

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

HEARING DISPOSITIONS

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
WEBEX VIRTUAL HEARING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

**Albert Matricciani, Jr., Chairperson
Robert E. Guye, Commissioner
Harvey Jones, Commissioner**

Protest of Renewal – 2019-2020 License Year 11:00 AM

Fells Point Venture, LLC, t/a Choptank Restaurant License # LB 227
1641 Aliceanna Street, #105, Baltimore MD 21231 1st Councilmanic District (Cohen)

Attorney for Licensee: Steven Marder

Attorney for Community/Protestants: Becky Witt

Regarding the Protest of Renewal where the Board received a petition dated March 27, 2020 where 15 residents and/or property owners in the immediate vicinity are protesting the renewal for the 2019-2020 license year.

Corporate Standing: Fells Point Venture, LLC is an active Maryland corporation in good standing as of January 12, 2021.

Licensee Violation History: None.

311 Call History: A search of the Customer Service Request (CSR) database indicates that there have/has been 28 calls forwarded to the BLLC regarding this licensed location.

Witnesses: Glen Mamau – Neighbor (in opposition), David Martz – Neighbor (in opposition), Mara O’Connell – Neighbor (in opposition), Scott Mader – Attorney for Licensee, Alex Smith – Licensee, Darin Mislin – Neighbor (in support), Nicole Varzandeh – Neighbor (in support), Beth Hawks – Neighbor (in support), Adam Carballo – Neighbor (in support), John Chrissomallis – BLLC Chief Inspector, Nicholas Blendy – BLLC Deputy Executive Secretary

Disposition: The Board voted to renew the license to the licensee(s) by a 3-0 vote.

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.16 and Rule 3.12 11:00 AM

Jano Ethiopian Restaurant & Lounge, LLC, t/a Jano Ethiopia License # LB 073 (19-20)
34 S. Eutaw Street, Baltimore MD 21201 11th Councilmanic District (Costello)

Attorney for Applicant: Roland Harris

Alleged violation of Rule 4.16 (Illegal Conduct) when at approximately 12:30 a.m. on August 22, 2020 members of the BLLC along with the Social Club Taskforce conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with the Mary’s Executive Order issued on August 7, 2020 which prohibited indoor consumption of food and/or beverages at 10:00 p.m. and limited indoor consumption to only 25% of the

establishment's maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arriving at the location, the inspectors attempted to gain access to the establishment and found both the front and side doors of the location were locked. When members of the task force began knocking on the doors to gain entry, they noticed that individuals on the second floor bar area looking down. After unsuccessful attempts to gain entry, the chief inspector entered the carryout located next door which shared a common door with the establishment but the door was locked. However, they were able to speak with a patron on the other side of the locked door and was informed by the patron that they were locked in and could not leave. The task force contacted the Fire Marshall's office, to which they would respond to the location and gain entry via force to ensure the safety of the patrons locked inside the establishment. At approximately 12:45 a.m. the licensees of the establishment walked down the stairs from the second floor and opened the door, allowing access to the task force. Upon opening the door, the inspectors witnessed about 10 patrons leaving the establishment. When the inspectors asked the licensee why he was operating and why he did not let members of the taskforce inside, they stated they were not aware of the new restrictions and did not hear the inspectors knocking.

Alleged violation of Rule 3.12 (General Welfare) when at approximately 12:30 a.m. on August 22, 2020 members of the BLLC along with the Social Club Taskforce conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with the Mary's Executive Order issued on August 7, 2020 which prohibited indoor consumption of food and/or beverages at 10:00 p.m. and limited indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment's maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arriving at the location, the inspectors attempted to gain access to the establishment and found both the front and side doors of the location were locked. When members of the task force began knocking on the doors to gain entry, they noticed that individuals on the second floor bar area looking down. After unsuccessful attempts to gain entry, the chief inspector entered the carryout located next door which shared a common door with the establishment but the door was locked. However, they were able to speak with a patron on the other side of the locked door and was informed by the patron that they were locked in and could not leave. The task force contacted the Fire Marshall's office, to which they would respond to the location and gain entry via force to ensure the safety of the patrons locked inside the establishment. At approximately 12:45 a.m. the licensees of the establishment walked down the stairs from the second floor and opened the door, allowing access to the task force. Upon opening the door, the inspectors witnessed about 10 patrons leaving the establishment. When the inspectors asked the licensee why he was operating and why he did not let members of the taskforce inside, they stated they were not aware of the new restrictions and did not hear the inspectors knocking.

Corporate Standing: Jano Ethiopian Restaurant, LLC is an active Maryland corporation not in good standing as of November 16, 2020.

Location Violation History: October 10, 2019 – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) (Sales to Minors),

Rule 4.16 (Illegal Conduct) and Rule 3.12 (General Welfare) –
Fined \$2,625

February 7, 2019 – Violation of Rule 3.08(a) (Sanitation and
Safety), Rule 3.12 (General Welfare), and Rule 4.16 (Illegal
Conduct) – Fined \$2,625

November 1, 2018 – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) (Sales to Minors) –
Fined \$1,125

Witnesses: Fikremariam Worku – Licensee, Cindy-Leigh Tudhope – BLLC Inspector, Rosalba Jordan – BLLC Inspector, John Chrissomallis – BLLC Chief Inspector

Disposition: The Board has found that the licensee violated Rule 4.16 and Rule 3.12 on August 22, 2020 and imposed a fine of \$300 and an administrative fee of \$125, both payable within 30 days.

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.05(a) and Rule 4.05(b)

11:00 AM

D’s Sports Bar, LLC, t/a D’s Sports Bar
45 N. Kresson Street, Baltimore MD 21224

License # LD 021 (19-20)
2nd Councilmanic District (McCray)

Attorney for Applicant: N/A

Alleged violation of Rule 4.05(a) (Prohibited Hours) when at approximately 12:43 a.m. on February 16, 2020 members of the Baltimore City Police Department and BLLC responded to the establishment and conducted an investigation to determine if the establishment was operating beyond its allowable hours of service (6AM-1AM; Mon-Sat). Upon arriving at the location, inspectors entered the establishment and sat at the bar. The inspectors observed that at approximately 12:56 a.m., a disc jockey was playing music, patrons were dancing, and alcoholic beverages were being served. At approximately 1:01 a.m., an inspector was able to purchase an alcoholic beverage. When the rest of the officers and inspectors entered the establishment at approximately 1:03 a.m., they observed the “OPEN” sign was illuminated, music was being played and there were patrons drinking alcoholic beverages.

Alleged violation of Rule 4.05(b) (Prohibited Hours) when at approximately 12:43 a.m. on February 16, 2020 members of the Baltimore City Police Department and BLLC responded to the establishment and conducted an investigation to determine if the establishment was operating beyond its allowable hours of service (6AM-1AM; Mon-Sat). Upon arriving at the location, inspectors entered the establishment and sat at the bar. The inspectors observed that at approximately 12:56 a.m., a disc jockey was playing music, patrons were dancing, and alcoholic beverages were being served. At approximately 1:01 a.m., an inspector was able to purchase an alcoholic beverage. When the rest of the officers and inspectors entered the establishment at approximately 1:03 a.m., they observed the “OPEN” sign was illuminated, music was being played and there were patrons drinking alcoholic beverages.

Corporate Standing: D's Sports Bar, LLC is an active Maryland corporation in good standing as of September 10, 2020.

Location Violation History: None since 2017.

Witnesses: N/A

Disposition: This matter has been postponed for a future hearing date.

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.16, Rule 3.12, Rule 4.16, and Rule 3.12 **11:00 AM**

Civil, LLC, t/a The Civil

License # LB 312 (19-20)

518 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21201

11th Councilmanic District (Costello)

Attorney for Applicant: N/A

Alleged violation of Rule 4.16 (Illegal Conduct) when at approximately 7:50 p.m. on November 30, 2020 members of the BLLC responded to 2 calls to 311 regarding loud music emanating from the establishment. Upon arrival at the establishment, BLLC inspectors observed a line of patrons attempting to enter the establishment and could hear unreasonably loud music emanating from the establishment. As inspectors entered the establishment, they observed that the establishment was over the 25% capacity allowed per Mayor Young's Executive Order issued on November 12, 2020. The inspectors contacted the manager on premises and informed them of the violation and instructed the manager to not allow anymore patrons into the establishment.

Alleged violation of Rule 3.12 (General Welfare) when at approximately 7:50 p.m. on November 30, 2020 members of the BLLC responded to 2 calls to 311 regarding loud music emanating from the establishment. Upon arrival at the establishment, BLLC inspectors observed a line of patrons attempting to enter the establishment and could hear unreasonably loud music emanating from the establishment. As inspectors entered the establishment, they observed that the establishment was over the 25% capacity allowed per Mayor Young's Executive Order issued on November 12, 2020. The inspectors contacted the manager on premises and instructed the manager to not allow anymore patrons into the establishment.

Alleged violation of Rule 4.16 (Illegal Conduct) when at approximately 6:36 p.m. on December 10, 2020 members of the BLLC responded to a 311 call regarding loud music emanating from the establishment. Upon arrival, the inspector could hear unreasonably loud music emanating from the establishment's open front door. The inspectors contacted the owner of the establishment and instructed them to lower the music and close the front door.

Alleged violation of Rule 3.12 (General Welfare) when at approximately 6:36 p.m. on December 10, 2020 members of the BLLC responded to a 311 call regarding loud music emanating from the establishment. Upon arrival, the inspector could hear unreasonably loud music emanating from the establishment's open front door. The inspectors contacted

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the owner of the establishment and instructed them to lower the music and close the front door.

Corporate Standing: Civil, LLC is an active Maryland corporation not in good standing as of December 30, 2020.

Location Violation History: None since 2017.

Witnesses: Shanell Wright – Licensee, Edwin Thomas – Business Partner, Terri Chase – BLLC Agent Inspector, Cindy-Leigh Tudhope – BLLC Inspector

Disposition: The Board has found that the licensee violated Rule 4.16 and Rule 3.12 on November 30, 2020 and Rule 4.16 and Rule 3.12 on December 10, 2020 and imposed a fine of \$200 and an administrative fee of \$125, both payable within 30 days.