

**BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND  
MINUTES**

**On August 8, 2018, the Board of License Commissioners met in Room 003/004 of the Carroll County Office Building, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Board members David Brauning, Chair; George Harmening and George Barnhart were present as well as Jo Vance, Administrative Hearings Coordinator; Assistant County Attorney Timothy Dixon, Counsel to the Board; Keith Benfer, Senior Liquor Inspector; Adam Reid Liquor Inspector; and Kevin Burley, State Liquor Inspector.**

**10:00 a.m.** the Board addressed the following official business:

1. **Case 6091**, A Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Rjanikant Patel for the use of Shree Liquors, LLC, t/a Carroll Liquors, 6 East Ridgeville Blvd., Mount Airy, Maryland 21771 – Violation Hearing (Alcoholic Beverages Articles 6-311(b)(3)(iii) and 1-408(b)(3), and Rule #7 of the Rules and regulations of Carroll County Board of License Commissioners). Mike Ritchey appeared on behalf of the licensee and he stated immediately that contrary to the notice previously received, they were not going to contest the matter. They did admit that the violation occurred and were going to offer explanation and mitigation for the incident. Gail Kessler appeared for Inspector Benfer and an inspector from the State, Kevin Burley. She stipulated to the facts that the two inspectors had appeared at Carroll Liquors to inspect their stock. They found fourteen (14) boxes of wine without labels and accompanying invoices and wrote up the violations listed above. Mike Ritchey called Pulin Patel, the manager at Carrolltown Liquors, to the stand. Mr. Patel got a call from his wife who was the manager at Carroll Liquors and she asked him to bring her some Woodbridge wine to her store because they were out. According to him he did this without realizing that it was a liquor law violation and without realizing it was stealing from his store. Both he and his wife were fired from their respective positions because of this. Mr. Raj Patel testified as the owner of Carroll Liquors. His son, Shital Patel, is the owner of Carrolltown Liquors. Raj Patel is also the licensee at Carroll Liquors. He testified that he fired Pulin Patel's wife and hired a new manager and the new manager and employees were all made aware that the transfer of stock was illegal. He also testified that he makes it a practice to go to the store at least once a week. The store now has a computerized system to keep track of the inventory. He also stated that he has never borrowed stock before and that he was not related in any way to Pulin Patel or his wife. He answered a question that all of his managers are TAM trained. He also testified that he had no knowledge that the transfer of stock was made until he was informed of the violation. After more questions and testimony, George Harmening made a motion that the establishment was culpable and that they should be fined \$500 for the possession of alcohol from another store and \$500 for failure to maintain the appropriate records and the illegal conduct citation. He also stated that he believed the removal of the labels from the boxes was intentional. George Barnhart seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously for a fine totaling \$1,000. Mr. Benfer and Mr. Burley advised that they were going to

look into writing a violation on the store, Carrolltown Liquors, that the wine came from.

2. **Case 6096**, A Class C - Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to MacKenzie Kantruss, Kenneth O'Brien, and Alan Greenberg for the use of TLAC Beverage, LLC, t/a The Links at Challedon, 6166 Challedon Circle, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771 – Violation Hearing (Sale to a Minor). MacKenzie Kantruss appeared for the Links at Challedon as their attorney and also as a licensee/part owner. Adam Reid testified that he sent an underage volunteer into the establishment with the intent to purchase alcohol. She ordered a Coors Lite beer and was served by the waitress without being asked for her ID. Stacy Brown, the manager that was on duty that evening was planning to come to the hearing but had a family emergency. So Ben Sproles, the General Manager, appeared in her place. Mr. Sproles testified that he had been the general manager for two and one-half years. He notified all the owners of the violation. Ms. Brown had already contacted a TIPS trainer and had nine employees take the class on July 2, 2018. They have also posted numerous signs throughout the premises and on the golf carts that say they must ask for ID. They instituted the following procedures to insure that this doesn't happen again, which includes in house training, must be TIPS or TAM certified prior to serving alcohol, and don't accept vertical IDs at all. This was the first violation for this establishment. Upon a motion by George Barnhart and seconded by George Harmening, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable and fine them \$300.
3. **Case 6097**, A Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Shilpa Patel for the use of Shilpa, Inc., t/a Ye Olde Package Goods, 887 Sandosky Road, Sykesville, Maryland 21784 – Violation Hearing (Sale to a Minor). Adam Reid testified that on June 12, 2018, he sent an underage volunteer into this establishment with the intent to purchase alcohol. The volunteer took a six pack of Mike's Hard Mango alcoholic beverage to the counter. The clerk, Mohammad Momi did not ask the volunteer for ID and sold him the alcohol. Mr. Amit Patel appeared for the establishment along with Mr. Momi. Mr. Patel's wife is the licensee for this establishment. Mr. Momi stated that he has been working there for many years and he simply thought that the volunteer was over 21 years of age. He testified that he will be taking the TAM training again. After further discussion and questions, Mr. Harmening made a motion that the establishment been found culpable and be fined \$600 because this was the second violation within a three year time frame. Mr. Barnhart seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to impose this fine.
4. **Case 6098**, A Class B – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Eva Wu for the use of Hang Fung, Inc., t/a Forbidden City Chinese Restaurant, 12 Carroll Plaza Shopping Center, Westminster, Maryland 21157 – Violation Hearing (Sale to a Minor). Adam Reid testified that he sent two underage volunteers into this establishment with the intent to purchase alcohol. They ordered a glass of wine and an order of Saki. The waiter carded them both and they both produced their vertical licenses but were served the alcohol anyway. Ms. Wu appeared for the establishment. She explained that this waiter had trained for two days by shadowing another waiter and that this

happened on his third day of working there and his first day of being on his own. The waiter told her that he miscalculated the ages of the volunteers. Another waiter asked him if he had carded the volunteers and he told that waiter that he had. He also told Ms. Wu that he was busy and rushing and that was why he made the mistake. Ms. Wu testified that this waiter left after two weeks and moved back to New Hampshire. She also testified that this restaurant had been open for over 30 years without a violation. Mr. Harmening recommended to her that they do a more intensive and longer lasting in house training in the future. Upon a motion by George Barnhart and seconded by George Harmening, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable and fine them \$300.

5. At this time the Board held a portion of the business meeting. The Board approved the minutes of the July 11, 2018 meeting as presented. They then approved three one day liquor license requests for outdoor events as follows: The Forest and Stream Club of Westminster for a Gun Raffle on August 25, 2018 at the club; Ava's TZI Foundation for an Oktoberfest event at the Railyard in Mount Airy on September 29, 2018; and the Town of New Windsor for their Music on Main festival on October 6, 2018 on the 200 Block of Main Street. The Board then approved a revised request from the City of Westminster to extend the area for the Oyster Stroll on October 13, 2018. The Board briefly discussed the memo requesting legislation submissions by the end of August. Mr. Brauning wanted to meet with members of the Alcoholic Beverage associations prior to submitting any legislation so this topic was tabled at this time. The Board approved a request from the Sykesville American Legion to allow outside service of alcohol on September 9 and 16, 2018 during car shows that will be held there. The Board was informed of a notice from the Westminster VFW about some updating of their upstairs bar area. There will be no change to the floor plan; they are replacing some of their sinks, refrigerators and the flooring. At this time, the Board adjourned for lunch with a return time of 1:30 p.m. to resume hearings.
6. **Case 6090**, An application for a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license to change the resident licensee to Christopher D. Glynn, to be issued to Christopher D. Glynn and Gurmeet Singh Grewal for the use of Simran Enterprises, Inc., t/a New Windsor Liquor and Deli, 409 High Street, New Windsor, Maryland 21776, in Election District 11. This was a continuation of this matter from July 11, 2018. At that hearing, there was no document in the file showing the percentage of ownership for Mr. Glynn and the amount of his financial investment into the business. Mr. Melvin Kodenski, Esq., appeared for the establishment both times. The proof of financial interest document was now in the file, and having covered other sections of the file in the July hearing, the Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Glynn's application to be the resident licensee upon a motion by Mr. Barnhart and seconded by Mr. Harmening.
7. **Case 6094** – An application for the transfer of location and ownership of a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license to be issued to Dharmistha Patel for the use of Taneytown Liquors, LLC, t/a Taneytown Liquors, 223 E. Baltimore Street,

Taneytown, Maryland 21787 in Election District 1. Mike Ritchey, Esq. represented the licensee and the establishment. Mr. Ritchey began the hearing by asking that they be allowed to amend their application to include only the transfer of the ownership of the business and for it to remain at 6156 Taneytown Pike, Taneytown, Maryland 21787 in Election District 1. The Board agreed to proceed on just the transfer of the license. Mr. Ritchey called Ms. Patel to testify. She testified that she has been a Carroll County resident and taxpayer for five years. She has been a naturalized citizen since August of 1999 and is a registered voter. She stated that she has never been convicted of a felony or any liquor law violations. She was once licensed in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Ritchey asked that the Board accept an amendment to answer number 6 in the original application to indicate this previous license that was held by her. She testified that she had never held or applied for a license in Carroll County prior to this. She stated that she is 50% owner of this establishment and that she is TAM certified. The hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and she will be a full time manager of the store. She plans on having one other employee who will also be TAM certified. Gerald Brandon, the current owner of the Whiskey Basket was present and he testified that he was in agreement with this plan to transfer the license. Kathy Naviasky, Dereck Crosby, and Josh Zimon all testified as to the fit and proper character of Ms. Patel to hold a license. Kimberly Carter from the Liquor Barn and Raheel Johri from Harvey's General Store both testified against this transfer and both were questioning certain aspects of the plans for this establishment. Mr. Ritchey informed the Board that Pulin Patel was not involved in this establishment and that he was working with Mr. Brandon's attorney on a lease which would be provided to the Board prior to the license being issued. After further discussion, George Barnhart made a motion that the transfer be granted upon the approval of all outstanding requirements. George Harmening seconded the motion and upon a unanimous vote, the transfer of license was approved.

8. At this time, the Board returned to items on the business meeting's agenda. Kelly Shaffer, Esq., appeared regarding a request from Michael's Steak and Seafood House of Hampstead requesting an extension to their approval's opening time. They were requesting a year's extension. The Board originally approved this license in February of 2017 and had already granted two extensions of time to get the restaurant open. Ms. Shaffer explained all of the delays that had happened and after further discussion George Barnhart recommended that they be granted an additional six months extension in a motion. George Harmening seconded the motion adding that if they were not open by the end of that extension that they do new background checks, driving records and possibly an entirely new application. The Board voted unanimously to approve that. Ms. Shaffer then brought up House Bill 1003 which allows local licensing boards to make the decision for their jurisdictions of whether or not an individual may hold more than one Class B restaurant license. She stated that she was interested in hearing their views on this and changing the local rules and regulations to address the new State law. The Board and Mr. Dixon stated that they would look into this new law and discuss this at another time. Howard "Hogan" Allen appeared before the Board to explain about self-pour taps that he hopes to

incorporate into a new restaurant in Hampstead, Maryland. He explained that the self-pour taps only allow a certain amount of beer or wine to be dispensed at one time and also limits the number of times a person can dispense that amount. This gives the staff the opportunity to assess anyone who wants more than the allotted amount to determine if that would be overserving or not. He stated that there is one establishment already in Maryland that has this type of self-pour taps. Mr. Dixon wanted to look into this more to see if it is legal or not in Maryland. The Board also asked for other examples of establishments like this in Maryland. They will return to this topic at a later time.

At this time, there being no further business, Mr. Brauning adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Jo Vance  
Administrator Hearings Coordinator  
Office of Administrative Hearings