

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY
DOCKET – THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.
WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING

Please note: If you are interested in a particular case, please call (410) 396-4380 the day before these hearings to verify that a particular case is still scheduled for this date.

11:00 a.m.

I. Violations:

- 1. Walid Farousi and Mike A. Jissri, Walfar, Inc., T/a J & J Bar & Liquors, 1801 Ramsay Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.05 Prohibited Hours – July 10, 2021** – On July 10, 2021, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Rosalba Jordan, arrived at the establishment at approximately 10:50pm and found the establishment was open and operating with customers in the process of making purchases. Inspector Jordan spoke to Mr. Arjinder Singh and instructed him to close pursuant to Alc. Bev. Art. §12-2005(d) as enacted via Chapter 664 (HB 1288) of the Laws of Maryland of 2021, effective July 1, 2021, which prohibits selling alcoholic beverages for this class of license before 10:00am and after 10:00pm. The establishment closed without incident following the issuance of a violation.

Violation of Rule 4.05 Prohibited Hours – February 8, 2022 – On February 8, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Walter Robinson and Inspector Cindy Tudhope were conducting compliance checks in the restricted hours areas of the 40th Alcoholic Beverages District. BLLC Inspectors drove past the establishment at approximately 10:23pm and observed the establishment to be open. BLLC Inspectors entered the establishment and conducted an inspection. BLLC Inspectors spoke with Mr. Arjinder Singh and informed him that the establishment was supposed to be closed by 10:00pm pursuant to Alc. Bev. Art. §12-2005(d) as enacted via Chapter 664 (HB 1288) of the Laws of Maryland of 2021, effective July 1, 2021, which prohibits selling alcoholic beverages for this class of license before 10:00am and after 10:00pm. After taking a thorough look at the liquor license, it was discovered that the 10:00pm closure time was not listed on the liquor license. Inspector Tudhope called and notified Chief Inspector Chrissomallis that the 10pm closing time was not listed on the license. BLLC Inspectors departed the establishment. After further investigation of Inspection Division records, BLLC Inspectors discovered that the establishment was issued a violation on July 10, 2021 for the same violation of operating outside the hours permitted by Alc. Bev Art. §12-2005(d).

- 2. Chunne Bishorkarma, Ganesh V. Kunwar, and Madan Wagle, Sri Balaji, Inc., T/a Portside Tavern & Lounge, 2821-23 O’Donnell Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – March 2, 2022** – On March 2, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Walter Robinson and Inspector Cindy Tudhope responded to 311 Complaint number 22-00170192 regarding loud noise coming from the establishment. Upon arrival, BLLC inspectors walked one (1) block away to the nearest residence. Music could be heard from the establishment. Loud voices could also be heard. Inspectors entered the establishment and spoke with Rodrigo Bermudez who identified himself as the manager on duty. Mr. Bermudez was instructed to lower the volume. Mr. Bermudez complied and stated that the music was coming from the upper level of the establishment. Inspectors went to the upper level

with Mr. Bermudez to ensure he advised bar staff to keep the music at an acceptable level. Once upstairs, several loud patrons could also be heard. Mr. Bermudez instructed the bar staff to maintain an acceptable noise level and to lower the speaker volume. Afterwards, BLLC Inspectors informed Mr. Bermudez that a violation would be issued for the loud noise. Inspectors then departed the establishment.

- 3. Thomas Yong Kim, Good Times, LLC, T/a Good Times Liquor & Bar Lounge, 1600 W. Baltimore Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.18 Alterations – November 5, 2021** – On November 5, 2021 at approximately 10:55pm, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspectors Cindy Tudhope and Rosalba Jordan along with members of the Social Club Task Force (SCTF) that included members of Baltimore Police Department Vice (BPD Vice), the Department of Housing and Community Development Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducted a joint inspection at the establishment. Upon arrival, Inspector Tudhope made contact with Mr. Richard Nelson who stated he was the owner of the establishment. Inspector Tudhope entered the establishment and observed the inside area had been completely renovated a new bar area had been built. Inspector Tudhope asked to see all permits. Mr. Nelson could only provide an expired BLLC Liquor License and alcohol awareness certificate to the Inspector. Mr. Nelson stated that his lawyer was in possession of all permits at this time, that all permits were up to date and that he had gotten approval for the renovations from the Board. Inspector Tudhope then informed Mr. Nelson that she would follow up on the information provided. SCTF left the establishment without further incident.

Upon further review of records at BLLC office, it was determined that Mr. Nelson did not obtain Board approval for the alterations, and a violation was issued for the establishment.

Violation of Rule 4.05 Prohibited Hours – February 13, 2022 – On February 13, 2022 at approximately 2:15am, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Chief Inspector John Chrissomallis received a call via Baltimore Police Department (BPD) radio from the city-wide channel to contact BPD Sergeant Edleman on the Western District channel. After speaking with the Sergeant, Chief Chrissomallis was told that he had observed the establishment operating in violation of the hours permitted by its license. Chief Chrissomallis responded to the call and arrived at the establishment at approximately 2:30am. Chief Chrissomallis observed Sergeant Edleman at the exterior of the location with an additional patrol unit. Chief Chrissomallis and BPD officers entered the establishment and observed a female bartender actively serving alcohol with approximately fifteen (15) customers sitting around the bar and another approximately five (5) customers on the other side of the building (referred to as 1602 West Baltimore Street). On that side, there was also a DJ actively playing music from a DJ area. Chief Chrissomallis contacted a Mr. Richard Lennard who identified himself as the owner of the establishment. Chief Chrissomallis informed Mr. Lennard he was in violation of his liquor license as he cannot operate after 2:00am. Mr. Lennard stated that he was giving alcohol away and not charging for it. Chief Chrissomallis instructed Mr. Lennard that giving alcohol away is still a violation of the Board's rules. Chief Chrissomallis requested to inspect the liquor and Mr. Lennard could not provide it, for which Chief Chrissomallis issued Mr. Lennard a warning for being in violation of Board Rules 3.03 and 3.06(b). Chief Chrissomallis issued a violation for being in violation of prohibited hours. Mr. Lennard agreed to close the establishment and it emptied out without further incident.

Violation of Rule 3.08 Sanitation and Safety – February 14, 2022 – On February 14, 2022 at approximately 2:26pm, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Agents Terri Chase and Darryl Clark visited the establishment. Upon arrival, they observed several overflowing trash cans with boxes, plastic bags, and a white pickup truck parked on the rear of the establishment. The truck was filled to capacity with bags of trash. BLLC Agents noted that the trash bags from the truck were identical to the trash bags on the side of the building. The establishment was closed at the time of the inspection, and therefore an inspection could not be conducted, but BLLC Agents documented the trash. BLLC Agents issued a violation for overflowing trash and sanitation.

- 4. George L. Divel, III, William G. Matricciani, and Donna M. Matricciani, Weidog, LLC, T/a Playbook, 6700 German Hill Road – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.08 Relations With Wholesalers – January 19, 2022** – On January 19, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Walter Robinson and Chief Inspector John Chrissomallis along with representatives of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), and agents from the Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) conducted a joint investigation of the establishment. Inspector Robinson conducted a full inspection of the establishment. Agent Michelle Mangold of the ATC spoke with Carlos Bulnes who identified himself as the operator of the establishment. Mr. Bulnes was asked to produce receipts for past alcohol purchases. Agent Mangold and Chief Chrissomallis went with Mr. Bulnes into the basement where the office is located and receipts are kept. At this time, BLLC and ATC staff located receipts for large amounts of alcohol purchased on the desk. Mr. Bulnes handed Agent Mangold the receipts and admitted that he has made purchases of beer and liquor from King’s Liquor on several occasions. Afterwards, Agent Mangold confiscated approximately 78 bottles of spirits and 605 bottles of beer. Mr. Bulnes was informed by the BLLC and ATC staff that he was being issued a violation for purchasing alcohol from someone other than a wholesaler. The ATC case file is #22-0068.