

**Worcester County Board of License Commissioners**  
**Open Meetings Act Minutes**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**Time:** 1:00 P.M.

**Location:** Worcester County Governmental Center, Board Room, Room 1102

**Attendance:**

**License Commissioners**

R. Charles Nichols

Marty W. Pusey

Reese Cropper, III

**Staff:**

Hank Fisher, III, Esquire

April R. Payne, Liquor License Administrator

Joseph Pembroke, Liquor License Inspector

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Administrative Matters**

Review and Approval of *December 17, 2025*; the Board of License Commissioners reviewed the minutes, and a motion was made by Commissioner Cropper, seconded by Commissioner Pusey and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

**III. Closed Session - Administrative Matters**

April Payne, Liquor License Administrator informed the Board that liquor license renewals start in a couple of weeks and some of the licensees have started reaching out with questions, since all the information is on the County Website to renew their 2026/2027 Alcohol License. Letters were sent out to the licensees that have Maryland tax delinquency, were given the proper information of who they need to contact to resolve their issues. The affidavit that was provided by the Board last year is still in play; it's an agreement that their taxes and licenses are up to date. Payne states it's working efficiently, even the attorneys seem to be doing well with the online.

**IV. Open Session**

No administrative matters were discussed during Open Session.

**V. Adjournment**

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR FAT DADDY’S - LICENSE #535  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>	
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>	
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>License #:</b>	535	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	1:05 p.m.			
<b>Class:</b>	“B”	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day			
<b>For:</b> Shavi_Co, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Fat Daddy’s		<b>Address:</b> 216 S. Baltimore Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842					
<b>New Application:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Transfer:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>		<b>Violation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day License request for amplified acoustic music three days per week from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m., request for trivia nights, request for karaoke events, request for comedy or open mic nights one night per week from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., request for a disc jockey two nights per week from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.									
<b>Applicants:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Licensees:</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>Representative:</b>				
1. Shavkat Ismailov									
<b>Witnesses:</b>				<b>Protestants:</b>					
1.				1.					
<b>Exhibits:</b>				<b>Exhibits:</b>					
1.				1.					
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> Licensee Shavkat Ismailov returned to the Board seeking approval for several entertainment request at the Treehouse Bar, located adjacent to Fat Daddy’s. Ismailov, was sworn in, previously met with the Board on December 17, 2025, and came prepared with updated drawings and layout details. He explained the planned stage area, lounge seating, and bar configuration, noting that all materials had already been shared with Liquor License Administrator, April Payne. As the Board reviewed each entertainment request, Chairman Nichols led the discussion. The first request is for amplified acoustic music three nights per week from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. was quickly confirmed as acceptable. Trivia Nights were also approved. When discussing Karaoke Nights, Commissioner Pusey asked whether karaoke would overlap with other entertainment. Ismailov clarified that each activity would be scheduled separately. The Board then considered the request for a weekly Comedy or Open Mic Night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Board agreed this was appropriate for the venue. The final request involved hosting a Disc Jockey (DJ). Chairman Nichols asked about Ismailov’s experience with DJ entertainment. Ismailov explained that while he had not hosted a DJ at this specific location, he had experience at other establishments. Ismailov noted the Treehouse Bar is small, intimate space where a DJ would provide curated music rather than mixed tracks played from Bluetooth. Chairman Nichols requested verification that the DJ would be located within porch area as noted on the site plan provided. Ismailov confirmed that the DJ setup would be located on the porch area.</p> <p>The Board approved the following requests for Fat Daddy’s, Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day license request for amplified acoustic music three days per week from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m., request for trivia nights, request for karaoke events, request for comedy or open mic nights one night per week from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., request for a disc jockey two nights per week from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Any entertainment selection can take place individually but not at the same time.</p>									
<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Mr. Cropper		2nd	Ms. Pusey		<b>Approved:</b>	<b>X</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Restrictions: AMPLIFIED ACOUSTIC MUSIC WITH ONE PIECE ALLOWED THREE DAYS PER WEEK FROM 6 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M., TRIVIA NIGHTS ALLOWED, KARAOKE EVENTS ALLOWED, COMEDY OR OPEN MIC NIGHT ALLOWED ONE NIGHT PER WEEK FROM 6 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M., DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED ONE NIGHT PER WEEK FROM 8 P.M. UNTIL 11 P.M. ANY ENTERTIANMENT SELECTION CAN TAKE PLACE INDIVIDUALLY BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME - NO GAMES ALLOWED.									
Time Hearing Ended: 1:15 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR BRASS BALLS SALOON - LICENSE #233  
 FERRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> William E. Esham, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney <b>(RECUSED HIMSELF)</b>		X	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
<b>License #:</b>	233	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	1:15 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> BBS Hospitality, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Brass Balls Saloon		<b>Address:</b> 1105 Atlantic Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
<b>New Application:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Transfer:</b>	X Yes		<b>Meeting:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Application for Transfer of a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License from BBS Holdings, Inc. to BBS Hospitality, LLC								
<b>Applicants:</b>	X	<b>Licensees:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Andrew C. Hoster					Quinn McGinnis, Esquire			
2. Michael D. Manry								
<b>Witnesses:</b>					<b>Protestants:</b>			
1.					1.			
<b>Exhibits:</b>					<b>Exhibits:</b>			
1.					1.			
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> The applicants, Andrew Hoster and Michael Manry, appeared before the Board with their attorney, Quinn McGinnis, Esquire for the purpose of transferring a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License from BBS Holdings, Inc. to BBS Hospitality, LLC. The applicants were sworn in. The applicants stated that BBS Hospitality LLC has no additional members. Manry identified himself as the General Manager and Hoster as the Assistant Manager, and both reported that they have been employed with the business since 2010. They explained that the transfer is being sought to ensure continued operation of Brass Balls Saloon, as the current owners wish to step back after many years of managing the establishment. The applicants affirmed that they are TIPS/TAMS certified, have no prior violations, and that all employees are also certified, a practice they intend to maintain. They confirmed that ID checking procedures are in place and that they plan to implement ID scanners. The applicants stated they are not requesting any changes to the existing license, floor plan, entertainment, or menu, and that they have reviewed and will comply with all license restrictions. They noted that Brass Balls Saloon has been in operation since 1980 and remains a popular Ocean City establishment. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the applicants understood the responsibilities associated with holding a liquor license, and Manry confirmed that they do and that compliance with County and State regulations is a priority.</p> <p>The Board tentatively approved the application for transfer of a Class" B" B/W/L 7 Day License from BBS Holdings, Inc. to BBS Hospitality, LLC</p>								
<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Restrictions:</b> SAME RESTRICTIONS								
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 1:20 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR WEAVER'S BEER & WINE - LICENSE #16  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>License #:</b>	16	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	1:25 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"A"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> Exile Enterprises, Inc.		<b>T/A:</b> Weaver's Beer & Wine		<b>Address:</b> 2 S. Baltimore Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
<b>New Application:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Transfer:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<b>Meeting:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Application for Transfer of a Class "A" B/W/ L 7 Day License from Charles N. Weaver, Jr. & David L. Weaver to Exile Enterprises, Inc.								
<b>Applicants:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Licensees:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Howard R. Nichols					Hugh Cropper, Esquire			
2. Robert J. Riccio, Jr.								
<b>Witnesses:</b>					<b>Protestants:</b>			
1.					1. Walid Saleh – OC Dollar Store (Opposed)			
<b>Exhibits:</b>					<b>Exhibits:</b>			
1.					1.			
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> Howard Nichols and Robert Riccio, Jr. appeared before the Board with their attorney, Hugh Cropper, Esquire, for application to transfer a Class "A" Beer, Wine &amp; Liquor 7-Day license from Charles N. Weaver, Jr. and David L. Weaver to Exile Enterprises, Inc. The applicants were sworn in. Cropper stated that Riccio has extensive experience in the alcoholic beverage industry and that Nichols will serve as the Resident Agent. Nichols stated he previously owned a small pizza restaurant for seven years. Cropper stated that Nichols has completed and passed the TIPS/TAMS certification, will be on the premises at least 30 hours per week, and resides two blocks from the business. Nichols affirmed each statement. Nichols also confirmed he has never had a violation at any business he has operated, that all information on the application is accurate, and that he remains fully qualified to serve as Resident Agent. He further affirmed that he understands the rights and responsibilities of the position, including the consequences should he violate any laws or regulations. Cropper then questioned Robert Riccio, he stated he has been in the liquor business for twenty years. Cropper noted Riccio is in the process of relinquishing the license for Oasis Bar &amp; Grill. Riccio confirmed and stated he has submitted the necessary paperwork to the Liquor Board Administrator, April Payne. Riccio affirmed that he will no longer have any ownership interest in the Oasis Bar &amp; Grill, and that this will be the only alcoholic beverage license in which he is involved. Payne reiterated that Riccio is resigning from the Oasis Bar &amp; Grill license, she advised the Board that the remaining licensee at the Oasis Bar &amp; Grill will assume 99% stock interest, which does not require a hearing but does require administrative paperwork and an associated fee. Cropper asked Riccio whether he has had any prior violations. Riccio stated he has had only one violation, which occurred at the Oasis Bar &amp; Grill. Riccio confirmed he will use ID scanners at Weaver's and will be actively involved in the business. He also affirmed that he understands Nichols' role as Resident Agent and that both he and Nichols are qualified for their respective responsibilities. Riccio confirmed that, if granted the license, they will comply with all rules and regulations. Chairman Nichols asked whether the lease was in order. Board Attorney Hank Fisher III stated the lease was in order but had not yet been signed. Cropper stated they had a signed copy available and would provide it. He further noted that Riccio is in the process of purchasing the property, and therefore a lease will ultimately not be required. Payne asked Riccio whether he obtained financing for the purchase of Weaver's property through a bank and whether anyone else is on loan. Riccio stated he obtained the loan through Link Bank and that he is the sole borrower. Chairman Nichols asked whether Riccio will be the 100% owner of Exile</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR WEAVER’S BEER & WINE - LICENSE #16  
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Enterprises, LLC; Riccio stated he will. Chairman Nichols then addressed Walid Saleh, who had expressed opposition to the license. Saleh clarified that he is not opposed to Riccio personally. Saleh asked whether Riccio intends to continue operating the drive-up window for alcohol sales, expressing concern about potential parking issues. Riccio stated that the previous owner operated the business in that manner for 50 years without issues. Saleh asked whether Riccio has any plans to transfer the license to another location; Riccio stated he does not at this time. Saleh also asked whether Riccio has any written or verbal agreements with any party who may seek a financial interest in the license in the future. Riccio stated he does not.

The Board tentatively approved the Application for Transfer of a Class “A” B/W 7 Day License from Charles N. Weaver, Jr. & David L. Weaver to Exile Enterprises, Inc.; pending all required documentation.

<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<b>Restrictions:</b> SAME RESTRICTIONS									
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 1:38 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES FOR CYPRESS MOON ART - NEW  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>		<b>X</b>	
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>License #:</b>	NEW	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	1:35 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"D"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> Cypress Moon Art, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Cypress Moon Art		<b>Address:</b> 143 Market Street Pocomoke, Maryland 21851				
<b>New Application:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>Transfer:</b>			<b>Meeting:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Application for a Class "D" B/W 7 Day License								
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Licensees:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Carlena L. Jelley					Joesph E. Moore, Esquire			
<b>Witnesses:</b>				<b>Protestants:</b>				
1.				1.				
<b>Exhibits:</b>				<b>Exhibits:</b>				
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 - Floor Plan				1.				
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> The applicant Carlena L. Jelley accompanied by her attorney Joesph E. Moore, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for a Application for a Class "D" B/W 7 Day license for Cypress Moon Art. The applicant was sworn in. Moore requested Jelley to describe her business concept. Jelley explained that Cypress Moon Art is a performing and visual arts studio located in downtown Pocomoke, where she teaches visual arts, theatre, creative writing, and music. She stated her goal is to create a community hub where artists can teach and where the public can access opportunities for learning and creative expression. She noted she has received support and positive feedback from the community. Moore confirmed that Jelley is TIPS/TAMS certified, which she affirmed. He also noted that Jelley does not have prior experience in the sale of alcohol, aside from waiting tables in college. Jelley stated she is researching ID scanner options to ensure alcohol is served only to customers age 21 and over. Moore further noted that Jelley is a teacher and that she understands the rules and regulations governing alcohol sales; Jelley affirmed both statements. Moore submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #1) floor plan, explaining that it shows the Market Street entrance and the main venue area where Jelley will provide art instruction. Customers age 21 and over would have the option to enjoy a beer or glass of wine during classes or events. Jelley confirmed this description. Jelley stated that Cypress Moon Arts is typically open five days per week but may open additional days for special circumstances; therefore, she is requesting a 7 Day license. Commissioner Cropper asked whether Jelley intends to serve food. Jelley stated she will offer snacks but does not plan to prepare food. Commissioner Cropper also asked why she is requesting a 7 Day license if she is open only five days a week. Chairman Nichols noted that this is a Class "D" license. Jelley clarified that she does not intend to operate a bar; her purpose is to offer beer and wine to adult customers participating in painting sessions, classes, or events where artists or musicians are showcasing their work. Jelley stated the studio is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays but would like the flexibility to host private events or teaching sessions on those days if requested. Moore explained that a Class "D" license is appropriate because Jelley will not be serving food and therefore does not qualify for a Class "B" license. Moore noted that the Board previously issued a similar license in Ocean City for a bookstore offering presentations with B/W service. Commissioner Cropper asked how long Jelley has occupied the building; she stated she has been there for over a year. Commissioner Pusey asked how often musicians would perform. Jelley stated she anticipates hosting musicians approximately every other week and would like to showcase musical performances one night per week from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., featuring two pieces.</p> <p>The Board tentatively approved the application of Cypress Moon Arts for a Class "D" Beer &amp; Wine 7-Day License, pending submission of all required documentation. The motion passed with a vote of 2-1, with Commissioner Cropper voting in opposition.</p>								
<b>Motion</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	<b>Approved:</b>	<b>X</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Restrictions:</b> LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED WITH A MAXIMUM OF TWO PIECES ONE NIGHT PER WEEK FROM 7 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M., NO POOL TABLES ALLOWED, NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO CORNHOLE ALLOWED, NO DANCE FLOOR ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE.								
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 1:55 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR DOUGH ROLLER – LICENSE #91  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>License #:</b>	91	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	1:55 p.m.	
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day	
<b>For:</b> K.T.G. of Ocean City, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Dough Roller		<b>Address:</b> 2 S. Division Street Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
<b>New Application:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Transfer:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Request to alter the licensed premises.							
<b>Applicants:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Licensees:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Kevin Gibbs		Joseph E. Moore, Esquire					
<b>Witnesses:</b>				<b>Protestants:</b>			
1.				1.			
<b>Exhibits:</b>				<b>Exhibits:</b>			
1. Licensee Exhibit #1 – Summary of Alteration of Premises		1.					
2. Licensee Exhibit #2 – Floor Plan (Seating)		2.					
3. Licensee Exhibit #3 – Rendering of Interior Details		3.					
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> Licensee Kevin Gibbs along with his attorney Joseph E. Moore, Esquire appeared before the Board for a request to alter the licensed premises at the Dough Roller South location in Ocean City. The licensee was sworn in. Moore noted to the Board that Gibbs has operated at this location for 18 years. Moore asked Gibbs to describe the current seating and service layout. Gibbs stated that the restaurant has approximately 200 seats, with alcohol service provided throughout the dining area and a small service bar with Moore submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) summary of alteration of premises, Moore explained that the existing gazebo area previously used for alcohol service will be removed and replaced with a new bar. When asked about seating, Gibbs stated the bar would have approximately 20 seats, and the surrounding room would contain about 44 seats. He confirmed that no other changes are proposed for the remainder of the restaurant. Gibbs emphasized that the goal is to add a professional bartender and bar staff while maintaining the Dough Roller's long-standing family-oriented atmosphere. He stated that the dining room will remain unchanged, with large tables preserved to accommodate families of 12 to 15 guests. He noted that the bar area was intentionally placed in a smaller section of the restaurant to preserve the integrity and tradition of the Dough Roller. Moore submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #2) floor plan along with (Licensee's Exhibit #3) rendering of interior details. Moore noted the floor plan showing the proposed bar location. Gibbs explained that customers frequently request a place to sit and have a drink particularly parents waiting for children at nearby establishments, guests seeking shade, or visitors stepping off the Boardwalk. He stated that a stand-alone bar would improve liquor control, service efficiency, and overall customer accommodation. Gibbs stated that many customers walk away because the restaurant lacks a bar, noting that most modern establishments have a hybrid layout with both dining and bar areas. He believes the addition will align the Dough Roller with industry standards and better serve both locals and visitors. Commissioner Cropper asked about ID procedures. Gibbs stated he is TIPS/TAMS certified, and most staff are as well. Gibbs stated is working on implementing an ID scanner system used by other local establishments to maintain consistent security practices. Gibbs explained that the bartender will be responsible for ID checks at the bar, while servers will continue to check IDs in the dining area. He noted that the restaurant's policy manual includes strengthened language on ID verification, passports, and J-1 documentation. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the new bar would shift the restaurant toward a sports-bar environment. Gibbs stated "No", explaining that</p>							

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR DOUGH ROLLER – LICENSE #91  
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the restaurant will continue to operate as a family dining establishment, with approximately 150 seats remaining family-oriented. Gibbs stated he currently loses 10–15% in potential sales due to the lack of a bar, primarily because of inefficiencies in drink service and customers leaving to find a bar elsewhere. He anticipates a 10% increase in sales with the addition of the bar, as customers will be able to stay longer and enjoy a drink in a designated area. He clarified that recent decreases in revenue were due to demographic shifts, not alcohol sales. Gibbs emphasized that the request is driven by customer demand, noting that the inlet area attracts both locals and new visitors, many of whom ask specifically for a bar. The proposed alteration would allow him to retain those customers rather than directing them to other establishments.

The Board approved a Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day license to add a full-service bar with 22 seats, and table seating for 37 located around the bar area.

<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<b>Restrictions:</b> SAME RESTRICTIONS									
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 2:11 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR FORGOTTEN FIFTY- LICENSE #947  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>License #:</b>	947	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	2:10 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> Forgotten Fifty, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Forgotten Fifty		<b>Address:</b> 10103 Old Ocean City Boulevard Berlin, Maryland 21811				
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Request for a service bar located on outside patio with eight bar seats. Request to allow the back lot to be open 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. seven days per week request to change live entertainment hours in the back lot from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. to 12 noon until 9 p.m. Request to have national concert acts in the back lot once per month up to seven pieces to end by 9 p.m., add a temporary 20' x 16' stage and add four to six mobile bars offering canned beer, Ready to Drink (RTD's) and wine.								
<b>Applicants:</b>		<b>Licensees:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Matthew C. Miller								
2. Eric Fiori								
<b>Witnesses:</b>				<b>Protestants:</b>				
1. Matthew Burrier (Entertainment)				1.				
2. Ivy Wells (Support)				2.				
3. Gee Williams (Support)				3.				
<b>Exhibits:</b>				<b>Exhibits:</b>				
1.				1.				
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> Licensees Matthew C. Miller and Eric Fiori appeared before the Board to request several modifications to their Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License. The licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Chairman Nichols stated the Board would review each request individually. Miller explained that the first request involves enclosing the existing patio with a roof and crank-down canvas to create a four-season room, adding approximately 45 additional seats for year-round use. Miller stated that we are also seeking approval to install a small service bar within the enclosed patio to improve drink service. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the patio is accessed separately from the main building. Fiori explained that a side door connects the patio to the rear bar and noted that carrying cocktails through high-traffic areas has been difficult, which is why a service bar is needed. Commissioner Cropper asked why bar service is impacted in the patio layout vs. food service. Fiori explained that food can be transported with covers and stacked, whereas cocktails and wine glasses cannot be carried as easily through the doorway. The Board next reviewed the request to extend backlot operating hours to 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. Miller stated that the extended hours would allow families to enjoy the space during summer evenings when daylight lasts until 9 p.m. He also noted plans to hang lights to create a family-friendly atmosphere. Commissioner Cropper asked about nearby residences. Miller stated there is one residential neighbor, who was present at the hearing, and two nearby businesses an Airbnb and a yoga studio both of which support the request. Liquor Board Administrator, April Payne confirmed that notice letters were delivered to surrounding properties and no objections were received. Commissioner Pusey asked about the land behind the establishment, and Miller stated it is an open field. Commissioner Cropper asked whether portable bathrooms would be present daily. Fiori stated they would be used only for large events. He explained that fencing and controlled entry points were installed to maintain alcohol control, with staff stationed at entrances. For events exceeding 500 attendees, the Fire Marshal requires unlocked exits, and staff would be posted at each exit. Additional security personnel would be hired for larger events. Commissioner Cropper asked</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR FORGOTTEN FIFTY- LICENSE #947  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

how IDs would be checked. stated that contracted security staff would assist and that employees are TIPS/TAMS certified. Miller explained that extending live music hours from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. to 12 noon 9 p.m. would improve attendance, as the current 5 p.m. cutoff is too early during the summer. Commissioner Pusey asked about expected attendance. Burrier stated that events would initially be capped at 500 people, with the possibility of larger events in the future. Burrier noted his prior experience managing events of this size without issues. Fiori stated that the restaurant would not be serving food to the back lot large events, food trucks will be scheduled, and events will be ticketed to ensure food and restroom facilities are in place. Chairman Nichols reminded the applicants that food service is required under a Class “B” license. Commissioner Pusey asked about stage accommodation. Burrier stated that smaller acts would use the existing stage, while larger acts would require a rented stage from the Town of Ocean City. The Board then heard from two witnesses in support of the request. Gee Williams, an adjacent property owner, stated he has no objections and that the licensees have communicated well throughout construction. Ivy Wells, Berlin Director of Economic Development, emphasized the economic benefit of evening live music, noting that extended activity encourages visitors to stay longer and supports local businesses. Commissioner Cropper asked about parking capacity. Fiori stated that the Casino has agreed to provide parking for large events, also the restaurant property has about 44 onsite spaces, plus an overflow lot accommodating approximately 75 vehicles.

The Board approved the application for Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day License request for a service bar located on outside patio with eight bar seats. Request to allow the back lot to be open 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. seven days per week, request to change live entertainment hours in the back lot from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. to 12 noon until 9 p.m. request to have national concert acts in the back lot once per month up to seven pieces to end by 9 p.m., add a temporary 20’ x 16’ stage and add up to six mobile bars offering canned beer, Ready to Drink (RTD’s) and wine.

<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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**Restrictions:** BACK LOT TO BE OPEN FROM 11:30 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M. SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK LIVE ENTERTAINMENT HOURS IN THE BACK LOT ALLOWED FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 9 P.M. NATIONAL CONCERT ACTS ALLOWED IN THE BACK LOT ONCE PER MONTH WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED WITH A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN PIECES TO END BY 9 P.M., DURING NATIONAL CONCERT ACTS A TEMPORARY 20’ x 16’ STAGE AND UP TO SIX MOBILE BARS OFFERING CANNED BEER, READY TO DRINK (RTD’S) AND WINE ARE ALLOWED.

**Time Hearing Ended:** 2:40 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR CRAB BAG - LICENSE #342  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>License #:</b>	342	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	2:40 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> NJG Food Service, Inc.		<b>T/A:</b> Crab Bag		<b>Address:</b> 13005 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>		<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to modify the licensed premises.								
<b>Applicants:</b>		<b>Licensees:</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>Representative:</b>		
1. Nolen J. Graves						Christopher T. Woodley, Esquire		
<b>Witnesses:</b>						<b>Protestants:</b>		
1.						1.		
<b>Exhibits:</b>						<b>Exhibits:</b>		
1. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1 – Additions & Renovations Site Plans						1.		
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> Licensee Nolen J. Graves, accompanied by attorney Christopher T. Woodley, Esquire, appeared before the Board to request approval to modify the licensed premises under the Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License. The licensee was sworn. Woodley stated that Graves is seeking authorization to proceed with Phase One of a renovation plan previously approved by the Board in Yr. 2021. Woodley explained that Phase One involved relocating the improvements originally approved for the third floor down to the first floor. Woodley noted that the Board had previously approved connecting the Aquarius condominium, commissary building to the main building; however, the construction engineers later advised that the structures could not be physically attached. As a result, the building will be repositioned 5' from the tree line, with a walkway between the buildings. Graves confirmed that all buildings will be connected through enclosed access points, eliminating the need for customers or employees to cross the parking lot. The parking lot will be relocated to the east side of the property. Woodley stated that the licensee had prior approval for an outside bar. Graves confirmed that one existing bar will be removed and replaced with the newly proposed bar. Woodley submitted (Licensee's Collective Exhibit #1) additions &amp; renovations site plans. Woodley described the submitted materials. Woodley described the proposed covered porch dining area, which includes a 34-seat bar and a 20-seat counter along the wall. Graves confirmed these details. Woodley further noted that although a stage had been previously approved, the licensee no longer intends to include one. Graves confirmed there will be no stage, and instead he intends to offer two-piece background music on the first-floor covered porch. When asked about potential noise concerns, Graves stated that he previously monitored sound levels during live music operations and ensured that noise was not audible to neighboring properties Woodley stated that the plans include a partial wall on the north side. Graves confirmed this, adding that partial walls between the two buildings and the commissary create a double-building buffer. Additional elevations of the north, east, south, and west sides were reviewed and confirmed. Woodley emphasized that Phase One will allow customers and employees to move between buildings without crossing the parking lot. Chairman Nichols confirmed that the licensee understands he must return for approval of Phase Two. Graves acknowledged this. Chairman Nichols asked whether the project has received approval from the Town of Ocean City; Graves confirmed that it has.</p>								
The Board approved the Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license modification request for Phase One, of the licensed premises.								
<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	<b>Approved:</b>	<b>X</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Restrictions:</b> BOAT HOUSE – LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED WITH A MAXIMUM OF FIVE PIECES FIVE NIGHTS PER WEEK FROM 5 P.M. UNTIL 1 A.M., ALL WINDOWS MUST REMAIN CLOSED DURING ALL LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC TECHNICIAN ALLOWED THREE NIGHTS PER WEEK FROM 9 P.M. UNTIL 1 A.M., LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC TECHNICIAN CANNOT BE AT THE SAME TIME COVERED PORCH – LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED WITH A MAXIMUM OF TWO PIECES SEVEN DAY PER WEEK, BACKGROUND MUSIC ALLOWED								
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 3:50 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR EMBERS RESTAURANT& BLU CRABHOUSE - LICENSE #18  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Staff Present:</b>	<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>License #:</b>	18	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026	<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	3:00 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L	<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b>	The Embers Restaurant, Inc.	<b>T/A:</b>	Embers Restaurant & Blu Crab House	<b>Address:</b>	2305 Philadelphia Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842		
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request for off sale of liquor in factory sealed containers and request to modify the licensed premises.							
<b>Applicants:</b>		<b>Licensees:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Cole Taustin			Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
<b>Witnesses:</b>			<b>Protestants:</b>				
1. Marlon Dale - Manager			1. Azezeh Ramadan – Village Market Beer, Wine & Liquor (Opposed)				
2.			2. Ace Owies – 21 <sup>st</sup> Street Beer & Wine (Opposed)				
3.			3. Sara Hambury – West O Bottle Shop (Opposed)				
<b>Exhibits:</b>			<b>Exhibits:</b>				
1.			1.				
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> The licensee Cole Taustin appeared before the Board with attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire, in connection with a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License, requesting approval for off-sale of liquor in factory-sealed containers and a modification of the licensed premises. The licensee was sworn. Cropper stated that Embers Restaurant is a multi-use complex consisting of Embers Restaurant, Blu Crab House, outdoor dining areas, Jay's Café, an arcade, and a miniature golf course. He explained that the complex spans three stories, includes exterior elevators, and is supported by a large parking lot. Cropper advised that the licensee was presenting three separate requests. The first request, the licensee seeks approval to cover approximately 1,425 square feet of the existing deck to provide shade and weather protection for patrons, noting that the floor plan, seating, and ground-level layout would remain unchanged. The second request is permission to sell liquor in factory-sealed containers from the Embers bar for patrons attending tasting events, pairing dinners, and similar functions, with ID verification conducted at the point of sale. The third request, the licensee seeks approval to sell factory-sealed liquor containers from Jay's Café, which currently offers beer and wine to-go and has an existing point-of-sale register. The licensee confirmed that no other operational changes were proposed and that an ID scanner would be used at Jay's Café. The licensee provided background on business, stating that the building was constructed in the 1940s and purchased by his family in the 1960s. He testified that he is the third generation to operate the business, which has maintained a clean compliance record. The licensee stated that patrons frequently request the ability to purchase specialty products featured at tasting events, as well as ready-made cocktails, which have become increasingly popular. He testified that all managers are TIPS/TAMS certified and that employees responsible for alcohol service receive extensive training in ID verification and responsible service. He noted that approximately 90 % of patrons enter from the rear parking lot and move among the various venues, with additional foot traffic from nearby condominiums and boat access. He emphasized that the requested off-sale privileges are intended to serve existing patrons and not to create a stand-alone liquor store, and that the selection would be limited and focused on specialty items associated with events. The Board then heard testimony from business owners in opposition. Azezeh Ramadan, license holder for Village Market Beer, Wine &amp; Liquor, stated that there is no need for an additional liquor outlet, noting that sales percentages have declined</p>							

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR EMBERS RESTAURANT& BLU CRABHOUSE - LICENSE #18  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

in recent years. She expressed concern about potential expansion of products once off-sale privileges are granted and stated that Ocean City does not need another liquor store. Ace Owies, owner of 21st Beer & Wine located two blocks from Embers, noted that his prior application for a liquor license was denied and stated that another liquor outlet is unnecessary. Sanil Ramadan, a liquor store owner, testified that the request would negatively impact his business and stated that Embers should remain a family-oriented establishment. Sara Hambury, owner of West OC Bottle Shop, stated that her business regularly fulfills special orders and that allowing Embers to sell liquor would adversely affect existing retailers. The Board discussed other restaurants with similar off-sale permissions, and Liquor Board Administrator April Payne read aloud the list of establishments authorized for off-sale of beer, wine, and liquor.

The Board denied the request for off sale of liquor in factory sealed containers for Embers Restaurant & Blu Crabhouse Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License. The motion to deny passed with vote of 2-1, with Commissioner Cropper voting opposition. The Board approved the request to modify the licensed premises.

<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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**Restrictions:** RESTRICTION TO REMAIN THE SAME OFF SALE OF BEER AND WINE IN FACTORY SEALED CONTAINERS

**Time Hearing Ended:** 3:40 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR MR. & MRS. RICCIO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION - SPECIAL ONE DAY PER DIEM PERMIT  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>			
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>							
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>			
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>			
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>			
<b>License #:</b>		<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	2:50 p.m.					
<b>Class:</b>		<b>Type:</b>		<b>Day:</b>							
<b>For:</b> Mr. & Mrs. Riccio Memorial Foundation, Inc			<b>T/A:</b>		<b>Address:</b> 5401 Coastal Highway. Ocean City, Maryland 21842						
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>		<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>			
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Request for a Special One Day Per Diem Permit request for St. Patrick's Day Special Event for March 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m.											
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Licensees:</b>			<b>Representative:</b>						
1. Robert Riccio, Jr.					Hugh Cropper, Esquire						
<b>Witnesses:</b>					<b>Protestants:</b>						
1.					1.						
<b>Exhibits:</b>					<b>Exhibits:</b>						
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 - Foundation Donation Package					1. Board's Collective Exhibit #1 - Seven Letters of Support						
2.					2. Board's Exhibit #2 - Letter of Support from Sam Remo Condominium						
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> The applicant, Robert Riccio Jr., appeared before the Board with his attorney, Hugh Cropper, Esquire. Riccio was sworn in. Cropper stated that a letter dated January 13, 2026, had been submitted outlining the proposed St. Patrick's Day Special Event, sponsored by the Mr. &amp; Mrs. Riccio Foundation, which has operated for more than 25 years. Cropper confirmed to the Board that this event will not include live entertainment. Riccio submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #1) foundation donation package, Riccio explained that the foundation was created in honor of his parents. He described past charitable efforts, including providing a custom-built submergible wheelchair to a child with brain cancer and a specially manufactured \$3,500 bicycle for a child with epilepsy. He stated that the list of charitable contributions is included in the submitted materials. Riccio testified that 100% of funds raised go directly to charitable assistance, with no compensation paid to board members or to himself. Funds are used only for administrative necessities such as postage, supplies, gifts, and giveaways. When asked about the prior year's event, Riccio stated it was held at Ruth's Chris at a members-only golf course. Cropper noted that the foundation has raised significant funds over the years, and Riccio confirmed that nearly \$500,000 has been raised to date. Riccio testified that he will be present for the entirety of the March 14, 2026, event and affirmed his understanding of and commitment to complying with all alcoholic beverage laws. He confirmed there will be no live entertainment, and the hours of the event will be 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. He added that many volunteers are TIPS/TAMS certified that an ID verification app will be used, and that a professional security company will also be present. Board Attorney Hank Fisher submitted (Board's Collective Exhibit #2) seven letters of support along with (Board's Exhibit #2) letter of support from Sam Remo condominium. In response to a Board question, Commissioner Pusey asked has Riccio ever had a fundraiser at this property. Riccio stated "No," stating I'm the owner of the property where I will be having the event.</p> <p>The Board approved the application for a Special One Day Per Diem Permit for the St. Patrick's Day Special Event to be held on March 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m.; The Ocean City Mayor &amp; City Council requested the following conditions apply; Alcohol Service shall conclude at 6 p.m. and food must be available &amp; served during the time alcohol is being served. Administrator Payne implemented Ocean City Mayor &amp; City Council's conditions on the Special One Day Per Diem Permit that was issued on March 11, 2026.</p>											
<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Mr. Cropper		2nd	Ms. Pusey		<b>Approved:</b>	<b>X</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<b>Restrictions:</b> NO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT											
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 3:00 p.m.											

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES FOR SAND & CEDAR TAVERNA - LICENSE #956  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>		<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>
		<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>		<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>
		<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>License #:</b>	956	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026		<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	3:40 p.m.		
<b>Class:</b>	"B"	<b>Type:</b>	B/W/L		<b>Day:</b>	7 Day		
<b>For:</b> Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC		<b>T/A:</b> Sand & Cedar Taverna		<b>Address:</b> 11070 Cathell Road Berlin, Maryland 21811				
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<b>Items to be discussed:</b> Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License provide update on licensed premises - Construction Progress.								
<b>Applicants:</b>		<b>Licensees:</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Representative:</b>			
1. Peter S. Elias					Hugh Cropper, Esquire			
<b>Witnesses:</b>					<b>Protestants:</b>			
1.					1.			
<b>Exhibits:</b>					<b>Exhibits:</b>			
1.					1.			
<p><b>Hearing Minutes:</b> The licensee Peter Elias appeared before the Board along with his attorney, Hugh Cropper, Esquire, to provide an update on the construction progress at the licensed premises. The licensee was sworn in. Cropper explained that Mr. Elias is associated with three locations: Spain Wine &amp; Bar, Sand &amp; Cedar Taverna and previously Bistro Cafe, which operated in the former Cowboy Coast Night Club. Due to significant permitting challenges related to non-conformity issues in Ocean City and recognizing that they were not meeting the Board's expectations, the licensee voluntarily relinquished the Bistro Cafe license. Cropper stated that they intend to reapply for that license once the project is better aligned and prepared. Commission Cropper clarified that the discussion today is pertaining to Sand &amp; Cedar Taverna, Cropper responded affirmatively. He further noted that the building is in a shopping center and was not originally constructed to function as a large restaurant, which has created substantial challenges for Elias. Elias testified that he is working toward an April 2026 opening. He reported that the exterior of the building is largely complete, with only lighting remaining. The interior tile work has been finished, and framing is in place; however, electrical work cannot proceed until the electrician receives the required approval, which is why certain areas remain open. When asked about the total project cost, Elias stated that the project will total approximately \$1.9 million, exceeding the original \$1.1 million budget due to several unforeseen issues. These included taking over an additional adjoining space, which expanded the project scope; installation of a sprinkler system and a new waterline, which required securing an easement; and a measurement error that necessitated constructing a 60' x 40' rear extension for storage. Weather delays also contributed to the extended timeline. Elias stated that the property owner is pleased with the revitalization efforts and that they are close to completion. He requested the Board's support in protecting the license while construction continues. The Board Administrator, April Payne inquired about the purpose of the 60' x 40' addition, and Elias stated that it will house office space, and storage. Payne informed Elias that Development Review &amp; Permitting (DRP) advised her the permit for the property had expired and must be renewed. Elias responded that Paul Miller, (DRP) Commercial Plan Examiner did a site visit on February 17, 2026; to review progress and indicated he would now renew the permit. Payne also noted there may also be an issue with the environmental permit and advised Elias to contact that department. Chairman Nichols advised Mr. Elias to contact Ms. Payne once the establishment is nearing opening so that she and Board Inspector Joe Pembroke can schedule the required inspection. Mr. Elias responded, "Absolutely."</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR SAND & CEDAR TAVERNA - LICENSE #956  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

The Board approved the request for Sand & Cedar Taverna to continue holding the Class “B” Beer, Wine & Liquor 7 Day License during the construction, with the understanding that they must obtain all county related permits for construction and occupancy projected opening late April or May 2026.

<b>Motion:</b>	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	<b>Approved:</b>	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<b>Restrictions:</b> SAME RESTRICTIONS									
<b>Time Hearing Ended:</b> 3:52 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
 MINUTES FOR SENATE BILL 798  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>R. Charles Nichols, Chairman</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Marty W. Pusey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reese Cropper, III</b>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Alternate Board Member:</b> <b>William E. Esham, III</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff Present:</b>	<b>April Payne, Administrator</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Joe Pembroke, Inspector</b>			<b>X</b>
	<b>Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Alternate Board Attorney:</b> <b>Name:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Stacey Odell, Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter</b>			<b>X</b>

<b>License #:</b>		<b>Hearing Date:</b>	February 18, 2026	<b>Hearing Start Time:</b>	3:53 p.m.
<b>Class:</b>		<b>Type:</b>		<b>Day:</b>	
<b>For:</b>		<b>T/A:</b>		<b>Address:</b>	
<b>New Application:</b>		<b>Transfer:</b>		<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>X Yes</b>
				<b>Violation:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>

**Items to be discussed:** Senate Bill #798 - Alcoholic Beverages – Temporary To-Go Event Permit & Class “C” Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

<b>Speakers:</b>	<b>Licensees:</b>	<b>Representative:</b>
1. Melanie Pursel – Worcester Co. Director of Office of Tourism & Economic Development		1.
2. Ivy Wells – Berlin Economic & Community Development Director		
3. Jennifer Divis – Snow Hill Economic Development Director		2.
4. Jennifer Jordan - Wicomico Board of License Commissioners Chair		3.
5. Christine Travis - Wicomico Board Administrative Assistant		4.
<b>License Holders:</b>		<b>Protestants:</b>
1. Chelsea Remines – Tides & Vines		1.
2. Matthew Borrelli – Sterling Tavern		2.
3. Patrice Ottey - CounterClox		3.
4. Lana Duryea – Cypress Roots Brewing Company		4.
<b>Exhibits:</b>		<b>Exhibits:</b>
1.		1.

**Hearing Minutes:** The speakers appeared before the Board to discuss Senate Bill 798 concerning the creation of a Class “C” Beer, Wine, and Liquor Temporary To-Go Event Permit and a Class “C” Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License. Melanie Pursel, Worcester County introduced Ivy Wells from the Town of Berlin, and Jennifer Bivens, Snow Hill Director of Tourism and Economic Development. Pursel explained that approximately one year ago, Ivy Wells brought to her attention that Wicomico County had implemented this license structure for its Fall Festival, which had historically experienced bottlenecks at the stands and revenue loss at alcohol service points. Businesses in Wicomico reported that customers could not leave the premises with alcohol, which limited sales and created operational challenges. Pursel stated that Wicomico developed a branded program called TAPS, which uses wristbands and branded vessels, explaining that the municipalities would acquire the license then the participating licensees operating under this controlled system would be able to participate. She emphasized that the program increases accountability by ensuring that trained business staff not volunteers conduct ID checks. Pursel provided an example from Berlin’s New Year’s Eve ball drop, where attendees who purchase alcohol cannot take beverages outside to watch the event, resulting in waste or lost sales. She stated that the proposed license would allow alcohol consumption within the defined event footprint. Pursel noted that this would be State Litigation, noting that without the Board’s support and feedback it can be amended in any way to ensure Board guidelines are being met. Pursel stated that the Worcester County Commissioners approved moving forward with discussions and that the legislation could be amended as needed. She stated that the program would generate revenue for businesses and the county. Commissioner Cropper asked for clarification on how this proposal differs from Ocean City’s existing special event permitting process noting Sunfest. Liquor License Administrator, April Payne

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explained that Ocean City’s inlet events use a special one-day per diem permit available only to qualifying nonprofit organizations, which requires a site plan and designated alcohol service areas. Commissioner Cropper questioned the municipalities’ involvement with the non- profits. Board Attorney, Hank Fisher explained that the now special one-day permit process is for non-profits within a established fixed boundary, whereas this legalization would allow existing Class “B” license holders to participate in the sale of alcohol within that same the boundary area, the Temporary To-Go Event Permit would broaden to allow Class “B” businesses to apart of the approved event footprint. Fisher noted that under the proposed license, a patron could purchase a glass of wine inside an establishment and walk into the event area with it, provided it remains within the designated perimeter. Wells stated that without this license, businesses lose profit because customers will not purchase alcohol if they cannot take it into the festivities. They emphasized that they are requesting approval only for specific events and that the program would be regulated with branded cups, event-specific wristbands, and security personnel checking compliance. Commissioner Cropper asked who would be responsible for oversight, Payne stated that Class “B” B/W/L license holders would apply through a permitting process created and regulated by the Board, which would have authority over open-container permissions during events in Pocomoke, Berlin, Snow Hill, and Ocean City. Christina Travis and Jennifer Jordan from the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners provided additional context. Jordan explained that the legislation passed on July 1, 2025, and Wicomico has successfully implemented the program. She described the two-part application process: the city is the applicant for the event then the city has the overarching event permit, and the city defines the event footprint, while each individual Class “B” establishments within that footprint apply for one or two-day participation permits. The city also has established its own code of conduct for participating businesses. Commissioner Cropper asked is the city still hold liability. Travis confirmed that the city assumes liability for maintaining event boundaries and alcohol control, while each establishment remains responsible for proper ID verification. Commissioner Pusey asked who controls wristbands, Jordan confirmed that the city issues both wristbands and to-go cups. Chairman Nichols asked Jordan the Class “B” license holders have embraced this. Jordan stated that the license holders have been in support of this change, they have attended several meetings and welcome the opportunity to increase their business. Jennifer Divis, Snow Hill representative added that under current rules, towns must purchase alcohol and rely on volunteers to staff vendors, whereas the proposed license would allow trained, certified business staff to handle alcohol service, improving safety and customer experience. Board Attorney, Hank Fisher asked whether cups could identify the license class of the issuing establishment. Jordan stated that Wicomico cups do not include this information. Jordan explained that establishments have assigned personnel at entrances to ensure that patrons entering with TAPS cups comply with event rules. Travis noted that wristbands are designed to prevent transfer to underage individuals and that the city retains authority to shut down events or increase controls if issues arise. Commissioner Cropper expressed his concerns about liability, noting that he feels that it is placing the burden on the community that is applying for the license. Chairman Nichols stated that the Board is still reviewing the legislation and appreciates the information being presented. He encouraged licensees to share their perspectives as the bill moves through the legislative process. One Wicomico licensee reported that during Salisbury’s Folk Festival, revenue quadrupled under the TAPS program. Sterling Tavern license holder described operational challenges under current rules, such as customers being forced to finish drinks quickly or being unable to enter establishments with beverages, leading to complaints and reduced attendance. CounterClox license holder stated that the inability to leave premises with alcohol results in lost sales and that the proposed license would improve safety by increasing oversight. Tides & Vines described how this legislation would help increase their revenue. Cypress Roots Brewing Company a Pocomoke business stated that this amendment should also include Class “D” licenses, as their business sells only beer and wine and relies heavily on event traffic. Chairman Nichols noted that amendments could still be made before the April meeting. Board Attorney, Hank Fisher reiterated that the Board is not voting on the matter today, this is going to the State Legislators, and that concerns should be directed to your local State Representative. Pursel asked the Board to confirm that if any amendments were needed, the Board would work with the local legislators. Chairman Nichols responded, “Correct.”

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

**Time Hearing Ended:** 4:45 p.m.