

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

HEARING DISPOSITIONS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022
WEBEX VIRTUAL HEARING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

**Albert Matricciani, Jr., Chairperson
Aaron Greenfield, Commissioner
Edward Reisinger, Commissioner**

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.05 and Rule 4.05

11:00 AM

Walfar, Inc., t/a J & J Bar & Liquors

License # LBD7 330

1801 Ramsay Street, Baltimore MD 21223

9th Councilmanic District (Bullock)

Attorney for Applicant: N/A

Alleged violation of Rule 4.05 (Prohibited Hours) when at approximately 10:50 p.m. on July 10, 2021 members of the BLLC arrived at the establishment and observed the establishment was open and operating with customers in the process of making purchases. The inspector spoke to the manager and instructed them to close pursuant to Alc. Bev. Art. 12-2005(d) as enacted via Chapter 664/HB 1288 of the Laws of Maryland of 2021 which became effective on July 1, 2021, and prohibits selling alcoholic beverages for the class of license before 10:00 a.m. and after 10 p.m. The establishment closed without incident.

Alleged violation of Rule 4.05 (Prohibited Hours) when at approximately 10:23 p.m. on February 8, 2022 members of the BLLC conducted compliance checks in the restricted hours areas of the 40th Alcoholic Beverages District. When BLLC inspectors drove past the establishment, they observed the establishment to be open. BLLC inspectors and conducted an inspection and informed the manager that the establishment was supposed to be closed by 10:00 p.m. pursuant to Alc. Bev. Art. 12-2005(d) as enacted via Chapter 664/HB 1288 of the Laws of Maryland of 2021 which became effective on July 1, 2021, and prohibits selling alcoholic beverages for the class of license before 10:00 a.m. and after 10 p.m. The inspectors looked at the liquor license and observed that the 10:00 p.m. closure time was not listed on the liquor license.

Corporate Standing: Walfar, Inc. is an active Maryland corporation in good standing as of March 10, 2022.

Location Violation History: May 23, 2019 – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) (Sales to Minors) – Fined \$625

Witnesses: Arjinder Singh – Manager, Walter Farley-Robinson – BLLC Inspector, Cindy-Leigh Tudhope – BLLC Inspector, John Chrissomallis – BLLC Chief Inspector

Disposition: The Board has found that the licensee violated Rule 4.05 on July 10, 2021 and Rule 4.05 on February 8, 2022 and imposed a fine of \$200 and an administrative fee of \$125, both payable within 30 days.

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 3.12

11:00 AM

Sri Balaji, Inc., t/a Portside Tavern & Lounge
2821-23 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore MD 21224

License # LBD7 376
1st Councilmanic District (Cohen)

Attorney for Applicant: Melvin Kodenski

Alleged violation of Rule 3.12 (General Welfare) when at approximately 11:15 p.m. on March 2, 2022 members of the BLLC responded to a 311 complaint regarding loud noise coming from the establishment. Upon arrival, the inspector walked one (1) block away to the nearest residence, music could be heard from the establishment, along with loud voices. The inspector entered the establishment and spoke with the manager to lower the volume. The manager mentioned that the music was coming from the upper level of the establishment. The inspector went to the upper level with the manager to ensure they instructed the bar staff to lower the music to an acceptable level. Once upstairs, several loud patrons could be heard.

Corporate Standing: Sri Balaji, Inc. is an active Maryland corporation in good standing as of March 10, 2022.

Location Violation History: None since 2013.

Witnesses: Mohan Thapa – Manager, Walter Farley-Robinson – BLLC Inspector, John Chrissomallis – BLLC Chief Inspector

Disposition: The Board has found that the licensee violated Rule 3.12 on March 2, 2022 and imposed a fine of \$150 and an administrative fee of \$125, both payable within 30 days.

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.18, Rule 4.05, and Rule 3.08

11:00 AM

Good Times, LLC, t/a Good Times Liquor & Bar Lounge
1600 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore MD 21223

License # LBD7 404
9th Councilmanic District (Bullock)

Attorney for Applicant: Melvin Kodenski

Alleged violation of Rule 4.18 (Alterations) when at approximately 10:55 p.m. on November 5, 2021 members of the BLLC along with members of the SCTF that included members of the Baltimore City Police Department and the Department of Housing and Community Development, conducted a joint inspection at the establishment. Upon arrival, the inspector and spoke an individual who mentioned they were the owner of the establishment. The inspector entered the establishment and observed that the inside area had been completely renovated and a new bar had been built. The inspector asked to view all permits, but the owner could only provide an expired BLLC Liquor License and alcohol awareness certificate. The owner stated that their lawyer was in possession of the permits at that time, but that all permits were up to date and received approval from the BLLC Board for renovations. Upon further review, the BLLC Board did not approve the alterations, so a violation was issued for the establishment.

Alleged violation of Rule 4.05 (February 13, 2022) when at approximately 2:15 a.m. on February 13, 2022 members of the BLLC received a call via Baltimore City Police Department radio from the city-wide channel to contact an officer on the Western District

channel. After speaking with the Sergeant, the inspector was told that they observed the establishment operating in violation of the hours permitted by its license. The inspector responded to the call and arrived at the establishment at approximately 2:30 a.m. and observed the sergeant at the exterior of the location with an additional patrol unit. Alleged violation of Rule 3.08 (Sanitation and Safety) when at approximately 2:26 p.m. on February 14, 2022 members of the BLLC visited the establishment. Upon arrival, the inspectors observed several overflowing trash cans with boxes, plastic bags, and a white pick up truck parked on the rear of the establishment, which was filled to capacity with bags of trash. The inspectors noted that the trash bags from the truck were identical to the trash bags on the side of the building. The establishment was closed; therefore, an inspection could not be conducted, but the inspectors documented the trash and issued a violation.

Corporate Standing: Good Times, LLC is an active Maryland corporation in good standing as of March 10, 2022.

Location Violation History: July 9, 2020 – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) (Sales to Minors) – No fine assessed and suspended 1 week.
February 13, 2020 – Violation of Rule 3.08(b) (Sanitation and Safety) – Fined \$875
April 25, 2019 – Protest of Renewal – Board voted to renew
February 7, 2019 – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) (Sales to Minors) – Fined \$3,125

Witnesses: Richard Nelson – Applicant/Proposed Licensee, Cindy-Leigh Tudhope – BLLC Inspector, Terri Chase – BLLC Agent Inspector, Darryl Clark – BLLC Agent Inspector, John Chrissomallis – BLLC Chief Inspector

Disposition: The Board has found that the licensee violated Rule 3.12 on November 4, 2021, Rule 4.05 on February 13, 2022, and Rule 3.08 on February 14, 2022. The Board imposed no fine and waived the administrative fee of \$125, no fine assessed. The Board also voted to suspend the license until the license has been transferred, commencing immediately.

Aaron Greenfield, Acting Chairperson
Edward Reisinger, Commissioner

Violations Docket – Violation of Rule 4.08

11:00 AM

Weidog, LLC, t/a Playbook

License # LBD7 073

6700 German Hill Road, Baltimore MD 21222

1st Councilmanic District (Cohen)

Attorney for Applicant: Peter Prevas

Alleged violation of Rule 4.08 (Relations with Wholesalers) when at approximately 1:00 p.m. on January 19, 2022 members of the BLLC, Department of Housing and Community Development, Baltimore City Fire Department, and Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission conducted a joint investigation of the establishment. The manger was asked by the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission Agent for receipts for past alcohol purchases. The

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manager handed over the receipts and admitted that they have made purchases of beer and liquor from a liquor store on several occasions. The Agent confiscated approximately 78 bottles of spirits and 605 bottles of beer.

Corporate Standing: Weidog, LLC is an active Maryland corporation not in good standing as of March 10, 2022.

Location Violation History: February 11, 2021 – Violation of Rule 4.16 (Illegal Conduct), Rule 3.12 (General Welfare), and Rule 4.14(a) (Live Entertainment without Authorization) – Fined \$425 (2-0 vote; Matricciani recused from decision)

Witnesses: --

Disposition: Attorney Peter Prevas requested a postponement on the record. The Board has granted the request for postponement. This matter will be scheduled for a future hearing date.