acceptable forms of identification.

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

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Class BH, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of LaNiece Tyree, Director for a Class B (ECF/DS), Beer, Wine and Liquor, **t/a Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, 20774.**

LaNiece Tyree stated that they do not have an attorney; that this application is to apply for a beer, wine and liquor license for the Community College.

Dr. Charlene Dukes stated that she is the President of Prince George's County Community College; that she appreciates the opportunity to come before the Board; that she is in support of Ms. Tyree; that they have their Alcohol Awareness Certificate; that they will do the right thing by the residents and visitors of the county; that they have read and understand and will follow the Rules and Regulations.

LaNiece Tyree stated that they understand the right to an attorney and would like to proceed without one; that she is a resident of Suitland; that she has not held an Alcoholic Beverages license previously; that she does not have an indirect or direct interest in another license in Prince George's County; that she has not been convicted of a felony; that she has not been found in violation of any alcohol or gambling violations; that the alcohol will be served at the main campus for multiple locations; that the culinary arts department holds a mixology and beverage managing course; that in the performing arts center they would like to serve beer and wine for evening events; that she has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that the patrons would not be able to walk from building to building with the alcohol; that they are not allowed to exit with the alcohol or enter the actual theatre; that she understands she is responsible for any violations that may occur; named the acceptable forms of identification; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve.

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

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application for a Class B (ECF/DS), Beer, Wine and Liquor application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of Jamari Hawkins, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of EJ Bar and Grill, LLC, **t/a EJ Bar and Grill**, 15800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, 20613.

Jamari Hawkins stated that he is a resident of Waldorf; that he understands he has the right to an attorney; that he would to proceed without any attorney; that he has been a resident of Maryland for over twenty years; that he has a beer and wine license at this location; that he wants to be able to serve beer, wine and liquor; that he does not have an interest directly or indirectly with any other business in Prince George's County that has an Alcoholic Beverage license; that he has not had a violation of any alcohol or gambling laws; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has not had an Alcoholic Beverage license revoked; that this is a bar and grill; that it is on Brandywine Road; that there are 55 seats; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that as a license holder he understands he must discuss any changes to the business with the Board first; that he understands that should any violations occur he is responsible; that the legal age to consume alcohol is 21, 18 to serve; named the acceptable forms of identification. Mr. Camacho asked about the portion on the application that lists floor space for off sales; that the license is for on sale only.

Jeneal Weans stated that she is a resident of Waldorf; that she is Mr. Hawkins' stepmother; that she is the General Manager for the business; that they understand the alcoholic beverages can't leave the premises with the new license; that they currently have a Class D, Beer and Wine license that allows them on and off sales; that they understand they will lose that when they pick up the new license; that they need to take the portion for off sales off of the new application.

Mr. Camacho moved to amend the application to take off the off-sale portion on the application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

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

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

In the matter of Gerson Noe Fuentes, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Medi Café, Inc., **t/a Medi Café**, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, 20712.

Yuriel Oriana stated that he is a resident of Gaithersburg; that he has been a resident of Maryland since 2003; that he worked for the previous licensee and now works for Mr. Fuentes.

Gerson Fuentes stated that he is a resident of Oxon Hill; that he has been a resident of Maryland for seven years; that he has never had an Alcoholic Beverage license before; that he does not have an interest in any other business with an Alcoholic Beverage license; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has not been found in violation of any gambling or alcohol laws; that he will operate the restaurant with his wife; that his wife worked there before; that she has been there for a long time; that he stepped in to help; that he is applying for a license for alcohol; that he has had the Rules and Regulations translated for him, but he is not sure what they are.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that becoming a licensee is a very serious commitment; that it is very important that the Rules and Regulations are read and understood.

Gerson Fuentes stated that he has read the Rules and Regulations before.

Ms. Turpin Forbes asked if he understands the Rules and Regulations as well.

Gerson Fuentes stated yes; that he has been through Alcohol Awareness training, but that he didn't get his certificate.

Mr. Camacho stated that he believes this matter should be continued so that Mr. Fuentes can get a better understanding of the Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that they will continue the matter; that Mr. Fuentes will need to read and understand the Rules and Regulations before proceeding; that the Board can help; that based on the current conversation the Board is not comfortable with granting a license.

Mr. Camacho stated that he suggests they talk to an attorney; that they need to get everything right.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that this is not a no forever, but for right now; that they need more training; that this matter will be continued to November 19, 2019.

In the matter of Parvez Ahmed, Managing Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of The Olde Towne Inn (OTI) Largo, LLC, **t/a The Olde Towne Inn (OTI) Largo**, 9421 Largo Drive West, Largo, 20774.

Applicant is represented by Jason Deloach, Esquire.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that there is a lease between the owner of the property and the tenant; that there is a Court Order stating that the Landlord must cooperate with the tenant for getting an Alcoholic Beverage license; that there is a mix-up with the entity of the business; that they believe the mix up occurred at the time the lease was signed and was missed by everyone; that the lease states OTI Largo, LLC not Old Towne Inn (OTI) Largo, LLC; that the applicant is the tenant on the lease; that they had to go to court to get the Landlord to cooperate.

Julian Haffner, Esquire stated that he represented the business for the legal matter; that will be petitioning for an injunction for relief to force the Landlord to abide the lease; that the Landlord was told to cooperate and not impede the application of a license for alcoholic beverages; that the party applying now is the same as before; that the Landlord was told he could not protest or impede with the application; that with the Landlords protest over the technical matter of a slightly different name he believes he is in contempt; that he may not be specifically violating the Order, but he is violating the spirit of the order.

Mr. Camacho stated that the granting of a license is to the licensed premises; that they don't have an actual lease; that this matter can't go forward; that they can't issue the license when the lease and license application do not match; that the matter must be settle with Mr. Mehta first; that he understands that Mr. Mehta can be difficult.

Benjamin Rupert, Esquire stated that part of the court ruling was that there is a lease; that since they ruled there is a lease one does exist; that the business simply needs to have the lease amended; that technically it is a name change; that he would like to know when the lease expires.

Jason Deloach, Esquire stated that the lease expires in 2030.

Benjamin Rupert, Esquire stated that when they file a Motion for Contempt, they should also submit a request for relief to amend the current letter to fix the issue.

Mr. Camacho stated that what is needed is clarity.

Jason Deloach stated that the Landlord they are dealing with has fought them at every turn; that what should be an easy fix has not always been easy; that they sent Mr. Mehta the Owner's Affidavit last month; that they just sent a letter stating they refused to sign because of the technicality on the name change.

Mr. Camacho stated that while he understands, they need clarity; that the business name on the lease needs to match the order and the application.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that this matter would be continued to November 19, 2019.

In the matter of Patrick Nwaokwu, Managing Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of GQ Palace, LLC, **t/a GQ Palace**, 8833 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt 20770.

Applicant is represented by Sean T. Morris, Esquire.

Patrick Nwaokwu stated that he is a doctor; that he is resident of Laurel; that he has been a Maryland resident for 15 years; that he is the 100% sole owner; that he has invested over \$150,000 into the business; that it is an African Restaurant; that it will focus on Nigerian cuisine; that many dishes are missing from other restaurants; that there is an increase in migration from Africa to America; that he feels this type of food is needed; that he has discussed his plans with the community; that they are excited; that he has had petitions signed by the community; that there are over 100 signatures; that his manager and himself will be responsible for ensuring the Rules and Regulations are followed; that he has read and understands the Rules and Regulations; that he has his Alcohol Awareness Certificate; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the acceptable forms of identification; that they won't have anyone handling alcohol under 21; that he will be there every day while the restaurant is open; that they will check identification of everyone; that he has not held a license previously; that he does not have an interest in any other business that holds an Alcoholic Beverage License in Prince George's County; that he has never been convicted of any criminal violations; that he has not been found in violation of any gambling or alcohol laws.

Talia Kavenous stated that she is the General Manger; that there aren't any similar restaurants in the area; that they will create a different dining experience than most people are familiar with; that it will be upscale; that they will donate to schools and do teacher appreciation nights; that they will also donate to sports clubs and churches; that they plan to do catering; that she has been in the restaurant industry for 13 years; that she started as server; that when they open they will have 12-16 servers; that she is responsible for the training of the laws regarding alcohol; that all employees will be TIPs certified; that they will do monthly awareness training; that when they check for identification they will also ask for the date of birth to ensure the validity; that they also have a guide to out of state identification to help as well.

Mr. Camacho asked what business was here previously.

Patrick Nwaokwu stated Lekke Lounge.

Ms. Sparkman asked for the opening date.

Talia Kavenous stated they are anticipating October 5, 2019.

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

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

In the matter of Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Thai at Laurel Restaurant**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 14724 Baltimore Avenue, Suite C-106, Laurel, 20707, Sirikorn Diewtrakulchai to serve as Treasurer/Agent, in the place and stead of Donna Lim, Treasurer/Agent.

Porntipa Pattanmekar stated that she is a resident of Virginia; that she will also translate for Ms. Diewtrakulchai; that she is here to request a Substitution of Corporate Officers.

Sirikorn Diewtrakulchai stated that she is a resident of Silver Springs; that she has been a resident of Maryland for two years; that she does not have an interest in any other business with an Alcoholic Beverage License; that she has not been convicted of a felony; that she has not been found in violation of any gambling laws; that she has read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that she understands she is responsible for any possible violations; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the acceptable forms of identification. Mr. Camacho moved to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officer's application, seconded by Ms. Norman and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Ms. Sparkman and Ms. Turpin Forbes.

In the matter of Nathan Groenendyk, Co-Owner, Jeffrey Harner, Co-Owner for a Distillery Permit for the use of Sangfroid Distilling, LLC, t/a **Sangfroid Distilling**, 5130 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville, 20781.

Jeffrey Harner stated that he is a resident of Takoma Park; that he has been a resident of Maryland for ten years; that they currently hold a Class 1 Distillery License from the Comptroller of Maryland; that they are here today to apply for a permit to sell alcoholic beverages with mixers; that he has never been found in violation of any gambling or alcohol laws; that he does not have an interest in any other business in Prince George's County that holds an Alcoholic Beverage License; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that he understands he is responsible should a violation occur; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the acceptable forms of identification; that currently they are allowed to serve their distilled spirits as a sample without a mixer; that with this now permit they would be able to serve their distilled spirits as a cocktail with a nonalcoholic mixer or a liquor that is made in the distillery as well; that most of what they currently produce is fruit brandy made from fruit they grow locally in their own orchards; that they understand they would be susceptible to violations under the Board with this permit.

Mr. Camacho stated that the Board governs licensees with a license through the Board; that he doesn't know that they have jurisdiction for a permit that is issued to a business licensed through the state.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that the application may have been ahead of the Board being prepared; that there is not a permit currently available.

Benjamin Rupert, Esquire stated that he proposes the application be amended to a Class B(AE) license; that the language for R.R. No. 73 be changed to allow for distillery's in the Rule; that a permit would not be needed, and they would be under the jurisdiction of the Board; that the Board could also adjust the fee for them only using the liquor portion.

Ms. Turpin Forbes stated that this matter should be continued to November to ensure all the rules are met.

Jeffrey Harner stated that they would be able to comply with some of the Board's Rules and Regulations for licensees, but not all as a distillery.

Benjamin Rupert, Esquire stated that they also would not be able to reduce the fee for a Class B(AE) because that is in the statute.

Mr. Camacho stated that this is a Board of License Commissioners; that they do not govern permits.

This matter was placed under advisement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikole Bennett
Administrative Aide

Adjourned 11:38 a.m.