

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

On May 4, 2016, 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, Chair, 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, Senior Liquor Inspector, and Keith Benfer, Liquor Inspector.

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

1. **Case #5945** – A hearing on the violation of sale to a minor by an employee of a Class A – Beer, Wine and Liquor license establishment issued to Roxanne Burrier for the use of Village Store, t/a the Village Store, 7566 Middleburg Road, Detour, MD 21757. Inspector Benfer testified that on March 22, 2016 an underage volunteer entered the Village Store to buy alcohol. The volunteer took a 6 pack of Bud Lite cans to the register and the clerk, Deborah Hembry, asked for ID. She looked at the ID but still sold the beer to the volunteer. Ms. Hembry stated at the time that she thought the volunteer looked over 21 and also thought the date of birth was 1989. Ms. Hembry did not ask the volunteer to take her ID out of the wallet. Ms. Burrier testified that the store policy is to not sell to anyone with a vertical ID. She also stated that Ms. Hembry has been instructed to always ask for the ID to be taken out of the wallet and to use her glasses. Ms. Hembry had not been TAM certified. After all testimony was given, the Board found Ms. Burrier was culpable in the matter and fined her \$1,200.00 for the third offense in a two year period, but suspended \$300.00 of the fine. They also recommended that Ms. Burrier have her employee TAM or TIPS trained.
2. **Case #5946** – A hearing on the application of Helene Taylor for a new Class BW – Beer and Light Wine, Seven Day license for the use of The French Twist, Inc., t/a French Twist Café, 732 Oklahoma Avenue, Sykesville, Maryland 21784, in Election District 5. Ms. Taylor testified that she would like to add beer and wine to her menu. She also testified that she will have all of her employees TAM or TIPS certified if the license is approved. She currently has 19 employees who are mostly high school and college students. One employee is full time; all the rest are part time. She also testified that she has security cameras on the first floor of her establishment. She plans on only offering a selection of two white wines and two red wines. Several people testified as to her good character and as to the need to accommodate the public by granting this license. The names of those people are: Rachel Beck, Debbie Schiller, Lee Thompson, Steven Collela, Doug Fleming and Howard Taylor. After listening to all testimony, the Board unanimously approved the license and stipulated that it also included the porch area as part of the licensed establishment.
3. **Case #5947** – A hearing on the application of Keir Knight for a new Class B – Beer, Wine and Liquor license for the use of Carroll Katana Sushi, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi, 410 Meadow Creek Drive, Westminster, Maryland 21158, in Election District 7.

Michael Ritchey, Esq. represented Katana Sushi as counsel in this matter. Mr. Ritchey asked Mr. Knight to testify first. Mr. Knight testified that he was originally a British citizen, but has become a citizen of the United States, and that he has made a \$5,000.00 contribution as his financial interest in the new establishment. Mr. Knight is very familiar with the Mt. Airy Katana Sushi and the owner, John Chen, and testified that he is very comfortable with Mr. Chen's ownership and management style. He also testified that he will get earnings back for his financial contribution to the business. Mr. Knight also testified that he plans on dropping in to the Westminster location at least once a week and that he planned on dropping in unannounced. Mr. Ritchey then called John Chen, the owner, to testify. Mr. Chen testified that he lives in Howard County. He also testified that his Mt. Airy location has never had a violation. That site has about 3 to 4% of sales for alcohol and he expects the Westminster location will be the same. The restaurant will have seating for 90 plus the bar of 7 to 8 stools, which are included in the 90. He also testified that the total costs will be \$350,000 and that he plans on borrowing \$100,000 to \$150,000. He currently has 8 employees at the Mt. Airy site and plans on about the same in Westminster. Mr. Knight and Mr. Chen both testified that all employees will be TAM or TIPS trained. Ray Mendigorn and Steve McCallister both testified as to the need for the public accommodation, and Beth Barnes and Frank Illiano testified as to the proper and fit character of Mr. Knight. The Board adjourned for advice from counsel, and upon their return they unanimously voted to approve the license with the stipulation that all approvals and necessary documentation will be provided prior to the issuance of the license.

The Board then addressed the items on the business meeting agenda as follows:

4. By unanimous vote, the Board approved the minutes from the April 20, 2016 meeting.
5. The Board approved a request from the United Coon Hunters' Association to hold outside events at their Club with permission to serve beer and wine at the fund raising events.
6. The Board approved a request from Cinco De Mayo to erect a tent on their parking lot and serve alcohol in it for their Cinco De Mayo celebration on May 5, 2016.
7. The Board approved a request from the Kiwanis Club of Westminster for a one day liquor license for an outdoor event at the Farm Museum for a wine and beer garden on July 4, 2016.
8. The Board approved a request from Common Ground on the Hill for two outdoor events to be held at the Farm Museum on June 11, 2016 and July 9 & 10, 2016 for one day liquor licenses.

At this time Mr. Meerdtter adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jo Vance
Administrator Hearings Coordinator
Office of Administrative Hearings

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