October 14, 2026
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Ono Achale, Commissioner
Kirk McLean, 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: 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 aslong as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

1. **t/a Seitz Liquors,** Sanjay Sheth, Sole Member. Located at 6223 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, 20745. 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. Sheth explained that the business was seeking a delivery permit in response to requests from existing customers who wanted the convenience of having their purchases delivered, particularly those who had difficulty visiting the store in person. He confirmed that he had reviewed the Board of License Commissioners' rules and regulations governing deliveries. He acknowledged the requirements to maintain delivery records, the prohibition against third-party delivery services, and the restriction against delivering alcoholic beverages to college dormitories.
   Commissioner McLean asked whether the business would limit deliveries to Prince George's County and refrain from delivering across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Alexandria, Virginia.
   Mr. Sheth confirmed that deliveries would be limited to Prince George's County, Maryland.
   Commissioner McLean also inquired about the qualifications and training of the proposed delivery drivers.
   Mr. Sheth confirmed that two employees, who also serve as managers, currently hold Alcohol Awareness Certification and would initially handle deliveries. He explained that he intended to review the applicable rules and procedures with the employees before beginning delivery operations.
   Mr. Sheth further confirmed that the drivers would be responsible for verifying customers' identification, confirming that recipients met the legal age requirements, obtaining the required signatures, and maintaining delivery records using forms prepared for that purpose.
   Board Attorney DeLoach requested clarification regarding whether the proposed drivers were already Alcohol Awareness certified or would obtain certification after the permit was issued.
   Mr. Sheth confirmed that two employees were already certified and would begin handling deliveries. He explained that additional drivers might be hired or certified as needed, depending on business operations.
   Commissioner Norman motions to grant the delivery permit to t/a Seitz Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
   After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. **t/a Hyattsville Spirits and Grill** – status hearing pursuant to the Circuit Court's order remanding the matter to the BOLC, continued from September 2, 2026.
Chair Bridgwater-Simms stated that the Board had reviewed the information related to the matter and was prepared to entertain a motion.
Commissioner Norman motioned that the Board affirmed that it had properly considered the applicable provisions of Statute 26-1602 governing the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor licenses in Hyattsville, including the limitation permitting only one Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor license with off-premises privileges, and that the transfer had been properly approved by the Board, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.
Board Attorney DeLoach requested that the minutes clearly reflect that the Board had properly considered the applicable statute and properly approved the transfer, consistent with the Circuit Court's order.

3. Mark Srour, President/Secretary/Treasurer, **t/a Cornerstone Grill & Loft**, located at 7325 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740. For an alleged violation of R.R. 26 B (14) The commission of any act by the licensee, his/her agents or employees that constitutes a danger to the peace and safety of the neighborhood. Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire.** Continued from September 9, 2026.
Following its review and consideration of the evidence presented, **Commissioner Norman** motioned to assess t/a Cornerstone Grill & Loft a 90-day license suspension and a $7,500 fine, with the suspension initially set to take effect on October 15, 2026, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
Commissioner McLean stated for the record that he had recused himself from the decision.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
Following the Board's decision, **Ms. Carter** requested that the suspension be deferred until November 1, 2026. She explained that additional time was needed to consult with her clients regarding their next steps and to allow the business to make appropriate arrangements for its employees, who were scheduled to report to work the following day.
Mr. DeLoach advised that the Board had the discretion to modify the effective date of the suspension. He acknowledged that the original implementation date provided limited notice for the business to address staffing and operational matters and indicated that November 1, 2026, was a reasonable alternative.
Commissioner Norman initially proposed amending the motion to make the suspension effective November 1, 2026. However, further discussion took place regarding the potential impact of allowing the establishment to remain open through Halloween, which was identified as a significant party night, particularly for college students.
After considering the concerns raised, **Commissioner Norman** amended the motion again, proposing that the 90-day suspension take effect on October 30, 2026, while

maintaining the $7,500 fine, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.** The revised date was intended to provide the business with approximately 15 days to prepare for the suspension while addressing the Board's concerns regarding Halloween.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Ramon Hernandez, Member/Authorized Person, Olivia Roundtree, Member/Authorized Person, **t/a Riderwood Village,** located at 6223 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, 20745. For an alleged violation of R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Purchase by Authorized Retailer: No license holder shall purchase any alcoholic beverages except from a duly licensed manufacturer or wholesaler. No retail license holder shall sell to another license holder any alcoholic beverages except to the holder of Special Class C, (Club) per diem license as defined in the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. No license holder shall at any time keep or permit to be kept upon the licensed premises any alcoholic beverage unless purchased in accordance with this Rule and Regulation. Represented by **Sean Morris, Esquire.**
Inspector Johnson of the BOLC gave a report of the incident that occurred on February 10, 2026.
Mr. Morris confirmed that the licensees acknowledged the violation. He explained that Riderwood Village operates across the Montgomery County and Prince George's County boundaries and maintains separate licenses for the portions of the facility located in each jurisdiction.
Mr. Morris stated that the two counties have different procedures for purchasing and distributing alcoholic beverages. In Montgomery County, the establishment had routinely purchased additional inventory from county-operated retail stores when supplies were insufficient, particularly before weekends. Riderwood Village also maintained a regular distribution relationship with Breakthrough Beverage for its Prince George's County operations.
According to Mr. Morris, staff mistakenly believed that the same purchasing procedure used in Montgomery County could be followed in Prince George's County when additional inventory was needed. This resulted in employees purchasing alcoholic beverages from Total Wine & More rather than obtaining them through the authorized distributor.
Mr. Morris explained that the practice had occurred for only a limited period and was discontinued immediately after the issue was brought to management's attention. Staff members responsible for ordering and purchasing alcoholic beverages were retrained and instructed that purchases for the Prince George's County portion of the establishment must be made through the appropriate licensed distributor.
Mr. Morris stated that Riderwood Village had operated for approximately 25 years without a prior violation and had undergone multiple inspections by Prince George's County inspectors. He emphasized that the violation resulted from a misunderstanding of the different purchasing requirements between the two jurisdictions rather than an intentional effort to not comply with the Board's regulations.
Mr. Morris also advised that additional measures were implemented to prevent future inventory shortages and ensure that all alcoholic beverages for the Prince George's County location were obtained through the proper distributors.

Commissioner Smith asked for clarification regarding Montgomery County's alcoholic beverage purchasing procedures.
Mr. Morris explained that Montgomery County operates a controlled distribution system and maintains county-owned retail stores that may sell alcoholic beverages to businesses under the county's procedures. He noted that some of these stores had been rebranded, potentially making them appear to be privately operated establishments.
Commissioner Norman requested clarification regarding the purchase receipts from Total Wine & More.
Mr. Morris reiterated that employees had mistakenly applied the purchasing procedure permitted for the Montgomery County portion of the facility to the Prince George's County portion. He explained that, in Prince George's County, any additional inventory needed to be obtained through the establishment's authorized distributor, Breakthrough Beverages.
Commissioner Norman motions to find t/a Riderwood Village in violation of Rule and Regulation No. 11, assessing a fine of $750, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Anthony Laday, Authorized Person, George McGowan, Authorized Person, **t/a Fogo de Chao Churrascaria,** located at 141 National Plaza, Suite E1-2, National Harbor, 20745. For an alleged violation of 6-313 A retail dealer or an agent or employee of a retail dealer may not tamper with or change the quantity or quality of the contents of a container of an alcoholic beverage after the container has been lawfully sealed and while the contents remain in the container, of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No. 18 Refilling or Tampering with alcoholic beverage containers of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. Represented by **Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire.**
Inspector Johnson of the BOLC gave a report of the incident that occurred on August 12, 2026.
Ms. Schrecengost acknowledged the violation on behalf of the licensees. She explained that the restaurant's employees had failed to follow corporate policies, which require the use of specifically approved glassware for storing mixers, syrups, juices, and other ingredients used in preparing beverages. She clarified that the bottles were not being used to premix alcoholic beverages. Rather, employees had improperly placed beverage ingredients, including fruit-based mixers and simple syrup, into previously used alcoholic beverage bottles. She stated that the practice was contrary to company policy, that the employees had been counseled, and that the issue had been corrected immediately.
Commissioner Norman questioned the licensees regarding their knowledge of the incident, noting that the representatives appearing before the Board were not physically present at the National Harbor location.
Mr. McGowan confirmed that they had investigated the matter promptly through the company's area manager and other management personnel.
Mr. McGowan acknowledged that the inspector's findings were accurate and agreed that the ingredients should not have been stored in used alcoholic beverage bottles. He explained that the ingredients were preparation items that required refrigeration and confirmed that the practice was unacceptable under company policy.

Commissioner Norman also inquired about the number of employees at the establishment and their Alcohol Awareness Certification status.
Mr. McGowan explained that the restaurant typically employed approximately 100 to 130 employees, with an estimated 40 to 60 front-of-house employees, including servers, bartenders, hosts, and bussers. However, he was unable to confirm the exact number of employees currently certified.
Commissioner Norman expressed concern regarding the seriousness of the violation, including the potential legal implications and the appearance of improperly reusing alcoholic beverage bottles.
Mr. McGowan acknowledged the seriousness of the matter, agreed that the practice was unacceptable, and apologized for the oversight. He stated that the company had addressed the issue with the employees and management team and would reinforce the policy throughout its locations.
At Commissioner Norman's request, the licensees agreed to provide copies of the Alcohol Awareness training certificates for their current staff following the hearing.
Ms. Schrecengost apologized for not having the establishment's general manager present at the hearing and accepted responsibility for that oversight.
Commissioner Norman motions to find Fogo de Chao in violation of Section 6-313 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and R.R. No. 18 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, assessing a fine of $1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

6. Catrina Jackson, Member, Elizabeth Greene, Member, **t/a Lisp Restaurant and Lounge**, located at 6339 Allentown Road, Suite A, Temple Hills, 20748. For an alleged violation of R.R. No. 37 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Alteration and Addition (Change in Mode of Operation): E. In the event a licensee decided to significantly alter the mode of operation and the format of presentation of alcoholic beverages to the public from the 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. Changes in the mode of operation would include but not be limited to entertainment, alteration of physical premises, and presentation of food, alcoholic beverages, seats and/or physical environment both inside and outside of the licensed premises.
Licensees do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.
Inspector Kinney of the BOLC gave a report of the incident that occurred on
Ms. Green acknowledged the violation and explained that the outdoor tent was established during the summer to accommodate patrons who wished to sit outside and smoke cigars, as smoking was not permitted inside the establishment. She acknowledged that alcoholic beverages were served to patrons in the tent.
Ms. Green apologized to the Board and explained that the owners had not realized prior approval was required to use the tent as an extension of the licensed premises. She stated that the owners had discussed the matter with management and servers to ensure the situation would not recur.

Commissioner Norman asked Ms. Green whether she understood that, as a licensee, she was responsible for knowing and complying with the Board's rules and regulations.
Ms. Green confirmed that she understood her responsibilities and had reviewed the Board's rules and regulations. She acknowledges that the violation resulted from an oversight.
Commissioner Norman motions to find t/a Lisp Restaurant and Lounge in violation of R.R No. 37, assessing a fine of $1,500, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

7. Michael Awosanya, CEO/Festival Producer, **Network Africa Corp One Day Event**, located at 1600 Ring Road, Landover, 20785. For an alleged violation of R.R. No.1 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County: Sale to Minor: 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.
Director Sheppard informed the Board that an email had been received from Network Africa Corp. requesting a continuance of the matter.
Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve the request for a continuance for Network Africa Corp.'s one-day event, seconded by **Commissioner Smith.**
After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Posada-Mejia

Administrative Aide BOLC