

**October 28, 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
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 10:08 a.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 hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

October 28, 2025

DELIVERY

1. **t/a Collington Wine & Spirits**, Ashuta Tandon, Member-Manager, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Collington Wine & Spirits, LLC, located at 3400 Crain Highway, Bowie, 20716. – Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Kim states him and Ms. Tandon have gone over R.R. #76 and Ms. Tandon is fully aware of the requirements to have a delivery permit.

Mr. Camacho motions to grant the delivery permit to t/a Collington Wine & Spirits, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

TRANSFER

1. **t/a T Pot & BBQ**, Guo Jun He, Member-Manager, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of T&A Flame House, LLC, located at 8700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A & B, College Park, 20740. Transfer from Tao Li, Member-Manager for the use of Everland, Inc., t/a LaTao Hot Pot College Park, located at 8700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A & B, College Park, 20740. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. He currently has a liquor license in Annandale Virginia.

A copy of Mr. He's Alcohol Awareness has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of this license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motions to grant the transfer of the Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for t/a T Pot & BBQ, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. **t/a R.J. Bentley's Restaurant**, Margaret Keene Barroll, Owner, Katharine Eadon Brown, Owner, Sarah Elizabeth Brown, Owner, Iain Tucker Brown, Owner, for a Class B(R), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of MBK Enterprises, Inc., located at 7323 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740. Transfer from John Brown, III, President for the use of MBK Enterprises, Inc., t/a R.J. Bentley's Restaurant, located at 7323 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740.

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

Ms. Katharine Eadon Brown states they are here in front of the Board as the four joint owners of MBK Enterprises. Their father, John Brown opened the restaurant in 1978 and

owned it and managed it until he passed last year. After his death, Ms. Keene Barroll received ownership of the license as the surviving spouse. All four are here to request a transfer of the license.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of this license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. **Ms. Katharine Eadon Brown** and **Ms. Sarah Brown** both were originally unable to answer each question. After a brief continuation, they were able to answer each question. **Mr. Iain Tucker Brown** and **Ms. Margaret Keene Barroll** were able to answer each question.

Ms. Katharine Eadon Brown anticipates spending a day a month on the premises. **Ms. Sarah Brown** anticipates spending several days a month on the premises. **Mr. Iain Tucker Brown** will be in quarterly and have weekly conversations with those in charge. **Ms. Margaret Keene Barroll** will be on the premises 10-15 days a month.

Commissioner Camacho moves to approve the transfer of t/a R.J. Bentley's Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Sparman**.

TRANSFER OF LOCATION

1. **t/a Loyal Order of Moose 453**, Galyx Lamaster, Administrator, for a Class C, Fraternal Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of College Park Lodge No. 453, Loyal Order of Moose, Inc., located at 8907 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740. Transfer from Galyx Lamaster, Administrator for the use of College Park Lodge 453 Loyal Order of Moose, Inc., t/a College Park Moose Lodge 453, located at 3700 Metzert Road, College Park, 20740. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Stephanie Anderson, City Attorney for the City of College Park Maryland, testified about the conditions of the City of College Park's support in terms of t/a Loyal Order of Moose 453's transfer.

Mr. Kim states there is no change in the application or in the organization. He asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of this license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. Mr. Lamaster was able to answer each question. They have a contract for a new location but is waiting on the issuance of this license to finalize it.

Ms. Anderson states a City Council meeting took place on October 21, 2025, where the council gave their full support for the transfer of this license under certain conditions. Showing support was subject to entry of a property use agreement. They applied for the property use agreement but have not been able to resolve a couple of outstanding items. Revisions were sent out this past Friday and negotiations have not been completed. The city is not in opposition, but they would like to have the property use agreement executed before giving their full support.

Mr. Kim received the property use agreement. They agree with every part of the agreement with the exception of one paragraph. His client is opposed to this language

because of the belief that the City of College Park is overstepping in how the property should be designed and used. The objection is to the word “comments” being used in the paragraph is insinuating the city has the right to make suggestions on how the plans for the property should be. Mr. Kim and his client believe that DPIE and Park and Planning already have enough say in the process.

Mr. Charles Kinney Jr, General Counsel for the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 453, has been looking for a College Park location for years. There is a purchase agreement that has been extended twice. The failure of the transfer of the liquor license will cause the settlement to not go through.

Mr. Kim states Loyal Order of Moose 453 has been having numerous conversations with some of the city council. They understand the process of obtaining this transfer of license. They are willing to share the plans but having the ability to “comment” may delay the process to obtain the transfer even more than it has been.

Ms. Anderson is requesting that the Board give both her and Mr. Kim time to work out the issue and resolve the property use agreement. She would like to enforce the ten-day rule.

Board Attorney Deloach questions if the words “make suggestions” rather than “comments” would make a difference.

Ms. Anderson says all they want is the opportunity to have dialog prior to make suggestions or recommendations. Its more of an opportunity to weigh in.

Commissioner Camacho moves to approve the transfer of t/a Loyal Order Moose Lodge 453 and urges the City of College Park and Mr. Kim to come up with mutual acceptable language on the property use agreement, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Director Sheppard read the Rules of Engagement as this is a competition.

1. **t/a The Pot Restaurant**, Bonekeh Belidus, CEO, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of The Pot Restaurant Corp., located at 9900 Greenbelt Road, Lanham, 20706

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.

Mr. Belidus’s purpose is to bring more communities together; the goal is for more diversity. The establishment is meant for people to come and destress after work. There are many community members in favor of this restaurant. Mr. Belidus understands the Rules and Regulations of the Board. He plans to spend at least two days a week on the premises. The restaurant will open by the end of November 2025.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify this type of license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.’s and the ages to sell and consume

alcohol. The applicant was initially unable to answer each question. After a brief continuation, he was able to answer each question.

2. **t/a El Cabrito Mexican Grill**, Sean Hicks, Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of El Cabrito, LLC, located at 9624 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, 20707.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.

Mr. Hicks states he is before the Board to get a new liquor license for his new location.

Commissioner Smith asks for a description of the restaurant.

Mr. Hicks states it is approximately 6,000 square feet and 150 seats. They currently have 10 locations. Several in Anne Arundel County, Glen Burnie, Pasadena, Edgewater, Crofton, Owings mills, Cambridge, and one in Laurel that is now outgrown. A couple of these have different licensees. Mr. Hicks is very familiar with the Rules and Regulations as he has one license under his name. A menu was sent to the Board. He anticipated pending 8 hours a week on the premises.

Ms. Juliet, General manager of all the locations states they are family oriented, they have been open since 2014 and outgrew the space they were in. They have promotions every Tuesday and Thursday.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify this type of license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

3. **t/a Yaji**, Akinbowale O. Adekeye, Managing Member, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of AfriBowl, LLC, located at 4585 Telfair Blvd, Suite 102, Camp Springs, 20746.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.

The concept is Nigerian/West African food and fast casual restaurant. It is a bowl concept. The name "Yaji" is a spice that comes from Northern Nigeria. Mr. Adekeye would like a license to host community events such as graduations and any other events being celebrated. He anticipated spending 40 hours a week on the premises.

Ms. Vogel spoke in favor of t/a Yaji. Yaji will become a part of Restaurant Row Apollo and will create more jobs for community members. This establishment is trying to open in November, and it is imperative for them to have a license. Due to this location, 150 food vouchers have been given out to schools. More Community events will take place in the future.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify this type of license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

4. **t/a Illy Café**, Selamawit Aklilu, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Bunnamore, LLC, located at 138 Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, 20745. Represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Carter states an amendment needs to be made to the application to open at 6:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. daily.

Commissioner Camcho motions to amend the application to reflect 6:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. daily, 7 days a week, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

An Exhibit book has been submitted to the Board.

Ms. Carter states there are 40 interior seats and 16 exterior seats, 1765 square feet and was built on the excess of \$1.4 million dollars. The menu features breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant just opened, and their customer count is at 50-100 per day. Their main feature is coffee. Illy is an Italian based coffee. The establishment has about 11 employees. Half of their staff will be Alcohol Awareness certified. Coffee to go will be served in paper cups. No to go cups will be given for alcoholic beverages. 50% will be food, 40% coffee, 5% alcohol and the remaining 5% will be coffee capsules to go and store merchandise such as shirts.

Ms. Aklilu is a resident of Prince George's County for 6 years. She came onboard to the coffee industry about two years ago and will be managing member. She plans to be at the restaurant about 2-3 times per week. She works for the parent company as an HR Specialist.

Mr. Tesfaye, President of USP holding company that manages a lot of business real estate development in the DMV area, got into Illy in Dubai airports. This would be the first Illy establishment in the United States, there are two others in Ethiopian airports.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify this type of license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

5. **t/a Chop Up Restaurant & Coola Lounge**, Coola Hakeem Omotosho, Member/Authorized Person, Omotayo Alake Omotosho, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Chop Up Catering Services, LLC, located at 6429 – 6431 Landover Road, Cheverly, 20785. Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Carter states there are a few amendments to the application. Ms. Omotosho's address is 6427 Kilmer Street, Cheverly, MD, 20785. The second amendment is the hours. Closing time for Friday and Saturday will be 12:30 a.m., last call will be 12:00 a.m. Sunday-Thursday closing time will be 12:00 a.m., last call will be 11:30 p.m.

Commissioner Camacho motions to amend the application, as specified by Counsel. **Eddie Pounds, Esquire testified in favor of this application on behalf of the Town of Cheverly. A letter of support was submitted with conditions.** A Security plan must be submitted by November 7, 2025, and the applicants must not seek special entertainment. Additionally, the hours of operation should be Sunday-Thursday closing at 11:30 p.m., with last call at 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Watson testified in favor of this application.

Mr. Carter states since April 2024, they have developed a reputation almost exclusively by word of mouth as a West African restaurant with a focus on Nigerian food with a strong influence on Caribbean food. They are essentially a takeout restaurant that does close to \$15k a week. They want to be a sit-down restaurant for the community to enjoy. The role of alcohol in the establishment is to supplement the food. Drinks are important in the West African culture. Currently, they are losing about 2 customers per day without alcohol. The sit-down dining space (lounge) is not being used to its full potential now, and they would like to put it into use. Both applicants spend about 70 hours a week on the premises. The recipes used have been in their family throughout generations.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify this type of license, including the 6 acceptable forms of I.D.'s and the ages to sell and consume alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Results were presented after all scores were tallied.

- 1) Illy Café (65 pts)
- 2) Yaji (60 pts)
- 3) El Cabrito Mexican Grill (50 pts)
- 4) Chop Up Restaurant & Coola Lounge (25 pts)

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor licenses to the following four entities: Illy Café, Yaji, El Cabrito Mexican Grill and Chop Up Restaurant & Coola Lounge, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia
Administrative Aide BOLC