September 2, 2026
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Ono Achale, Commissioner
Kirk McLean, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
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: 7:07 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 aslong as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

1. **t/a House of Flavors,** Norbert Azongho, Member-Manager. Located at 13460 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707. Request for a Special Entertainment Permit.
   Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.
   Director Sheppard informed the Board that the Police Department's security approval letter has been received indicating that the security plan is adequate as proposed.
   Mr. Azongho stated that all his employees are Alcohol Awareness certified. He is currently hiring more employees and will ensure they also receive Alcohol Awareness training. Mr. Azongho stated he was in the process of working with DPIE to obtain a new U&O which will be submitted to the Board soon.
   Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Azongho what type of entertainment he intends to provide.
   Mr. Azongho plans to host comedy shows, fashion shows, spring acts, DJ nights, as well as welcome celebrity guests.
   Commissioner Achale asks if dancing will be permitted.
   Mr. Azongho assures no dancing will be permitted. He does not have a dance permit and there is no dance floor within the establishment.
   Commissioner McLean motions to grant the Special Entertainment Permit to t/a House of Flavors, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
   After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Zheng Hai Zheng, President/Secretary/Treasurer**, t/a Not Just Crab,** located at 3901 Branch Avenue, Suite 4225 A & B, Temple Hills, 20748. For an alleged violation of Section 26-2102 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Rule and Regulation 88- NON-EFFECTUATION (Failure to put approved license or permits in use) of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire.**
   Mr. Carter informed the Board that there were initially issues concerning the shopping center, and that Mr. Zheng was unable to obtain a Use and Occupancy Permit until the previous week. He understands that a few outstanding items remain necessary for effectuation, three of which are related to the Comptroller's Office having been closed for the past three weeks. The tax holds are expected to be cleared, after which Mr. Zheng will be able to obtain a trader's license. The Fire Capacity inspection has been completed, and the Environmental and Food Health Permit inspection is scheduled for the day following the hearing. All other required documents have been submitted to Carter Law and will be provided to the Board.
   Mr. Carter requested an additional 90 days to complete the effectuation process, with the expectation that all outstanding documentation will be submitted for effectuation by the end of the month.
   Commissioner McLean motions to grant an additional 90 days for t/a Not Just Crab to effectuate the license, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
   After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Alpaben S. Patel, Member/Authorized Person, **t/a New Hampshire Avenue Liquors,** located at 6501 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912. For non-payment of fines related to violation of R.R. No.35-Trade Name of the Rules and Regulations of Prince George's County. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire.**
Director Sheppard requested to remove this case and resolve it on an administrative agenda.

4. Jaymin M. Patel, Member-Manager, **t/a Tony's Liquors,** located at 12637 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, 20708. For an alleged violation of Maryland Annotated Code 6-304 selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one and R.R. No.1 Sales to a minor of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire.**
Inspector Kinney of the BOLC provided a report regarding the incident that occurred on May 25, 2026.
Mr. Kim did not dispute the contents of the report. The individual who made the sale to a minor is scheduled to complete Alcohol Awareness training on September 9, 2026.
Commissioner McLean motions to find t/a Tony's Liquors in violation of R.R. No. 1, assessing a fine of $1,500 and requests that the Alcohol Awareness Certificate be submitted to the Board upon completion of the class, seconded **by Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Mozuenorinmi P. Okolie, Member-Manager, **t/a Calabar Kitchen and Lounge,** located at 3524 Crain Highway, Bowie, 20716. For an alleged violation of 26-1902. 1. The license holder or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity shall be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program and be present on the licensed premises at all times when alcoholic beverages may be sold of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No. 83 Alcohol Awareness of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County.
Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledges his right to an attorney and agrees to move forward without an attorney.
Inspector Massie of the BOLC provided a report regarding the incident that occurred on July 28, 2026.
Mr. Okolie informed the Board that all employees who work at Calabar Kitchen & Lounge and serve alcohol are Alcohol Awareness certified. He stated that Mr. Samuel is a logistics employee who has no involvement with the sale of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Okolie explained that one of the managers, Mr. Beto, had left the establishment to go to an African store to purchase yams for the restaurant and had taken the office keys with him, where the Alcohol Awareness Certificates were kept.
Mr. Okolie stated that he asked Inspector Massie to allow him a few minutes to arrive at the establishment and use his set of keys to access the office. Inspector Massie stated that he was unable to wait any longer for Mr. Okolie to retrieve the certificates.
Commissioner McLean asked Inspector Massie who was present at the establishment representing Calabar Kitchen & Lounge. Inspector Massie stated that, upon his arrival, he spoke with Mr. Samuel, who identified himself as the manager. He also spoke with a bartender and requested to see her Alcohol Awareness Certification. The bartender stated that she did not know what Inspector Massie was referring to.

Mr. Okolie clarified that Mr. Samuel was only present at the establishment at the time of the inspection and stated that Mr. Samuel did not have authority to operate the bar or conduct alcoholic beverage sales. Mr. Okolie further stated that Mr. Samuel should not have provided information to Inspector Massie because he is not a manager**.**
Commissioner McLean asked Mr. Okolie whether he was aware of any other alcohol awareness-related violations at the establishment within the previous two years. Mr. Okolie stated that he was not.
Ms. Alecia Hughes of the BOLC clarified that t/a Calabar Kitchen & Lounge had previously been cited for an Alcohol Awareness violation on October 8, 2024.
Inspector Massie stated that he did not obtain the bartender's name but assured the Board that she was unable to provide either a physical or digital copy of her Alcohol Awareness Certificate. Inspector Massie stated that the bartender contacted Mr. Okolie to inform him of the documentation being requested.
Mr. Okolie asked Inspector Massie whether he recalled speaking with him by telephone on the date of the inspection. He questioned why the bartender would have contacted him if Mr. Samuel, who identified himself as the manager, was present at the establishment.
Mr. Okolie reiterated that all employees are required to become alcohol awareness certified upon being hired and stated that he did not believe the bartender would have been unfamiliar with the certificate requested by Inspector Massie.
Board Attorney DeLoach requested clarification regarding the prior alcohol awareness violation, asking whether it had been issued in conjunction with another violation.
Director Sheppard stated that the alcohol awareness violation was one of two violations issued on October 8, 2024, the other being Entertainment Without a Permit.
Mr. Okolie provided the Board with the name and a description of the bartender who spoke with Inspector Massie.
Commissioner McLean motions to allow Mr. Okolie 10 days to submit the Alcohol Awareness Certificate dated prior to the date of the infraction was provided and identification for the bartender who spoke with Inspector Massie at the time of the inspection. The motion further provided that, if the certificate was not submitted within 10 days, the Board would find t/a Calabar Kitchen & Lounge in violation of R.R. No. 83, assess a fine of $500, and require Alcohol Awareness training, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Maria Aguilar, President/Secretary/Treasurer, **t/a Fast Eddies,** located at 4801 Allentown Road, Suitland, 20746. For an alleged violation of R.R. No. 37 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS- No license holder shall make any alteration or additions to a licensed premises or change the manner in which alcoholic beverages are dispensed without first obtaining permission from the Board. E. In the event a licensee decides to significantly alter the mode of operation and the format of presentation of alcoholic beverages to the public from that contained in the original application approved by the Board at the time of issuance of the license, such change must first be presented to the Board for approval; R.R. No. 58 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County:-0 (5) be open during the hours approved by the Board of License Commissioners unless the licensee obtains written permission from the Board to change its hours. Any interruption in the operation of

restaurant facilities for any reason must be reported to the Board promptly; and R.R. No. 89 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County:- COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY- Any licensee, including their agents or employees, who fail to comply with, or are found in violation of, any lawful order, rule, executive order, or requirement issued by the Board of License Commissioners; government officials; members of the Police Department, Fire Authorities, Health Department, Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement; Grand Jury; or representatives of authorized agencies, where such directives are, in the judgement of the Board, intended to promote the health, safety, or general welfare of the public, shall be deemed in violation of these regulations.

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

Inspector Kinney of the BOLC gave a report on the incident that occurred on June 22, 2026.

Ms. Aguilar informed the Board that the restaurant is typically closed on Mondays and stated that there had been miscommunication between her and her assistant regarding the security plan. Ms. Aguilar stated that she spoke with Mr. Kinney by telephone, during which he asked whether he could enter the establishment. She informed him that he could not enter because workers were inside repairing and painting the premises. Ms. Aguilar explained that floor tiles had been removed due to the number of incidents occurring at the establishment and replaced with concrete. She stated that the floor had been buffed and sanded and was wet only to control dust, making it unsafe for anyone to enter the building. She further stated that no appliances were added and that the work was strictly done for maintenance purposes.

Commissioner Achale stated that wet concrete would constitute a major renovation rather than a repair.

Ms. Aguilar clarified that the concrete was not wet. Rather, the floor had been buffed and sanded and then wet down to control dust. She stated that she was not present at the building at the time and that Mr. Kinney was at one of the side doors. No employees were present to provide him access or walk him through the building.

Commissioner McLean asked whether the business had operated during its normal Sunday hours prior to the scheduled repair.

Ms. Aguilar stated that the construction workers worked overnight and began the repairs after she had closed the business to patrons on Sunday.

Commissioner Smith asked Inspector Kinney whether Ms. Aguilar had provided an explanation for why he was unable to enter the building**.**

Inspector Kinney advised that he had not been provided with a reason for being denied entry into the building. He informed Ms. Aguilar that denying him access would constitute a direct violation of R.R. No. 89.

Ms. Katrice James of the BOLC recommended that Ms. Aguilar submit a letter to the Board requesting that the business hours be changed to reflect that the establishment is closed on Mondays. The request could then be placed on the September 9, 2026, hearing agenda. Ms. James noted that the licensing system currently reflects that the business is open on Mondays.

Commissioner McLean motions to find t/a Fast Eddie's in violation of R.R. No. 37, R.R No. 58 and R.R. No.89, assessing a fine of $4,500 and the completion of Alcohol Awareness training, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

7. **t/a Hyattsville Spirits and Grill** – Oral argument and status hearing pursuant to the Circuit Court's order remanding the matter to the BOLC, continued from August 5, 2026.
The Board considered the status of the appeal concerning the transfer of location and ownership of the Class B+ beer, wine, and liquor license for Hyattsville Fine Wine and Spirits.
Mr. Cornbrooks, the Counsel for the City of Hyattsville, advised that the parties had reached an agreement in principle; however, the agreement remained subject to approval by the City Council. He explained that, under the City's governmental structure, he did not have authority to finalize the agreement or withdraw the City's opposition with prejudice without City Council approval. The City therefore requested that the matter be continued until after the City Council's scheduled meeting on September 14.
Mr. Kim acknowledged that the parties had engaged in settlement discussions and that the applicant had agreed to various conditions proposed by the City. However, he objected to any withdrawal of the City's opposition without prejudice, noting that such a withdrawal would not provide finality and could allow the matter to be raised again in the future. He maintained that the applicant was prepared to fulfill its commitments to the City and requested that the matter be resolved with finality.
Board Attorney DeLoach discussed the distinction between a withdrawal with prejudice and without prejudice, including the potential for additional proceedings if the City's opposition were withdrawn without prejudice.
Mr. Kim requested that the Board review the history of the matter, including the Board's original approval of the transfer in February 2020, the City's subsequent appeal, and the Circuit Court's remand directing the Board to reconsider whether the applicant met the applicable statutory requirements for the transfer.
Mr. Cornbrooks argued that the applicant did not meet the statutory requirements for the Class B+ license, including the requirement concerning operation of a qualifying restaurant. He further argued that the applicant's Special Sunday Sale Permit was dependent upon the Class B+ license and should likewise be denied if the Board determined that the Class B+ license was improper.
Mr. Kim argued that the Class B+ license had been in existence for many years and that the Board properly approved the transfer pursuant to the applicable statute. He stated that the applicant satisfied the statutory requirements regarding fitness and propriety, accommodation of the public, and preservation of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. He maintained that the Special Sunday Sale Permit was not at issue in the present proceedings and that the applicant had complied with all applicable requirements.
Commissioner McLean moved to deny the request for continuance following the discussion and motions to proceed with oral arguments on the underlying matter, seconded by **Commissioner Achale**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

The Board heard oral arguments from Mr. Cornbrooks and Mr. Kim. Counsel for both parties reiterated their respective positions regarding the validity of the transfer and the applicant's Class B+ license.

Mr. Cornbrooks, representing the City of Hyattsville, argued that the Circuit Court remanded the matter to the Board to determine whether the applicant met the legal requirements for transfer of the Class B+ license. He maintained that Hyattsville Spirits and Grill did not satisfy the statutory requirements, particularly the restaurant requirement, and therefore was not entitled to the Class B+ license. He further argued that the Sunday off-site permit was dependent upon the Class B+ license and should likewise be revoked. Mr. Cornbrooks urged the Board to deny the Class B+ license and corresponding Sunday permit.

Mr. Kim, representing Hyattsville Spirits and Grill, argued that the Class B+ license had existed since the 1960s and had always been a B+ license. He stated that the Board previously conducted a full hearing and properly approved the transfer of location based on the statutory requirements, testimony, and community support. He argued that the Sunday off-site permit was not properly before the Board and that his clients had complied with all applicable statutory requirements. Mr. Kim requested that the Board affirm its prior approval of the transfer.

Mr. Cornbrooks, in rebuttal, reiterated that the applicant had not satisfied the requirements for a Class B+ license, including the restaurant requirement. He argued that the Sunday off-site permit could not independently support the Class B+ license and urged the Board to deny both.

Mr. Kim, in final response, maintained that the B+ license was valid, that the transfer had been properly approved, and that the Sunday permit was not an issue before the Board. He reiterated that his clients had complied with the applicable statutory requirements and requested that the Board uphold its prior decisions.

Following oral arguments, the Board discussed whether to render a decision or take the matter under advisement.

Board Attorney DeLoach also confirmed that the City Council's regular meeting was scheduled for September 14, 2026.

Mr. Cornbrooks stated that he would provide confirmation of the meeting date to the appropriate parties and Board representatives.

Commissioner McLean moved to take the matter under advisement and render a decision at the next Board of License Commissioners hearing, following the September 14, 2026, City of Hyattsville Council meeting, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia

Administrative Aide BOLC