

**October 24, 2023
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
Johnny Toles, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Christian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Alecia Hughes, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 9:59 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.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

1. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Topgolf**, Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 6400 Clipper Way, Oxon Hill, 20745, Susana Arevalo to serve as Manager/CFO, Naresh Srinivasan to serve as Manager/Secretary instead of William B. Davenport, Authorized Person. Represented by **Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire**. Continued from September 26, 2023.

Ms. Arevalo is an Authorized Person and the chief financial officer for Topgolf USA National Harbor, LLC.

Mr. Srinivasan is an Authorized Person for Topgolf USA National Harbor, LLC.

Ms. Schrecengost asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Topgolf, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.
2. Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a Texas Ribs and BBQ**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7701 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735, Erick Hernandez to serve as Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Rohlfs to serve as President instead of David H. Rohlfs, Vice President.

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

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. Including what are the six acceptable forms of I.D., and the legal age to purchase and sell alcohol.

The applicants were initially unable to list the six acceptable forms of I.D., after pausing this case the applicants were able to answer each question.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a Texas Ribs and BBQ, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.
3. Substitution of Corporate Officer application, **t/a El Paraiso Restaurant**, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 6511-6513 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912, Alba Isabel Hernandez Buruca to serve as Vice President.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge her right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions typically used to qualify the Substitution of Corporate Officers Application. 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the SCO for t/a El Paraiso Restaurant, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

REGULAR SESSION:

TRANSFER

1. Ushaben S. Patel, Member-Manager, for a Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Love Marlboro, LLC, **t/a Marlboro Liquors**, 5725 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772, transfer from Love Marlboro, LLC, t/a Marlboro Liquors, 5725 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772, Shaileshkumar Patel, Member-Manager/Authorized Person. Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire**.

Mr. Patel is currently the forty nine percent Member of Love Marlboro LLC; he's acquiring the other fifty percent and will become the one hundred percent Sole Member/Member-Manager.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions 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.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor License for t/a Marlboro Liquors, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

2. Wang Koo Lee, President/Treasurer, Seung Mi Lim, Vice President/Secretary, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of FTM, Inc., **t/a Levi's Restaurant in Clinton**, 6410 Coventry Way, Clinton, 20735, transfer from Justin Restaurant Group, Inc., t/a Levi's Restaurant, 6410 Coventry Way, Clinton, 20735, Young Yum Km, President, Sook Kim, Vice President.

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

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the transfer of the Class B, BLX, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for t/a Levi's Restaurant in Clinton, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

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

1. Kyle Algaze, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Christopher Michael Blanton, Member/Authorized Person, for a Class B(BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Iron Rooster College Park, LLC, **t/a Iron Rooster College Park**, 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740.

Represented by **Linda Carter, Esquire**.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Carter states we're entering a Property Use Agreement with the city of College Park it's been approved with both parties.

Mr. Bob Ryan (Public Services Director for the City of College Park) states he was authorized by the City Council of College Park to testify to their support of this application. City of College Park does support this application, with the condition of the Property Use Agreement in place.

Ms. Carter shared the terms of the Property Use Agreement and agreed to send it to our agency attorney.

There are four Iron Roosters in the State of Maryland.

The anticipated opening date is in a few weeks. There will be approximately one hundred and twenty seats. All customers will be carded.

Mr. Algaze opened an Iron Rooster in Annapolis, Maryland in 2014.

Ms. Carter asked that an amendment be made to the application to reflect the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to accept the amended hours of operation, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions used to qualify 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, BLX, license for t/a Iron Rooster College Park, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

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

1. Jeffeary Miskiri, CEO, for a Class B(AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Suga & Spice, LLC, t/a **Suga & Spice**, 5557 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 100, Hyattsville, 20781. Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Miskiri states Suga & Spice is a small business serving Caribbean and Cuisine food, we've been operating since December 2021. Our business seen a drop of thirty percent decrease in sales since the expiration of our liquor license.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B(AE), Beer, Wine and Liquor license for t/a Suga & Spice, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

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

1. Shatorya Owens, CEO, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Miss Toya's Southern Kitchen Laurel, LLC, **t/a Miss Toya's Southern Kitchen**, 14700 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 110, Laurel, 20708.

Applicant does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Ms. Owens states she's here to receive a license for her business in Prince George's County.

Commissioner Camacho asked for clarification on Ms. Owens home address. The home address she cited while being sworn is different from the home address listed on her application.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions 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 Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B(DD), Beer, Wine and Liquor license for t/a Miss Toya's Southern Kitchen, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

NEW- CLASS B, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms provided an explanation of the competition process that would be utilized to determine which establishments would be granted the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor Licenses. Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms further explained there were only four licenses that would be granted and six establishments competing. After all cases are heard, in the competition, the involved establishments are ranked from most points to least number of points. The top four establishments with the most points are then granted the Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License.

There were no objections to the rules of engagement.

1. Davonne Austin, CEO, Brandon Austin, Managing Member for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Marley's Bar & Grill, Inc., **t/a Marley's Bar & Grill**, 6450 America Blvd, Suite 101, Hyattsville, 20782.

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

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Davonne Austin states this establishment will be an upscale bar and grill. I've been in the restaurant industry for fifteen years, at management level for Outback Steakhouse. I was a proprietor for four years at the Outback Steakhouse in Hyattsville overseeing the entire operation. Mr. Austin later took over the Outback Steakhouse in Oxon Hill, improving this establishment to the number three store in the company. He's never had a violation during his tenure as a license holder.

The anticipated opening date for Marley's Bar & Grill is December 2023.

Mr. Brandon Austin previously held a license in Montgomery County, Maryland. He states he has never had a violation during his tenure as a license holder.

Our agency attorney reminds applicants they're under oath and to be honest about their history of violations with the company. The Board of License Commissioners will do our due diligence to investigate this matter.

Three witnesses testified in support of this application, to include Ms. Shanika L. Griffith on behalf of District 2 County Council Member Wanika Fisher.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms asked the standard questions 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.

There is no one present in opposition of this application.

2. Novlette Ashmeade, President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of JCK Bar & Lounge LLC, t/a **Jamaican Country Kitchen**, 7572 Annapolis Road, Hyattsville, 20784. Continued from July 25, 2023.

Represented by **Paul Jackson, Esquire.**

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Jamaican Country Kitchen has been operating since 2013.

Mr. Jackson asked that an amendment be made to the application to reflect 3,055 square feet, we're in the process of obtaining lease for property next door.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to accept the amended square footage, seconded by **Commissioner Norman.**

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Mr. Jackson states Ms. Ashmeade is a small business owner, she previously owned a restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia. She has obtained a lease, fire inspection will be completed this afternoon, and we're currently in the process of getting a Use & Occupancy permit for the adjacent space.

Mr. Jackson asked the standard questions 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.

There is no one present in opposition of this application.

3. Yu Tao Gao, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Gao IGroup, Inc., t/a **Iron Pig Korean BBQ**, 6107 Greenbelt Road, Berwyn Heights, 20740.

Represented by **Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Three witnesses testified in support of this application.

Mr. Kim states Iron Pig Korean BBQ has been operating since October 2021, in May 2022 the Board granted a Beer and Wine license. Soju and sake alcoholic beverages are typically paired with this cuisine, we'd like to upgrade the license to a Beer, Wine, and Liquor to accompany the food. I've submitted a petition of support to the Board with two hundred and ten signatures and a support letter from District 3 County Council Member.

Mr. Kim asked the standard questions 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.

There is no one present in opposition of this application.

4. Randolph Williams, President, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Caribe Express, LLC, t/a **Caribe Express**, 338 Main Street, Laurel, 20707.

Represented by **Jerry Jones, Esquire**.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Williams is the one hundred percent Sole Member for Caribe Express.

Mr. Williams states Caribe Express has been operating since 2017, serving authentic Caribbean food made from scratch. Customers have requested Jamaican alcoholic beverages to compliment the food.

Mr. Jones asked the standard questions 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.

Director Sheppard states it appears this establishment falls within a Developmental District; however, they didn't apply for a DD license. He asked for the Board to amend the application to reflect application for DD license per 26-1614 Section A16 of the Alcoholic Beverage Annotated Code. By doing so, this will bring the competition down to five applicants.

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to amend the application from a Class B, BWL, to a Class B (DD), seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

Furthermore, **Commissioner Camacho** makes a motion to grant the Class B (DD), license to t/a Caribe Express, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**.

After Board vote, the motion carries.

5. Jose Luis Venegas, President/Secretary/Treasurer, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Sierra's Grill & Taqueria, Inc., t/a **Sierra's Grill & Taqueria**, 11619 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, 20705.

Represented by **Benjamin Carter, Esquire**.

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

A witness testified in support of this application.

Mr. Carter states due to an issue with taxes my client was unable to renew and went the entire summer without a license. During the hearing last month, the Board granted Sierra's Grill & Taqueria a Class D license. I've submitted to the Board three letters of support. A Beer, Wine, and Liquor license is necessary to accommodate the public.

Mr. Carter asked the standard questions 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.

6. Folahan Odukoya, CEO, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of City Chef Consulting, LLC, t/a **City Chef Events and Catering**, 6796 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, 20715.

Represented by **Eddie Pounds, Esquire.**

Deputy Chief Mendoza gave a maps presentation.

Mr. Pounds states City Chef Events and Catering is a sit-down family restaurant and catering services, they've been operating since March 2023. This establishment serves a combination of both Nigerian inspired street dishes and southern barbecue style dishes. Food safety and Alcohol Awareness classes will be offered at this establishment in collaboration with Employ Prince Georges. We've submitted support letters and a petition of support with four hundred and ten signatures in support of this application. My client has been an executive chef and a general manager for more than a decade both domestic and abroad.

Mr. Odukoya currently holds a Beer, Wine, and Liquor license in Montgomery County at La'Colombiana Restaurant & Lounge. There have been no violations during his tenure as a license holder.

Mr. Pounds asked that an amendment be made to reflect the hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Pounds asked the standard questions 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.

Beer, Wine, and Liquor Competition Results:

Top 4 Establishments with the highest points scored received the license.

1. **Iron Pig Korean BBQ (70 Points)**
2. **Sierra's Grill & Taqueria (65 Points)**
3. **Jamaican Country Kitchen (46 Points)**
4. **City Chef Events and Catering (45 Points)**
5. **Marley's Bar & Grill (39 Points)**

Commissioner Camacho makes a motion to approve the Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor license for t/a Iron Pig Korean BBQ, Sierra's Grill & Taqueria, Jamaican Country Kitchen, and City Chef Events and Catering, seconded by **Commissioner Norman. After Board vote, motion carries.**

Adjourned: 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alecia L. Hughes
Administrative Aide BOLC