

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR TOWN MARKET BASKET – LICENSE #729
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R. Charles Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marty W. Pusey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
License #:	729	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:00 p.m.		
Class:	"D"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: 5Rivers Liquor Mart, LLC		T/A: Town Market Basket		Address: 308 E. Market Street Snow Hill, Maryland 21863				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for Transfer of Class "D" B/W/L 7 Day License from Rudra One, Inc. to 5Rivers Liquor Mart, LLC								
Applicants:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	<input type="checkbox"/>		Representative:			
1. Cynthia P. Longwell		Hugh Cropper, Esquire						
2. Guriqbal Singh								
Witnesses:		Protestants:						
1.		1.						
Exhibits:		Exhibits:						
1.		1.						

Hearing Minutes: The applicants along with their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board with an application to transfer a Class "D" B/W/L 7 Day license from Rudra One, Inc. to 5Rivers Liquor Mart, LLC. The applicants were sworn in. Hugh Cropper introduced himself to the Board and stated he will be representing the applicants Cynthia P. Longwell, and Guriqbal Singh today. Guriqbal Singh will hold 54% of the LLC and Cynthia Longwell holds 10% will be the resident agent, the remaining 36% will be held by Pritam Singh, Guriqbal Singh's father-in-law, who will not be a licensee. Cropper stated that G. Singh will be purchasing the property in its entirety, the grocery and liquor store which is contingent upon this transfer being granted today. Cropper asked G. Singh to tell the Board about his background. G. Singh stated he is now a manufacturing engineering manager at a technology company, at this time he lives in Gainesville, Virginia but his goal is to relocate his family to the area. G. Singh stated he plans to manage the grocery store and liquor store in the same manner as they are currently being operated. Cropper stated that this license is now a Class "D" tavern license; in speaking to G. Singh, he would like to reimplement the use of the bar that is in the Beer & Liquor store location. G. Singh stated "Correct." G. Singh stated to the Board, he would like to bring back wine tasting events so that he could introduce new products to visiting customers. Cropper stated there is already an established bar on the premises. G. Singh replied "Correct." Cropper asked Longwell what her experience with the sale of alcohol is. Longwell stated she has been employed with the Town Market Basket for about fifteen (15) years along with several years of experience in serving alcohol beverages in the restaurant service business. Cropper stated to the Board G. Singh does not have the experience in sales of alcohol although he does have a resident agent with numerous years of experience that will be giving him guidance with the alcohol sales business. Cropper stated that there will be three (3) employees in the liquor store, that will be TIPS/TAM certified, and G. Singh is in the process of becoming TIPS/TAM certified. Cropper stated to G. Singh being that you are purchasing the property in its entirety you understand it is your responsible to monitor the entire property

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to safeguard that alcohol is not being consumed on the property. G. Singh stated “Understood.” Commissioner Nichols requested an update site plan showing the existing bar’s location on the premises. Cropper stated he would be sure the Board receives. Commissioner Esham asked Mr. Coates for clarification; just because this bar has not been in service this does not prevent them from resuming service. Mr. Coates stated “Correct.”

The Board tentatively approved the application for transfer of a Class “D” B/W/L 7 Day License from Rudra One, Inc. to 5Rivers Liquor Mart, LLC; pending all required documentation.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 1:10 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NORI SUSHI BAR & GRILL – LICENSE #883
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols		X	Marty W. Pusey		X	
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>							
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator					X	
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:					<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager					X	
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter					X	
License #:	883	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:12 p.m.					
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day					
For: YCPSB, LLC			T/A: Nori Sushi Bar & Grill		Address: 11403 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842						
New Application:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Transfer:	X Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Violation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for a 100% Stock Transfer of Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License from Sophia Christian and Christopher Christian to Phillip Lambrinos, John Lambrinos, and Saphara Brandenburg											
Applicants:	X	Licensees:	<input type="checkbox"/>		Representative:						
1. Phillip J. Lambrinos					Christopher Woodley, Esquire						
2. John P. Lambrinos											
3. Saphara Brandenburg											
Witnesses:					Protestants:						
1.					1.						
Exhibits:					Exhibits:						
1. Site Plan					1.						
<p>Hearing Minutes: The applicants along with their attorney Christopher Woodley, Esquire appeared before the Board with an application for a 100% Stock Transfer of a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license. The applicants were sworn in. Mr. Woodley introduced herself to the Board and stated he is representing Phillip J. Lambrinos, John P. Lambrinos, and Saphara Brandenburg today. Woodley submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #1) site plan. Woodley stated the applicants are the children of Sophia Christian, and stepfather Christopher Christian the current license holders of this property. Phillip Lambrinos will be the resident agent will hold 33% of the LLC, John Lambrinos will hold 33%, and Saphara Brandenburg will hold the remaining 34%. Woodley asked the applicants each of you have worked managing this property since the opening in 2018 and they will continue to do so. The applicants stated "Correct." Woodley stated that, P. Lambrinos and Brandenburg are TIPS/TAM certified, J. Lambrinos is a license holder for a sushi restaurant in Fenwick Island, Delaware since 2023, he is TIPS/TAM certified in Delaware but will become certified in Maryland. Woodley asked J. Lambrinos who is the restaurant general manager you will employee about twelve (12) employees and those employees will be TIPS/TAM certified. J. Lambrinos replied "Yes." Commissioner Nichols read aloud to the applicants the license current restrictions; live entertainment allowed with a maximum of one piece non amplified from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m., no disc jockey allowed, no pool tables allowed, no games allowed, no off sale, background music is allowed. Commissioner Nichols asked do each of you understand the restrictions. The applicants stated "Yes." Commissioner Esham stated to the applicants so there is no misunderstanding this establishment, each of you understand that you cannot transfer, borrow, or sell any alcoholic beverages from the other family restaurant located across from this establishment. Each of the applicants stated "Understood."</p> <p>The Board approved the application for a 100% Stock Transfer of a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License from Sophia Christian and Christopher Christian to Phillip Lambrinos, John Lambrinos, and Saphara Brandenburg Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License</p>											
Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols		2nd	Ms. Pusey		Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS											
Time Hearing Ended: 1:15 p.m.											

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR REVERIE ARBOR & WINE BAR – LICENSE #948
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	948	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:17 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Propagate, LLC		T/A: Reverie Arbor & Wine Bar		Address: 7 S. Main Street Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed Reverie Arbor & Wine Bar Class "B" B/W 7 Day License Request for off-sale of beer and wine in factory sealed containers								
Applicants:		Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Tara N. Talbot				Christopher Woodley, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Collective Exhibit #1 - Beverage List & Twelve (12) page - Petition in support of off-sale				1.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee and their attorney Christopher Woodley, Esquire, appeared before the Board with a Class "B" B/W 7 Day License request for off-sale of beer and wine in factory sealed containers. The applicant was sworn in. Mr. Woodley introduced himself and stated he is representing Tara N. Talbot today. Woodley submitted (Applicant's Collective Exhibit) beverage list & twelve (12) page petition with signatures in support of off-sale. Woodley asked Talbot you serve food such as small plates, and salads along with different selections of Beer and Wine. Talbot replied "Yes." Woodley stated you have been operating since May 1st 2024, and have not had any violations. Talbot replied, "Correct." Woodley asked Talbot you sell a large amount of carry out food, and you would like to be able to offer the patrons the opportunity to purchase your wine or beer selections many that are not available at other locations in the Berlin area. Talbot stated "Correct." Woodley asked Talbot you employ a Wine Manager with twenty (20) years of sales experience with alcohol. Talbot stated "Yes." Commissioner Nichols asked Talbot these wines cannot be purchased anywhere in Berlin. Talbot stated "Correct," her wines are hand selected and to the best of her knowledge she the only one carry most select labels. Commissioner Pusey asked Talbot you have had request from customers wanting to purchase bottles of wine for gifts along with carry out food. Talbot replied "Yes." Commissioner Esham asked Talbot this request to sell off-sale beer and wine is not just with carryout food, it would also be for single bottles to gift. Talbot replied "Yes," I want to be able to offer the wine for customers that would like to take to consume later or give as gifts.</p> <p>The Board approved the application for a Class "B" B/W 7 Day License and request for off-sale of beer and wine in factory sealed containers.</p>								
Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS								
Time Hearing Ended: 1:20 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SAND & CEDAR TAVERNA – LICENSE #956
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	956	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:25 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC		T/A: Sand & Cedar Taverna		Address: 11070 Cathell Road Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Sand and Cedar Taverna Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license request to expand licensed premises								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Peter Elias				Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Collective Exhibit #1 - Letter from Hugh Cropper & Four (4) Floor plans				1.				

Hearing Minutes: The licensee and their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire, appeared before the Board with a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to expand licensed premises. The licensee was sworn in. Mr. Cropper introduced himself and stated he is representing Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC, Peter Elias is the managing member of the license today. Elias stated to the Board we were offered the opportunity to lease the space adjacent to Sand & Cedar Taverna stating this space will be used primarily for dining. Cropper instructed Elias to explain to the Board the progress that has been made at the licensed property. April Payne submitted to the Board another set of photos that Skip Cook had taken on August 20th showing the property's progress. Elias explained to the Board using the overhead photos, the construction of the brick columns are complete along with a couple of the arches inside the building, now that the brick columns are done the larger brick arches and walls can begin construction. Cropper stated the requested expansion will focus on dining space only; there won't be a kitchen facility in this expanded area. Elias stated "Correct." Mr. Coates submitted (Applicant's Collective Exhibit #1) letter from Hugh Cropper and floor plans. Commissioner Esham asked Cropper is this property being purchased or is it a lease. Payne stated to Cropper she has the lease for the existing property but does not have the lease for this property. Cropper stated he will get her a copy of the new lease. Commissioner Nichols asked Elias the additional space is about 900 sq ft. Elias stated "Yes." Elias emphasized the need for this additional area is from the standpoint that each seat is money that is important to the business plan and creating a world-class experience for the customers. Commissioner Nichols asked Elias you paid to have all the bricks displayed laid. Elias stated "Yes," it is thirty-five thousand (35K), noting the structural engineers have signed off on the work to complete the brick arches. Commissioner Nichols asked when you are looking to open this establishment. Elias replied late October early November 2024. Elias stated that once the building construction is complete, there will be a great deal of time spent in training staff, and food excellence. Elias stated this will take time "It needs to be perfect for the customers." Commissioner Nichols asked how much this establishment is forecasted to cost. Elias

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MINUTES FOR SAND & CEDAR TAVERNA – LICENSE #956
AUGUST 21, 2024

stated we first thought \$1.0 million, but he believes it will be about two hundred thousand (\$200K) over budget. Commissioner Esham asked how long the lease is and who is financing this business. Elias stated the lease is a twenty (20) year lease, the financing is myself and my partner Karamjeet Singh (Ricky) who is my silent partner. Commissioner Esham asked so you stating there are no other partners. Elias stated "No," but we will be getting funding from friends or family, but they are not partners, most of the lease, loans or personal finance. Commissioner Esham asked for clarification regarding funding from other people. Elias stated to the Board when he was starting the Spain establishment if more funding was needed, I had support from family and friends. Cropper asked Elias this funding is an Arm's length interest promissory note. Elias stated "Yes." Commissioner Nichols asked these people are not partners. Elias stated "No." Commissioner Esham asked is the new lease the same as existing lease. Cropper stated this is new lease is four (4) five (5) year renewals for, fifteen thousand (\$15K) a year. Commissioner Nichols stated you believe you are going to spend about \$1.2 million and the funding comes from outside investors. Elias stated there is a personal loan along with myself investing my own money. Cropper stated to Elias under oath and for the record, it is your testimony that no other parties have a financial interest in this license expect for Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC which is yourself and Karamjeet Singh (Ricky). Elias replied "Yes." Commissioner Esham stated that if the establishment can't be open in the next five (5) months they will need to come back for an additional extension.

The Board approved Sand and Cedar Taverna Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day License request to expand licensed premises.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 1:40 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BISTRO & LOUNGE – LICENSE #153
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator		X	
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager		X	
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	153	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:41 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC		T/A: Bistro & Lounge		Address: 1706 Philadelphia Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Status Update on the progress of Bistro & Lounge, License #153								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Peter S. Elias				Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				

Hearing Minutes: The Board opened the discussion regarding the status of the license formally known as Cowboy Coast. Mr. Coates stated to Hugh Cropper and Peter Elias the Board would like to ask a few questions regarding the progress of Bistro & Lounge license. Mr. Coates asked Cropper and Elias were they prepared to address the questions today or would they like address at September's Board meeting. Elias stated he is prepared to address the Board's questions today. Mr. Coates stated the Board would like to know what the construction status of the property is. Elias stated we are in the design phase, as you know this is a large property I'm in the process of working with a design firm which will take a couple months before we have a final plan. Elias stated his goal to have the plans completed and be prepared to apply for permits late fall 2024. Elias stated my goal if everything goes smoothly is to still try to open early summer 2025. Cropper asked Elias is it correct that yourself, and along with Karamjeet Singh, and Sal Ramadan have a contract to purchase this property. Elias stated "Yes." Cropper asked Elias this property will be purchased under a real estate holding company and Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC will lease the property. Elias stated "Correct." Cropper stated this lease will be an Arms's length rate with a fixed rent. Elias stated "Correct." Commissioner Esham asked at this you have a lease have a lease agreement with the Rosenblit Family LLC. Elias stated "Yes," this lease was written with the option to purchase, and this is what I'm working on now. Commissioner Nichols stated that it sounds like there have been several changes since the license was approved this Board will need updated architectural plans once finalized to see what has changed. Elias stated once the plans are complete, he looks forward to sharing with the Board. Commissioner Nichols asked will this be similar funding arrangement as your other establishments. Elias stated for this project we are looking for funding for both construction cost and purchasing of the property, we have about \$1.5 million now and for the additional funding we are working with a local bank. Commissioner Esham asked Elias at this time you don't have the funding from the bank. Elias stated "Correct," we have other options at this time we are seeking the funds this way I feel it's promising we should know in a couple weeks, if all goes well with the bank, we should close the in September. Commissioner Nichols stated you are working to get this sale under contract. Elias stated we already have a purchase agreement with the Rosenblit Family to

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MINUTES FOR BISTRO & LOUNGE – LICENSE #153
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present to the bank. Mr. Coates stated to Elias and Cropper the Board would request an update letter explaining the status of this project in October or November. Mr. Coates explained to the Board and Elias that under the statute to extend the tentative approval for the major renovations of the property, stating this is the first update and I would suggest progress update around the end of October or November. Cropper stated to the Board they would like to request the progress submittal be submitted by October 30th. Commissioner Esham stated to Elias this Board is interest in the financial part of the property purchase and the construction cost. Elias stated the property purchase is \$4.5 million and in which we already have 20% for down payment the \$3.0 million construction cost which we have a loan for a total of \$7.5 million. Commissioner Esham asked is this private funding. Elias stated he is working with a local bank at this time the only negotiation we are working with them on is a lower downpayment. Commissioner Esham asked at this point you are not looking for any private loans for this project. Elias stated “No,” we are only focusing on one bank at this time.

BOARD DISCUSSED – BISTRO & LOUNGE #153 – MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROPERTY TO THE BOARD BY OCTOBER 30TH, 2024 – NO ADDITIONAL MEETING REQUIRED

Motion:	1st		2nd		Approved:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions:

Time Hearing Ended: 2:10 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ASIAN CUISINE – LICENSE #710
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	710	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	2:15 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Sue's Asian Cuisine, Inc.		T/A: Asian Cuisine		Address: 11007 Manklin Creek Road Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Kei Y. Yeung				Mark Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Ming F. Lin (Server)				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2. Shirley Yeung				2. Deputy Mark Shayne				
3.				3. Cadet Sarah Starkey				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 - Employee TIPS/TAM Certificates				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated May 21, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000671				

Hearing Minutes: The licensee Kei Ying Yeung, and witness Ming Feng Lin, and Shirley Yeung along with their attorney Mark Cropper, Esquire, appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: May 21, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000671, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on May 6, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Mr. Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper stated "Yes," we did receive all information and are here today for mitigation. Cropper asked K. Yeung you are the licensee and have not had any violations. K. Yeung stated "Correct." Cropper submitted (Licensee Exhibit #1) employee TIPS/TAM cards. Cropper asked K. Yeung were you on the premises at the time of the violation. K. Yeung stated "No." Cropper stated you received a phone call from your manager when the violation occurred. Cropper stated there was a statement in the police report, that you stated that Cadet Starkey was not served do you recall this conversation. K. Yeung stated he doesn't recall. Cropper said to K. Yeung you are not disputing the accuracy of what Deputy Shayne told you. K. Yeung stated "Correct." Cropper stated to the Board that Ming Lin who served the minor does not speak English well so with the Board's permission Shirley Yeung the daughter of K. Yeung would interpret for Lin. Mr. Coates stated that is allowed. S. Yeung stated that Lin told her that he didn't card because at first, he thought the person seated was a little girl and when a women sat down, he thought she was the mother seat

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MINUTES FOR ASIAN CUISINE – LICENSE #710
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S. Yeung stated Lin thought being she was a mother she was old enough to be served an alcoholic beverage. Cropper asked Shayne is the information given today correct. Shayne stated there was not a little girl seated at the table both interns were eighteen, there were no children were in the restaurant.

Commissioner Nichols asked the question how M. Lin took the test to receive his TIPS certification. S. Yeung stated that when we took the course we did as a group, so I was able to translate for M. Lin. Commissioner Nichols stated so you took the TIPS training for him. S. Yeung stated I didn't take the training for him I would translate the information for him to study. Commissioner Nichols asked S. Yeung did he pass the test, and you didn't take the test for him. S. Yeung stated "Yes," and I didn't take the test for him. S. Yeung stated that M. Lin is better at reading vs speaking the English language. S. Yeung stated Yin has been working for them for ten (10) years and this was never an issue. Commissioner Esham noted it seems that everything we are saying here today S. Yeung you are having to translate to him, also I question how much he would understand if he was given something to read. S. Yeung stated that for the TIPS training he was able to memorize the answers. Commissioner Nichols asked K. Yeung how much time he spends on premises. K. Yeung stated he is on premises about fifteen hours per week. Commissioner Esham and Commissioner Pusey both questioned the statement K. Yeung made that the cadet Starkey was not served. Deputy Shayne is it correct that K. Yeung stated that cadet Starkey was not served. Shayne stated he did speak to K. Yeung and that was his statement. Commissioner Pusey asked Louis Twilley to speak regarding her background and experience with TIPS/TAM training. Twilley was sworn in. Twilley stated she is a TAM trainer she is not familiar with CARD 101 training. Commissioner Pusey asked does she know if Card 101 is a certified program. Twilley stated that the Maryland Comptroller approves the programs and the trainers. Payne stated that Eric Chaplin is no longer a certified instructor. Commissioner Esham asked Shayne what his experience was when conducting this violation. Shayne stated there definitely was a language barrier with the K. Yeung, and the manager along with M. Lin that served the cadet. Commissioner Pusey asked Lin what his process is for checking ID. S. Yeung stated for Lin that when a customer ask for an alcoholic beverage, he would request proof of age, then he would look to see if it was Horizontal or Vertical stating, he knows not to accept vertical ID, then he would read the ID.

The Board found that the violation did occur on May 6, 2024, and imposed \$1,000 fine is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 22 ND *									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:30 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ROYAL FARM STORE – LICENSE #22
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	22	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	1:32 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Sherri Hicks, LLC		T/A: Royal Farm Store		Address: 12826A Ocean Gateway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Royal Farm Store, Class "A" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Sherri L. Hicks				Mark Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Brittany A. McKenney (Store Clerk)				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2. Thomas Cross (District Leader)				2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 - Royal Farm Training Module				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000402				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 - Brittan McKenney TIPS Certification								
3. Licensee's Exhibit #3 - Employee Documentation Form (Brittany McKenney)								
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee Sherri L. Hicks, and witnesses Brittany A. McKenney, and Thomas Cross along with their attorney Mark Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000402, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on March 19, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper stated there are no changes we are here today for mitigation. Cropper asked Hicks you were not on the property when the violation occurred. Hicks stated "No." Cropper asked Cross how much training each employee receives. Cross stated that each employee is required to become TIPS certified along with yearly Royal Farm training which is a refresher course. Cropper submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) Royal Farms training module, (Licensee's Exhibit #2) Brittany McKenney TIPS certification, and (Licensee's Exhibit #3) employee documentation form. Cropper presented a video to the Board showing McKenney scanning the ID that was presented from the cadet. McKenney stated when you scan a product if it is a tobacco or alcohol the screen will ask if the person is over 40 or you can type in the DOB manually, when I scanned the ID the screen prompt me to check the address on the ID it did not tell me she was</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ROYAL FARM STORE – LICENSE #22
AUGUST 21, 2024

under forty (40) so I assumed she was over 21 and proceed with the sale. Cropper asked McKenney do you feel Royal Farms could have done anything more to help you prevent this violation. McKenney stated “No,” and she accepts full reasonability.

Commissioner Nichols asked McKenney why she scanned the alcoholic beverage before she requested the ID. McKenney stated they scan the item first because only for tobacco or alcohol will the system stop you and ask for ID. Commissioner Pusey asked is there certain area that you scan on the ID. McKenney stated that there is a barcode on the ID and if I fail to not have a clear scan it would prompt me to rescan. Commissioner Esham asked the officer were they cooperative. Deputy Shayne stated that McKenney was polite and cooperative, I would like to note using the video McKenney did not look at the ID referenced looking at the video the ID was upside down meaning she never looked at the ID. Shayne stated without looking at the ID she had no idea if the ID belongs to someone else stating this is something they should be thinking about when using the scanners.

The Board found that the violation did occur on March 19, 2024, and imposed a letter of reprimand.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOLATION DID OCCUR

Time Hearing Ended: 2:50 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWARK STATION – LICENSE #394
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	394	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	2:53 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Dunya, Inc.		T/A: Newark Station		Address: 7167 Worcester Highway Newark, Maryland 21841				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Newark Station Class "A" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Debra S. Wells				David Moore, Esquire				
2. Sultan Mahmood								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Niamat Ullah (Store Clerk)				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2.				2. Deputy Mark Shayne				
3.				3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000583				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensees Debra S. Wells, and Sultan Mahmood, and witness Niamat Ullah along with their attorney David Moore, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000583, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on April 22, 2024. Mr. Coates asked the Moore did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Moore stated that the information is correct we are here today for mitigation. Moore stated Ullah the store clerk that made the sale has had no violations and is willing to take further training. Moore stated there is a language barrier, but that is no excuse. Commissioner Esham asked the officer for his testimony. Deputy Shayne stated they were polite, and cooperative and this store is not known as a trouble spot. Commissioner Nichols asked Ullah how many hours a week does he work a week. Ullah stated he works eight (8) hours six (6) days a week. Commissioner Nichols asked Ullah had you received proper training. Ullah stated "Yes." Commissioner Esham asked who gave you training. Ullah stated he is TIPS/TAM trained. Commissioner Pusey asked do you always ask for ID. Ullah stated "Yes," he does ask everyone for ID but for some reason that day I didn't. Ullah made the statement it's my vault. Commissioner Pusey asked Ullah do you understand what a Vertical ID means. Ullah stated he just didn't ask for ID my mistake.</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWARK STATION – LICENSE #394
AUGUST 21, 2024

The Board found that the violation did occur on April 22, 2024, and imposed \$250 fine the is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 22ND*

Time Hearing Ended: 3:00 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR DUCK IN – LICENSE #527
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	527	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	3:05 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Shanvi, Inc.		T/A: Duck In		Address: 607 Lynnhaven Drive Pocomoke, Maryland 21851				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Duck In Class "A" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Himansukumar M. Patel								
2. Michael F. Wright								
Witnesses:		Protestants:						
1. Nitinkumar S. Patel (Store Clerk)		1. Sgt. Paul Bissman (WCSO)						
2. D. Patel		2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)						
3.		3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey						
Exhibits:		Exhibits:						
1.		Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated May 21, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000624						

Hearing Minutes: The licensees Himansukumar M. Patel, Michael F. Wright, and witness Nitinkumar S. Patel appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000580, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on April 22, 2024. Mr. Coates asked the licensees did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. H. Patel stated we did receive and there are no changes. H. Patel stated he is the owner and was out of the country when the violation occurred. H. Patel stated that when he returned to establishment N. Patel was terminated and the POS system was changed that everyone must present ID before a sale of alcohol can be processed. Commissioner Esham asked was the other licensee present at the store the day of the violation. H. Patel stated no Wright is the resident agent and D. Patel is the new manager. Commissioner Nichols asked when was this licensed issued. April Payne stated June 14, 2022, was transferred. Commissioner Nichols asked did you not have the POS system in place at the time of the violation. H. Patel stated "No," Commissioner Nichols asked N. Patel how long he has worked at the store and what type of training has he received. N. Patel didn't understand because he doesn't understand the English fully, so H. Patel interpreted for him. H. Patel stated he was trained how to ask for ID for all sales. Deputy Shayne gave testimony that they were polite and

AUGUST 21, 2024

cooperative, I would like to note he did ask Cadet Starkey was she okay because she look nervous, but he still failed to ask for ID.

The Board found that the violation did occur on April 22, 2024, and imposed \$500 fine that is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 21ST*

Time Hearing Ended: 3:14 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR PIZZA TUGO'S – LICENSE #767
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	767	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	3:15 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Heise Corporation		T/A: Pizza Tugo's		Address: 9935 Stephen Decatur Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Pizza Tugo's Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Michael S. Heise				Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Tiffany F. Trefry (Server)				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2.				2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)				
3.				3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000799				

Hearing Minutes: The licensee Michael S. Heise, and witness Tiffany F. Trefry along with their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000799, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on May 28, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper stated we did receive all information and there are no changes, we are here for mitigation. Cropper asked Trefry how long she has been working in the alcoholic beverage business. Trefry stated she has worked with alcoholic beverage service for over fifteen (15) years, she is TIPS/TAM certified. Cropper asked Trefry to explain to the Board what happen the day of the violation. Trefry stated that she had brain fog that day I did ask for ID but did the math incorrectly and sold the alcoholic beverage to the cadet. Trefry stated she has never had a violation. Cropper stated that Trefry has been employed with Pizza Tugo's for eleven (11) years. Cropper asked Heise is Trefry a good employee. Heise stated "Yes," she is a wonderful employee and that is the reason I kept her employed. Cropper asked Heise is it true your company policy is to card everyone ordering an alcoholic beverage. Heise stated "Yes." Heise stated to be proactive we also ask the servers to have someone from management look at the ID, having another set of eyes is helpful. Commissioner Esham stated looking at the Alcohol Awareness list I don't see Trefry name listed. Heise stated that Trefry left for about two years, stating that when our employees did the training in March

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR PIZZA TUGO'S – LICENSE #767
AUGUST 21, 2024

Trefry was not working at that time. Trefry stated she is TIPS/TAM certified she took the class when I returned stating I take full responsibly for this mistake. Commissioner Esham asked Trefry was the ID you were given horizontal or vertical. Trefry stated it was vertical. Commissioner Esham asked April Payne to read the ID presented that day aloud. Trefry stated once again "I made a horrible mistake."

The Board found that the violation did occur on May 28, 2024, and imposed \$1,000 fine is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 21ST*

Time Hearing Ended: 3:37 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWTOWN MARKET – LICENSE #796
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	796	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:			
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: Newtown Market, Inc.		T/A: Newtown Market		Address: 132 & 134 Newtowne Blvd. Pocomoke, Maryland 21851				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Newtown Market Class "A" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Bijal T. Patel				Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2.				2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)				
3.				3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000579				

Hearing Minutes: The licensee Bijal T. Patel, along with their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee was sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000579, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on April 22, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper stated "Yes," we did receive the information and are here today for mitigation. Cropper asked Patel asked how long she has been involved selling alcohol. Patel stated ten (10) years. Cropper stated to Patel you have ten (10) years of experience working seven (7) days a week with your husband. Patel stated "Correct." Cropper stated she did have another violation about fifteen (10) years ago at a different location, so you've been selling many years without any violations. Cropper asked Patel you were working and didn't realize but you TIPS/TAM certification had expired. Patel stated "Yes," but as soon as I realized I took the class and became recertified. Cropper asked your other employees are TIPS/TAM certified. Patel stated "Yes." Cropper asked Patel to explain to the Board what happen that day. Patel stated she was working in the coolers and came out and saw a customer at the counter I thought the customer was over twenty-one (21) so I didn't ask for ID. Patel stated to the Board since this has happened I have installed a POS system that requires ID for all tobacco and alcohol sales. Commissioner Esham asked Deputy Shayne is this a trouble spot. Shayne stated they were polite and cooperative, and "No," this is not a trouble spot. Commissioner Nichols for clarification your TIPS/TAM

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWTOWN MARKET – LICENSE #796
AUGUST 21, 2024

certified had expired, and there was no one else on the property that was certified, but you now have become re-certified. Patel replied “Correct.” Commissioner Esham stated they are only here today for the violation not the issue of the TAM certification.

The Board found that the violation did occur on April 22, 2024, and imposed \$500 fine to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, June 21, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 22ND*

Time Hearing Ended: 3:38 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SUPER SODA – LICENSE #855
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	855	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	3:40 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: J & B Dinga Corporation		T/A: Super Soda		Address: 5318 Snow Hill Road Snow Hill, Maryland 21863				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Super Soda Class "A" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Muhammad Fawad								
2. Haider A. Majid								
3. William J. Davis								
Witnesses:		Protestants:						
1. Jehanzaib Asghar Aheer-Begum (Store Clerk)		1. Sgt. Paul Bissman						
2.		2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)						
3.		3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey						
Exhibits:		Exhibits:						
1. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1 – Three (3) Register Receipts		Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000625						

Hearing Minutes: The licensees Muhammad Fawad, Haider A. Majid, William J. Davis, and witness Jehanzaib Aheer-Begum appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000625, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on April 29, 2024. Mr. Coates asked the licensees did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Fawad stated they did receive the information and there are no changes. Fawad stated that he was at the store, but he had a family emergency and had to leave the property for about three (3) hours during that time is when the violation occurred. Fawad he now has a POS system now all alcohol sales require proof of age before a sale can be completed. Fawad stated that now the register will not complete the sale until the ID is scanned, stating as you can see in the receipts submitted. Fawad submitted (Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1) three register receipts. Fawad stated Begum the clerk that completed the sale, will be completing the TIPS/TAM course in September. Commissioner Nichols asked April Payne when this license was issued. Payne stated May 25, 2021. Commissioner Nichols stated to Fawad you received a violation August 16, 2023, during that meeting we discussed, and you agreed you would be implementing a POS system to prevent another violation; asking you didn't take any corrective action after that

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SUPER SODA – LICENSE #855
AUGUST 21, 2024

meeting. Fawad stated we didn't purchase the POS system as that time. Commissioner Nichols asked Fawad why you didn't purchase the POS system because at that meeting you stated you were going to purchase. Fawad stated we did purchase system on the side, but it stopped working and they were waiting for a service technician. Fawad stated that they now have a POS system installed at the property. Commissioner Nichols asked Begum were you on the phone the entire time of the sale transaction. Begum replied "Yes." Commissioner Nichols asked Begum was he working at the store at the time of the August 16, 2023, violation. Begum stated "No." Commissioner Nichols asked how long you have been working at this property and how many hours per day do you work, and have you received any training. Begum replied he has worked at this store for two (2) months. Fawad stated on behalf of Begum he received side by side training with me regarding checking IDs. Begum made the statement he didn't recognize her age. Commissioner Pusey asked Begum is he TIPS/TAM certified at this time. Begum stated "No." Commissioner Nichols asked if Begum is still employed. Fawad stated he is no longer employed. Commissioner Esham asked Deputy Shayne asked were there any issues. Shayne stated they were polite and cooperative, and he made the statement that is was his mistake. Commissioner Pusey asked Fawad how many employees do you have and are they TIPS/TAM certified. Fawad stated three (3) employees, and they are certified.

The Board found that the violation did occur on April 29, 2024, and imposed \$1,500 fine is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED <u>*PAID ON AUGUST 21ST*</u>

Time Hearing Ended: 3:50 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BERLIN LIQUOR – LICENSE #869
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	869	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	3:52 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Shirdi Sai, LLC		T/A: Berlin Liquor		Address: 10818 Ocean Gateway Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Berlin Liquor Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Ankur-Rajanikant Patel		Mark Cropper, Esquire						
Witnesses:		Protestants:						
1. Colleen M. Golden (Store Clerk)		1. Sgt. Paul Bissman (WCSO)						
2. Sherri Martin (Manager)		2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)						
Exhibits:		Exhibits:						
1. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1 – Copies of employee TIPS cards		Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated May 21, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000624						
2. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #2 – Three Certificates of Appreciation								
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensees Ankur-Rajanikant Patel, and witnesses Colleen M. Golden, and Sherri Martin along with their attorney Mark Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000404, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on March 19, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper replied the information was received and there are no changes they are here today for mitigation. Cropper asked Golden you were the clerk that completed the sale, and you were employed since 2018, and are TIPS certified. Golden replied "Yes." Cropper asked Martin you are the store manager and have been employed since 2017, and are TIPS certified. Martin replied "Correct." Cropper submitted (Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1) copies of employee TIPS cards, and (Licensee's Collective Exhibit #2) three certificates of appreciation. Cropper asked Golden you are no longer employed with Berlin Liquor. Golden stated "Correct." Cropper stated to the Board Golden did ask for the ID but misread the ID, after the sale was made. Cropper also stated that Deputy Shayne asked Golden what "Age Verification Bypassed" meant that was printed on the receipt that was given after the purchase. Cropper stated that in the report Shayne stated that he was shown on the register that if a clerk follows the proper procedures meaning scanning the ID the system will determine if the ID is valid, and the age. Cropper</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BERLIN LIQUOR – LICENSE #869
AUGUST 21, 2024

stated Golden failed to follow the proper steps and sold to a minor. Cropper stated to Golden you have been employed for six years and are TIPS certified please explain to the Board what happened that day. Golden stated she was in the back area working when she came out, she noticed who she thought was a regular customer that she knew, I then proceed to a register that was not her register. I did the sale but once I asked her if she wanted her receipt and heard her speak, I immediately knew it was not someone I knew and ask for her ID upon reading the ID I mistakenly read the date of issue and the date of birth but with my bad eyesight I mistook a two (2) for a five (5). Cropper asked Golden once you received the ID why didn't you scan the ID. Golden stated I had already completed the sale, and the register would not allow me. Cropper asked Martin you hired and trained Martin replied "Yes." Cropper asked Martin do you believe after training and years of observing Golden as an employee do you believe any further steps could have been taken by the store that could have prevented this. Martin replied "No." Cropper stated to Patel you have numerous signs throughout the store, along with an installed POS system do you believe there is anything else could have been done to prevent this sale. Patel stated "No." Cropper asked Deputy Shayne were they cooperative. Shayne stated they were polite and cooperative and took the time to show me how the POS system operated.

The Board found that the violation did occur on March 19, 2024, and imposed \$1,500 fine is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED <u>*PAID ON AUGUST 22ND*</u>

Time Hearing Ended: 4:04 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR MARLIN MARKET & ASSATEAGUE DINER – LICENSE #877
AUGUST 21, 2024

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		X	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Investigator			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	877	Hearing Date:	August 21, 2024		Time Hearing Started:	4:05 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Pooja Ocean City, Inc.		T/A: Marlin Market & Assateague Diner		Address: 9636 Stephen Decatur Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Violation: X Yes
Items to be discussed: Marlin Market and Assateague Bar & Grill Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Kunal Kumar		Mark Cropper, Esquire						
Witnesses:		Protestants:						
1. Rudra Kumal (Store Clerk)		1. Sgt. Paul Bissman						
2.		2. Deputy Mark Shayne (WCSO)						
3.		3. Cadet Sarah E. Starkey						
Exhibits:		Exhibits:						
1.		Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000584						

Hearing Minutes: The licensees Kunal Kumar, and witness Rudra Kumal along with their attorney Mark Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witness were sworn in. Mr. Coates submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 2, 2024, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #24-0000584, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on April 22, 2024. Mr. Coates asked Cropper did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cropper stated that they did receive the information and there are no changes they are here today for mitigation. Cropper asked Kumar you hired Kumal as a cook for the diner side, but he approached you and expressed interest in becoming a cashier, he had only been a cashier for about two months and was TIPS trained. Kumar stated "Correct." Cropper asked Kumar you have a POS system in place for clerks to use. Kumar stated "Yes," our system has been in place since 2019. Cropper asked Kumar to explain to the Board why this transaction was not scanned. Kumar stated in speaking to Kumal this was a mistake on his part, Kumar explained on the POS system installed at our establishment we offered our cashiers the option to manually enter the ID for customers that would present a military ID, passport or drivers licenses that were not scannable, this process had worked great for years, however because of this incident we have removed this option meaning all IDs must be scanned for the purchase of alcohol. Cropper asked Kumar you have terminated Kumal because this is a violation of company policy. Kumar replied "Yes." Cropper asked Kumar to clarify to the Board what changes were made or any additional changes you plan to make to help ensure no further

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR MARLIN MARKET & ASSATEAGUE DINER – LICENSE #877
AUGUST 21, 2024

violations will occur at this location. Kumar stated to the Board, as I stated we have taken away the option for the cashiers to be able to manually enter the information on an ID, all alcohol sales must present an ID, if the customer does not have ID they are refused the alcohol sale, we are also conducting monthly refresher training for all cashiers regarding how to properly conduct a sale of alcohol. Kumar stated to the Board I take this very serious stating this is my livelihood. Cropper asked Deputy Shayne was everyone cooperative and is this known to be a trouble spot. Shayne stated staff was polite and cooperative, and “No,” this is not considered a trouble spot. Commissioner Nichols asked Cropper when Kumal TAMS card was issued. Cropper stated the card states it was issued on April 20, 2024. Commissioner Nichols noted so it was only issued two days before the violation. Cropper stated “Correct.” Commissioner Nichols asked Kumal do you feel you received ample training. Kumal replied “Yes.” Cropper explained to the Board that there is a language barrier with Kumal. Commissioner Nichols asked Kumar do you own another retail location in Worcester County. Kumar stated “No,” my father owns/operates another location. Commissioner Nichols asked Kumar how much time you spend at this location. Kumar stated, “I spend as much time as needed.” Commissioner Esham asked what that statement means, are you a Worcester County resident. Kumar stated “No,” I am not a Worcester County resident. Kumar stated to the Board I work at the Marlin Market property at least twice a month, when I’m not on the property I’m working remote from home overseeing the operation; Kumar stated I have a very qualified manager that also oversees my operations when I’m not on the property. Commissioner Esham asked Kumar what Kumal position was before he became a cashier at Marlin Market. Kumar stated he was a cook in the kitchen at the adjacent diner known as Assateague Diner. Commissioner Nichols asked Kumar the violation occurred in April during the slower season was Kumal working as a cook and working as a cashier at the same time. Commissioner Esham asked Kumar where he took the TIPS course. Kumal attempt to answer the question but didn’t understand. Kumar stated he believes the course was taken at the library. Kumar stated “No,” he was not working two position at the same time. Commissioner Nichols stated to Kumar, you understand you are under oath so it’s your testimony that Kumal was only a cashier during working hours at Marlin Market. Kumar stated “Correct,” once he was trained, he was only working as a cashier at Marlin Market.

The Board found that the violation did occur on April 22, 2024, and imposed \$2,000 fine is to be paid by certified check or cash by Friday, August 23, 2024, by noon and if not paid the license would be suspended until the fine was paid in full

Motion:	1st	Mr. Nichols	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: VIOALTION DID OCCUR – FINE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD BY NOON AND IF NOT PAID THE LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED *PAID ON AUGUST 22ND*

Time Hearing Ended: 4:25 p.m.