

**QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023  
9:00 A.M.**

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne’s Co. met on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq. Those present were: Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq., Chairman; Thomas E. Beery, Vice-Chairman; John T. McQueeney, Charles W. Ferrar and Timothy G. Hibbard, Members; Crystal Richard, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Mandy Calvert, Liquor Inspector; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board.

**SPECIAL/TEMPORARY LICENSES:**

The Board discussed a Special/Temporary application for an upcoming Beer & Wine Festival to be held on June 8, 2023, sponsored by the Upper Shore Regional Council and the Queen Anne’s County Economic & Tourism Dept. Event to be held at Godfrey’s Produce Farm, Sudlersville, MD. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to approve the application. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. **NOTE:** Due to inclement weather on June 8 (wildfire smoke) this event was moved to the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, 3410 Little Kidwell Ave., Centreville, MD.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferrar, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve the following Special/Temporary applications, pending approval from Planning & Zoning. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed

- Ex Post Facto - Maryland Society of Surveyors – Date of event – June 2
- QAC Chamber of Commerce – Date of event – June 7
- FCSI Educational Foundation – Date of event – August 2
- Sudlersville Vol. Fire Dept. – Dates of event \_ August 4-5
- Sudlersville Vol. Fire Dept. – Date of event – August 19
- Kent Island Vol. Fire Dept. – Date of event – September 9

**APPROVAL OF MAY 2023 MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Mr. Hibbard, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve the May 2, 2023 Minutes and the May, 2023 Liquor Inspector Report. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY BEACH CLUB:**

Mr. John Fromert, Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Ms. Shelley Collins, VP of HR Greene Turtle, and Mr. Mike Wells, Senior Director of Operations for Greene Turtle, appeared before the Board to discuss a planned vendor showcase to be held at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club on July 17, 2023. Mr. Ransom said the Board cannot issue a Special/Temporary license since the Beach Club is a for-profit entity. Mr. Fromert said Greene Turtle will be hosting a vendor showcase at the Beach Club. They will not be operating through the Beach Club liquor license, it will be through the vendors attending. Ms. Richard said the problem is you can’t have two licenses on

one licensed premises. She said the Special/Temporary license is for non-profits. Mr. Ransom asked Mr. Fromert if the Greene Turtle can go through their liquor license. Mr. Fromert said they could potentially do that as far as receiving the product. He said this event is not necessarily for profit for the beverages consumed, it's all sampling. Ms. Collins said this is a general manager's conference for the Greene Turtle. They will bring in their beverage vendor suppliers with sample servings of their products. They then determine whether their products will go on their menu or not. The event will be from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Beach Club. She said they have done this event for the past seven years at other venues. They will have alcohol awareness certified employees and bartenders from the Beach Club attending. The vendors are wholesalers. The general managers who run the Greene Turtle restaurants will be sampling. Mr. Beery said the State Comptroller's Office may have the appropriate license for this event. Mr. Ransom said this event would be a tasting because they are not selling the alcohol or selling tickets. It is a private event. He said Option No. 2 would be since they are wholesalers, there is nothing prohibiting them from transferring the alcohol to the Beach Club as a retailer and then the Beach Club would be responsible for it. Ms. Calvert will assist them with contacting the Comptroller's Office.

**LIQUOR INSPECTOR:**

Ms. Calvert had no additional comments.

**LONG RANGE SENIOR PLANNER:**

Mr. Rob Tracey appeared before the Board. He discussed the letter received from the Attorney General's Office dated 4/27/23. Mr. Ransom said this Board wrote the Bill correctly and the General Assembly changed it in a way that is unconstitutional, according to the Attorney General. He said this Board should take the Attorney General's letter under advisement. Mr. Ransom said he did send this letter to the Licensed Beverages Association for comment and has not received a reply. He said the Attorney General's letter is not an official opinion, it is an advisory letter, and he does not feel that this Board needs to take any further action. All Board members agreed. Mr. Ransom said he does not think this Board can deny a Class "A" license for the reason of residency. Ms. Richard said she agrees.

Mr. Ransom said he thinks the 2024 budget is moving along and he asked Mr. Tracey to advise the Board if there are any problems.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Board held a public hearing for the transfer of a Class "A" Beer, Wine & Liquor License, from Arthur J. Mangum, Mangum Enterprises, Inc., trading as Friendly Food Store, transferred to Navneet Kaur, for the Benefit of Little Girls, LLC, trading as Friendly Food Store, permitting the sale of the aforesaid beverages on the premises located at 1383 Main St., Stevensville, MD 21666. Ms. Navneet Kaur, her husband Mr. Gurgit Singh, and Mr. BJ Kilby appeared before the Board. The application and attachments were entered into the record as Applicant's Exhibit No. 1. Ms. Richard administered the oath to all who were to testify and then recused herself from participating in this hearing. Ms. Kaur said Friendly Food Store has been in operation for 34

years. There is a demand for this store with all the new development in the area. Ms. Kaur and Mr. Singh are both alcohol awareness certified. Two of their employees have been there for 20+ years and are very experienced. All new employees will be alcohol awareness trained and certified. Mr. Ransom reviewed the standards in § 4-210 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code, approval or denial of license. Mr. Singh said he does not feel this license will have any negative effect on current licenses in the area. Friendly Food has a gas station, deli, carwash and grocery store. They will be adding more items to their menu. There will be no negative impact on the health, safety or welfare of the community. Mr. Beery asked about the outside seating. Mr. Singh said they use that for lunchtime customers. He is aware that customers are not allowed to drink alcohol outside on the property. No one else appeared in favor of or opposed to this application. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to approve the transfer of this license, pending receipt of the Bulk Transfer Permit and the Md. Sales & Use Tax License. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

**VIOLATION HEARING:**

The Board held a hearing regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code for Kent Narrows Enterprises, LLC, trading as Hyatt Place Kent Narrows, 3028 Kent Narrows Way S., Grasonville, MD 21638. This hearing was originally scheduled for May 2, 2023 but was rescheduled until today's date. The charge involves the sale of alcohol to a minor, which occurred on April 13, 2023 at the licensed premises. Mr. Jody Schulz, Licensee, appeared before the Board. Ms. Richard administered the oath to all who were to testify. Member John McQueeney recused himself from participating in this hearing. Mr. Schulz is not contesting the charges. Ms. Calvert's letter with attachments to the Licensee dated 5/18/23 and the Notice of Intention to Defend were entered as Board's Exhibit No. 1. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, that a violation occurred. By has a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Schulz said there was no excuse for this sale. The employee did not do her job and was terminated immediately after he became aware of the violation. He said the employee was alcohol awareness certified. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to impose a fine of \$500 to be paid within 30 days of this date. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Ransom told Mr. Schulz that this Board does not require an employee to be terminated.

**DRUG FREE COALITION:**

Mr. Warren Wright had no comments.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

The Board discussed a new Beer/Wine Festival License application and associated fee. Mr. Beery said in years past the fee was \$50 per applicant under the license. Mr. Ransom suggested that the Board set the fee today and put the revisions to the application on the July 6th Agenda. Ms. Maxwell said the Board needs to decide if the fee is \$50 per day or \$50 per event. Mr. Ransom said the fee could be \$50 per event for each person participating. Mr. Beery said this license will provide for wholesalers within the State to come in and each one will be responsible for their own scenario. Mr. Ransom said that is the way the statute is written. Ms. Richard said

each person participating at the event will have their own separate license for the \$50 fee. She will revise the current application to reflect the changes. These changes will be reviewed at the July 6th meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to set a fee of \$50 per event for each person participating. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Beery said there is a MALA conference on October 15 thru 17, 2023 in Ocean City and will Planning & Zoning handle the expenses in advance or does the Board handle it individually. Mr. Ransom suggested that this item be put on the July 6, 2023 Agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Maxwell advised that all 2023 renewal licenses are up to date and all fines from the May 2, 2023 meeting have been paid.

The July 2023 meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6 as Tuesday, July 4 is the Holiday.

Today is Mr. Hibbard's last day on the Board as he is moving to Florida. The Board wished Mr. Hibbard the best and said he will be missed. New Member Ms. Lynn Mason will begin her term at the July 6th meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Maxwell*  
Clerk

/s/ Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq.  
Chairman