

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR MIDTOWN ROADHOUSE - NEW
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		<input type="checkbox"/>	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector		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 #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	February 19, 2025		Time Hearing Started:	1:10 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: SAMAJ Hospitality Group South, Inc.			T/A: Midtown Roadhouse		Address: 7805 Coastal Highway, Unit 2 Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
New Application:	X Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Violation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License								
Applicants:	X	Licensees:	<input type="checkbox"/>		Representative:			
1. Torrie Marcel James					Kristina L. Watkowski, Esquire			
2. Jessica Nicole Maxwell								
3. Ryan Wayne James								
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1.					1.			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1. Applicant's Exhibit 1 – Business Summary					1.			
2. Applicant's Exhibit #2 - Menu					2.			
3. Applicant's Exhibit #3 – Floor Plan					3.			
<p>Hearing Minutes: The applicants and their attorney Kristina L. Watkowski, Esquire, appeared before the Board with a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License application. The applicants were sworn in. Ms. Watkowski introduced herself and stated she is representing the applicants Torrie M. James, Jessica N. Maxwell, and Ryan W. James today. Mr. Coates stated to Watkowski that the commercial lease agreement does not reflect the name of the new corporation, Watkowski stated the corporation had not been registered when the application was submitted. Watkowski asked R. James what his experience is with the food and beverage business. R. James stated he has been involved in the restaurant business for eighteen years and once held the license for "Mother's Cantina" with no violations, he also is currently involved in business with his and wife and sister whom both are license holders in Ocean City. Watkowski submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #1), business summary and (Applicant's Exhibit #2) menu. R. James presented to the Board the business summary concept that the establishment will be incorporated. Watkowski submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #3) floor plan. Watkowski noting the floor plan there will be an upstairs and downstairs dining area in this establishment. R. James replied, "Correct." Watkowski stated there will be only one entrance and exit for patrons, and that controlled area will have a hostess and manager at all times that will be TIPS/TAM certified. R. James replied, "Correct." Watkowski asked R. James, will all your employees that will be serving alcoholic beverages be TIPS/TAM certified. R. James replied "Yes." Watkowski asked this establishment will be closed January and February with the hours of Noon – Midnight. R. James stated "Correct." Watkowski clarified with April Payne, the license would be issued to allow to serve until 2 a.m. Payne stated "Correct." Watkowski asked R. James, the establishment's staff will be fully trained in checking IDs and there be scanning systems, along with other visual tools to aid in preventing sales to minors. Commissioner Nichols asked R. James how many employees. R. James stated 10 during the slow season and 30 during the summer season. Commissioner Cropper asked you will have a manager working during all business hours to oversee the staff. R. James replied "Yes." Commissioner Nichols asked the applicants how much time they will be spending onsite. R. James stated that during the busy season he would be there 40 hours, T. James stated that between himself and Maxwell they would be onsite for forty hours. Watkowski asked T. James what his experience is with the food and beverage business is. T. James stated he has been a</p>								

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police officer for twenty-five years, and has an alcoholic beverage license in Dover, Delaware since 2023 along with Maxwell. Commissioner Nichols stated for clarification the applicants understand the restrictions outlined. Watkowski stated “Yes.” Commissioner Cropper asked, with the rooms being so same is amplified music necessary. Maxwell stated in her experience a singer requires some type of amplification to project their voice so the audience can hear without exhausting themselves. Watkowski asked Maxwell to tell the Board what her experience is with the food and beverage business. Maxwell stated she was involved in education for sixteen years and then she became a license holder in 2023 along with T. James, I will mainly be spending numerous hours with R. James focusing on the daily operations of the establishment. Commissioner Cropper noted the country theme business concept there will be no mechanic bull riding. Watkowski replied “Absolutely Not.” Mr. Coates asked Watkowski along with the applicants to sign the commercial lease on record to reflect the name of the corporation.

The Board tentatively approved the application for a Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day License pending all required documentation.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED INSIDE AMPLIFIED WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PIECES FOUR NIGHTS PER WEEK FROM 6 P.M. UNTIL 11 P.M., LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED OUTSIDE NON AMPLIFIED WITH A MAXIMUM OF ONE PIECE (GUITARIST) FOUR NIGHTS PER WEEK FROM NOON UNTIL 9 P.M. ON EITHER THE FIRST OR SECOND FLOOR DECK, OUTSIDE BAR ALLOWED ON THE FIRST FLOOR DECK, TWO CEILING MOUNTED SPEAKERS ALLOWED ON THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR DECKS WITH BACKGROUND MUSIC ONLY, NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE, NO POOL TABLES ALLOWED

Time Hearing Ended: 1:38 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR PLAZA TAPATIA – LICENSE #546
FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		<input type="checkbox"/>	R. Charles Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marty W. Pusey	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name: W. Hank Fisher, Esq.,			X
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	546	Hearing Date:	February 19, 2025		Time Hearing Started:	1:39 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Plaza Tapatia, Inc		T/A: Plaza Tapatia		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. Armando Saldana (Not Present)		Brian P. Cosby, Esquire						
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Jacqueline Saldana (Manager)				1. Cpl. Paul Bissman				
2. Karla Flores Cruz (Server)				2. DFC Mark Shayne				
3.				3. Deputy Jasmine Mentzer				
4.				4. Cadet Braden Sisson				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Receipt for Employees Alcohol Awareness Training				Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated January 28, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #25-0000080				

Hearing Minutes: Brian P. Cosby, Esquire along with, Jacqueline Saldana, and Karla F. Cruz appeared before the Board with a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: January 28, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Case Report #25-0000080, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on January 20, 2025. Mr. Fisher asked Cosby did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Cosby stated there are no corrections or changes we are here today for mitigation. Mr. Coates asked Cosby why the licensee Armando Saldana was not present today for the hearing. Cosby stated that Mr. Saldana is in the hospital at this time with serious medical issues. Mr. Coates stated the Board was not made aware that the licensee was unable to attend today, so the Board will need to decide if the hearing can be heard today. The Board stated that the hearing could proceed today without Armando Saldana. Cosby asked J. Saldana what her experience is in the alcohol beverage and food service business. Saldana stated to the Board she has stepped into running this business because of numerous management issues, and because of the illness of her father. Saldana stated when she stepped in, she had lost her management staff and that she had limited experience with the food and alcoholic beverage business and was not TIPS/TAM certified. Cosby submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) receipt for employee's alcohol awareness training. Cosby stated that all staff that will be serving alcoholic beverages are now TIPS/TAM certified. Saldana replied "Correct." Cosby asked Saldana, did you provide your servers in-house training and is it the practice of your servers to ask for ID before serving alcoholic beverages. Saldana stated that some of the servers had been at the establishment for numerous years, I regret that I didn't take the time to meet with the employees to conduct a refresher course or inquire what staff was not TIPS/TAM certified. Although the staff was not currently TIPS/TAMS certified, I knew the staff was checking ID's. Cosby asked Cruz to explain to the Board what occurred the day of the

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incident. Cruz stated that the bartender that is usually behind the bar had left for the afternoon leaving her to work the bar area along with her tables. Cruz stated that she does not usually work behind the bar, and she was nervous, and there were other customers sitting at the bar that were verbally distracting her. Cruz stated she made the mistake of not asking for ID before she served the customer. Saldana stated that she takes full responsibility for this violation, this incident was a breakdown in management and moving forward we will be taking every step to ensure this does not happen again to protect this family business. Commissioner Cropper asked if the bartender that left was certified. Saldana replied, “No.” Commissioner Nichols noted no employees were on the property that day were TIPS/TAMs certified. Saldana stated “Correct.” Commissioner Cropper stated to Saldana even before you stepped into this position in September there were no employees that were TIPS/TAMS certified for this property. Saldana replied “Correct.” Commissioner Nichols reviewed the Alcohol Awareness Certified Representative list with Saldana. Commissioner Nichols noted all the employees on the establishment’s list were no longer employed with this establishment. DFC Shayne gave testimony that the staff was polite and cooperative.

Commissioner Nichols announced the Board will go into closed session, and everyone involved in this case and the public must leave the meeting.

The Board reconvened the hearing; the following motion was made; the Board found that a violation did occur and implemented a 30-Day suspension to begin at 5 p.m. February 19, 2025, property may reopen for business at 9 a.m. on March 21, 2025, and imposed a fine in the amount of \$4,000. Fine to be paid by 12 Noon on Friday, February 21, 2025.

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

Time Hearing Ended: 2:05 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR CANTINA LOS AGAVES MEXICAN GRILL – LICENSE #862
FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Members Present:		William E. Esham, Jr., Chairman		<input type="checkbox"/>	R. Charles Nichols	X	Marty W. Pusey	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Thomas K. Coates, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name: W. Hank Fisher, Esq.,			X
		Donna Hughes, Liquor License Specialist		X	Kelly Henry, Technical Services Manager			X
					Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	862	Hearing Date:	February 19, 2025		Time Hearing Started:	2:07 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Cantina Los Agaves, LLC		T/A: Cantina Los Agaves Mexican Grill		Address: 12720 Ocean Gateway, Unit #7 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: 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. Mary A. Foust					Joseph E. Moore, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1. Juan Garcia Juarez (Server)					1. CPL. Paul Bissman			
2.					2. DFC. Mark Shayne			
3.					3. Deputy Jasmine Mentzer			
4.					4. Cadet Braden Sisson			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Verification of Compliance Check from WCHD					1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated January 28, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Case Report #25-0000081			
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Copy of Juan Juarez TIPS Card					2.			
<p>Hearing Minutes: Joseph E. Moore, Esquire along with, Mary A. Foust, the licensee and Juan Juarez appeared before the Board with a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License for a Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witness were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: January 28, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0000081, into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on January 20, 2025. Mr. Fisher asked Moore did they receive this information and were there any corrections or changes. Moore stated there are no corrections or changes we are here today for mitigation. Moore asked Foust what her experience with the sale of food and alcoholic beverage business is. Foust stated she has been the licensee at this location since 2023 and she also is a license holder in Johnstown, PA since 2019, and has not had any violations at either location. Moore submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) verification of compliance check. Moore stated Juarez was TIPS/TAMS certified the day the incident occurred but did not have your TIPS card with him but has since then presented. Moore submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #2) copy of Juan Juarez TIPS card. Moore asked Juarez is it correct you did not check the patron's ID, and stated this is not the establishment's practice, to ensure you did not have this occur again you took it upon yourself to retake the TIPS course as a refresher to safeguard this error happening again. Juarez stated that is "Correct," Moore stated to the Board he did not suggest this to the licensee or Juarez they did this as good faith to the Board that they take alcohol beverage compliance laws seriously. Moore asked Foust what other steps you have put into place to ensure another incident does not happen again. Foust stated she has also purchased a handheld system so that servers will have to check all IDs. DFC Mark Shayne stated the license holder, and server were very polite, cooperative, and this is not a hot spot.</p> <p>The Board found that the violation did occur on January 20, 2025, and Imposed a letter of Reprimand.</p>								
Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS								
Time Hearing Ended: 2:19 p.m								