December 2, 2020 9200 Basil Court Largo, MD 20774

Present:

Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Ken Miles, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Board
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant
Katrice James, Administrative Aid
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aid
Jamie Schaefer, Administrative Aid

Start time 7:02 p.m.

- 1. In the matter of t/a GQ Palace, Patrick Nwaokwu, Managin, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Tax General Article, Section 5-302, Member, GO Palace, LLC Possession of Untaxed Alcoholic Beverages and R.R. No. 26(15) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County; Alcoholic Beverage Article, Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. Sean Morris, Esquire is representing. **Agent James Olienyk** from the Comptroller of Maryland explains that during his investigation, he discovered that Mr. Nwaokwu was purchasing numerous bottles of wine and other spirits from Costco in Washington D.C. rather than from a wholesaler since 2015. **Sean Morris** follows by saying that miscommunication with supply ordering led to mistakes and that Mr. Nwaokwu takes full responsibility for and has corrected his actions. Commissioner Camacho informs Mr. Nwaokwu that there are no excuses whatsoever for his actions, especially with 2 violations on his record since he received his license. Commissioner Norman makes motion to fine t/a GQ Palace in the amount of \$6,000 in violation as charged, to be paid over 3 installments over 90 days. Commissioner Miles seconds the motion. After Board voting, the motion carries.
- 2. In the matter of **t/a Daisy's Grill Restaurant**, Deisy M. Alvarez, President, Pedro A. Alvarez, Vice President, Daisy's Grill Restaurant, Inc., **t/a Daisy's Grill Restaurant**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of 6-304 "Selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R No. 1 "Sales to a minor" of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. **Inspector Maleek Caraway** gives details of the incident, including the names and ages of the two underage

operatives present for the event and how 19-year-old, Trinidad, was served a 12- ounce bottle of Modelo Especial after ordering and presenting her ID. Licensee, Pedro Alvarez explains that he does not have an attorney at this time and would like to proceed without representation.

Commissioner Norman motions to find t/a Daisy's Grill Restaurant in violation as charged and to fine the licensees \$2,500, to be paid in three installments over a 90-day period, along with alcohol awareness training for the staff. She also warns the licensees that this is their second violation and that if they must appear before the BOLC again, that it should be with representation. County Vice Chairwoman, Deni Taveras, asks if the BOLC has any recommendations regarding alcohol awareness training for licensees. Commissioner Camacho states that the BOLC does offer training. Jason DeLoach has Deni Taveras swear in to translate for the licensees. Ms. Taveras explains that the licensee is asking for an extension to pay the fine due to lack of funds from the Covid-19 pandemic. She further explained to the licensees that the business can be offered a grant for up to \$25,000 if they can prove that the business has suffered losses due to the pandemic. Commissioner Norman offers to extend to payment period to 120 days, seconded by Commissioner Miles. After Board voting, the motion carries.

3. In the matter of t/a El Toro Liquors, Harjinder Singh, Member/Authorized Person, Sunanda S. Rana, Member-Manager, Adelphi Spirits, LLC, t/a El Toro Liquors, 9107 Riggs Road, Adelphi, 20783, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on or about June 28, 2018 a transfer of application for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor was filed, that on or about August 28, 2018 approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after six months following approval being granted. Robert Kim, Esquire is representing. Mr. **Kim** explains that after the business has invested upwards of \$830,000 in renovations in which the pandemic is causing delays and that the licensee needs more time in order the effectuate their license. Licensee/ authorized person, Niren Kalathiya estimates that the project will be completed by the end of May 2021 and that the complete structure is now up. Opposition to the opening of t/a El Toro Liquors are Deni Taveras, County Vice Chair, Mary Lehman, Delegate. Ms. Taveras states that granting liquor licensure to this establishment was done without any discussion with the community, a community that is already damaged by the effect of alcoholism. Commissioner Camacho states that he understands her concern for the community, however, the license has already been granted and "we can't pull the rug out from underneath of them". Delegate Mary **Lehman** asks, "We are opposed to the transfer, are you saying the door is completely closed"? Commissioner Camacho stated that the BOLC is completely transparent about publishing all hearing dates and times and that although their voices deserve to be heard, there is nothing we can do about revoking licensure which has already been granted. Commissioner Norman makes a motion to grant t/a El Toro Liquors a 9-month extension to effectuate their license, seconded by Commissioner Miles. After Board voting, the motion carries.

- 4. In the matter of t/a Burn Box, Shawndell Pullam, Member, Burn Box, LLC, t/a Burn Box, 36 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, 20774, Class B, Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on or about November 18, 2019 a new application for a Class B, Beer and Wine was filed, that on or about January 28, 2020 approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after six months following approval being granted. The licensee agrees to continue without representation. He claims it took 9 months for the project to be approved and is about 85% complete. Commissioner Camacho asks how much time the licensee needs for the project to be completed for his license to be properly effectuated. The licensee states that the project should be finished by February 1, 2021 if there are no further shutdowns. Commissioner Norman makes a motion to allow t/a Burn Box a 6-month extension to effectuate their license, seconded by Commissioner Miles. After Board voting, the motion carries.
- 5. In the matter of t/a Charlie's Pizzeria, Heydi V. Calderon, President, Ernie R. Banks, Vice President, HEEJ, LLC, t/a Charlie's Pizzeria, 12760 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, 20744, Class B, Beer and Wine, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code and Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, to wit; That on or about November 25, 2019 a transfer application for a Class B, Beer and Wine was filed, that on or about February 25, 2020 approval by the Board was granted to the issuance of the license; the license has not been placed in operation after six months following approval being granted. The licensee, Heydi Calderon, agrees to continue without representation.

 Ms. Calderon explains that they had received a letter in February that they didn't quite understand and that they had also applied for a bulk sales permit. She states that everything else on the business "to-do" list has been completed. Commissioner Norman makes a motion for an extension of 90 days for the effectuation of their license, seconded by Commissioner Miles. After Board voting, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 8:43 p.m.