

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR BALTIMORE CITY
DOCKET – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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. Violations:

- ~~1. Michael Benevento and Julianne Hamilton, Current Clubhouse, LLC, T/a Current Clubhouse, 421 N. Howard Street—Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License—Violation of Rule 3.12—General Welfare—August 27, 2022—~~On August 27, 2022, a 311 complaint #22-00685407 was received for the establishment for Disturbing the Peace/Front Door Open/Noise/Loud Music at approximately 9:10pm. Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Agent Inspector Cindy Tudhope and Inspector Rosalba Jordan responded to the 311 complaint and arrived on scene near the establishment at approximately 9:40pm. BLLC inspectors parked in the parking lot at the rear of the location, where Inspectors Tudhope and Jordan could hear the music playing at a high volume coming from the stage area at the rear of the building while seated inside their vehicle. Inspectors Tudhope and Jordan entered the establishment and made contact with the licensee, Mr. Michael Benevento and made him aware of the complaint. Mr. Benevento stated that the live music would end at 10:00pm, and that the establishment always ends any live music by 10:0pm. Inspector Tudhope then informed Mr. Benevento that he would be receiving a violation for the music being extremely loud. Establishment had previously been warned about the high volume of the loud music by Agent Chase on August 13, 2022, when she responded to 311 Complaint #22-00642482. Inspector Tudhope issued a violation for the loud music and both inspectors left without further incident. POSTPONED
- ~~2. Julieanna McGuire, Sangria, LLC, T/a Sangria, 930 N. Charles Street—Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License—Violation of Rule 3.12—General Welfare—September 24th, 2022—~~On September 24, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Robinson received 311 Complaint #22-00766525 for disturbing the peace/noise/loud music. At approximately 1:42am, Inspector Robinson arrived at the establishment, entered, and observed a DJ operating and heard the DJ announcing last call. Inspector Robinson determined that the music was operating at an acceptable level of volume. Inspector Robinson spoke with the manager about the complaint. Subsequently, Inspector Robinson inspected the liquor license, which stated that the establishment agreed to follow the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that it had with the community. Upon further investigation, I inspected the MOU, and found that it stated the establishment was to be closed by 1:00am on Friday and Saturday unless there was a special sporting event. There was no sporting event in progress at the time the 311 complaint was received, nor did anyone mention such event to me. The MOU in the file is dated January 18, 2017, and it is explicitly referenced in the Board’s decision to approve the transfer of ownership to the current business entity at its hearing on January 19, 2017. Under Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City v. Fells Point Café, Inc., 344 Md. 120 (1996), “...the Board may place restrictions on a license with the consent of the licensee.” POSTPONED

3. **Maryann Durst, Concetta Scotto-Sheffert, and Christopher Sheffert, City Line Food, Inc., T/a City Line Bar & Grill, 6506-10 Belair Road – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.14(a) – Live Entertainment Without Authorization – July 14th, 2022** – On July 14, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Inspector Robinson received 311 Complaint #22 00549848 at approximately 10:19pm for disturbing the peace/noise/loud music relating to loud music and karaoke on the outside area. At approximately 10:45pm, Inspector Robinson arrived at the establishment, pulled into the rear lot and heard karaoke being performed. After making this operation, Inspector Robinson entered the establishment and spoke with the Operator and Licensee, Mr. Sheffert. Mr. Sheffert explained the Inspector Robinson that he was under the impression that he was authorized to have live entertainment in his outside seating area. Inspector Robinson then conducted an inspection of the liquor license, and found that the license did not explicitly state that the establishment was permitted to have live entertainment in the outside area. Inspector Robinson advised Mr. Sheffert to cease the karaoke from continuing in the outside area. Mr. Sheffert complied with this request, and Inspector Robinson left with no further incident.

4. ~~**Shawn Chopra, Good Neighbor, Inc., T/a Good Neighbor, 3827 33 Falls Road – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Violation of Rule 4.14(a) – Live Entertainment Without Authorization – October 1, 2022**~~ – On October 1, 2022, Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) Agent Steven Han and Agent Darryl Clark responded to 311 Complaint #22 00786294 for disturbing the peace/noise/loud music. At approximately 5:20pm, BLLC Agents Han and Clark arrived at the establishment, and when walking up to the door could hear music coming from the exterior of the establishment. Agents then observed a disc jockey (DJ) operating on the exterior patio. Agents spoke to the manager on duty, Rida Shahbaz, and made her aware of the complaint. Previously, on 9/16/22, a revised BLLC license was issued to the establishment per the instruction of BLLC Deputy Executive Secretary Nicholas Blendy, as the prior Use Permit had been revoked by the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. The updated license did not authorize live entertainment on the outdoor portion of the licensed premises and the license that contained language authorizing live entertainment in the outdoor portion of the licensed premises was collected by BLLC staff. As a result of the review of the BLLC license not authorizing live entertainment on the outdoor portion of the premises, a violation was issued for the DJ operating on the exterior patio as live entertainment without authorization. **POSTPONED**

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

1. **Steven Jacob Groenke, Grafted Partnership, LLC, T/a Trade Name Pending, 1340-E Smith Avenue – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Amended application to transfer ownership and location of a Class “BD7” BWL license presently located at 1605 Sulgrave Avenue to 1340-E Smith Avenue.**

2. ~~**Takera C. Crowder, Kareney Mae, LLC, T/a Trade Name Pending, 4800 Curtis Avenue – Class “BD7” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer ownership. POSTPONED**~~

3. **Raissa Nynkeu Batchankwe, Anonymous Ventures, LLC, T/a The Anonymous, 1225 Cathedral Street – Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer ownership with continuation of live entertainment and outdoor table service, requesting off-premises catering and delivery of alcoholic beverages.**

- ~~4. Jason Jose Acevedo Rosario, Gargolas Lounge, LLC, T/a Gargolas, 3720 Potee Street – Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer ownership with continuation of live entertainment and outdoor table service. POSTPONED~~
5. Wayne Anthony Laing, MLJ, Inc., T/a Trade Name Pending, 4001 Falls Road, Rear Unit – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Application to transfer location of a Class "BD7" BWL license presently located at 1117-19 W. 36th Street to 4001 Falls Road, Rear Unit requesting outdoor table service and off-premises catering.
6. Dhruva Onta, BDU Nepal, LLC, T/a Bristol Liquors, 501-507 S. Broadway – Class "BD7" Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Request to expand licensed premises to include 505 & 507 S. Broadway.