

**June 11, 2025
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms: At the Board of License Commissioners, we endeavor to be as efficient as possible in our virtual environment. Thank you for your patience. This is a public meeting subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act so a truthful, transparent, open, and honest dialogue and record is required. As such, there are some formalities that will take place that may appear redundant but nonetheless are important and required to ensure compliance with the law.

Director Sheppard: 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 hear

REGULAR SESSION

June 11, 2025

1. **t/a Bistro 64**, located at 6494 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, 20747. The Operating Agreement, submitted on April 9, 2025, and the Minutes, submitted on April 24, 2025, contradict the application for the Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor license approved by the Board on October 22, 2024. The application lists Mr. Ndeh as the 100% owner, whereas the Operating Agreement designates him as an 84% member, with Brian Williams holding a 16% share. Additionally, the Minutes state that Mr. Ndeh is the Sole Director and President of the LLC. – Represented by **Paul Jackson, Esquire**.
Mr. Jackson states they were before the Board in October 2024 where they were approved for a Class B license. In August 2024, Mr. Ndeh had listed himself 100% owner. There was an operating agreement that listed Mr. Ndeh as 84% owner and Brian Williams as 16% owner of the LLC. On April 24, 2025, the LLC Resolution minutes were turned into the Board stating Mr. Ndeh owner and, in that resolution, Mr. Ndeh is the 100% owner of the LLC as of January 1, 2025. There was a dispute between Mr. Ndeh and Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams is no longer associated with the LLC.
Board attorney, Mr. Deloach clarifies that Mr. Ndeh should have not initially listed himself as 100% owner assuming Mr. Williams was no longer apart of the LLC without legal action.
Mr. Jackson agrees and acknowledges his and the client's mistake.
Commissioner Camacho motioned to dismiss the show cause, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
2. **t/a Kaywood Liquors**, Lal Bahadur Thapa, Member, Milan Thapa Member, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Baniya Group, LLC 2205 Varnum Street, Mt. Rainier, 20712 Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit.
Licensee has no attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.
Mr. Thapa says a lot of customers have requested that they open on Sundays. This will generate more revenue and will help take care of the property better.
Mr. Smith questions the percentage of ownership.
Mr. Thapa is 75% and his father, Lal Thapa is 15%.
Commissioner Camacho questions Mr. Thapa's awareness of the Rules and Regulations regarding Special Sunday Sales.
Mr. Thapa lists the Rules and Regulations regarding Sunday Sales. He understands he only has one year for the \$50,000 investment and already has the plans for it.
Katrice of the BOLC requests to verify the hours of operation.
Mr. Thapa responds with 10am- 10pm.
Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Special Sunday Sales Permit to t/a Kaywood Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. **t/a 505 Lounge**, Cornell Lee Davis, President, Theresa Marie Benish, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, Midnite Entertainment, Inc., 505 Hampton Park Blvd, Suite I & Suite J, Capitol Heights 20743. Request for a Special Entertainment Permit. – **Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire. Corporal Hunt** conducted a site inspection. The security plan is adequate as proposed. They were approved for Prince George's Police Department to work as security at their establishment.

Ms. Carter states that the application initially requested to stay open until 2 am but, their Use and Occupancy has a 12 am limit. They understand the Board's Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by them.

Commissioner Camacho moves to grant the Special Entertainment permit to t/a 505 Lounge, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Nikunjum D. Patel, President, Secretary and Treasurer, Zenash G. Tadesse, Assistant Secretary, **t/a Barnabas Liquors**, 2358 St. Barnabas Road, Temple Hills, 20748. For an alleged violation of R.R. No. 1 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Sale to or Possession By Underage Persons: A. Pursuant to Sections 6-304 and 26-2707 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a licensee or any of his/her employees or agents, may not sell, serve or furnish or allow the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages at any time to any person under the age of 21 and R.R. No. #83 (1 & 2) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Alcohol Awareness: 1. Pursuant to Section 4-505 and 26-1902.1 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the licensee(s) of, or a person employed at, a licensed premises must be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program. 2. The license holder or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity shall be present on the license premises at all times when alcoholic beverages may be sold.

Director Sheppard informs the Board that the charge for R.R. 83-Alcohol Awareness will be dropped.

Inspector Kinney of the BOLC gave a report.

Mr. Kim states he has no dispute to the report. The licensees and employees are all Alcohol Awareness certified but are all scheduled to retake the classes.

Commissioner Camacho moves to find t/a Barnabas Liquors in violation of R.R.1 assessing a fine of \$1,500 and Alcohol Awareness training within 90 days, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Mohammad Noor E. Alam Bhuiyan, President, **t/a Super Food & Convenience**, 5301 Sheriff Road, Fairmont Heights, 20743. For an alleged violation of Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. No. 11- Authorize Retailer of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County.

Licensees do not have an attorney, are aware of their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Tredway of the BOLC gave a report.

Mr. Bhuiyan has no dispute to the report. He acknowledges his mistake and apologizes to the Board.

There is one violation within the past two years.

Commissioner Camacho moves to find t/a Super Food & Convenience in violation of R.R. 11, assessing a fine of \$3,000, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Tejinder S. Sandhu, Member-Manager, **t/a Fish Market Restaurant**, 7611 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735. For an alleged violation R.R. No. #10(3) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Public Nuisances: The holder of any class of license with an "off sale" privilege of any kind is prohibited from selling, offering for sale, giving away, offering to give away, or otherwise making available to patrons any single cups made of paper, plastic, Styrofoam, or any container (with or without ice). Also, for an alleged violation R.R. No. #18 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Refilling or Tampering with Alcoholic Beverage Containers: No licensee, his/her agents, or employees shall reuse, refill, tamper with, adulterate, dilute, or fortify the contents of any original container of alcoholic beverage. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Inspector Kinney of the BOLC gave a report.

Mr. Kim states there is no dispute of the sale of cups of ice. He does not believe that there is a violation of R.R. 18. He asks whether the four videos sent in as evidence was reviewed by the Board. There is a liquor store and restaurant, it is an area where employees move back and forth.

Mr. Kim questions whether the evidence collected by the Board was considered tampering. He asks a series of questions and Inspector Farmer-Johnson and Kinney answered.

Mr. Sandhu said his bartender was only able to get a little bit less than a shot from one bottle from the bar side and to get the full shot, Mr. Sandhu opened a new bottle and poured in the last drops of the first bottle into it and resealed the bottle. He was not aware that this was considered mixing, and that resealing was prohibited.

Mr. Kim questions whether the contents had been tampered with beforehand and if the bottle refilling was done with the same brand of alcohol.

Mr. Sandhu stated nothing was previously done to the contents of the bottle.

Commissioner Camacho moves to find t/a Fish Market Restaurant in violation of R.R.10 and R.R.18 assessing a fine of \$4,500.

Mr. Kim believes this should be considered one offense.

After a brief intermission, **Mr. Deloach** read each statute in respect to this charge, leading to assessing the fine of \$4,500.

Mr. Kim requests this case be continued while he submits to the Board further reasoning why this should be considered one offense.

Commissioner Camacho withdrew his motion.

This case has been continued to the next available hearing.

7. Michael T. Isley, Member, Carlos Isley, Member-Manager, t/a **Restaurant 55**, 5005 Jackson Street, Suite B, Hyattsville, 20781. For an alleged violation of 26-1903 A licensed holder may not provide entertainment unless authorized to do so, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No. 37 (E) Change in mode of operation (Having entertainment without a permit), R.R. No 34 Food Availability, R.R. No. 78 Use of Promoters· Not Permitted, R.R. No. 12 Prohibited Acts (E) False Statements, R.R. No. 58 Not Meeting Restaurant Definition, Class B and R.R. No 11 Purchases, by Authorized Retailer of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. – Represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.

Inspector North of the BOLC gave a report.

Councilmember Hawkins and Councilmember Ivey testified in favor of both Mr. Isleys' good character.

Mr. Pounds read R.R. 61 to Mr. Micheal Isley, Carlos Isley and Ms. Dotson regarding the qualifications of a luxury type restaurant.

Mr. Micheal Isley says his role is attending to day-to-day activities He makes orders and tends to customers on a daily. He has invested 800-900k into furnishing his restaurant. Everything is electric in his business. He never discarded of that kitchen equipment and has a total of 116 seats within the premises. It is his testimony that he has never shifted away from the two wholesaler's Breakthrough or Southern. He explains the discrepancy found on the boxes. He tried to explain that even though there were different names on the boxes, that alcohol was purchased by him. In ample time, the invoices could have been produced. There were a lot of dates that they were closed due to his health. Mr. Isley was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgery to get rid of it. At the time, his health was not good, and he apologizes for not picking up the phone and letting the Board know the process he was going through.

Mr. Carlos Isley says he is the general manager. He coordinates the staff, does scheduling, assists in general matters and tends to customers daily.

Ms. Dotson discusses the hours of operation. She admits that the restaurant has not always abided by the hours discussed in the renewal application. Over the past month, they've only been open on Thursdays and Fridays due to limited staff. She explains that Rush catering was hired because they were struggling with staffing. They were having a hard time keeping a chef. Going through multiple cooks, they were not able to keep the business going. The caterer was hired as a limited time resolution. As a part of a corrective order, all owners of Restaurant 55 are willing to work with an employment resource program in the county such as a business accelerator program to help them run a more efficient restaurant establishment.

Commissioner Sparkman questions the times each member of Restaurant 55 is on the premises, who is on the premises and how is food ordered.

Mr. Michael Isley is there 5-6 times a week and **Mr. Carlos Isley** is on the premises 2-3 times a week.

Carlos Isley states a total of 4 employees are on the floor from 7pm-3am on Friday. The menu is posted on the tables through a QR Scanner.

Mr. Pounds questions both Mr. Isley's if they would be able to provide invoices by calling Breakthrough on the inventory that was confiscated.

Mr. Michael Isley agrees he can. He would like to keep running a luxury BLX license.

Commissioner Smith questions what percentage of customers come from promotions and what percentage comes from the community.

Mr. Micheal Isley responds with 50% on both.

Commissioner Sparkman wants to know the process on complaints.

Board Attorney Deloach questions the status of the kitchen now.

Ms. Dotson says they have commercial deep friers, convection oven, grill flatbed and two burners. They have bar food, chicken wings, fried shrimp fries, assorted mac and cheese. With the new chef as of 30 days, they've added chicken multiple flavor baskets. They now have two chefs.

Commissioner Sparkman moves to invoke the ten-day rule so that the Board can receive the receipts of the alcohol, and the new appliances bought, as well as time to submit their 30-day plan on how they will continue to operate their business, seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia

Administrative Aide BOLC