

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
DOCKET – THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.  
ROOM 215 – CITY HALL – 100 NORTH HOLLIDAY STREET

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.

10:30 a.m.

I. Regular Items (New, Transfers, Expansions and Hardships):

1. Matthew R. Moses, 2120 Charles Operating, LLC, T/a Trade Name Pending, 2120 N. Charles Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application for a new Class “BD7” Beer, Wine, and Liquor License under the provisions of Alcoholic Beverages Article § 12-1603(c)(7) requesting live entertainment, off-premises catering, and delivery of alcoholic beverages.
2. Larry Sink and Uday Pansara, Om Shiva, Inc., T/a Club Paradise Liquor, 1300-02 Laurens Street – Class “A-7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer ownership.

II. Violations:

1. ~~Mohammad Manocheh, Fisherman’s Wharf Inner Harbor, Inc., T/a Mo’s Fisherman’s Wharf, 219 President Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – April 27, 2022 – On April 27, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Cindy Tudhope and Inspector Rosalba Jordan along with Baltimore Police Department Vice Unit (BPD Vice) Detective Lebrun and Sergeant Leisher conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. Working as minors were Cadets Myles and Anderson, who at the time of the incident were both under the age of 21. Prior to the incident, a departmental \$20 bill was “marked” for identification via photograph to be traced as the cash used to make a purchase. At approximately 9:00pm, the two Cadets entered the establishment. The cadets went to the bar, ordered two (2) Tito’s Vodka drinks, which were furnished by an employee. Upon being furnished the beverages, the Cadets exited the establishment and notified BLLC and BPD Vice. BLLC and BPD Vice then entered the establishment and contacted the seller/bartender, who was identified as Melissa Ann Gogotta, which they verified via Maryland driver’s license. BLLC and BPD Vice informed Ms. Gogotta that she had served/furnished alcoholic beverages to minor police cadets. A BLLC violation was written up and all staff left the establishment without further incident. POSTPONED~~
2. Chunne Bishworkarma, 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 4.05 Prohibited Hours – June 5, 2022 – On June 5, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Agent Andy Perez and Inspector Walter Robinson conducted an investigation to see if certain establishments were operating after the hours permitted by their BLLC issued liquor licenses. At approximately 2:40am, Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson arrived outside the establishment, which appeared to be closed, as all exterior doors were closed and lights were off. Upon further investigation, Agent Perez heard music emanating from the second floor of the establishment. Agent Perez attempted to enter the establishment, but found all

doors locked. After waiting several minutes, Inspector Robinson observed a bouncer and approaching the front door and was told the establishment was close. Inspector Robinson identified himself as a BLLC Inspector and instructed the bouncer to open the door. The bouncer complied, and Agent Perez entered the establishment and made his way to the second floor, where he observed approximately 20 individuals seated all throughout consuming alcoholic beverages; additionally, Agent Perez observed several actively lit charcoal hookahs. Agent Perez made contact with a person who identified himself as the operator, Mr. Darwin Posadas (verified by his Maryland driver's license). Agent Perez inquired why the establishment was open and operating after 2:00am, Mr. Posada stated that the establishment was closed and that he was cleaning for the night. Agent Perez then inquired as to why there were approximately 20 individuals sitting around actively consuming alcoholic beverages if the establishment was closed. Mr. Posadas stated some were his friends and that others had stayed over from a birthday party they had held earlier in the evening. Agent Perez then instructed Mr. Posadas to clear the bar of patrons and that only bar staff could remain; he further informed Mr. Posadas that a violation was being written up for operating after hours. As they proceeded to exit the establishment at approximately 3:00am, Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson observed several individuals arriving and attempting to gain entry to the establishment. Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson informed these persons that the establishment was closed, and they ceased attempting to enter and left the area. Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson left without any further incident.

**Violation of Rule 4.16 Illegal Conduct – June 5, 2022** – On June 5, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Agent Andy Perez and Inspector Walter Robinson conducted an investigation to see if certain establishments were operating after the hours permitted by their BLLC issued liquor licenses. At approximately 2:40am, Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson arrived outside the establishment, which appeared to be closed, as all exterior doors were closed and lights were off. Upon further investigation, Agent Perez heard music emanating from the second floor of the establishment. Agent Perez attempted to enter the establishment, but found all doors locked. After waiting several minutes, Inspector Robinson observed a bouncer and approaching the front door and was told the establishment was close. Inspector Robinson identified himself as a BLLC Inspector and instructed the bouncer to open the door. The bouncer complied, and Agent Perez entered the establishment and made his way to the second floor, where he observed approximately 20 individuals seated all throughout consuming alcoholic beverages; additionally, Agent Perez observed several actively lit charcoal hookahs. Agent Perez made contact with a person who identified himself as the operator, Mr. Darwin Posadas (verified by his Maryland driver's license). Agent Perez inquired why the establishment was open and operating after 2:00am, Mr. Posada stated that the establishment was closed and that he was cleaning for the night. Agent Perez then inquired as to why there were approximately 20 individuals sitting around actively consuming alcoholic beverages if the establishment was closed. Mr. Posadas stated some were his friends and that others had stayed over from a birthday party they had held earlier in the evening. Agent Perez then instructed Mr. Posadas to clear the bar of patrons and that only bar staff could remain; he further informed Mr. Posadas that a violation was being written up for operating after hours. As they proceeded to exit the establishment at approximately 3:00am, Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson observed several individuals arriving and attempting to gain entry to the establishment. Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson informed these persons that the establishment was closed, and they ceased attempting to enter and left the area. Agent Perez and Inspector Robinson left without any further incident.

3. **Michael Fiseha, Contract Purchaser, T/a Trinacria Café, 111 W. Centre Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 3.08(a) Sanitation and Safety – June 5, 2022** – On June 5, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspectors Cindy Tudhope and Rosalba Jordan along with members of the Baltimore City Social Club Task Force (SCTF) that included employees from the Baltimore Police Department Vice Unit (BPD Vice), the Department of Housing and Community Development (Housing), and the Baltimore City Fire Department (Fire) conducted a joint inspection at the establishment. Inspector Tudhope contacted the manager, Mr. Michael Mesfin Fiseha (verified with his Maryland driver’s license), and along with various members of the SCTF requested to view all permits and licenses issued to him as they were not displayed on the wall or visible to the SCTF members. Mr. Fiseha could only supply task force with an expired copy of the liquor license and a fire inspection letter, dated April 7, 2022, stating that he had to apply for a fire permit. Upon further review, it was determined that the establishment had yet to apply for a fire permit or building permits and that the health permit was not up to date. Inspector Tudhope and the fire marshal further observed the rear exit was completely blocked off with boxes and other miscellaneous items and the door was locked with a keypad lock. Mr. Fiseha was told to close the establishment until he was able to get up-to-date with all permits voluntarily, or he would be shut down by the Fire marshal. Inspector Tudhope told Mr. Fiseha that he would be receiving a safety violation for the exits being blocked and exceeding his permitted outdoor table capacity by one table and four chairs. Mr. Fiseha was further advised to contact the Liquor Board regarding obtaining a copy of his current, valid license. The SCTF left the establishment without further incident.

**Violation of Rule 3.06(b) Signs and Hours of Operations – June 5, 2022** – On June 5, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspectors Cindy Tudhope and Rosalba Jordan along with members of the Baltimore City Social Club Task Force (SCTF) that included employees from the Baltimore Police Department Vice Unit (BPD Vice), the Department of Housing and Community Development (Housing), and the Baltimore City Fire Department (Fire) conducted a joint inspection at the establishment. Inspector Tudhope contacted the manager, Mr. Michael Mesfin Fiseha (verified with his Maryland driver’s license), and along with various members of the SCTF requested to view all permits and licenses issued to him as they were not displayed on the wall or visible to the SCTF members. Mr. Fiseha could only supply task force with an expired copy of the liquor license and a fire inspection letter, dated April 7, 2022, stating that he had to apply for a fire permit. Upon further review, it was determined that the establishment had yet to apply for a fire permit or building permits and that the health permit was not up to date. Inspector Tudhope and the fire marshal further observed the rear exit was completely blocked off with boxes and other miscellaneous items and the door was locked with a keypad lock. Mr. Fiseha was told to close the establishment until he was able to get up-to-date with all permits voluntarily, or he would be shut down by the Fire marshal. Inspector Tudhope told Mr. Fiseha that he would be receiving a safety violation for the exits being blocked and exceeding his permitted outdoor table capacity by one table and four chairs. Mr. Fiseha was further advised to contact the Liquor Board regarding obtaining a copy of his current, valid license. The SCTF left the establishment without further incident.

4. **Luis F. George, Two Loueys Cantina, LLC, T/a Two Loueys Cantina Bar & Grill, 200 S. Haven Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.05 Prohibited Hours – June 5, 2022** – On June 5, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Walter Robinson and Agent Andy Perez conducted an investigation to see if certain establishments were

operating after the hours permitted by their BLLC issued liquor licenses. At approximately 2:00am, Inspector Robinson and Agent Perez arrived outside the establishment and remained in their vehicles and monitored the activity. A few minutes later, patrons were seen exiting the bar. At approximately 2:15am, a physical altercation took place outside the establishment. After the altercation, Inspector Robinson and Agent Perez observed several people going back inside the establishment. At approximately 2:20am, Inspector Robinson and Agent Perez entered the establishment and witnessed approximately 20 patrons inside and some of the people were observed with alcoholic beverages in their hand. At this time, the manager of the establishment, Sunil Sharma (as verified by his MD driver's license) ordered all the patrons to leave. He then explained to Agent Perez that he was pepper sprayed during the physical altercation. BLLC Inspectors informed Mr. Sharma that he was operating after hours. A violation was issued and BLLC Inspectors left with no further incident.

5. **Vernita J. Blackwell and Rachana Homagain, New Berger's, Inc., T/a Berger's Tavern, 5523 Belair Road – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.07(a) Open Containers and Illegal Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages – June 19, 2022** – On Sunday June 19, 2022, at approximately 1:50pm, 311 complaint #22-00474086 was received for the establishment alleging the disturbing of peace, loud music, front door open. The 311 complainant stated that the location was having an outdoor function in which they were selling and handling food outdoors and blasting very loud music.

At approximately 5:45pm, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Cindy Tudhope responded to the 311 call, arrived and parked her car across the street from the establishment and could hear music at an extremely high volume coming from the establishment's tavern side. Inspector Tudhope observed people standing at the side door on Antanna Avenue smoking and drinking bottles of beer and what appeared to be other alcoholic beverages. Inspector Tudhope observed multiple people exiting the same side door carrying beer and glasses of what appeared to be other alcohol and walking to the lot behind the establishment where four (4) canopy tents were set up with chairs and tables. Inspector Tudhope estimated that approximately twenty (20) individuals were in that outside area.

Inspector Tudhope then proceeded to enter the establishment, and once inside, observed what appeared to be a disc jockey (DJ) playing music out of two (2) large amplified speakers. Inspector Tudhope contacted the manager, Ms. Vernita Jean Blackwell (verified by her Maryland driver's license) and made her aware of the 311 complaint. Inspector Tudhope requested and was provided the BLLC liquor license issued to the establishment. Ms. Blackwell stated that she was told she could have live entertainment by the licensee, and was holding a Father's Day event. Ms. Blackwell was informed of the people drinking outside in the lot area, and that the music was being played at a volume that was disturbing the peace and that the license did not permit outdoor seating or live entertainment. Ms. Blackwell proceeded to move all patrons inside the establishment and the DJ was told to stop for the day. Inspector Tudhope informed Ms. Blackwell that the establishment would be receiving violations, and then left without further incident.

**Violation of Rule 4.14 Live Entertainment Without Authorization – June 19, 2022** – On Sunday June 19, 2022, at approximately 1:50pm, 311 complaint #22-00474086 was received for the establishment alleging the disturbing of peace, loud music, front door open. The 311 complainant

stated that the location was having an outdoor function in which they were selling and handling food outdoors and blasting very loud music.

At approximately 5:45pm, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Cindy Tudhope responded to the 311 call, arrived and parked her car across the street from the establishment and could hear music at an extremely high volume coming from the establishment's tavern side. Inspector Tudhope observed people standing at the side door on Antanna Avenue smoking and drinking bottles of beer and what appeared to be other alcoholic beverages. Inspector Tudhope observed multiple people exiting the same side door carrying beer and glasses of what appeared to be other alcohol and walking to the lot behind the establishment where four (4) canopy tents were set up with chairs and tables. Inspector Tudhope estimated that approximately twenty (20) individuals were in that outside area.

Inspector Tudhope then proceeded to enter the establishment, and once inside, observed what appeared to be a disc jockey (DJ) playing music out of two (2) large amplified speakers. Inspector Tudhope contacted the manager, Ms. Vernita Jean Blackwell (verified by her Maryland driver's license) and made her aware of the 311 complaint. Inspector Tudhope requested and was provided the BLLC liquor license issued to the establishment. Ms. Blackwell stated that she was told she could have live entertainment by the licensee, and was holding a Father's Day event. Ms. Blackwell was informed of the people drinking outside in the lot area, and that the music was being played at a volume that was disturbing the peace and that the license did not permit outdoor seating or live entertainment. Ms. Blackwell proceeded to move all patrons inside the establishment and the DJ was told to stop for the day. Inspector Tudhope informed Ms. Blackwell that the establishment would be receiving violations, and then left without further incident.

**Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – June 19, 2022** – On Sunday June 19, 2022, at approximately 1:50pm, 311 complaint #22-00474086 was received for the establishment alleging the disturbing of peace, loud music, front door open. The 311 complainant stated that the location was having an outdoor function in which they were selling and handling food outdoors and blasting very loud music.

At approximately 5:45pm, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Cindy Tudhope responded to the 311 call, arrived and parked her car across the street from the establishment and could hear music at an extremely high volume coming from the establishment's tavern side. Inspector Tudhope observed people standing at the side door on Antanna Avenue smoking and drinking bottles of beer and what appeared to be other alcoholic beverages. Inspector Tudhope observed multiple people exiting the same side door carrying beer and glasses of what appeared to be other alcohol and walking to the lot behind the establishment where four (4) canopy tents were set up with chairs and tables. Inspector Tudhope estimated that approximately twenty (20) individuals were in that outside area.

Inspector Tudhope then proceeded to enter the establishment, and once inside, observed what appeared to be a disc jockey (DJ) playing music out of two (2) large amplified speakers. Inspector Tudhope contacted the manager, Ms. Vernita Jean Blackwell (verified by her Maryland driver's license) and made her aware of the 311 complaint. Inspector Tudhope requested and was provided the BLLC liquor license issued to the establishment. Ms. Blackwell stated that she was told she could have live entertainment by the licensee, and was holding a Father's Day event. Ms.

Blackwell was informed of the people drinking outside in the lot area, and that the music was being played at a volume that was disturbing the peace and that the license did not permit outdoor seating or live entertainment. Ms. Blackwell proceeded to move all patrons inside the establishment and the DJ was told to stop for the day. Inspector Tudhope informed Ms. Blackwell that the establishment would be receiving violations, and then left without further incident.

6. **Carol Gallant, Deepak Poudel, and Manju Ranabhat, SBD Group, LLC, T/a Liquor House & Bar, 3 E. North Avenue – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 3.08 Sanitation and Safety – June 16, 2022** – On June 15, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Cindy Tudhope was in the area of the establishment at approximately 7:28pm. Inspector Tudhope observed what appeared to be recycling and trash placed on the corner of the intersection of North Avenue and Charles Street around a municipal trash can located on the sidewalk. Inspector Tudhope took a photograph of the trash so as to follow up at a later date to see if the trash was removed from the area because the trash was close in proximity to a liquor licensed establishment (the establishment), and that some of the cardboard appeared to be beer alcoholic beverage boxes.

On June 16, 2022, at approximately 10:16PM, Inspector Tudhope along with BLLC Inspector Rosalba Jordan and Detective Gatto from the Baltimore Police Department Vice Unit (“BPD Vice”) returned to the establishment to follow up on the trash observed the prior day. Inspector Tudhope and others observed that the trash was still there, and upon further investigation, Inspector Tudhope was able to attribute several of the liquor boxes to the establishment by identifying delivery labels with the addressee of Liquor House & Bar at 3 North Avenue. Inspector Tudhope contacted the person in charge of the establishment who was identified as Mr. Jose D Lemus, which she verified via his MD driver’s license. Mr. Lemus stated to Inspector Tudhope that he was unaware whether this week was the City recycling pick up week or whether the following week was (as at the time of the incident, Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) was collecting residential recycling on an every-other week basis) the pickup, and claimed to be unaware that he was not allowed to leave trash and recycling out for collection for multiple days. Inspector Tudhope informed Mr. Lemus that he would be issued a violation for the trash and recycling and that it needed to be cleaned up by the next day. Mr. Lemus was also given a warning regarding BLLC Rule 4.20(c) that he must have his tavern open and operating at all times when selling package goods for off-premises consumption. All staff left the establishment without further incident.