

**April 28, 2026
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
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
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to the Director

Start Time: 10:21 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 as long as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 15650 Excelsior Drive, Bowie, 20716, Jessie Griffith to serve as Authorized Person. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**. **Ms. Carter** informs the Board that Todd Wilson recently left the company. Jessie Griffith will ultimately be on 8 licenses. He is the COO of the company. All information in the application is true and correct. There will be no change in the operation or management structure of the business. Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I.D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motioned to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officers application for t/a Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.
2. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a MGM National Harbor**, Class B(EF), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 101 MGM National Avenue, Oxon Hill, 20745, Ryan Geary to serve as Authorized Person. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**. **Ms. Carter** states that there will not be any changes to the mode of operation. Mr. Geary is the Vice President and Chief financial officer of MGM National Harbor.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motioned to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officers application for t/a MGM National Harbor, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.
3. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Hyatt Place National Harbor**, Class B(BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 123 Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, 20745, James A. Barnett to serve as Authorized Person instead of Lee A. Cohen, Member/Authorized Person. Represented by **Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire**.

Ms. Schrecengost states Mr. Barnett is a member holding 25% of Hospitality Concessions of Oxon Hill, LLC. He is the corporate director of food and beverages. He has read the Board's Rules and Regulations. The mode of operation of Hyatt Place Natonal Harbor will stay the same.

Ms. Schrecengost asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motioned to approve the Substitution of Corporate Officers application for t/a Hyatt Place National Harbor, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a The Walrus Oyster and Ale House**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 152 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, 20745, Desmond James Reilly to serve as Authorized Person. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Ms. Carter states that instead of substituting, there will be an addition to the managing principal of the parent company, Oyster Bar Management LLC. The person currently on the license has stated numerous times that he will retire soon. Mr. Reilly would like to ensure his position on the license in case this were to occur. This particular business was recently opened after various months of being closed for renovation. Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motioned to approve the additional corporate officer application for t/a The Walrus Oyster and Ale House, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

DELIVERY PERMIT

1. **t/a Penn Station Liquors**, Pratap D. Patel, President/Treasurer, Terry L. Rosemond, Vice President/Secretary, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, Diversity Forestville, Inc., 5634 Silver Hill Road, District Heights, 20747. – Request for a Delivery Permit.

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

Mr. Patel would like to do delivery within 3 miles of the area.

Commissioner Camacho asks Mr. Patel if he has read the Rules and Regulations of the Board. He asks him how long invoices must be kept.

Mr. Patel initially answers incorrectly but Commissioner Camacho advises him that it is 18 months and he must only use his company vehicles, his employees and ensure valid ID's when delivering.

Mr. Patel agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

Commissioner Camacho motions to grant the Delivery Permit for t/a Penn Station Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

TRANSFER OF LOCATION

1. **t/a University Liquors**, Harry F. Starner, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of University Liquors, Inc., located at 7959 New Hampshire Avenue, Hyattsville, 20783. Transfer from Harry F. Starner, President/Secretary, for the use of University Liquors, Inc., t/a University Liquors, 7925 New Hampshire Avenue, Hyattsville, 20783. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**. **Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.**

Ms. Carter states that University Liquors has had a license in this county since 1957. They are moving into a new space at the request of the landlord for renovation, 4 spaces away from their current location. The existing store has a large basement of about 3000 square feet and upstairs of 1680 square feet. The new location is 3000 square feet on the first floor and there is a basement of about the same size. This will allow for an increase in inventory from about 350,000 to 500,000. The business has a very unique niche. They are one of the few licensees in the state that import really high-end alcoholic beverages such as scotch from Scotland and Irish whiskeys from Ireland. Sometimes it will take up to six months to receive these bottles. He has various sport teams coming to his store, specifically to find the bottle that they want. They have instated a 10-year lease, with a ten-year option. Currently there are 8 employees including Mr. Starner. He works 6-7 days a week, 12 hours a day, and his brother works 5 to 6 days a week, 10 hours each day. They currently have delivery and will be applying for delivery at the new location. Currently, there are only two employees who do delivery orders. All cashiers are alcohol awareness certified. Since Mr. Starner has been a licensee, there have only been two violations that occurred more than 10 years ago. This move in addition to what the landlord is spending is costing them about \$300,000. They will also be applying for a Sunday Sales license soon.

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

Commissioner Camacho motions to approve the transfer of the Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor license for t/a University Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW - CLASS B(AE), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. **t/a African American Café**, Cecil D. Boyd, CEO, Cecil D. Boyd, Jr., President, Chaquala D. Boyd, Vice President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of African American Café, LLC, located at 4514 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, 20722. Represented by **Bradley Farrar, Esquire**.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Farrar states Cecil Boyd has an ownership interest of 90% in African American Café. He will be spending 8 hours a week on the premises. He has never been a licensee on an alcoholic beverage license before.

Ms. Boyd has an ownership interest of 5%. She will be spending about 40 hours a week on the premises. She has never been a licensee on an alcoholic beverage license before.

Mr. Cecil Boyd Jr. has an ownership interest of 5%. He will be spending about 40 hours a week on the premises. He has never been a licensee on an alcoholic beverage license before. This business is the first establishment in the Brentwood area to sell African American Cuisine. Their focus is working with the community, and they are located across the street from the only African American museum in the County.

Mr. Farrar asked the standard questions typically asked to approve the application for a Class B(AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motioned to grant the Class B(AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor license to t/a African American Café, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS B(BLX), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. **t/a Escape Bar and Grill/Event Center**, Jose Alvaro Portillo, Owner, for a Class B(BLX) Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Aaron Bar Grill, LLC, located at 3287 Brinkley Road, Temple Hills, 20748. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Carter asks that the Exhibit book be moved into evidence. They have submitted a Menu along with the stamped approved permit for the plans for the county and pictures of the project as it's been built. This location has had an alcoholic beverage before. It is 10,000 square feet. They would like to have a restaurant in about half of the premises and an event space in the other half. This project is going to be worth 2 million dollars before they open. They are hoping to secure all of their permits in late May or early June. The hours of operation will be from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m. They have the intention of coming before the Board again to seek the approval of an entertainment permit and to acquire the County's approval of a Dance Hall Permit. The restaurant will have roughly 100 seats.

The event space will be roughly 400 seats. All of the kitchen equipment has been ordered, most of it is in place. There is parking for 500 cars. The applicant has limited hospitality experience, which is why he hired Mr. Carlos Carr. He has been in the hospitality business for many years and is actually a promoter. He has a good relationship with Prince George's County Police and Sheriff Department and has already been in communication with them about providing security for the business. Currently, Mr. Portillo lives in Texas and works for an electrical company, but he is moving to Maryland. This is primarily being financed by Pablo, his cousin, who is an owner of an electrical company within the area. They intend to work on the premises as their principal occupation. It is intended for them to have 30 employees or more. All managers, bartenders and shift leaders will be Alcohol Awareness certified. Mr. Carr will be on the premises at least 50 hours a week. Anytime there is an event, he will be available. He understands that if there is ever an event, no event can be sponsored by his promoting company.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to approve the Class B (BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question. **Commissioner Camacho** motioned to approve the Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for t/a Escape Bar & Grill/Event Center, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, the motion carries.**

NEW – CLASS B(BH), BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

1. **t/a Homewood Suites**, Alexander Williams III, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B(BH) Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of 9103 Beverages, LLC, located at 9103 Basil Court, Largo, 20774. Represented by **Sean Morris, Esquire**.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Morris states that Mr. Williams III has held an alcoholic beverage license before in the former Doubletree Hotel in Largo, Maryland. He is familiar with the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

Mr. Morris asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B(BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D'S. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Ms. Halim is the general manager of t/a Homewood Suites. She has 26 years of experience in the hospitality industry. She will be the primary person for overseeing alcohol sales and training. She is TIPS certified and has worked previously in various hotels that have held an alcoholic beverage license.

In respect to t/a Homewood Suites, there is no restaurant or bar available. The reason that the hotel is seeking an alcoholic beverage license is because they have banquet services

in which they hold a once-a-week reception that usually lasts an hour and a half to two hours a week.

Commissioner Norman questions what Mr. Williams III exact position or role within the business is.

Mr. Williams III states he is the resident agent and will not be taking an active role in the operations of the business license.

Commissioner Camacho motions to grant the Class B(BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor for t/a Homewood Suites, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW – CLASS D, BEER AND WINE

1. **t/a Glassbox Padel Club**, Irving Villanueva, Member/Authorized Person, Evan Darrow, Member/Authorized Person, Daniel Garcia, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class D, Beer and Wine for the use of Glassbox Padel Club, LLC, located at 4928 College Avenue, College Park, 20740. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Ms. Carter requests that the Exhibit book moved to evidence.

Ms. Carter states that this business appeared before the City Council for College Park. They agreed to a property use agreement. They are working to get the U&O modified to reflect the use of two buildings next to Glassbox Padel courts. One is where the snacks are being sold, where registration occurs and where you can rent equipment. The other structure is a prefabricated self-contained bathroom. Glassbox Padel Club is similar in rules to tennis, about a third of the size and it is surrounded by glass walls. It is always played doubles. The sport started in Mexico and is one of the fastest growing sports in Europe and Central America. It is the second sport of choice for most European soccer players. In the area, there are only two courts. The property cost is more than a million dollars to prepare. The goal is to have the players have a glass of beer or wine after they've finished their games and the minimum price will be \$5 for a beer. They will have a scanner for validation of I'D.s. The area is fenced in and will have a proper place for drinking.

A letter of support was received from the Terrapin company.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to approve the Class D, Beer and Wine application for t/a Glassbox Padel Club, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D'S. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho motions to grant the Class D, Beer and Wine for t/a Glassbox Padel Club, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

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 Taqueria El Tenampa**, Francisco J. Machado Diaz, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Taqueria El Tenampa, Inc., located at 1810 East West Highway, Hyattsville, 20783. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**. Mr. Kim states Mr. Diaz will be 100% owner, President/Secretary/Treasurer. His business has been open since December of 2022. Customers have been asking for the Beer, Wine and Liquor license. He is full-time on the premises and is familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations.

An Exhibit Book has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol, as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Mr. Diaz has invested \$600,000 in the business. They average about \$55-60,000 in sales on a monthly basis. There is a petition in support of this license with 270 signatures. This is a typical Mexican restaurant with hand painted murals, tables and chairs. The menu includes fajitas, tacos, burritos, everything tex-mex cuisine.

Ms. Reyes testified in support of this business.

Mr. Benitez testified in support of this business.

Ms. Diaz testified in support of this business.

All employees have been trained in anticipation of receiving the Beer, Wine and Liquor license.

2. **t/a BuzzPoint Cafe**, Fredrick Scarboro, Jr., Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of BuzzPoint Holding, LLC., located at 7700 Harkins Road, Lanham, 20706. Represented by **Bejamin Carter, Esquire**.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

An exhibit book has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Carter states this business is a coffee to cocktails concept inside the Remi apartment building within the beltway. They have acquired more than 50 signatures of support.

Their hours are from 6:30 a.m. -9:00 p.m. One of the members of Buzzpoint Holding, LLC is a real estate agent who has a great relationship with the owners of the building.

Given the experience of the real estate agent, they believed this concept would be beneficial to the community. This will be a family-owned business. The applicant and his mother will run it. They hope to generate about a dozen jobs in the community and hope to open in December. Mr. Scarboro has experience working in hospitality, including businesses with an alcoholic beverage license. Has never been personally responsible for

an alcoholic beverage violation. There will be 76 seats including outdoor seating. This business is a close to a million dollars investment.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol, as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

- 3. t/a Hibachi Grill & Seafood Buffet**, Rong Fan Yao, Member Manager, Zhi Gang Chen, Member Manager, Xue Chang Chen, Member Manager for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Hibachi Grill Buffet Takoma Park, LLC, located at 6867 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912.

Licensees have no attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Chief Clark gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Yao informs the Board that this is a buffet style restaurant in Prince George's County. They are open Monday-Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 9:45 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. There will be 348 seats within the restaurant.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol, as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. All three applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho asks how long the restaurant has been open.

Ms. Yao expects to open May 8, 2026.

Ms. James of the BOLC requests to amend a question regarding Ms. Yao's naturalization date on her affidavit.

Commissioner Camacho motions to amend the affidavit for Ms. Yao with the appropriate naturalization date, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

- 4. t/a Mix and Mingle Coffee Lounge on Main Street**, Shannon Jordan, Owner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Mix and Mingle Coffee Lounge on Main Street, LLC, located at 14703 Main Street #101, Upper Marlboro, 20772.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledges her right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.

Ms. Jordan's mission is to enhance the community through a coffee experience, drinks, food and outstanding customer service. This business is a community network and event space. Ms. Jordan is a former licensee of Mix and Mingle in Clinton and was approached by the property owner on Main Street and some elected officials to open her restaurant in the area. Residents in the area are looking for a coffee shop where they can sit down and eat as well as gather. She is planning to open in June. She will be on the premises 30-50

hours a week. She is aware of the Board's Rules and Regulations and agrees to abide by them.

Chair Bridgwater-Simms asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol, as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman asks what her current association is with the original mix and mingle.

Ms. Jordan states she is the original founder and part of the ownership of the team. She no longer has any ownership interest or ties to any other Mix and Mingle's.

She has established relationships with workshops, nonprofits, Employ Prince George's and the College Career Research Developing Program.

Ms. Millhouse testified in support of this business.

Ms. Jones, Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, testified in support of this business.

Ms. Valerio, one of the property owners, testified in support of the business.

Community feedback and signatures were collected as a petition in support of the business.

5. **t/a Milk & Honey**, Ivelisse Contreras, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Milk & Honey Woodmore, LLC, located at 9201 Woodmore Center, Suite 104, Lanham, 20706. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**.

An Exhibit book has been submitted to the Board.

Mr. Carter states that the business initially opened more than 5 years ago. At the time, it was a Milk & Honey Express. The owner decided to open it up to be a more full-service Milk & Honey. She is a TIPS certified trainer and is very familiar with the Board's Rules and Regulations. Milk & Honey is averaging less than 20% alcohol sales across all locations. Customers demand beer, wine and liquor.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically asked to qualify the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor application, including the ages to sell and consume alcohol, as well as the 6 acceptable forms of I. D's. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Results were presented after all scores were tallied.

- 1) Milk & Honey (70 pts)
- 2) Mix and Mingle Coffee Lounge on Main Street (65 pts)
- 3) Taqueria El Tenampa (60 pts)
- 4) Buzzpoint Cafe (35 pts)
- 5) Hibachi Grill & Seafood Buffet (20 pts)

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to grant the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor licenses to the following four entities: Milk & Honey, Mix and Mingle Coffee Lounge on Main Street, Taqueria El Tenampa and Buzzpoint Café, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 1:24

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia

Administrative Aide BOLC