

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY
DOCKET – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018 – 11:00 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.

11:00 a.m.

I. Remand/Transcript and Evidentiary Review Items:

- ~~1. Brian Grace and Paul Dunshol, Fireball Entertainment, Inc., T/a The Big Easy Cabaret, 2000 Eastern Avenue – Class “D” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Remanded to the Circuit Court of Baltimore City as per an order by the Court of Special Appeals, dated September 27, 2017 with instructions to vacate the order of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City and to remand to the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to make specific findings of facts and a decision regarding the protest of renewal of the establishment’s Class “D” Beer, Wine & Liquor License. POSTPONED~~
- ~~2. Andrew Dunlap and Michael White, The Sobo Taco Spot, LLC, T/a Banditos, 1118 S. Charles Street, Unit 101 – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Reversed and remanded to the Board of Liquor License Commissioners of Baltimore City for further findings of fact and conclusions of law and for further articulation of the evidence it relied upon to support its finding that petitioners “failed to control the incident” and thus violated Liquor Board Rules 3.14 (General Welfare), and 4.16 (Illegal Conduct). POSTPONED~~

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

- ~~1. Rosa Feria and Silvia Garcia, Olivia, Inc., T/a Los Amigos Restaurant, 5506 Harford Road – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application for a new Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor restaurant license under the provisions of Alcoholic Beverages Article §12-1603(C)(1)(ii) requiring \$200,000 in capital investment in restaurant fixtures and facilities, and seating capacity for a minimum of 75 people, requesting live entertainment and outdoor table service. POSTPONED~~
- ~~2. Donald Higdon, Anthony Scardina, Jr, and Anthony Scardina, III, Higgy’s, LLC, T/a Higgy’s, 1184 Cleveland Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine, & Liquor License – Application to transfer ownership. POSTPONED~~
3. Yenys Silva and Thomas Hamrick, Carolina Tex-Mex Restaurant, LLC, T/a Carolina Tex-Mex Restaurant, 500 S. Wolfe Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer location of a Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License presently located at 505 S. Broadway to 500 S. Wolfe Street.

4. **Rachael Hoyle and Ruth Miller, Brother's Place, Inc., T/a Martini's Bar, 1846-50 W. Pratt Street** – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Request for a hardship extension under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverages Article § 12-2202.

1:00 p.m.

III. Violations:

1. **Ashley Kim and Kyung Lee, Arik, Inc., T/a Whispers, 1807-11 Baker Street** – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Alc. Bev. Art. §6-313(a)(2) Tampering with alcoholic beverage container – June 28, 2018** – At approximately 12:13 pm, investigators Mangold and Southworth from the Maryland State Comptroller's Office conducted a routine inspection of the establishment. While conducting his inspection, Inspector Southworth observed that numerous bottles of alcoholic beverages that were displayed on the tavern side of the establishment were discolored. Further investigations revealed that the licensee had refilled five bottles of alcohol, with alcohol from other similar bottles. When asked why he refilled these five bottles of alcohol, the licensee admitted to the violation and stated that he was attempting to salvage the remains of the contents of similar damaged bottles. The five bottles of tampered alcohol included the following: (2) 750 ml bottles of Montebello Iced Tea Cocktail, (1) 750 ml bottle of Smirnoff Green Apple Vodka, (1) 200 ml bottle of Smirnoff Green Apple Vodka, and (1) 750 bottle of Ciroc Peach Vodka.
2. **Auretta Bisignani and Monir Chowdhury, Jams Investment, Inc., T/a Stockmarket Bar, 3538 S. Hanover Street** – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – July 18, 2018** – At approximately 9:20 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The joint task force responded to the establishment and sent Baltimore City Police Cadet Jaquan Dickerson, who is under the age of 21, into the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage(s). At that time, Dickerson entered the establishment and purchased a 375 ml bottle of New Amsterdam Peach Vodka. Utilizing a departmental \$20 bill, Dickerson purchased the alcoholic beverage(s) from bartender/store clerk Ms. Sheila Best. Dickerson then communicated to the task force that he had purchased an alcoholic beverage(s). Members of the task force entered the establishment and notified Ms. Best that an alcoholic beverage(s) had just been purchased by a minor and it would be reported to the BLLC. The task force then recovered the marked currency and returned both the alcoholic beverage(s) to the bartender and/or any change that was provided to Dickerson.
3. ~~**Dominic Lascola, O'Donnell/Curley, LLC, T/a El Bufalo, 2921 O'Donnell Street** – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – August 7, 2018** – At approximately 9:45 PM the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The joint task force responded to the establishment and sent Baltimore City Police Cadet Cecil Harris, who is under the age of 21, into the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage(s). At that time, Harris entered the establishment and requested a bottle of "Corona" beer from the bartender, Ms. Chelsea Johnson. Upon Harris' request, Ms. Johnson furnished him a beer by opening a bottle of "Corona" beer, placing it in front of Harris, and walking away. Harris then~~

~~communicated to the task force that he was furnished an alcoholic beverage(s). Members of the task force entered the establishment and notified Ms. Johnson that an alcoholic beverage was furnished to a minor and it would be reported to the BLLC. POSTPONED~~

4. **Michael Baldwin and Mehari Mengistab, 542 N. Luzerne, Inc., T/a Club Luzerne, 542 N. Luzerne Avenue** – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – September 6, 2018** – At approximately 9:25 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The joint task force responded to the establishment and sent Baltimore City Police Cadet Demetrius Allen, who is under the age of 21, into the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage(s). At that time, Allen entered the establishment and purchased a 375 ml bottle of New Amsterdam Peach Vodka. Utilizing a departmental \$20 bill, Allen purchased the alcoholic beverage(s) from bartender/store clerk Mr. Ghebretns Mangisteab. Allen then communicated to the task force that he had purchased an alcoholic beverage(s). Members of the task force entered the establishment and notified Mr. Mangisteab that an alcoholic beverage(s) had just been purchased by a minor and it would be reported to the BLLC. The task force then recovered the marked currency and returned both the alcoholic beverage(s) to the bartender and/or any change that was provided to Allen.
5. **Joginder Samra and Joginder Singh, 2300 W Baltimore St, LLC, T/a Club 2300, 2300 W. Baltimore Street** – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – September 6, 2018** – At approximately 11:10 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The joint task force responded to the establishment and sent Baltimore City Police Cadet Alonzo Allen, who is under the age of 21, into the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage(s). At that time, Allen entered the establishment and purchased a bottle of New Amsterdam Vodka. Utilizing a departmental \$20 bill, Allen purchased the alcoholic beverage(s) from bartender/store clerk Mr. Guneet Singh. Allen then communicated to the task force that he had purchased an alcoholic beverage(s). Members of the task force entered the establishment and notified Mr. Singh that an alcoholic beverage(s) had just been purchased by a minor and it would be reported to the BLLC. The task force then recovered the marked currency and returned both the alcoholic beverage(s) to the bartender and/or any change that was provided to Allen.
6. **Tesfaye Birru and Fikremariam Worku, Jano Ethiopian Restaurant & Lounge, LLC, T/a Jano Ethiopia, 34 S. Eutaw Street** – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.01(a) Sales to Minors – September 6, 2018** – At approximately 10:40 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted random, joint investigations of establishments to determine if licensees would sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The joint task force responded to the establishment and sent Baltimore City Police Cadet Alonzo Allen, who is under the age of 21, into the establishment to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage(s). At that time, Allen entered the establishment and purchased a bottle of Corona beer. Utilizing a departmental \$20 bill, Allen purchased the alcoholic beverage(s) from bartender Ms. Latese Edwards. Allen then communicated to the task force that he had purchased an alcoholic beverage(s). Members of the task force entered the establishment and notified Ms. Edwards that an alcoholic beverage(s) had just been purchased by a minor and it would be reported to the BLLC. The task force then

recovered the marked currency and returned both the alcoholic beverage(s) to the bartender and/or any change that was provided to Allen.

- 7. Tonya Williams-Kosh, Mystic T & M, Inc., T/a Mystic Tavern, 2949 Frederick Avenue – Class ‘BD7’ Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.05(a) Prohibited Hours – October 5, 2018** – At approximately 2:10 AM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted a joint investigation into this establishment due to an anonymous complaint received by the BLLC that the establishment operates after hours in violation of its licensure. Upon their arrival, both Police Officers and BLLC personnel observed multiple patrons entering and exiting the establishment. When they entered the establishment investigators observed loud music playing, patrons seated at the bar drinking, and other patrons being served alcoholic beverages. At this time, Sgt. Leisher from the Vice Unit approached the bartender, who was later identified as Mr. Marvin Ellwood, and informed him that the establishment could not operate past 2 AM, which was a condition of the Class BD7 license issued to this establishment. Mr. Ellwood acknowledged the information provided by Sgt. Leisher and the establishment was closed by investigators and patrons ordered to exit.

Violation of Rule 4.05(b) Prohibited Hours – October 5, 2018 – At approximately 2:10 AM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted a joint investigation into this establishment due to an anonymous complaint received by the BLLC that the establishment operates after hours in violation of its licensure. Upon their arrival, both Police Officers and BLLC personnel observed multiple patrons entering and exiting the establishment. When they entered the establishment investigators observed loud music playing, patrons seated at the bar drinking, and other patrons being served alcoholic beverages. At this time, Sgt. Leisher from the Vice Unit approached the bartender, who was later identified as Mr. Marvin Ellwood, and informed him that the establishment could not operate past 2 AM, which was a condition of the Class BD7 license issued to this establishment. Mr. Ellwood acknowledged the information provided by Sgt. Leisher and the establishment was closed by investigators and patrons ordered to exit.

- 8. Angel Lyles and Christopher Nwaeze, Anyado Group, LLC, T/a Oxygen Lounge, 10 S. Calvert Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.20(b)(i) Prohibited Activities by License Type – October 2, 2018** – At approximately 9:30 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted an investigation of this establishment due to Baltimore City Police Department intelligence that indicated that two artists associated with violence were to be performing at the establishment that evening. Upon arrival, investigators were met by manager and license Mr. Christopher Nwaeze. Agent Chrissomallis of the BLLC asked Mr. Nwaeze if the kitchen was open and operating. Mr. Nwaeze stated that it was not. Chrissomallis explained to Mr. Nwaeze that an establishment that has been issued a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor license (this establishment has a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License) could not solely operate as a club and keep its kitchen closed. An inspection of the establishment revealed that all of the refrigerators and freezers were either inoperable or turned off, save for one. That particular freezer contained two bags of French fries, four bags of mozzarella sticks, and one box of cheese steaks. Agent Chrissomallis explained the violation to Mr. Nwaeze and left the premises.

Violation of Rule 4.20(b)(ii) Prohibited Activities by License Type – October 2, 2018 – At approximately 9:30 PM, the Baltimore City Police Department and the BLLC conducted an investigation of this establishment due to Baltimore City Police Department intelligence that

indicated that two artists associated with violence were to be performing at the establishment that evening. Upon arrival, investigators were met by manager and license Mr. Christopher Nwaeze. Agent Chrissomallis of the BLLC asked Mr. Nwaeze if the kitchen was open and operating. Mr. Nwaeze stated that it was not. Chrissomallis explained to Mr. Nwaeze that an establishment that has been issued a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor license (this establishment has a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License) could not solely operate as a club and keep its kitchen closed. An inspection of the establishment revealed that all of the refrigerators and freezers were either inoperable or turned off, save for one. That particular freezer contained two bags of French fries, four bags of mozzarella sticks, and one box of cheese steaks. Agent Chrissomallis explained the violation to Mr. Nwaeze and left the premises.

**Please note that times given above are approximate. Parties are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the time noted above.*