

**Queen Anne's County Liquor Board
Minutes of Meeting**

September 1, 2020

9:00 a.m.

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at 110 Vincit St., Centreville, MD. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joyce E. Jones, Esq. Those present were: Joyce E. Jones, Esq., Chairman; Thomas E. Beery, Vice Chairman; John T. McQueeney, Timothy G. Hibbard and Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq., Members; Jeffrey E. Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Tom Calmon, Liquor Inspector; and Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. McQueeney, to go into closed session at 9:05 a.m. regarding the following: Pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(12) to discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

The Board resumed open session at 9:40 a.m. The Board took no action in the closed session.

The Liquor Inspector Report presented by Tom Calmon was approved. Mr. Calmon said applications for liquor licenses should be submitted in a timely fashion. When they are filed at the last minute, Mr. Calmon is only getting basic information in order to do an inspection of the premises.

The Minutes from the July 7, 2020 and Closed Session Minutes and August 17, 2020 Work Session were approved.

There were no Special/Temporary License applications on today's Agenda.

Cult Classic Brewing was scheduled for a Consent Hearing today but it was postponed due to illness of one of the licensees and will be rescheduled for the October 7, 2020 meeting.

The Board held a Consent Hearing for Classic Pizza, 112 St. Claire Place, Suite 102, Stevensville, MD. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mrs. Lorena Ramos, licensee, and her son appeared before the Board. Mrs. Ramos said her husband was not present due to health reasons. Ms. Jones said the Board's Rules and Regulation 2.25 requires all license holders to be present at hearings. Mr. Thompson said the Rules state that a licensee

may submit a request to the Board to postpone a scheduled hearing within five business days of the date of the hearing and that was not done. Mr. Ransom said he feels the Board should proceed with the hearing since they have consented to the charge. Mr. Ransom made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, that the Board accept Mrs. Ramos' request to waive the requirement that the other licensee be present. All members voted in favor. This hearing stems from charges incurred in June, 2019 when the licensees were given a \$100 fine, which was held in abeyance for one year, for violating §4-505 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article. In February 2020 the licensees were again in violation of this section and have agreed to pay the \$100 fine that was held in abeyance for one year. They will also incur a subsequent fine of \$500 which will be held in abeyance for one year from today's date. If another violation occurs within a year of today's date, they will have to pay the \$500 fine and whatever future charges they may incur. Mrs. Ramos said she understood the charges. Mr. Calmon read his Incident Report into the record pertaining to the facts for these charges. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, that the violation did occur and that the licensees failed to have a valid Alcohol Awareness Certificate in March, 2020 and the \$100 fine that was held in abeyance for one year shall be paid immediately. Further imposing a fine of \$500 for the subsequent violation which will be held in abeyance for one year from this date. All members voted in favor.

The Board held a hearing for an expansion of existing premises of a Class "D" Beer license for Jacob Heimbuch and Jeffrey Putman, for the benefit of Bull & Boat Brewery, LLC, trading as Bull & Goat Brewery, located at 206 Banjo Lane, Centreville, MD. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to this application. Mr. Jacob Heimbuch, licensee, appeared before the Board. They request to permanently expand their existing premises that is currently approved through the Governor's State of Emergency Executive Order. Ms. Jones said she just learned from the Comptroller's Office that they do not want local Boards to transfer or expand any licenses unless they are renewed. Mr. Heimbuch said he has submitted his renewal application. Mr. Thompson said under the current Executive Order the Board is not required to do renewals yet so we're still in the 2019-20 license year. Mr. Heimbuch said they wanted to keep their current license and current taproom area but due to the current conditions, they wanted to have an outside area as well. So he was advised that the best scenario was when he sent in his renewal to send in for a complete new license, Class "D" beer only, so that they could include the property outside as part of their license. Mr. Thompson said this was advertised as an expansion and this was the appropriate way to advertise it for mid-year. He said the Board is considering the expansion, not the whole granting of a new license. Mr. Heimbuch did submit for the Board a revised plat including the expansion. He has several cameras on the property and will include the outside area as well. He said the outside venue is going very well. He also received approval from the Town of Centreville, the Health Dept. and Fire Marshal. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to approve the expansion request, contingent upon submission of final inspection approval from the Fire Marshal. All members voted in favor.

Pursuant to §6-304 and 27-2702 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article I of the Annotated Code of MD a hearing was held on the following business regarding a compliance check completed by Tom Calmon, Liquor Inspector.

Hillside Liquor & Deli - It was alleged that an employee violated 6-304 the Annotated Code of Md. in that on July 25, 2020 an employee sold alcohol to a minor. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mr. Adarshdeep Khalar, Licensee, along with his Attorney, Christopher Drummond, Esq. appeared before the Board. Mr. Khalar confirmed that he received a letter dated 8/6/20, including an Incident Report. from Mr. Calmon advising him of today's hearing. Mr. Drummond said they are not challenging the allegations of the violation. Ms. Jones advised Mr. Drummond for future reference that the Board now has a "consent hearing" process for clients who are not contesting the charges. Mr. Calmon read his Incident Report into the record pertaining to the facts for these charges. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ransom, that a violation did occur. All members voted in favor. Mr. Khalar said his employee that sold the alcohol is his cousin. Mr. Khalar and all his employees have Alcohol Awareness training. He said his employee was occupied and made an honest mistake. With all the regulations and masks, he thought the customer looked familiar and so he did not check their ID. The employee called Mr. Khalar immediately to tell him what happened. Mr. Khalar said in the future they will take extra steps to make sure that every ID is scanned and this does not happen again. Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Khalar what volunteer efforts he does to benefit the public. Mr. Khalar said when the pandemic hit his sales increased. He bought lunch and food for first responders, Centreville Police Dept. and the Sheriff's Office multiple times, as well as the ER and local hospitals. His family has had a license at Hillside for over a decade. Mr. Drummond said he feels that Hillside has not been a problem for the Board and he hopes the Board recognizes this is a mistake of a responsible license holder and impose no fine or a minimal one. Mr. Khalar has been the license holder since 2017 and there have been no violations at this business since that time. Ms. Jones advised Mr. Khalar that scanners are not infallible, there are fake ID's that are getting better every day. The employees need to look at the picture and date on the license and compare that with the person. Mr. Khalar asked if they are allowed to ask a person to remove their mask and the Board advised that yes, they are allowed. Mr. Calmon said he recently did an inspection on Winchester Liquors and they were also concerned about the mask situation. He also asked if a person still has a vertical ID but they are 21, is he allowed to sell to them and the Board advised, yes, but it is still his decision. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to impose a fine of \$500 to be paid within the next 30 days. Mr. McQueeney said this is the first violation for Mr. Kahlar and he has been very cooperative.

The Board held a hearing for a new Class "A" beer & wine license for Vikas Sharma, for the benefit of Myra I, Inc., trading as Go Mart, located at 741 Main St., Church Hill, MD 21623. Mr. & Mrs. Sharma, along with their Attorney, Joseph McQueeney, Esq., appeared before the Board. Member John McQueeney recused himself from this hearing as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Also appearing before the Board was Christopher Drummond, Esq., representing Mr. Sonny Datta, license holder for Rhodes Store in Church Hill, MD who is opposing the application. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mr.

Drummond said the concept of submitting an application “at the applicant’s risk” is a bit peculiar inasmuch as if you are opposed, it is difficult to get a sense of what’s really being applied for without the required documents in the file. Mr. Drummond said this makes it difficult in his efforts to oppose the application. Mr. McQueeney said that was an avenue that was available and which he pursued. He said the application is complete to date. Mr. Thompson said he has not had a chance to review all the documents. Mr. Ransom suggested that the hearing should proceed and Mr. Drummond has reserved his right to object. Mr. Thompson said what is meant by “proceed at your own risk” isn’t that you can proceed without submitting the documentation ahead of time and submitting them at the last minute before the meeting. The documents should be submitted and complete before the application is advertised, and even though Mr. Thompson may not have a chance to review them, they are still in the file. Mr. McQueeney said he apologizes for this and it has been difficult coordinating with Mr. Sharma to obtain the necessary documents in a timely manner. Mr. Sharma said he is owner and President of Myra I, Inc. He is the only officer and shareholder of the company. He said everything stated on the application is truthful and accurate. Ms. Jones said Question No.7 on the application states whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony or has been adjudged guilty of violating the laws governing sale of alcoholic beverages or judged guilty of any offense against the laws of the United States. Mr. McQueeney said he feels the application is not clear and he requested to amend Question 7 to “yes”. He said the disclosing of that condition is, it was a second-degree assault conviction in 2011 in Anne Arundel Co. This was a domestic incident involving Mrs. Sharma. Mr. Ransom said he was troubled by the fact that this was not listed on the application. Mr. McQueeney said he knows a background check is required so he was not trying to hide anything. Mr. Sharma lives in Riva, MD and has lived there since 2018. He is a US citizen. Mr. Sharma knew he had a misdemeanor conviction that he expected to come up at this hearing. He owns two restaurants in Anne Arundel Co. and the alcohol licenses are in his wife’s name. He said he is part owner in these two restaurants but they are not paying him, he is just helping the family. Regarding these two restaurants, Mr. Sharma said he has 100% ownership interest in Corner Café but does not have an interest in Royal Karma. These restaurants have Class “B” alcohol licenses. The leases are in his name. He said these two restaurants are successful and have never had any violations. He has no financial interest in any other business in Queen Anne’s Co. He does not hold any other Class “A” licenses. Go Mart is currently open for business and has the necessary zoning approvals from the Town of Church Hill. He presently does not have indoor seating. The property is owned by Mr. Sharma, under the name of Myraa LLC. He wanted to open this location as there is nowhere nearby to purchase food. He has invested a good deal of money in the building. Mr. McQueeney reviewed §4-210 of the Alcohol Code for approving or denying a license. Mr. Sharma believes there is a public need for the license. He has talked to a lot of people who expressed a desire for beer and wine. Some of them go to Centreville or Chestertown to buy these items since Rhodes Store did not carry the specific items they want. Mr. Sharma’s store is approx. 4/10 miles from Rhodes Store which is the only other Class “A” license within a 5-mile radius. In Centreville there is Draper Liquors, Centreville Liquors and Hillside within a short distance of each other. He does not think this license would cause any traffic problems. He has adequate parking. He does have Alcohol Awareness training. Concerning his misdemeanor charge in 2008, he said he and his wife are now happily married. Mr. Ransom reiterated that he

is troubled by this charge and asked Mr. Sharma for any additional information as to why he is a fit and proper person to hold this license. Mr. Sharma said the incident happened in 2008. He said it was a mistake and he had counseling. In 2011 he opened a restaurant, he operated it until 2014, the reviews were 4.5+ stars. He has never had an alcohol license violation. Mrs. Monica Pal, Mr. Sharma's wife, appeared before the Board. They have been married 14 years and have two children. She said since the incident in 2008, she and her husband have had no issues. They work together on a daily basis. They have both been at the Corner Café every day for the last five years and are well known in the community. She would like this license so their customers can come in, pick up food and a pack of beer or wine to go. She said her husband is a fit and proper person to hold this license. She said she would not have said that in 2008 but since then, he has worked very hard and has always loved the town of Church Hill. Go Mart would be more focused on food sales, where Rhodes Store is more focused on alcohol sales. She said the majority of their customers are in favor of this license.

Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Sharma if it is true that he is not the licensee for Corner Café in Anne Arundel Co. because of the criminal conviction and Mr. Sharma said, no, because he had to be living there for a certain amount of time. His wife was in the corporation so she obtained the license. Mr. Drummond asked who was Wm. Basso and Mr. Sharma said a friend of theirs who lives in Glen Burnie. Mr. Basso does not work at Corner Café. Mr. Sharma did not obtain a license in Anne Arundel Co. because he was already running Royal Karma and he also had Bombay Nights until it was transferred. Mr. Drummond questioned Mr. Sharma's residence address. Mr. Sharma said the 2907 Main St., Edgewater, MD address was when he first moved to Anne Arundel Co. In August 2018 he bought a house at 3030 Marlin Dr., Riva, MD. Hanish Pal is his wife's brother. Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Sharma if he and his wife spend from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 5-6 days a week at Corner Café and Mr. Sharma said, yes. Mr. Drummond said now Mr. Sharma wishes to be the sole licensee of a potentially full-time operation 35 miles away from Corner Café. Mr. Sharma said the Corner Café is currently under contract and he has a new buyer. Mr. Drummond said shouldn't he wait until that transaction is complete so he will know he will be in Church Hill full time. Mr. Sharma said his wife can handle Corner Café by herself. Mr. Drummond asked when did Myraa LLC acquire the property in Church Hill and Mr. Sharma said in August 2018. The property was being used as a garage so he went to the Town of Church Hill to see if they would allow him to put a food store there and they had no objections. He would not have purchased the property if he did not think it would be successful. Mr. Drummond said the Liquor Bd. has to make sure there are not too many liquor stores in a relatively close proximity so that they all fail and does Mr. Sharma feel he is putting pressure on nearby off-sale premises. Mr. Sharma said he feels having multiple locations pulls in traffic. Mr. Drummond asked if Mr. Sharma had checked to see if he and Rhodes Store will be selling the same sort of products He has not spoken with Mr. Datta. He will be selling only beer and wine and is not sure if he and Mr. Datta will be selling the same product. Mr. Sharma said he will be having some unique products. When he had his soft opening he got a lot of signatures in one day and 80% of the people were from Church Hill. No one else testified in favor of the granting of this license. Mr. Calmon said he has checked with Mr. Terry Ober and Mr. Sharma did pass his Alcohol Awareness course on 8/8/20.

Mr. Drummond called Mr. Sunil (Sonny) Datta, operator of Rhodes Store, 620 Main St. ,Church Hill, MD as the next witness. Mr. Datta's wife is the license holder of the Class "A" beer, wine & liquor license. Rhodes Store is .4 miles from the applicant's premises, Go Mart, on Main St. Mr. Datta has operated Rhodes Store almost 30 years. He has had the liquor license from day one. He said the town people tell him what they want and he carries it for them. His alcohol sales are approx. 25-30% of the business. He said there are not many people in the town to divide between two stores. He said Go Mart selling food is fine. Mr. Drummond said there are other Class "A" licenses between Centreville and Chestertown, being Drapers, Centreville Liquors, Hillside, Rhodes Store and Don Tonios. Mr. Datta said he does not get much business from Rt. 213 traffic and he feels those people are adequately served by the other Class "A" stores. Mr. Drummond entered 15 pages of signatures collected at Rhodes Store opposing the application of Go Mart as Opposition Exhibit No. 1. Mr. Datta sells food at his store but does not object to Go Mart selling food. Mr. Datta said his business is approx. 10% alcohol sales (excluding beer & wine). He has no problem keeping up with the demand and he does not require extra employees, nor has he heard of any other Class "A" license holders having a problem. Mr. Datta said Mr. Sharma said that Sonny's prices are very high and he does not carry certain items. Mr. Datta said he carries what the local customers want and he is open every day. He said the town is very small and does not need two businesses of the same kind. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Datta if he has been the only Class "A" license in the Town of Church Hill for the last 30 years and he said, yes. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Datta if he feels he should be the only one to ever hold a Class "A" license in the Town. Mr. Datta said there is not enough population to support another Class "A" license. He said his customers signed the petition against this application but not all the customers signed it.

Mr. Thompson asked if anyone else wanted to testify in opposition to this application. Mr. Michael Morris appeared before the Board. Mr. Morris lives in the Town of Church Hill and ran a business (Ethel's Sub Shop) there for many years. Chance's Store was at the Rhodes Store location before Mr. Datta acquired it. He heard rumors when Mr. Sharma purchased the property that it would be an Italian restaurant and he thought that would be great. But now he is afraid this building will be stacked to the ceiling with beer and wine. Mr. Thompson explained to Mr. Morris that the applicant is asking for a package goods license, he does not have to sell any food. Mr. Morris said he has 3 grandchildren that live in the Town of Church Hill. They are at the age where they will be riding bicycles. There are approx. 50 children under the age of 16 living in Church Hill. Mr. Morris was in favor of an Italian restaurant but he does not want another beer and wine store. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Morris how long he served on the Church Hill Town Council and he said for six years. He has lived in Church Hill most of his life. Ms. Jones asked Mr. Morris if he feels there is a need for another liquor store in this area and Mr. Morris said, no. He is also concerned with increased traffic and the safety of the young people riding bicycles and walking on the sidewalks. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Morris if Mr. Sharma opened an Italian restaurant would he be in support of that and Mr. Morris said, yes. Mr. McQueeney asked would he be in favor of them serving beer and wine. Mr. Morris said, yes. Mr. McQueeney said so it would be alright to drink beer and wine in a restaurant and leave, but not buy package goods and leave, the safety concerns are not the same? Mr. Morris said he does not want bulk beer and wine over an Italian restaurant.

Mr. Brad Fear, 221 Agnes St., Church Hill, MD. appeared before the Board. He is a single dad of 3 children. He is opposed to another establishment selling beer and wine in Church Hill. He said Church Hill is a small town and is a safe place to raise a family and that is why he lives there with his children. He has been going to Rhodes Store for years and they have everything you need. Mr. Datta is kind to everyone and makes sure that everyone's needs are met. Mr. Fear said he does not object to a restaurant. He said Church Hill has some beautiful homes and great families coming in. He does not believe having another business selling beer and wine is going to help Church Hill in any way, there is no need for it. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Fear if he would object to a restaurant in Church Hill selling alcohol and Mr. Fear said, yes. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Fear if he lived in another rural area, would he still object to the sale of alcohol near his family. Mr. Fear said, no, he was born and raised in Baltimore city and things were a lot different there. But once he moved to Church Hill, he adapted to that type of living. Mr. McQueeney asked Mr. Fear if he moved his family to a new location, would he adopt a policy of not caring if there is alcohol around. Mr. Fear said it all depends on what the situation dictates.

Mr. Sushil Datta, Bennett Point Rd., Queenstown, MD. appeared before the Board. He is the license holder for Bennett Point Store and is Mr. Sonny Datta's brother. Mr. Datta said he does not think Mr. Sharma understands how people here live. Rhodes Store has been in business for years. Sonny Datta built the store on the needs of the people living there. He does not think Church Hill needs another liquor store. There is not enough population. He said you cannot compare Church Hill to Kent Island. Mr. Hibbard asked Mr. Sushil Datta if he testified against this application at the Town Council meeting in Church Hill and Mr. Datta said, no, he did not know it was happening. Mr. Sonny Datta said he did not attend the Town meeting because it was his understanding that Mr. Sharma was opening a restaurant and he was not opposed to that. Ms. Jones said she reviewed the Town's minutes and it appeared it was described as a deli at that time. She has not seen recent minutes but Planning & Zoning did sign off on Go Mart. She said it is not clear to her if the Town realized there was an alcohol license involved. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Beery, to deny this application under §4-210 of the Alcoholic Beverages Title, factors to be considered for issuing a license. Mr. Ransom said the Board has heard testimony against the public need and desire for the license and has heard no testimony from anyone except the applicant and his wife supporting the application. There has been testimony from numerous people, including a former Town Council person, that the number and location of existing license holders is adequate. There has been testimony that the application would have an adverse effect on existing license holders and the applicant is not planning on offering anything unique. There has been testimony that the application has an adverse effect on the health, safety and welfare of the community. Mr. Ransom said he was originally concerned about the fitness of the applicant but he gives credit to the applicant's wife and will withhold judgement on this. He feels if the applicant came back in for a restaurant license it would be a different situation. Mr. Ransom does not see where the applicant has met any of the standards. He said he has been on the Board for four years and has never opposed an application but the standards have not been met. He strongly feels it is this Board's obligation to deny the license. Mr. Beery said he agrees with Mr. Ransom and is

still concerned about a false statement on the application. Ms. Jones said she has the same concerns, she does not feel this license is necessary to accommodate the public. She feels the applicant and his wife addressed the fitness question sufficiently. She does not think the false statement on the application was intentional. The motion passed with a vote of 3 in favor and Mr. Hibbard opposed.

The Board held a hearing for the transfer of A Class "A" Beer & Wine License From Meekal Asad, Xtra Fuel Mart, to Sheikh Asadullah, For The Benefit Of Badsah, Inc., trading as Queenstown Mart, Located at 4638 Ocean Gateway, Queenstown, Md 21658. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to this application. Mr. Asadullah, along with his Attorney, Joseph McQueeney, Esq., appeared before the Board. Member John McQueeney recused himself from this hearing as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Mr. Thompson said the application is in order. Ms. Jones asked if the Board can transfer this license since the 2020 license has not been renewed. Mr. Thompson said the Governor's Order has extended the validity of the current license so the Board is transferring a current valid license. Therefore, the Board is transferring the 2020 license and the 2021 license will be renewed next year. Mr. McQueeney requested to amend Question 7.(a) on the application to "yes". He said Mr. Asadullah has previously had an alcohol license in Queen Anne's Co. issued by this Board. Mr. Asadullah has lived at his current address for approx. 10 years. He is a US citizen. He previously held a license for Piney Creek Mart on Rt. 50 for approx. 7-8 years with no violations. Mr. McQueeney said beyond what is listed on the background check, has Mr. Asadullah if he has been convicted or charged with any other criminal offense and Mr. Asadullah said, no. Mr. Asadullah is the sole owner of Badsah, Inc. No one else has a financial interest in the company and Mr. Asadullah has no financial interest in any other license. He is the only authorized person to hold a license for the company. Other license holders in the vicinity are Winchester Liquors and Marshy Creek Liquors on Rt. 50. Mr. Asadullah does not feel this license will have any negative effect on other licenses. He said all his neighbors know him personally. His business sells gasoline and the others nearby do not so this makes his store unique. He has adequate parking and he has current alcohol awareness training. There will always be someone on the premises certified to sell alcohol. Mr. Asadullah held the alcohol license for Piney Creek Mart for five years with no violations. Mr. Calmon said he met with Mr. Asadullah on July 28, 2020 at his establishment and he saw no problems. The business recently had a compliance check and passed. Mr. McQueeney said the bulk transfer has been dealt with and all taxes are paid. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to approve this license, pending receipt of the Trader's License and final Fire Marshal approval. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Warren Wright, Drug Free Coalition, appeared before the Board. He gave the Board some purple lightbulbs for the annual QA Goes Purple event. He is doing a topic on drugs and alcohol and driving with someone who has been drinking. Mr. Beery said he volunteered Mr. Calmon to do a public service announcement. Mr. Wright said the Board of Education got \$128,000 heroin grant again. This means that any child in school gets a full assessment and therapy, not just a screening. He also received a \$2,000 grant for drug and alcohol awareness. He will check into possible donations for compliance checks. Mr. Beery said Mr. Calmon is working with the

Health Dept. who has agreed to fund the ID booklets for all the licensees from a separate grant. He said there was a lapse in the AA/NA and Celebrate Recovery groups because of Covid but most of them have moved to facilities that are large enough to be safe or are meeting outside. Mr. Wright thanked the Board for all they are doing for the kids in Queen Anne's Co.

Concerning renewals, Ms. Jones said she was advised by the Comptroller's Office that transfers should not be processed unless the renewal is complete. But in Mr Asadullah's case, he is transferring the extended 2019 license and not the new 2020 license.

Mr. Elliott Morotti, 109 Indian Trace, Stevensville, MD appeared before the Board. He said he and his mother are considering starting a mobile bar on wheels business. Ms. Jones advised Mr. Morotti he should contact the Comptroller's Office as this is not something that this Board approves.

The Board discussed proposed changes to the Board's Rules and Regulations that were discussed at the August 17, 2020 work session. Mr. Thompson will complete the changes and said this could show on the Rules and Regs as "Amended and Restated on 9/1/20". When finalized the amended copy will be put on the website and all licensees will receive a copy. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve the changes to the Rules and Regulations. All members voted in favor.

Ms. Jones said following the MALA call, any licensee who has not paid their taxes, if they have entered into a payment plan, the Board is allowed to renew the license. There is a new MALA training session to begin. The first session is tomorrow to train people to identify fake licenses. There will be different topics. MALA received a request from a lobbyist for a national liquor distributor; the request was to support RAM's position to continue to-go drinks/delivery after the current State of Emergency has expired. The general consensus of MALA is that they do not want to continue this and they do not want a blanket provision for the entire state. As such, Jeff Kelly suggested that MALA choose to take no position on it.

Lou Berman and Jeff Kelly suggested that the Board now process all the renewals that they can. If the state of emergency extends into next year, licensees will be paying for two years of licenses and fees. In Baltimore County and other jurisdictions, if someone gets a DUI and police have asked them where their last place of service of alcohol was, they are charging them with serving an intoxicated individual and over service and also referring it for criminal prosecution. Ms. Jones is not in favor of this. Mr. Beery said over service is an issue. If the Board has an agreement with the Sheriff's Office or the State Police where they have identified bars that have over served and they can determine where these people were drinking, it would not be a problem for this Board to send a letter or to have Mr. Calmon investigate. Mr. Beery said he is not in favor of criminal charges. Ms. Jones said if the Board has concerns, they should be put in writing and forwarded to her and she will forward it to Mr. Calmon.

Concerning the updated renewal application, Mr. Thompson will finalize this in order to get the revised form on line.

Mr. Beery said he received a call from the Rotary Club of Kent Island who had a one-day license approved for a September 26 event which they are now not having. They asked if they can instead do a basket of cheer raffle on December 22 under their one-day license. Mr. Ransom made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to approve the request. Ms. Jones said the Board has a rule that says if they are giving away a basket of cheer, they can only sell the raffle ticket to people over 21. They also have to get a raffle/gaming permit from the Co. Commissioners' office.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned, to meet again on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. The meeting date was changed due to availability of the meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Maxwell, Clerk

/s/ Joyce E. Jones

Joyce E. Jones, Esq., Chairman