

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023  
9:00 A.M.**

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne's Co. met on Tuesday, September 5, 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; Members John T. McQueeney, Charles W. Ferrar and Lynn M. Mason; Jeffrey Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Mandy Calvert, Liquor Inspector; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board.

**SPECIAL/TEMPORARY LICENSES:**

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

- Cloverfields Property Owners Assoc. – Date of event - September 9
- Queen Anne's Co. Chamber of Commerce – Date of event – Sept. 27
- Not My Child & Giving the Edge Foundation - Date of event – October 1
- Kinera Foundation/Foundations Island Yoga – Date of event – October 1
- Chesapeake College Multicultural Advisory Committee – Date of event – October 7
- Kent Island Heritage Society – Date of event – October 7
- Kent Island Vol. Fire Dept. – Date of event – November 12

Regarding the application for Kinera Foundation/Foundations Island Yoga, Mr. Beery said Foundations Island Yoga is not a non-profit. The application will be approved for Kinera Foundation.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 1, 2023 MINUTES AND AUGUST, 2023 REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the August 1, 2023 Minutes and the August, 2023 Liquor Inspector Report. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Ransom said he appreciates Ms. Calvert's reports.

**LONG RANGE SENIOR PLANNER:**

Mr. Rob Tracey had no comments. Mr. Ransom said he got a request from the Co. Commissioners asking if the Board had any legislation for this year and he advised them he was not aware of any.

**DELIVERY PERMIT REQUEST:**

Mr. Singh, husband of Ms. Navneet Kaur, Licensee for Friendly Food Mart, 1383 Main St., Stevensville, MD appeared before the Board to request a delivery permit. Mr. Singh is the Manager of the store. The cost of a delivery permit is \$10 per month, prorated. The cost would be \$80 from this date until the May 1, 2023 renewal date. A motion was made by Ms. Mason, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve the delivery permit request. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Beery explained the rules for delivery permits to Mr.

Singh. Mr. Singh said he will request the customer to show their driver's license at delivery to assure no one under 21 yrs. of age receives the alcohol.

### **EXPANSION OF PREMISES**

Mr. Jody Schulz appeared before the Board regarding expanding the premises of Fisherman's Crab Deck, 3032 Kent Narrows Way S., Grasonville, MD for a planned boat show to occur every weekend in October. The dates are October 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, and 27-29. He said Knot 10 Yacht Sales does a boat show every year. This show will be contributing to that event by having boats for sale at the Crab Deck dock and the Hyatt dock. There will be a floating dock from Safe Harbor Marina to the Crab Deck. He said that is what is done at the Annapolis Boat Show, connecting floating docks. The alcohol will be sold at the Crab Deck. The Crab Deck normally closes in October but plan to stay open longer for the boat show. Mr. Ransom said they have to avoid areas being covered by two liquor licenses. Mr. Schulz said there will be boats for sale at Safe Harbor Marina in the parking lot. Mr. Ransom said the Board should make a motion to expand the Crab Deck license to cover the piers at the Hyatt side and the area below Fisherman's Inn and make it one contiguous area. Mr. Schulz said the Safe Harbor Marina property would be a part of that as well. Safe Harbor Marina does not have a liquor license. Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Schulz to draw a map that shows the requested expansion area and make sure he did not cross over onto another licensed premises. Mr. Ransom asked Mr. Schulz to be sure the area is secure and that no one would be allowed to take alcohol to the Hyatt or Fisherman's Inn. Mr. Schulz said it will not be a charged event and he will have people on premises to be sure customers don't come in or leave with alcohol. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the expansion of premises for Fisherman's Crab Deck for the dates of October 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and 27-29, 2023. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Schulz also said the Hyatt Hotel and the Crab Deck (Fisherman's Village) have been approached by a beer company to have an event on the Crab Deck property in which they would come in and rent the building. This would be held at the Crab Deck the weekend after the boat show. They will bring in 30-40 craft beer businesses and sell tickets to come in. You will get a mug and stay on the premises and taste beer. Mr. Ransom said the issue is the craft beer businesses probably have a license as well. He asked if they are a wholesaler and will they be selling the alcohol to Mr. Schulz who will then sell it as a retailer. Or will they be selling it under a caterer's license. Mr. Schulz said he would like to work out the details so he is not violating any laws. They would be on the Crab Deck premises, not walking around on other properties. It will be a beer tasting event with tickets sold. There may be a fundraiser involved. Mr. Ransom said if it involves a non-profit, the Board can issue a special/temporary license. Mr. Schulz said they will not be purchasing any of the alcohol at the Crab Deck. This is a Delaware company and other companies that are coming in from multiple states. Mr. Ransom said if they are doing it as a fundraiser for a legitimate non-profit, it will have to be on the October 3, 2023 Agenda for review. Mr. Beery said he does not know of any way that brewers can sell retail on the Crab Deck property. Mr. Ransom said if the brewers have a caterer's license they could. Mr. Beery said that would not apply to a licensed premises. Mr. Schulz said this will be a private

function specifically for this brew fest, the Crab Deck will not be open for business. It was suggested that the Crab Deck license could be suspended for a month. Mr. Schulz said the Crab Deck is closed painfully for six or seven months out of the year. It is a nice building and he is looking for things to do there because the Hyatt Hotel is open and he is trying to create more activities at Kent Narrows. He may possibly do this again in April prior to reopening for business. Mr. Thompson said he does not think there is any provision to suspend a license. Mr. Ransom advised Mr. Schulz work with Ms. Calvert and Mr. Thompson to work out the details.

**EXPANSION OF PREMISES:**

Joseph McQueeney, Esq., appeared before the Board to discuss an expansion of premises request for Pour House Pub, 205A Tackle Dr., Chester, MD for an event to be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Member John McQueeney recused himself from this discussion as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Mr. Joseph McQueeney submitted a map showing the property. He said it is the same tent that they used for Santa Con. Mr. McQueeney said he thinks that Santa Con is not occurring this year. As Red Eyes Dock Bar closes, Pour House Pub wants to put up a tent and have an introduction to the fall season. There will be a separate barrier entrance to assure that no one underage goes in. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the expansion of premises for October 7, 2023, pending approval from the Dept. of Planning & Zoning. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, with Member McQueeney recused, the motion passed.

**VIOLATION HEARINGS:**

The Board held a hearing regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code for Jeta E, LLC, trading as Draper Brothers, 2615 Centreville Rd., Centreville, MD 21617. The charge involves the sale of alcohol to a minor, which occurred on July 26, 2023 at the licensed premises. After administering the oath to all who were to testify, Mr. Thompson recused himself from participating in this hearing. Ms. Paige Evans, Licensee, along with her employee, Ms. Genevieve Jacobs, appeared before the Board. Ms. Evans is not contesting the charges. Ms. Evans said Ms. Jacobs works at the store when she cannot be there. She said Ms. Jacobs made a huge mistake in the liquor business. Ms. Evans was not at the store when the incident occurred but she knows from other employees that Ms. Jacobs does check ID's and that she had carded previous customers that day. Ms. Evans said there is no excuse for this and corrective action has been implemented. Ms. Jacobs understands her lack of judgement and has been very remorseful and takes full responsibility. Ms. Evans said she has personally done everything she can as a business owner and license holder to prevent these things from happening. She said Ms. Jacobs is TIPS certified as are all her employees. She also has a policy at Draper Brothers that they do not accept vertical and military ID's. She has purchased ID scanners to also prevent identification fraud. Draper Brothers has had no past violations. Ms. Evans said she understands it is a privilege to hold this license and she takes her business very seriously and professionally. Going forward, if this were to happen again, all employees are aware that they will be terminated immediately. Mr. Ransom entered Ms. Calvert's letter with attachments to the Licensee dated 8/14/23 and the Notice of Intention to Defend as Board's Exhibit No. 1. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. McQueeney, that a violation

occurred. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Ms. Jacobs said she made a mistake, she is a new employee, she is a nurse of 44 years and never had any kind of offense in her whole life. She is very sorry and it will not happen again. A motion was made by Ms. Mason to impose a fine of \$500. Mr. Ransom suggested that since this is a first offense, putting \$250 in abeyance. Ms. Mason amended her motion, seconded by Mr. Beery, to impose a fine of \$500, with \$250 in abeyance for 18 months from this date, to be paid within 15 days of this date. And that Ms. Jacobs be required to retake an alcohol awareness class within 60 days of this date. Mr. Ransom said Ms. Evans will owe \$250 now and if there is not another violation within 18 months, the remaining \$250 goes away. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

The Board held a hearing regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code for ZC Restaurant Group, LLC, trading as Alibi Gastropub, 122 N. Commerce St., Centreville, MD 21617. The charge involves the sale of alcohol to a minor, which occurred on July 26, 2023 at the licensed premises. After administering the oath to all who were to testify, Mr. Thompson recused himself from participating in this hearing. Mr. Joseph Zagami, Licensee, along with his wife, Alma, employee Mr. James Procaccini, and his Attorney, Joseph McQueeney, Esq. appeared before the Board. Member John McQueeney recused himself from participating in this hearing as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Mr. Ransom said, for the record, that he is a friend of Mr. Procacinni, but feels he can fairly participate in this hearing. There was no objection to Mr. Ransom participating in this hearing. Mr. Zagami is not contesting the charges. Mr. McQueeney said the 19 yr. old minor volunteer who entered the store to purchase the alcohol was a very good one. Mr. Procacinni has been in the business for quite awhile and had a lapse of judgement and assumed the volunteer was above the age of 21. Mr. Zagami has already required Mr. Procacinni to retake the alcohol awareness class to be recertified. The entire staff has also been recertified as a result of this violation. Mr. McQueeney said this is a new business and is doing well. This is the first offense. Mr. Ransom entered Ms. Calvert's letter with attachments to the Licensee dated 8/14/23 and the Notice of Intention to Defend as Board's Exhibit No. 1. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, that a violation occurred. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, with Member McQueeney recused, the motion passed. Mr. Zagami said normally his wife manages the store but is expecting twins. He said he has put measures in place to assure this does not happen again. Mr. Procacinni, who made the sale, apologized and said it was a total lack of judgement on his part. He said the volunteer looked like a 35 yr. old tight end that played professional football. He said he grew up in an age of bartending when the legal age was 18 and people were carded at the door. He said he has learned his lesson. A motion was made by Mr. Ferrar, seconded by Mr. Beery, to impose a fine of \$500, with \$250 in abeyance for 18 months from this date. And since all employees have already been alcohol awareness recertified, no requirement for anyone to retake the class. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, with Member McQueeney recused, the motion passed.

A hearing was scheduled today for MH Investment, Inc., trading as Squisitos Pasta & Pizza, 101 Outlet Center Dr., Queenstown, MD regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic

Beverages Code. Joseph McQueeney, Esq. appeared before the Board to request a postponement of this hearing until the October 3, 2023 meeting date. He said Mr. Martin Hernandez, Licensee, called him this morning and is ill. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Ms. Mason, to continue this hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, with Member McQueeney recused, the motion passed.

The Board held a hearing regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code for Jamba Liquors, Inc., trading as Centreville Liquors, 2486B Centreville Rd., Centreville, MD 21617. The charge involves the sale of alcohol to a minor, which occurred on July 26, 2023 at the licensed premises. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Ms. Barbara Jean Haskell, Licensee, along with employee Mr. Franklin King, and her Attorney, David (Chip) Gregory, Esq. appeared before the Board. Ms. Haskell is not contesting the charges. Mr. Ransom entered Ms. Calvert's letter with attachments to the Licensee dated 8/14/23 and the Notice of Intention to Defend as Board's Exhibit No. 1. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Ms. Mason, that a violation occurred. By a vote of five in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Franklin King said he is a parttime employee, he has been employed since February, 2022. He is alcohol awareness certified. Prior to working for Centreville Liquors, he held a liquor license at Hoopers Island in Dorchester Co. for over 15 years with no violations. Mr. King said he thought the volunteer had entered the store previously and he did check his ID. He made a mistake the second time and did not check his ID. He said the store was very busy when the sale was made. The volunteer was standing next to another lady and he thought they were together. He said the volunteer did look like a football player. He had checked ID's on 3-4 people that day. There is a scan system at the store. Mr. King is scheduled to retake the TIPS class on October 15, 2023 at the Easton Elks Lodge. Mr. Ransom asked Ms. Calvert about past compliance checks for Centreville Liquors. Ms. Calvert said she has inspected the store at least twice, prior to the current check, since she has been doing compliance checks and they passed. They have not had a violation since 2017. Mr. Ferrar asked if compliance checks were done during Covid and Mr. Ransom said there were no checks done for approx. 18 months. Mr. Ransom said Centreville Liquors last violation was 2017 and checks were done in 2018 and 2019. He said package stores were getting inspected by the previous inspector and he feels confident that Centreville Liquors was checked during 2018-19. Mr. King said he previously received "congratulations" certificates for passing the compliance checks. Mr. Ransom said these certificates will be admitted as "Licensee Exhibit 1" and were returned to Mr. King. Mr. McQueeney said when this Board is discussing a fourth violation, they are thinking about revocation. But considering they have checked the ID's the last few times, Mr. McQueeney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to impose a fine of \$1,000 and suspend the license for three (3) days, starting Monday, September 11 through Wednesday, September 13, 2023. And that Mr. King retake the alcohol awareness class again within 60 days from this date. Mr. Ransom disagreed with the 3-day suspension, given the fact that they have passed other checks and have not had a violation since 2017. He suggested shortening the suspension or increasing the fine. Mr. McQueeney said it is the fourth violation and there were a couple years when checks were not done. He said there is a difference between a 3-day suspension from Friday through Sunday instead of Monday thru Wednesday. Ms. Mason asked how much

revenue would be lost with a 3-day suspension and Mr. King said approx. \$12,000 gross revenue. By a vote of four in favor and Mr. Ransom opposed, the motion passed.

**DRUG FREE COALITION:**

Mr. Warren Wright appeared before the Board. He introduced Ms. Doreen Fassett. Ms. Fassett, along with the Sheriff's Dept., deals with tobacco compliance. He wanted Ms. Fassett to see how regulatory Boards work. Ms. Fassett said she has been to this meeting before so she understands how the Board operates. She said the Sheriff's Dept. does tobacco compliance checks. There are also non-government organizations that educate the actual tobacco retailers before the Sheriff's Dept. does checks. She likes how this Board does the compliance checks and it would be nice if this could be incorporated together. She said monetary stipends are given for the checks and also to the non-government organizations. Mr. McQueeney asked what is the fine for selling tobacco to someone underage. She said it can start from \$300 and it can go up to \$1,000 if it is repetitive. Mr. Ransom told Ms. Fassett if she ever needs a letter of support or any help from this Board, please feel free to reach out. Mr. Beery said Ms. Fassett is also the Health Dept. representative for the DFC on the alcohol subcommittee.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Mr. Ransom said the posted October 3, 2023 Agenda needs to note, for Open Meetings requirements, that members of this Board will be attending the MALA Conference in Ocean City on October 15-17, 2023. Ms. Maxwell will take care of this.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Maxwell*  
Clerk

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