

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

On November 12, 2014, the Board of License Commissioners met in Room 003/004 of the Carroll County Office Building, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Board members Roland Meerdter, Chairman, Robert Tabler, and David Brauning were present as well as Assistant County Attorney Timothy Dixon, Counsel to the Board, Jo Vance, Administrative Hearings Coordinator, Charles Kaizer, Chief Liquor Inspector, and Keith Benfer, Liquor Inspector.

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

1. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5777, the application of Sanjay Chokshi to become the resident agent for a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license for Greenmount Group, Inc., t/a The Liquor Shoppe, 2275 Hanover Pike, Hampstead, MD 21074. Mr. Brooks Leahy appeared as counsel for the applicant. Mr. Chokshi testified that he is the owner of The Liquor Shoppe and works 40 hours a week at that business, but that he also works 20 hours a week at Number One North in Manchester for his father. There was some discrepancy in Mr. Chokshi's testimony regarding a sign he had posted notifying his patrons of the 10 day closure mandated by the Liquor Board from a previous hearing. Mr. Donald Huber and Mr. Timothy Smith testified as character witnesses on behalf of Mr. Chokshi. Mr. Tabler questioned whether or not Mr. Chokshi had income from both stores and whether or not he was an owner in both stores. Mr. Tabler brought up the problem with the signature from the previous case #5770 where there were discrepancies in the stories of how a signature came to be on a renewal application and the person who notarized it. Mr. Leahy objected to that line of questioning because Mr. Chokshi had been disciplined and fined at the previous hearing regarding that matter. A motion was then made by Mr. Brauning and seconded by Mr. Tabler to adjourn for advice from counsel and the motion carried. When the Board returned, Mr. Dixon recommended that the file from case #5770 be incorporated in this case file and that the case be continued to allow Mr. Leahy to review the previous case file #5770. The Board also sustained Mr. Leahy's objection. It was decided between the Board and Mr. Leahy that this case would be continued until December 17, 2014.
2. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5784, the application of Shital Shah to be Resident Licensee and to change the Corporate name for a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor License for the use of Shita N Ram, Inc., t/a Finksburg Liquors, 3000 Gamber Road, Finksburg, MD 21048. Mr. Mike Ritchey appeared as counsel for Ms. Shah. Ms. Shah testified that she has been a Carroll County resident for more than seven years and that she became a naturalized citizen in March of 2012. She also testified that she is a property tax payer in Carroll County and a registered voter. She will have 100% ownership of the assets of Finksburg Liquors. Her husband is the current licensee but he wants to come off of the license to pursue another opportunity. Ms. Shah testified that she currently works 20 to 30 hours a week performing management duties, but that she will be putting in more hours than that as the resident licensee as caring for her sons allows. Mr. Ritchey asked three character witnesses to testify, and Ms. Maureen Sacratini, Ms. Mary Lee and Mr. Varish Patel all testified that Ms. Shah was a fit and proper person to hold a liquor license. Mr. Brauning made a motion to approve Ms. Shah's

request to be the Resident Licensee and to change the corporate name. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tabler and was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

3. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5779, the violation hearing of Joanne Edwards and James Dichiaro, for a Class B – Beer and Wine License for the use of Mt. Airy Tavern, LLC, t/a Mt. Airy Tavern, 1001 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 in Election District 13. Mr. Dichiaro appeared on behalf of the establishment as well as the server Steven Bean. Mr. Brooks Leahy appeared as counsel for the licensees. Mr. Bean testified that he did make the mistake of not carding the underage buyer and that he thought he was someone that he had served before who was 24 years old. Mr. Bean has never had a violation of this nature and Mt. Airy Tavern has never had a violation of this nature. Upon a motion by Mr. Tabler, seconded by Mr. Brauning, the Board adjourned to consult counsel. Upon their return the Board found the establishment liable for the violation and they imposed a fine of \$300.00.
4. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5780, the violation hearing of Debra Schulze and Emily G. McKinney, for a Class BW – Beer and Wine 7 Day License for the use of Parris Ridge, Inc., t/a Pizza Hut of Mt. Airy, 1705 Ridgeside Drive, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 in Election District 13. Mr. Mohammed Korshed testified on behalf of the establishment and Mr. Brooks Leahy appeared as counsel for the licensees. Mr. Korshed testified that the underage server got confused by the dates on the licenses. He also spoke to the new rules put in place by the regional management of the Pizza Huts in Carroll County. Upon a motion by Mr. Tabler, seconded by Mr. Brauning, the Board adjourned to consult counsel. Upon their return the Board found the establishment liable for the violation and they imposed a fine of \$400.00.
5. The Board adjourned for a lunch break at 12:30 p.m.
6. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5781, the violation hearing of Benjamin Golueke and Stephen Golueke, for a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor License for the use of Pineapple, Inc., t/a Mt. Airy Liquors, 321 E. Ridgeville Blvd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771 in Election District 13. Mr. Benjamin Golueke appeared on behalf of the establishment and testified that his business no longer accepts vertical IDs and that they will have hand scanners installed on all three registers as soon as they come in. Upon a motion by Mr. Brauning, seconded by Mr. Tabler, the Board voted to find the establishment liable for the violation and they imposed a fine of \$300.00. The motion was carried unanimously.
7. Upon a motion by Mr. Tabler and seconded by Mr. Brauning, the minutes from the October 8, 2014 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
8. A letter and drawings from the Liquor Shoppe were reviewed by the Board and upon a motion by Mr. Tabler and seconded by Mr. Brauning it was unanimously decided that they would make their decision regarding whether or not to approve the expansion of the Liquor Shoppe at the December 17, 2014 hearing of Case #5777.
9. A letter and accompanying drawings from Salerno's showing the new layout of their floor plan and the installation of a growler station were presented to the Board. After testimony from Mr. Kaizer about this change, and upon a motion by Mr. Tabler and seconded by Mr.

Brauning, the Board unanimously voted to approve the new layout for Salerno's.

10. Ms. Vance gave the Board members, the inspectors and counsel, Mr. Dixon, copies of the final draft of the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Carroll County Board of License Commissioners. It will be advertised for the December hearing that these changes will be discussed in a public hearing. A document showing the existing rules and the changes made will be emailed to all licensed establishments that have provided email addresses so that they can have input on the changes at the December meeting. If all goes as planned in December, then the Board will vote on the changes at the January 7, 2015 hearing.
11. A hearing was held in the matter of Case 5782, the violation hearing of Todd Bricken, for a Class BR – Beer, Wine and Liquor License for the use of Brick Ridge, Inc., t/a Brick Ridge, 6212 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 in Election District 13. Mr. Bricken appeared on behalf of the establishment, as well as the server, Olga Frey, and testified Ms. Frey had just come from a TAM certification class and that 7 out of 8 of his staff members will be TAM certified. Ms. Frey testified that she got confused when she served the underage patrons and thought they looked older than 21. Upon a motion by Mr. Brauning, seconded by Mr. Tabler, the Board voted to find the establishment liable for the violation and they imposed a fine of \$300.00. The motion was carried unanimously.
12. The meeting was adjourned with a unanimous vote at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jo Vance
Administrator Hearings Coordinator
Office of Administrative Hearings