

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
16 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Liquor Control Board for Harford County was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goddard at the Board's office. In attendance were Commissioners Majewski, Sines, and Walters, Board Counsel Amy K. Finneran, and General Manager Crabbs. Vice Chair Burdette was previously excused.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Majewski and was seconded to approve the minutes for November 15, 2023; the vote was unanimous.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to pay the bills with the exception of VP Auto Collision; the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Walters reported that there is a bill from VP Auto Collision for \$7135.50, however, we will be reimbursed \$6,635.50 by insurance leaving a balance due of \$500.00 that we should be reimbursed in the future. This is a financially neutral transaction. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve payment of the VP Auto Collision bill.

U.S. Treasurer	Withholding	3290.69
State Comptroller	Withholding	933.46
ConnectPay	Accounting	90.00
Payroll	Payroll	7882.04
State Retirement	Retirement	670.97
First Bankcard	Office	308.73
First bankcard	Fuel	178.22
T-Mobile	Telephone	154.85
Comcast	Telephone	248.30
Malissa Roche	Maintenance	80.00
Baltimore Sun Media	Advertising	942.86
VP Auto Collision	GMC Terrain	7135.50

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

1) First-Time Applicants – Southern Harford County Rotary – B&W License

First-time applicants Sarah Ortiz-Brown and Rebecca Jessop appeared on behalf of Southern Harford County Rotary Club in connection with a per diem application for beer and wine to be used on February 10 at the Level Volunteer Fire Company for a bingo fundraiser. Motion was made by Commissioner Majewski and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) Vishnu, L.L.C., T/A India Garden – New License

Prachin GT, President, Bhuban Simkhada, Member, Vishnu, L.L.C. T/A India Garden, 5 Bel Air S. Parkway, #1615, Bel Air, appeared along with their attorney Anthony J. DiPaula in connection with an Application for a New B1-BW-On Sale Only License. Interest in the L.L.C. is held as follows: Prachin GT, 50%; Bhuban Simkhada, 50%. Mr. GT has passed the licensee test and will serve as the Responsible Operator. Motion

was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

3) 2227 Conowingo, L.L.C., T/A Jim's Bottleworks – License Transfer

Rakeshkumar Patel, Member, Vivek Parikh, Member, 2227 Conowingo, L.L.C. T/A Jim's Bottleworks, 2227 Conowingo Road, Bel Air, appeared in connection with a Transfer Application of a Class A1-BWL-Off Sale Only License, transferring from James Bishop, Bottleworks, Inc. T/A Bottleworks. Interest in the L.L.C. is held as follows: Rakeshkumar Patel, 25%; Vivek Parikh, 75%. Mr. Patel has passed the licensee test and will serve as the Responsible Operator. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

4) Matthew's L3 Pizzeria, L.L.C., T/A Matthew's L3 Pizzeria – New License (Tentative Approval)

This hearing will be scheduled for a future date.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING

1) Plum House IV, Inc. T/A Chopstix

Yu Kwok Cheung, President, Heng Fong, Chen, Secretary, Jessica Yee Cheng, Treasurer, Plum House IV, Inc. t/a Chopstix, 1523-A Rock Spring Road, Forest Hill were present in connection with a show cause hearing indicating violation of:

(a) failure of an individual certified by a state-approved alcohol awareness program to be present on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold, which individual shall be the license holder or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity, in violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article ("AB") § 4-505(f) and § 22-1903 of the Annotated Code of Maryland ("Code") as well as Board Rule 3:14.

The violation is alleged to have occurred on November 8, 2023.

Subsequent to the Hearing, the Board considered all the evidence presented. Based upon the statement of facts (i.e. the written report of Chief Inspector Daniel Buchler), as well as applicable License Holders' testimony, and with further consideration to License Holders' relevant past record (if any) motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to find License Holders in violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Article ("AB") § 4-505(f) and § 22-1903 of the Annotated Code of Maryland ("Code") as well as Board Rule 3:14; the vote was unanimous. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to fine License Holders \$250.00; the vote was unanimous.

2) EWf Bel Air, L.L.C. T/A Earth Wood & Fire

Lauren Bierman, Member, EWF Bel Air, L.L.C. T/A Earth Wood & Fire, 214 Mountain Road, Fallston appeared in connection with a show cause hearing indicating violation of:

- 1) Failure of an individual certified by a state-approved alcohol awareness program to be present on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold, which individual shall be the license holder, or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity by violating Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages Article, Sections 4-505(f) and 22-1903 and Board Rule 3:14.

The violation is alleged to have occurred on November 8, 2023.

Subsequent to the Hearing, the Board considered all the evidence presented. Based upon the statement of facts (i.e. the written report of Chief Inspector Daniel Buchler), as well as applicable License Holder testimony, and with further consideration to License Holder's relevant past record (if any) motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to find License Holder in violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Article ("AB") § 4-505(f) and § 22-1903 of the Annotated Code of Maryland ("Code") as well as Board Rule 3:14; the vote was unanimous. Motion was made and duly seconded to fine License Holder \$100.00; the vote was unanimous.

PER DIEM LICENSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD

1) St. Margaret School – BINGO – 02/09/2024 – B&W

Submitted by Gail Rohleder and Deanna Townsley on behalf of St. Margaret School to be used in the gymnasium on February 9 for a bingo fundraiser. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) HDG Arts Collective – Annual MasquerAid Fundraiser – 02/10 – BWL

Submitted by Katie Noe and William Price on behalf of Havre de Grace Arts Collective to be used at the Havre de Grace Community Center on February 10 for their annual MasquerAid fundraiser. Motion was made by Commissioner Majewski and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

3) HDG Arts Collective – Closing Reception – 03/03 - BWL

Submitted by Katie Noe and William Price on behalf of Havre de Grace Arts Collective to be used at the 220 Gallery on March 3 for an art closing reception. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1) Winters Run Golf Club, Inc., T/A Winters Run Golf Club – Supplemental

This will be scheduled for a future date.

2) HDG Arts Collective – Date Change Request

A per diem beer, wine and liquor license was issued to Havre de Grace Arts Collective by the Board to be used on January 19 at the 220 Gallery. License holders have requested a date change to January 26. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the request; the vote was unanimous.

3) Harford Bank - Reserve Account

At the January 10, 2024, meeting discussion was held regarding various money market and CD accounts in connection with the Reserve Account balance, and the issue was tabled until all commissioners were present. After discussion this date, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to transfer \$99,000 from the Reserve Account into a Reserve CD for 13 months with Harford Bank; the vote was unanimous.

4) Tavern Meeting - Publishing UA Compliance Detail Results, Licensees passing/failing

Chair Goddard reported that he, GM Crabbs, Chief Inspector Buchler and Inspector Griffin attended Chief Moore's Tavern Meeting. Discussion included the hiring of part-time Inspector Griffin, the Board's systemic operating deficit and the need to increase license fees in four to five years, and the increase in the renewal processing fees. There was also discussion regarding the use of social media to publish the license holders that passed and failed the underage compliance tests. Every license holder was opposed to posting the names of those that failed. The Board today reiterated their desire for the use of a press release to *The Aegis* following the adjudication of the compliance test violations.

BOARD COMMENT

Chair Goddard reported that Teresa Reilly ran an incredibly efficient delegation meeting last week. Every piece of legislation that the Board supported was unanimously voted to be advanced: Class L, Barbershops and Beauty Salons (although they reduced the fee), Golf Simulator, and Non-Profit Performing Arts. Tomorrow's discussion will be focused on reduction of the license fee for Ripken Stadium, the For Profit Arts and Entertainment license, and Steve Johnson's bill to reduce the size of the Liquor Board from five members to three members and appointing a substitute member. There is a State bill being introduced along with Cecil County to regulate outdoor sales of alcohol as opposed to having continue it by order of the County Executive or local government. A caveat has been added that allows the Liquor Board to add restrictions. Senator Washington from Prince George's County has introduced a bill that would allow for a stand alone alcoholic beverage delivery driver license with an annual license fee of \$1,000.

STAFF REPORT

The repairs have been completed on the Buick Terrain; the inspectors will pick up the Buick today and return the rental car. Additionally, the inspectors have researched a 2024 Hyundai Tucson SE all wheel drive SUV with a final price of \$28,853 excluding taxes and titling. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to give authority to GM Crabbs to purchase a 2024 Hyundai Tucson SE with a price not to exceed \$32,000.00 to be funded through the healthcare consortium funds; the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to adjourn the meeting; the vote was unanimous.



Wayne S. Goddard, Chair



Mary Sporre, Secretary