

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

On September 12, 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; and Adam Reid Liquor Inspector.

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

1. **Case 6102**, A Class BC – Beer, Wine and Liquor license with catering issued to Jose Liberatore and Juan C. Liberatore for the use of Due Fratelli, Inc., t/a Liberatore’s Ristorante, 6300 Georgetown Blvd., Eldersburg, Maryland 21784 – Violation Hearing (Sale to a Minor). Dante and Jose Liberatore appeared for the establishment. Inspector Reid testified that on July 22, 2018 at approximately 8:17 p.m., he sent an underage volunteer into the establishment with the intent to purchase alcohol. The volunteer ordered a Bud Lite beer and even though the server asked for and looked at her vertical ID, he served her the beer. Mr. Liberatore testified that the server had been with the restaurant for many years, but had just recently been promoted to a wait staff position. He had not yet been TAM or TIPs certified. Since the incident all of the front personnel have been certified and they have added signs in the kitchen and out front that they do not accept vertical IDs. That was always their policy, but now they are reminding staff daily. He stated that they have a very deliberate management style, and that they have had John Murray conduct alcohol certification training several times at their restaurant and that when they do they invite other restaurant’s staff to participate. They have been in business for thirty years and have only had two sales to minors previously, the last one being in 2015. After further discussion, Mr. Harmening made a motion to find them culpable and fine them \$600.00. Mr. Barnhart seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously on the motion.

2. **Case 6103**, An application to change ownership and Resident Licensee for a Class BC – Beer, Wine and Liquor license with catering to be issued to Arlene G. Stecher for the use of The County Cork Pub, LLC, t/a the County Cork Pub, 1716 Liberty Road, Eldersburg, Maryland 21784 in Election District 5. Arlene Stecher and Christopher McManus appeared on behalf of the establishment. Ms. Stecher was asking to be made the Resident Licensee in place of Mr. McManus and she was informing the Board that she now owned 100% of the company as opposed to the previous arrangement of 50% ownership with Mr. McManus owing 50% also. She testified that the business has 18 employees and there is always at least one TAM trained employee working. She has not been TAM trained but is scheduled to go to training in October, 2018. She also testified that the establishment does not accept vertical IDs at all. The Board recommended that she post signs to that effect not only in the back for her staff but also out front for the public. She stated that she works at

the restaurant 60 to 70 hours per week. Ellen Lagass testified as to the fit and proper character of Ms. Stecher. Upon a motion by Mr. Barnhart and seconded by Mr. Harmening the Board voted unanimously to approve this request.

3. **Case 6105**, An application to transfer a Class BR – Beer, Wine and Liquor license to Travis Cross and William F. Buttrum, Jr. for the use of 6512 Enterprises, Inc., t/a Conah's Bar and Grille, 84 East Main Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157 in Election District 7. Kelsey Long-Abram, Esq., appeared on behalf of Mr. Cross and Mr. Buttrum. Mr. Buttrum testified that he is 90% owner of the corporation and will be one of three managers for the business. He currently works for the Department of Defense in a management position. He has never been on a liquor license before, but has been working with the current owners of Conah's to learn how to run the business in both the kitchen and the front end. He has also been working with Marty Johnson as a consultant on alcohol awareness training for all employees and for policies and procedures for the establishment. They have training scheduled for all employees coming up in the next week. He testified that Mr. Cross is his cousin and that his sister, Amanda Buttrum will also be a manager at the restaurant. He also stated that he does not plan any changes to the establishment's floor plan. They plan on having five employees which will mean keeping the current four employees and hiring another. All management decisions such as inventory management, ordering, hiring and firing will be done by the three managers. He plans to spend 20 to 25 hours per week at the restaurant. Mr. Travis Cross then testified that he also currently works for the Department of Defense and that he will be a 10% owner of the corporation. He has previous wait staff experience from working at the Antrim in Taneytown. He will also be TAM trained next week. He will be the resident agent on this license. He also has never been on a liquor license. He also testified that there will always be a manager present when the restaurant is open. He also mentioned that he has been heavily involved in the community through the West Carroll Rec Council. He currently works at Ft. Meade but has flexible hours that will allow him to work primarily Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the restaurant. Julie and Scott Kneller, Susan Lamb and Timothy Norgart all testified as to the fit and proper character of the two applicants. After further discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Barnhart and seconded by Mr. Harmening, the Board voted unanimously to approve this transfer conditioned on all State and County entities giving their written approval and any other documents necessary be turned in.
4. **Case 6107**, A Class B – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Alisa Illiano for the use of Illiano's J&P Hampstead, Inc., t/a Illiano's J&P Hampstead, 903 South Main Street, Hampstead, Maryland 21074 – Violation Hearing (Sale to a Minor). Adam Reid testified that on August 13, 2018 at approximately 7:32 p.m., he sent an underage volunteer into the establishment with the intent to purchase alcohol. The volunteer gave an order for Cupcake Pinot Grigio to the hostess who then gave the order to the server to process. Neither person asked for the volunteer's ID. The hostess was actually too young to take or process alcoholic beverage orders. Neither she nor the server had been TAM or TIPs trained at the time. Augusto Illiano appeared for the establishment. He testified that it was a horrible mix-up but he did

not offer any excuses for it. He was planning on the server and others at his restaurant being TAM trained in the near future. Alisa Illiano also appeared for the establishment as Resident Licensee. She testified that they do not accept vertical IDs at all. Mr. Illiano stated that the restaurant had been in business for 35 years and with a liquor license for 25 years. After further discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Harmening and seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board voted unanimously to find them culpable and fine them \$300.00.

5. At this time the Board held the business meeting. The Board approved the minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting as presented. They then approved two one day liquor license requests for outdoor events as follows: Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County to hold an Oktoberfest at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taneytown on September 22, 2018; and Mt. Airy Lions Club to hold Fall Festivals at the Mt. Airy Fire Company's carnival grounds on October 13, 2018. The Board then approved requests from three establishments to be allowed to have their patrons enter and exit their establishments with plastic cups of alcoholic beverages during the City of Westminster's Oyster Stroll on October 13, 2018. The three establishments were O'Lordans Irish Pub, Rock Salt Grille, and Artisan Wine. The Board also approved a request from the Mt. Airy Inn to close off part of their parking lot to extend their seating on September 22, 2018 for a special event. The Board recognized letters from the Rite Aid Corporation about the failure of a planned merger with Albertsons. The Board also approved a request from the Sykesville American Legion to hold an outdoor event on September 23, 2018 for a corn hole tournament. The Board approved plans from Liberatore's of Westminster to remodel their establishment.
6. At this time, Kelly Shaffer, Esq., Pete Samios and Darren Barnes joined the business meeting. They were invited to discuss possible changes to Class D license restrictions and possible changes to the Board's Rules and Regulations. There followed much discussion about the preferred changes to the Class D restrictions and what changes would need to be addressed as new legislation with the General Assembly. Mr. Dixon also presented two possible submissions for changes to the alcoholic beverages articles for Carroll County involving changing the requirements for licensees with catering riders, and, secondly for removing the need for the accommodation signatures on new and location transfer licenses. It was decided that everyone should take home the suggested changes and come back to next month's meeting to discuss their preferences.
7. At this time, Mr. Barnhart asked that Carrolltown Liquors be instructed to come to the next meeting on October 10, 2018 to answer some questions about the recent violation by Carroll Liquors that involved inventory being moved from Carrolltown Liquors to Carroll Liquors. Mr. Benfer also announced a MALA event that will be held in Montgomery County on November 2, 2018 for an educational seminar to which all the Board members are invited. He also mentioned that Sakura Japanese Steakhouse had inquired about getting a corkage permit, and the Board granted that request.

At this time, there being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Barnhart and seconded by Mr. Harmening, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jo Vance
Administrator Hearings Coordinator
Office of Administrative Hearings