

**February 28, 2023
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Daphne Turpin-Forbes, Board Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Jason DeLoach, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Sheppard, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 10:14 a.m.

Commissioner Forbes: This is an open meeting for the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. Welcome to our House. To ensure compliance with the law (Maryland Open Meetings Act) and our goal of transparency, to please identify yourself when speaking and speak audibly. As a professional courtesy, when not speaking, please mute your device. If someone from the public that is not providing testimony as a witness today, I will recognize you in the hearing and give you an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Everyone's voice matters at the BOLC. We understand that some of you may be passionate about what you have to say and that passion, in this regard, is permissible. What is not permissible is if truth, facts, and respect are not grounded in your voice. Thank you in advance for being truthful, respectful, and honest during the entire proceeding.

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.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Silver Diner (Woodmore)**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 9151 Ruby Lockhart Drive, Lanham, 20706, Eric James Forward to serve as Authorized Person and Glenn Richard D'Amore to serve as Authorized Person instead of Ype Von Hengst, Member/Authorized Person. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**.
Mr. Forward and **Mr. D'Amore** are on several licenses throughout the state of Maryland.
Mr. D'Amore started his journey with Silver Diner in 1996, he is currently the Chief Operating Officer.
Mr. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.
Mr. Forward is the Chief Financial Officer for several different restaurants. He's been the with Silver Diner for five years and does the finances for all twenty-seven Silver Diner locations.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Silver Diner (Woodmore), seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.
2. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Silver Diner (Greenbelt)**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 6040 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, 20770, Eric James Forward to serve as Authorized Person and Glenn Richard D'Amore to serve as Authorized Person instead of Robert Giaimo, President/Treasurer, Ype Von Hengst, Vice President/Secretary. Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**.
Mr. Forward and **Mr. D'Amore** are on several licenses throughout the state of Maryland.
Mr. D'Amore started his journey with Silver Diner in 1996, he is currently the Chief Operating Officer.
Mr. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D. in the state of Maryland, and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.
Mr. Forward is the Chief Financial Officer for several different restaurants. He's been the with Silver Diner for five years and does the finances for all twenty-seven Silver Diner locations.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Silver Diner (Greenbelt), seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

REGULAR SESSION:**CONTINUATION FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2023****Violation Update**

1. Michele Tekam, Member, **t/a Famous Lounge**, 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit# 150 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation of RR No.#7 Consumption of Bottled goods on licensed premises (Bottle Service) and RR# 37 Alteration and Addition of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County, Maryland. To wit: On Saturday November 12, 2022, at approximately 10:15 pm, two undercover Prince George's County Liquor Inspectors entered the Famous Lounge, located at 5010 Brown Station Rd. Unit #150, Upper Marlboro MD 20772. Once inside, they observed bottles of Patron in clear carafes being delivered to a table with sparkling lights, also igloos, which are structures used to seat patrons, were placed on the outside of the establishment, and being utilized without the Board's approval. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Camacho gave some background for this case.

Mr. Kim states he submitted the menu and POS system that shows you could only purchase bottle service for beer and wine only. The igloos didn't have an impact on the sale and service of alcohol, it was strictly for hookah purposes.

Mr. Kim states there was no hard evidence and asked that the case be dismissed.

Board attorney advised the Commissioners that if they'd like to hear additional testimony from Mr. Kim's client to postpone this matter.

The Board postponed this matter and will advise Mr. Kim and his client of the next hearing date.

TRANSFER:

1. In Ae Kim, President, Duk Man Kin, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of JW Food Maryland, Inc., **t/a Da Rae Won Restaurant**, 5011-5013 Garrett Avenue, Beltsville, 20737 transfer from Da Rae Won Restaurant, Inc t/a Da Rae Won Restaurant, 5011-5013 Garrett Avenue, Beltsville, 20737, Hyeong My Choe, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Inyoung Choe, Stockholder. Applicants do not have an attorney, acknowledge their right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.

Ms. Chrissie Chang was sworn in as the interpreter.

Mr. Duk Man Kim owns a restaurant and has a valid Virginia liquor license.

Mr. Camacho asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B license for t/a Da Rae Won Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Milap N. Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Ambe Laxmi, Inc., **t/a Bell's Drive-In Liquors**, 5901 Old Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, 20743 transfer from OHMKAR, Inc., t/a Bell's Drive-In Liquors, 5901 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, 20743, Ajay Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer.
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

There will be no changes to the mode of operation.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. A copy of the Alcohol Awareness certificate has been submitted to the Board.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a Bell's Drive-In Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

3. Steven McD, Smith, Member/Authorized Person for a Class B(R), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of MHI Hotel Services, LLC, **t/a Ledo Pizza Bowie**, 6814 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, 20715 transfer from Sunshine, Inc., t/a Ledo's Pizza Bowie, 6814 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, 20715, James S. Taggart, President, Colleen L. Taggart, Vice President.
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Smith has one hotel license, he's on various licenses for Ledo's Pizza throughout the state of Maryland.

There have been four violations since 2006 in Montgomery County and Queen Anne's County.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. A copy of the Alcohol Awareness training receipt was submitted to the Board.

All employees are TIPS certified.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B license for t/a Ledo Pizza Bowie, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

4. Wendy Wu, President/Secretary/Treasurer for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of J and C Western, Inc., **t/a J.C. Liquors**, 4856 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, 20743 transfer from J and C Western, Inc., t/a J.C. Liquors, 4856 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, 20743, Cui Lin Cheung, President/Secretary/Treasurer.
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

There will be no changes to the mode of operation.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the transfer of the license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell

alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question. A copy of the Alcohol Awareness certificate has been submitted to the Board.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A license for t/a J.C. Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR:

Continued from January 24, 2023, Hearing

1. Maria M. Fernandez de Trejo, President, Jeannette M. Trejo, Vice President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Magdalena's Restaurant, Inc., **t/a Magdalena's Restaurant**, 6367 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, 20745.

Represented by **Ben Carter, Esquire**.

Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.

Jeannette M. Trejo was sworn in as the interpreter.

Magdalena's is a Pan Latin American food restaurant, there's also a large selection of Mexican food, and El Salvadorian food.

The applicants are pursuing this license to accommodate the customers.

They envision a traditional sit-down restaurant, and having a Beer, Wine, and Liquor license will help this vision come to fruition.

A petition with thirty signatures in support of this application was submitted to the Board.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically used to qualify for this type of license.

Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Forbes makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Magdalena's Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS B BEER AND WINE:

1. Constance A. Ikechi, Managing Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B, Beer and Wine for the use of Tropicana Grill & Food Market, LLC, **t/a Tropicana Grill & Food Market**, 3503-3505 Maryland Avenue, Cheverly, 20785.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.

Tropicana serves primarily Nigerian and Jamaican food.

These dishes are generally enjoyed with a beer, but Ms. Ikechi would like to offer wine as well. A Beer and Wine license will help increase sales.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically used to qualify for this type of license.

Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B license for t/a Tropicana Grill & Food Market, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

There was opposition for this establishment the agency was unaware of during this case. This case will be continued to the next hearing date.

2. German Escobar, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer and Wine for the use of ARE Corporation, **t/a Casa Dora IV**, 5705 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, 20737. Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney, and agree to move forward without representation.
Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.
Mr. Escobar currently holds a Beer, Wine, and Liquor license since approximately 2019, he wishes to downgrade this license to a Beer and Wine license.
There will be no changes to the mode of operation.
Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the Class B license for **t/a Casa Dora IV**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS C, CLV, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR:

1. James Riley, Chairman, for a Class C(CLV), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Veterans Cigar Club, Inc., **t/a Veterans Cigar Club**, 6409 Old Alexander Ferry Road, Clinton, 20735.
Represented by **Ben Carter, Esquire**.
Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.
Mr. Riley was previously approved in 2021 for a Beer and Wine license. Since effectuating in March 2021, there have been no violations.
Mr. Carter asked the standard questions typically used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. The applicant was able to answer each question.
The Veterans Cigar Club has over one hundred members who have all served as a veteran. Each member pays twenty dollars in dues.
The revenue is enough to cover the club's operating expenses. Mr. Riley and his wife are funding the club themselves.
Commissioner Forbes makes a motion to approve the Class C license for **t/a Veterans Cigar Club**, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.
After Board vote, the motion carries.

TRANSFER OF LOCATION:

1. Hugo A. Bonilla, Member, Patricia E, Martinez Rivera, Member-Manager for a Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Riviera Tapas Bar, LLC, **t/a Riviera Tapas Bar**, 6202 Rhode Island Avenue, Riverdale, 20737 transfer from Riviera Tapas Bar, LLC, **t/a Riviera Tapas Bar**, 6108 Rhode Island Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD.
Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.
Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.
The licensees have been the owners of Rivera Tapas Bar since 2018. They currently hold a B(DD) license, there have been no violations since this license was granted.

There will be no changes to the mode of operation.

They're only moving across the street at the landlord's request.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions typically used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. Both applicants were able to answer each question. A copy of the Alcohol Awareness certificates have been submitted to the Board.

Commissioner Norman makes a motion to approve the transfer of location for t/a Riviera Tapas Bar, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Malkit Singh, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Stephanie Carter, Member/Authorized Person, James L. Cook, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B+, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of MRK Liquors, LLC, t/a **Glenarden Wine & Spirits**, 2019 St. Joseph's Drive, Suite 105, Bowie, 20721 transfer from 24/7 MH Grocery & Restaurant, LLC, t/a 24/7 MH Grocery & Restaurant, 3210 Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735, Israt Jahan, Member-Manager.

Applicant is represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Woodmore Wine & Spirits in opposition of this application is represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire**.

Delegate Jazz Lewis organized opposition of this application, not represented by an attorney.

Commissioner Forbes gave the rules of engagement.

No objections to the rules of engagement.

Chief Robert Clark gave a maps presentation.

An amendment has been made to the application, to change the trade name to Circle Spirits and Wine.

No objections. Desired action is approved.

Delegate Jazz Lewis (House Member of the 28th District) testified in opposition of this application.

Senator Benson (24th Legislative District) testified in opposition of this application.

Ms. Carter asked for the Commission Report to be moved into evidence. **No objections to the desired action.**

Ms. Carter states in the lease at Woodmore Commons there are restrictions on what the potential licensee can do, no tobacco products can be sold or single beers. This location will be a first-class wine and spirits shop offering premium items, a wine and beer specialist offering classes to customers. Mr. Singh's first job was at New Carrollton Liquors in 2007, he bought Chevy Chase Liquors in 2016. He wants to be apart of the community and change the representation of Liquor stores in Prince George's County. A petition with one hundred and thirteen signatures in support of this application has been submitted to the Board. Mr. Singh is Alcohol Awareness certified in DC, if the license is approved, he will become certified in Maryland. All employees will be certified as well.

Ms. Carter asked the standard questions typically used to qualify for this type of license. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol. All applicants were able to answer each question.

Mr. Cook is a current licensee in Baltimore, MD at Eagles Nest. There have been no violations during his tenure.

Mr. Ben Carter gave an economic analysis report.

Mr. David Carter asked **Mr. Ben Carter** questions about the research conducted for the economic analysis report.

Mr. Pounds cross examined Mr. Singh and Mr. Ben Carter.

Mr. Charles Rice Jr., Ms. Iesha Malso, and Mr. Surjeet Singh testified as a fact witness for the applicant.

Mr. Pounds cross examined Mr. Singh and Ms. Malso.

Mr. Pounds makes a proffer for his clients, Mr. Lalit Patel and Amit Patel. Mr. Lalit Patel has not had any violations thus far at Woodmore Wine & Spirits. He respectfully asked the Board to deny the transfer of this license and expresses it's duplicative in nature, we've heard from the residents and delegates. The residents do not want to see another Liquor store in the community.

Ms. Carter cross examined Mr. Lalit Patel and Mr. Amit Patel.

Mr. Christopher Stevenson, Mr. Samuel Dean, Mr. Derek Curtis II, Mr. Michael Arrington, Mr. Timothy McIntosh Sr., Ms. Kristal Gardiner, Ms. Cynthia Gray, Ms. Kim Williams, Ms. Balina Shaw, Ms. Latasha Ward, Ms. Mona Amodi, and Mr. Lorenzo Hylton provided a one-minute testimony in opposition of this application.

Mr. Pounds asked Delegate Jazz Lewis and Ms. Latasha Ward a line of questions.

Ms. Carter gave a closing statement. She states this transfer of the license can only be moved in the 24th district to keep its off-sale privileges.

Mr. Pounds gave a closing statement.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion that the Board will take this matter under advisement for further review, continuing this case at the March 28, 2023, hearing with a decision, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

Commissioner Smith votes no.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Adjourned: 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC