

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY
DOCKET – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 – 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. Rules & Regulations: Class A, Class A-2, and Class A-7 Licenses – Surveillance System

1. MD Code, Alc. Bev. Art. 12-1804.2 (C)(1) requires that on or before December 31, 2020, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (“Board”) adopt regulations in consult with the Baltimore Police Department that require Class A, Class A-2, and Class A-7 licensees to install and maintain a digital surveillance system, which monitors certain areas within the interior and exterior of their licensed premises. On September 22, 2020, the Board published proposed regulations for the digital surveillance system and opened the public comment period for 30 days. On or before October 30, 2020, the Board closed the comment period. Upon receipt and review of the comments regarding the regulations pertaining to the digital surveillance system, the Board will decide by vote as to the final regulations.

II. Violations:

- ~~1. 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 4.16 Illegal Conduct – August 22, 2020 – At approximately 12:30 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Inspector Cindy Tudhope, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, Chief John Chrissomallis of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arriving at the location, Inspectors attempted to gain access to the establishment and found both the front and side doors of the locations locked. Members of the Social Club Taskforce began knocking on the doors to gain entry. While knocking on the doors, Inspectors, on the Eutaw Side street of the establishment, observed individuals on the second floor bar area looking down at members of the Social Club Task force. Inspectors on the Lombard Street side of the location observed approximately 10 patrons and 1 security guard located on the first floor of the establishment standing at the ground level bar area. After numerous attempts at trying to gain access by knocking on the doors of the establishment with no response, Chief Inspector Chrissomallis proceeded to a carryout located next door, which shared a common door with the establishment, and attempted to gain entry. At that time, he attempted to gain entry, but the door was locked. However, Chief Chrissomallis was able to speak with a patron who was on the other side of the locked common door and was informed by the patron that he was locked inside of the establishment and could not leave. Upon hearing this information, members of the Social Club Task Force contacted the Fire Marshall’s office. The Fire Marshall’s Office, stated it 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 AM, the licensee of the establishment, Mr. Fikremariam Worku, walked down the stairs from the second floor and opened the door allowing access to members of the Social Club Task Force. Upon opening the door, Inspectors witnessed about 10 patrons leaving the establishment. When asked why he was operating and why he did not let members of the Social Club Taskforce into the establishment, Mr. Worku stated he was not aware of the new restriction and did not hear the inspectors knocking.

Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – August 22, 2020 – At approximately 12:30 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Inspector Cindy Tudhope, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, Chief John Chrissomallis of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arriving at the location, Inspectors attempted to gain access to the establishment and found both the front and side doors of the locations locked. Members of the Social Club Taskforce began knocking on the doors to gain entry. While knocking on the doors, Inspectors, on the Eutaw Side street of the establishment, observed individuals on the second floor bar area looking down at members of the Social Club Task force. Inspectors on the Lombard Street side of the location observed approximately 10 patrons and 1 security guard located on the first floor of the establishment standing at the ground level bar area. After numerous attempts at trying to gain access by knocking on the doors of the establishment with no response, Chief Inspector Chrissomallis proceeded to a carryout located next door, which shared a common door with the establishment, and attempted to gain entry. At that time, he attempted to gain entry, but the door was locked. However, Chief Chrissomallis was able to speak with a patron who was on the other side of the locked common door and was informed by the patron that he was locked inside of the establishment and could not leave. Upon hearing this information, members of the Social Club Task Force contacted the Fire Marshall’s office. The Fire Marshall’s Office, stated it 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 AM, the licensee of the establishment, Mr. Fikremariam Worku, walked down the stairs from the second floor and opened the door allowing access to members of the Social Club Task Force. Upon opening the door, Inspectors witnessed about 10 patrons leaving the establishment. When asked why he was operating and why he did not let members of the Social Club Taskforce into the establishment, Mr. Worku stated he was not aware of the new restriction and did not hear the inspectors knocking. **POSTPONED**

2. **Uzo Nwosu and Obiefule Uwadineke, UZO, LLC, T/a Good Fellas Lounge, 4919 Belair Road – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.05 (a) Prohibited Hours – September 13, 2020** – At approximately 2:16 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Darryl Clark, Agent Andy Perez, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, and Inspector Cindy Tudhope visited the location to conduct a routine inspection of the establishment. Upon their arrival at the establishment, BLLC staff were able to enter the establishment and observed it to be open and operating. Once on-premises, BLLC staff observed music playing, patrons consuming alcoholic beverages, and patrons playing pool. In total there were six to seven patrons in the establishment. At this time, BLLC staff informed management/licensee of the violation and instructed him to exit the patrons. After the patrons were exited from the premises, BLLC staff left the scene.

Violation of Rule 4.05 (b) Prohibited Hours – September 13, 2020 – At approximately 2:16 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Darryl Clark, Agent Andy Perez, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, and Inspector Cindy Tudhope visited the location to conduct a routine inspection of the establishment. Upon their arrival at the establishment, BLLC staff were able to enter the establishment and observed it to be open and operating. Once on-premises, BLLC staff observed music playing, patrons consuming alcoholic beverages, and patrons playing pool. In total there were six to seven patrons in the establishment. At this time, BLLC staff informed management/licensee of the violation and instructed him to exit the patrons. After the patrons were exited from the premises, BLLC staff left the scene.

3. **Bijou Penland, Lindsay Perez, and Blanca Pesquera, Ecstasy Bar and Restaurant, LLC, T/a My Cousin Place, 3925-27 E. Lombard Street – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.16 Illegal Conduct – August 16, 2020** – At approximately 11:30 PM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Darryl Clark and Agent Terri Chase responded to a 311 call for service (#20-00548101) regarding loud music emanating from the establishment and violations of COVID-19 restrictions that were imposed by Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arrival at the establishment, Agent Chase and Clark entered the location and observed people standing in the interior bar area. Agents Chase and Clark then walked through the bar and made their way to the rear patio area. There they observed the area to be overcrowded, people standing and consuming alcoholic beverages, and noticed that extremely loud music could be heard from the rear exterior of the establishment. At this time, Agents Chase and Clark informed the manager, a Mr. Noe Norio, that the establishment was to be issued a violation for the following: (1) Loud music; and (2) Individuals standing and consuming alcoholic beverages; and (3) a total number of patrons that exceeded the 25% threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young’s Executive Order. Agents Chase and Clark informed the manager of the violations, instructed him to reduce his crowd capacity, and lower his music. After observing Mr. Norio’s compliance with their requests, Agents Chase and Clark left the scene.

Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – August 16, 2020 – At approximately 11:30 PM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Darryl Clark and Agent Terri Chase responded to a 311 call for service (#20-00548101) regarding loud music emanating from the establishment and violations of COVID-19 restrictions that were imposed by Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. Upon arrival at the establishment, Agent Chase and Clark entered the location and observed people standing in the interior bar area. Agents Chase and Clark then walked through the bar and made their way to the rear patio area. There they observed the area to be overcrowded, people standing and consuming alcoholic beverages, and noticed that extremely loud music could be heard from the rear exterior of the establishment. At this time, Agents Chase and Clark informed the manager, a Mr. Noe Norio, that the establishment was to be issued a violation for the following: (1) Loud music; and (2) Individuals standing and consuming alcoholic beverages; and (3) a total number of patrons that exceeded the 25% threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young’s Executive Order. Agents Chase and Clark informed the manager of the violations,

instructed him to reduce his crowd capacity, and lower his music. After observing Mr. Norio's compliance with their requests, Agents Chase and Clark left the scene.

Violation of Rule 4.16 Illegal Conduct – August 30, 2020 – At approximately 12:10 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez, Inspector Cindy Tudhope, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, Inspector Walter Robinson responded to a 311 call for service (#20-00593314) regarding loud music emanating from the establishment and violations of COVID-19 restrictions that were imposed by Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young's Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young's Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment's maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. As he approached the establishment in his vehicle, Agent Perez could hear the music emanating from the establishment approximately one block away. Upon arrival, BLLC staff observed the rear patio area to be overcrowded with people standing around, consuming alcoholic beverages, and not practicing any social distancing, as the tables were not located at least six feet apart from each other. At this time, BLLC staff informed the manager, a Mr. Noe Norio, that the establishment was to be issued a violation for the following: (1) Loud music; and (2) Individuals standing and consuming alcoholic beverages; and (3) a total number of patrons that exceeded the 25% threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young's Executive Order. BLLC staff informed the manager of the violations, instructed him to reduce his crowd capacity, and lower his music. After observing Mr. Norio's compliance with their requests, BLLC staff left the scene.

Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – August 30, 2020 – At approximately 12:10 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez, Inspector Cindy Tudhope, Inspector Rosalba Jordan, Inspector Walter Robinson responded to a 311 call for service (#20-00593314) regarding loud music emanating from the establishment and violations of COVID-19 restrictions that were imposed by Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young's Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young's Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment's maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. As he approached the establishment in his vehicle, Agent Perez could hear the music emanating from the establishment approximately one block away. Upon arrival, BLLC staff observed the rear patio area to be overcrowded with people standing around, consuming alcoholic beverages, and not practicing any social distancing, as the tables were not located at least six feet apart from each other. At this time, BLLC staff informed the manager, a Mr. Noe Norio, that the establishment was to be issued a violation for the following: (1) Loud music; and (2) Individuals standing and consuming alcoholic beverages; and (3) a total number of patrons that exceeded the 25% threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young's Executive Order. BLLC staff informed the manager of the violations, instructed him to reduce his crowd capacity, and lower his music. After observing Mr. Norio's compliance with their requests, BLLC staff left the scene.

4. **Eric D. Losin and Karen A. Patten, Kali's Court, LLC, T/a Kali's Court, 1602-08 Thames Street** – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – **Violation of Rule 4.16 Illegal Conduct – August 15, 2020** – At approximately 1:45 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez, Agent Darryl Clark, and Inspector Walter Robinson of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young's Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Upon arrival at the

establishment, Agent Perez, Agent Clark, and Inspector Robinson observed a large number of patrons at the outdoor bar area consuming alcoholic beverages without practicing social distancing. In addition, BLLC staff observed many of the patrons standing while consuming such beverages and that tables for patrons were not set six feet apart from each other. At that time, BLLC staff met with manager Mr. Vasilios Koramidas and advised him of the violations. BLLC staff instructed him to bring his operations into compliance. Mr. Koramidas complied. BLLC staff then left the establishment.

Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – August 15, 2020 – At approximately 1:45 AM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez, Agent Darryl Clark, and Inspector Walter Robinson of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Upon arrival at the establishment, Agent Perez, Agent Clark, and Inspector Robinson observed a large number of patrons at the outdoor bar area consuming alcoholic beverages without practicing social distancing. In addition, BLLC staff observed many of the patrons standing while consuming such beverages and that tables for patrons were not set six feet apart from each other. At that time, BLLC staff met with manager Mr. Vasilios Koramidas and advised him of the violations. BLLC staff instructed him to bring his operations into compliance. Mr. Koramidas complied. BLLC staff then left the establishment.

5. **Antonio Foster, Noir Restaurant and Lounge, LLC, T/a Noir Restaurant, 5716 York Road – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.16 Illegal Conduct – August 28, 2020** – At approximately 10:57 PM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. On August 16, 2020, the BLLC had provided a final warning to this establishment due to a prior violation of Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued on August 7, 2020. Upon entering the location on August 28, 2020, Agent Perez observed approximately 8 staff members and 25 patrons eating food and consuming alcoholic beverages. A review of their maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department indicated their maximum capacity was 75. Thus, the number of total patrons and staff members allowed exceeded the 25% (19 persons) threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young’s Executive Order. Upon verifying this information, the establishment was then closed by a member of the Health Department. Patrons then cleared the location and the Social Club Task Force left the area.

Violation of Rule 3.12 General Welfare – August 28, 2020 – At approximately 10:57 PM, Baltimore City Liquor Board Agent Andy Perez of the BLLC, as part of the Social Club Taskforce, conducted an inspection of the establishment to ensure that it was operating in compliance with Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020. Specifically, Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued August 7, 2020 prohibiting indoor consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages after 10:00 pm and limited such indoor consumption to only 25% of the establishment’s maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department. On August 16, 2020, the BLLC had provided a final warning to this establishment due to a prior violation of Mayor Young’s Executive Order issued on August 7, 2020. Upon entering the location on August

28, 2020, Agent Perez observed approximately 8 staff members and 25 patrons eating food and consuming alcoholic beverages. A review of their maximum capacity rating as per the Baltimore City Fire Department indicated their maximum capacity was 75. Thus, the number of total patrons and staff members allowed exceeded the 25% (19 persons) threshold as stipulated by Mayor Young's Executive Order. Upon verifying this information, the establishment was then closed by a member of the Health Department. Patrons then cleared the location and the Social Club Task Force left the area.