

The Board of License Commissioners of Cecil County met in a regular session at the County Administrative Building, Conference Room, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 9:15 A.M.

PRESENT: Stephen Miller, Chairman
Kristen Ortt, Commissioner
Bernard Chiominto, Commissioner
Keith Baynes, County Attorney
Justin Hill, Deputy County Attorney
Earl Bradford, Chief Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Sandra Cumm, Administrative Assistant
Kayla Maldeis, Paralegal
Rita Buckland, Paralegal

Guest Speakers: Jeff Kelly, MD Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Commission
Adam Streight, County Executive

Chairman Miller: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to welcome you all and call to order, The Cecil County Board of Licensed Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, July 30, 2025. Would you all stand for the pledge of allegiance?

Chairman Miller: Asked for everyone that was to testify at today's hearing to stand, raise their right hand and be sworn in.

Administrative Assistant: Sworn in Earl Bradford and audience members who were going to testify today.

Chairman Miller: Our first order of business. Before we get started, I would like to welcome back Bernie Chiominto. After an absence he came back. He was a great representative before, I know he'll do a great job again. Thank you. We look forward to working with him.

Chairman Miller: 1st order of business application transfer received from Chirayush Parikh, Rushi Patel, Grant Riddle- Resident, RM 2025,

LLC, t/a **Plum Creek Market**, 79 Plum Creek Road, North East, MD 21901, for transfer of Class "A-6, Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverages License from Elizabeth J. Weaver, Plum Creek Market, LLC, t/a **Plum Creek Market**, 79 Plum Creek Road, North East, MD 21901. Okay, Mr. Riddle, thank you.

Attorney Riddle: I represent what happened in this situation. RM 2025 LLC. Which is really owned by Mr. Parikh, and Mr. Patel ended up purchasing the business at Plum Creek Market. They ended up purchasing in a separate company purchase the real property. But RM 2025 LLC. Is operating the business on the property. I think I sent over a management agreement that was in place. Once we did the real estate settlement immediately submitted the application for the transfer of the liquor license. Elizabeth Weaver has signed it. I believe we have everybody's signature here, and they it's just a turnkey operation. They've essentially taken it over and continued to run it as a liquor store, identical or similar, tried to expand a little more on the inventory, but they've just taken it over from there from Elizabeth Weaver, and are up and running, but of course need the transfer to place it in their name. I can have everybody testify, but I can tell you there have been no changes in the application since the time of filing, and they want to just continue to own and operate that business as they have in the past.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Hill?

Attorney Hill: No questions for me. I was at the previous meeting and saw the transfer agreement looked fine to me at that time. The application doesn't have any legal issues that come to my mind.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Miss Ortt?

Commissioner Ortt: I have no questions at this time.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Mr. Chiominto?

Commissioner Chiominto: No questions.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Bradford?

Chief Bradford: Everything appears to be in order.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. At this time, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Ortt: I move to approve the application received from Chirayush Parikh, Rushi Patel, Grant Riddle- Resident, RM 2025, LLC, t/a **Plum Creek Market**, 79 Plum Creek Road, North East, MD 21901, for transfer of Class "A-6, Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverages License from Elizabeth J. Weaver, Plum Creek Marker, LLC ,t/a **Plum Creek Market**, 79 Plum Creek Road, North East, MD 21901.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion on the floor. Do I hear a second?

Commissioner Chiominto: Second.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion by Ms. Ortt, a second by Mr. Chiominto.

Board: Unanimously approved the transfer.

Chairman Miller: Application received from Chong S Lin, Lin's North East, LLC, T/A **Tokyo Sushi**, 111 North East Plaza, North East, MD 21901 for issuance of a new Class "B" Beer-Wine-Liquor, Alcohol Beverage License. Good morning. What would you like to tell us?

Chong S Lin: Our locations in the Walmart Shopping Center North East Plaza shopping center. We took over the old Mr. Phil, right now we convert to Japanese cuisine, a fusion type restaurant in that space. It's a 3,000 square feet space. And we also have another restaurant in Havre de Grace, which is Linn Hibachi. And so, we're applying for a liquor license here.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Hill?

Attorney Hill: Are there any changes in your application since you submitted it?

Chong S Lin: No, sir,

Attorney Hill: All right. Nothing further from legal.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Chiominto?

Commissioner Chiominto: What was the first restaurant you said?

Chong S Lin: Linn's Hibachi.

Commissioner Chiominto: Okay, that's all.

Chairman Miller: Okay, Miss Ortt?

Commissioner Ortt: I live in North East. So, you've been doing some renovations there?

Chong S Lin: Yes, I think we finish at the end of May with all the renovations, and we opened up June 3rd I believe.

Commissioner Ortt: Yes, very good. And you have a big menu?

Chong S Lin: Yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Ortt: Yeah, it looks good. Well, good luck to you. What's your anticipated opening date?

Chong S Lin: Are we already open? Open Yes, okay, just waiting for the liquor license.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Bradford?

Chief Bradford: Everything's in order.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. Do I hear a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Chiominto: I make a motion, we accept the application received from Chong S Lin, Lin's North East, LLC, T/A **Tokyo Sushi**, 111 North East Plaza, North East, MD 21901 for issuance of a new Class "B" Beer-Wine-Liquor, Alcohol Beverage License. for issuance of a new class. B. Beer, wine, liquor, alcohol, beverage, license.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion on the floor. Do I hear a second

Commissioner Ortt: Second

Chairman Miller: Having a motion for Mr. Chiominto, and a second by Miss Ortt, all in favor, say, aye,

Board: Unanimously approved the New Class "B" License.

Chairman Miller: Good luck, sir.

Chairman Miller: Next item of business Application received from Steven Linkous, Licensee, Vicky, LLC, Vivas Patel, Owner, for Beverage Management Agreement with KLMK, Inc. t/a **The North East Store**, 1223 Turkey Point Road, North East, MD 21904.

Chief Bradford: I can read that into the record, the management, agreement, application, what the purpose of that is to allow them to operate the business until the license is transferred at our next meeting. They've already submitted their application for the transfer and are scheduled at our August meeting.

Chairman Miller: Okay, we don't need a motion. We don't need to do anything till next month.

Chief Bradford: Vote to agree or approve the management agreement.

Commissioner Ortt: this is a at the place at Hances Point. It's in the fork.

Chief Bradford: Yes, by the bank.

Chairman Miller: Do I hear a motion to accept the agreement?

Commissioner Ortt: I move to approve the application received from Steven Linkous, Licensee, Vicky, LLC, Vivas Patel, Owner, for Beverage Management Agreement with KLMK, Inc. t/a **The North East Store**, 1223 Turkey Point Road, North East, MD 21904.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion to approve the agreement, do I hear a second

Commissioner Chiominto: Second

Chairman Miller: Having a motion by Ms. Ortt, second by Mr. Chimonto. All in favor, say, Aye,

Board: Unanimously approved the Beverage Management Agreement for The North East Store.

Chairman Miller: Questions and public comment? Moving on general business. Have you had a chance to look over and approve the minutes from our last meeting.

Commissioner Chiominto: I make a motion that we accept the meeting minutes from the last meeting.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion from Mr. Chiominto to approve the minutes. Do I hear a second?

Commissioner Ortt: Second

Chairman Miller: Having a second by Miss Ort. All in favor, say, aye,

Board: Unanimously approves the Minutes from last months meeting.

Chairman Miller: Specials.

Chief Bradford: Oh, yes, we received an application from:

Plumpton Park Zoo -Spring Brew At The Zoo – 6/21/25

Plumpton Park Zoo -Fall Brew At The Zoo – 9/27/25

Milburn Stone Theatre – Multiple Functions – 8/8/25 – 6/21/26

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. We have a guest speaker named Jeff Kelly, Executive Director ATCC. Virtual discussion on the History of Maryland. Alcohol Law and questions. Alcohol Tobacco, Cannabis, Commission.

Chief Bradford: I'm very pleased to have a guest speaker today. I've known Jeff for approximately 20 years. We've served on the Maryland Alcohol Licensing Association Executive Board together. Jeff is the former director, field or executive director of the Field Enforcement Division of the Controller's office, and more recently is the executive director of the alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission. He has a wealth of knowledge related to alcohol beverage law, and he's here to share some of the history with the three-tier system in Maryland here today. It's my pleasure to introduce Jeff Kelly. Thank you, Jeff.

Jeff Kelly: Hey? Thank you, Earl. I really appreciate those kind words. And it has been yeah, 20 years. It's pretty amazing. And it's been great working with you so closely all this time. I appreciate that and all the collaboration we have with Cecil County. Earl asked me just to kind of go over almost like a primer of the 3 tiered

system generally. How we kind of got where we are today. So, I hope it isn't too basic for you. It won't be terribly long, but I'll give you just a rundown of that, and then kind of a little peek into what we do at the state level and then fire away with any questions, and I'll answer what I can or I'll get the answers for you at some point. So again, Jeff Kelly with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission, which I will refer to as the ATCC.

Probably as we go through this, and I'll just start very briefly with pre prohibition, and it's kind of what led us up to prohibition. And interestingly, it was a result of beer and beer manufacturers, and most specifically the beer manufacturers from Europe. What was happening if you were in the United States and you wanted to open up a saloon, if you had that drive, there were plenty of breweries in Europe that wanted to help you. So, what they would do, these brewers. They wanted to have one saloon for every 285 people in any given area. So, a study was done in Chicago to kind of figure out how that played out there. Chicago, because of these brewers and their ability to help people set up saloons. There was one legal saloon for every 150 to 200 people, so they more than met the goal that they were trying to get. And I mentioned legal saloons, because there's also about a thousand illegal saloons that were up and running, so the number of saloons to person was really pretty short. They didn't have a whole lot. And if you, if you were interested in having a saloon. You needed to have some cash in the game. It was about \$200, but then what the brewers would do is they'd set you up with a location so they'd find you the real estate. They'd set you up with all the equipment you need to, I guess. Store and serve beer. There's some catches to it. And these brewer. These saloons were all over the place, which is why you go into certain towns, and you're going to see almost every street corner has a bar or a tavern. It's because these brewers were funding all of that. But again, to get into business there was a catch. The only alcohol you are allowed to sell is that with that brewer made. So that's something. Today we call a tide house, which is in effect, when a manufacturer requires a retailer to sell only that manufacturer's product. The retailer may not sell anybody else's. That's illegal, highly illegal, but that gave all the control to any individual brewer who had that arrangement. But that was one of the things all pre

prohibition. You had to sell, only that manufacturer's alcohol, and when you, when you buy that alcohol from the brewer, you will pay a premium to start paying back the cost of the real estate and all the equipment that they fronted you so that you could have the saloon. And so you're under an awful lot of pressure to sell more beer, sell more beer sell more beer. But the problem is, as I said, down the corner, across the street there's another saloon having to serve their manufacturer as well. So there became a lot of competition to sell that beer and pay off your debt. So, it's very competitive. And they started offering things like free meals. Come in and drink this beer, buy beer from me. I'm going to give you food. They started with gambling, prostitution drugs, all sorts of illicit criminal activities that some might think was a little fun. They started offering that in order to get people into their particular bar saloon and to buy the beer. And what's kind of interesting is we, you see, a lot of laws today where we have like odd things that are prohibited. It all stemmed from all this pre prohibition stuff, we learned a lot of lessons of what not to do or how to control better control. The distribution of alcohol result of all those efforts of the breweries were lots of bars everywhere, a lot of overconsumption breakdown in public order and decorum, a lot more crime simply because people were well, a lot of crime was taking place inside these saloons, 1st of all, and secondly, the competition was so stiff that some of the saloon owners would work to take down another saloon owner. It's just general harm to society people way over consuming, laying out in the streets. And so it was just all bad times, and that led up to prohibition the 18th Amendment, and interesting about the 18th Amendment. The 18th Amendment prohibited the manufacturing sale and transportation of alcohol but it did not prohibit possession or consumption. So if you already had some, you could keep it if you could get it somehow. No problem for personal use. They couldn't sell it so you couldn't have a tavern. We know about speakeasies, but they weren't supposed to do them, because you can't sell them. But you could. If you could get it personally, you could consume it, and there were some workarounds to it. One is, you could get a prescription from a doctor, and it would be that you're using it for medicinal purposes only. So there were some workarounds. It

wasn't quite as strict as it. Maybe it sounded, except they weren't supposed to be able to get the stuff in here, which is where all the bootleggers made their money. The Federal Government, after the 18th Amendment, which was really just a statement. After that passed, the Federal Government passed the Volstead Act that was actually a set of laws that was meant to enforce at the Federal level. enforce the prohibition. and in support of the Federal Volstead Act prohibition. Each State had to pass what they would call complementary legislation, meaning Maryland, would have to pass its own bill. Every State would have to pass its own bill, its own law that would complement or help carry out the Volstead Act and carry out the amendment of prohibition. Of all of the States in the entire country only one did not pass. Complementary legislation, and I guess you're going to know who that is. It was us. Maryland was the only State in the whole Union that never supported prohibition didn't do any Enforcement action. And you think about our motto, the Free State, in part, people referenced that we stayed free from Federal Government mandates. Interestingly, a Congressman in Georgia said that Maryland should be thrown out of the Union for not having any legislation that supported prohibition. and so an evening editorial, an editorial writer for The Evening Sun, wrote an editorial back that said Maryland should secede from the Union. We shouldn't be thrown out. We should actually leave the Union rather than give up liquor. So, we never did pass anything to support Prohibition. Years later prohibition ends with the 21st Amendment. So, you think about that? Alcohol is the only topic that has 2 amendments in all of our amendments for the United States. and when prohibition ended with the 21st Amendment. Each State was given the authority to regulate alcohol the way it thought it wanted to, the way it thought it was best so. Every State was to do it. Rockefeller and I don't remember which one, a Rockefeller, commissioned a study to be done on alcohol distribution sales controlling it, and the study was ultimately called toward liquor control. If you haven't seen it, Earl has, I know, and has probably referred to it many times, but essentially toward liquor control. The report writer said, first, if a State is going to allow alcohol again, and not everybody did right away. But if the State is going to allow alcohol. Again. We recommend

that the State control alcohol at the state level, and every bit of it can conduct the retail sales. I guess, rule over or control the manufacturers, and be the wholesalers as well, so that the State should run it entirely. And there are about 17 states in the country that do that, and they're called control States. And if you weren't going to do that, then they recommended as a second option is that the State at the State level would license everybody. We would license manufacturers, we would license wholesalers, we would license retailers and Maryland, as we've already learned now, is a little bit of a combative state, and we said, No, we're not going to do that either." So, what the State decided to do was at the State level. License manufacturers and wholesalers. That's what I do. And they left it up to each individual jurisdiction. The 23 counties, plus Baltimore city and Annapolis city. They authorized each of them to have their own liquor boards and to hold their own hearings and decide who should get licenses to sell alcohol at the retail level. And that's what we do. We're unique in the country in the way we do it. And it's kind of a strange, even a little more strange in Maryland, because at 1 point in the ability to do all that some counties decided to be the retailer of record themselves, one county still does it routinely like completely. And that's Montgomery County, Montgomery County rules the retail sales of spirits of liquor for off-premise consumption. So, they are the only retailer for off premise sales, wine, and beer. They allow people to get licenses, but for the spirits themselves, Montgomery County is a control county in an otherwise licensed state. So again, I license the manufacturers and the manufacturers are only allowed to sell to licensed wholesalers. I licensed the wholesalers. They're only allowed to buy from a licensed manufacturer or somebody who has some kind of a permit. In most cases. Then, the licensed wholesalers only allowed to sell to either another wholesaler in some instances, but not generally, or to retailers. Of course they can't sell directly to consumers. and there's supposed to be a very bright line between each of these tiers. So, the 1st tier is manufacturing. Then there's a bright line that's supposed to separate them from everybody else. They can only sell to a wholesaler again. Bright line can only sell to wholesalers, only sell to retailers. That's what it's supposed to be sorry I got a little

ahead of myself here. So, our role the ATCC's role in the local licenses is we do that. We do a lot of inspections. You know, there's about 8,000 license holders at the retail level in the State. We do several 1,000 of these inspections every year. but they're your license holders. So, our role is to inspect and hopefully find compliance when we find noncompliance, we submit a report to you. We become a witness for you at your hearings, and we support you in your and your whatever. However, you decide to handle the case, our role is to be a support to you, and we still do that. And so, we do. Thousands of these inspections every year. So again, to recap and maybe kind of make it visualize this. So, this is what our alcoholic beverage system is supposed to look like tier one manufacturers. We have a bunch of different manufacturers. You can see that there's maybe 10 or so of them of different manufacturers. The manufacturer from my perspective is someone that resides in Maryland. and has from me a license to manufacture. There are other manufacturers, certainly outside of Maryland. Anheuser-Busch is a manufacturer outside of Maryland, but I don't license them, I permit them, and the difference being, when we have an in-state entity, they're issued a license. and they can be issued permits to supplement their license to add additional privileges. Kind of like you would do if you were going to have a live music event or something along those lines we issue permits. But if it's an out-of-state entity, no matter how big they are, they get a permit from us. A non-resident dealer permit. It works just like a license. But it's just a little different. So, we issue permits to these different manufacturer types. We issue the licenses and some permits to these wholesaler distributors. And then you guys issue licenses and or permits to retailers. And it looks like it's a very clean system. And you can see there's a very bright distinction between each tier. However. The way Maryland's laws are set up, and have evolved over the years, a manufacturer which should never be allowed to be a wholesaler, and should never be allowed to be a retailer, thinking tied house again over the years that stuff has gotten fuzzy, as all get out. So, with this particular slide, what I'm showing you is the lavender color are people who are licensed in the manufacturer supplier area and should remain there. But you can see they end up having some tier, 2 wholesale

privileges now, and they even have some retail privileges, same thing with the wholesalers actually have some supplier privileges, and retailers have some wholesale privilege. It's really quite a mess. And part of this is because we've allowed some of our manufacturers. Some of the brewers, wineries, and distilleries, as you know, to have on-site consumption permits, or to have maybe a class B license, or something like that. Not a B I guess. Maybe A. D, but to have some kind of a privilege to sell to their to consumers people who come into their location. So, it's gotten to be quite blurry. And I think it's a little complex at times. So, we end up. It ends up just looking to be like everything. Almost any tier of license can do. Almost everything now can do wholesaling and can do direct sales to consumers. The way the General Assembly has set this up, and again, not to be too confusing about it is, if you are a brewer and you want to wholesale your product, you don't get a general multi-purpose license to distribute what you get is a limited brewer's wholesale permit, or I'm sorry license. So, they keep you in that license. System. You have to get that license, and there are certain qualifications as who can get it and who can't. But virtually every brewer that's licensed in Maryland is eligible to be a wholesaler in Maryland. so, they can get their own wholesale. But they're limited to selling only wholesaling only their own product. and if they want to sell on premise. Generally speaking, they have to get something from you, a permit, a and on site consumption permit, or some other type of license. So, you still have your hands in that element of it as well. Little bit complex. I won't read through all these because there's all we. We have maybe 50 or 60 or 70 different license and permits types that we issue. I just put these on here. So, you have them as a reference. And I'm happy to share this with you, Earl, if you'd like me to, I'm happy to share this so that you you'll have these. but there's just a lot of there's a lot of different permits and licenses, and mentioned already that we do inspections. We do tobacco inspections as well, which may not interest you so much, but we do about 2,500 to maybe just under 3,000 inspections of liquor of your retailers. In addition to our wholesalers and manufacturers. But of your retailers we do some covert operations. When we get some information, the crew that goes out and does. These inspections

are sworn police officers. About half my agency are sworn police officers, and they have the arrest, authority, and the authority to issue citations or criminally charge people. We participate routinely in task forces. You guys run a good show and you don't have a lot of from my perspective. You don't have a lot of difficult clients or license holders. But some jurisdictions do have some problems, and we spend a lot of time working in task forces. I think, right now Baltimore City, in areas like Fells Point Federal Hill, where they really have a high concentration of alcohol establishments. We spend a lot of time there in Prince George's County, some areas of Prince George's County. We spend a lot of time there, and we do occasionally enter into some relationships that are beneficial to everybody with industry members as well. So just to give you a sense of whether or not we think we're being effective, we think we are. These are Maryland stories. All of these are driving from work that we've done over the years where we either work with the industry to get them to pull for loco. If you recall that product off of the shelves years ago, 4 loco, which was a product that was high in caffeine and taurine, I think, which would be like a stimulant, and it was also very high in the alcohol beverage by volume. Rather a very high percentage of alcohol, and people were getting hurt. People were wide awake, but over consuming, and were, just, you know, awake, but out on their feet. and there was a horrible accident on the eastern shore where a young girl died, and as a result of that, then Comptroller Franchot, which is where we were at the time, and I met with industry, wholesalers, retailers, and said, Hey, can we just get this stuff off the street and that weekend the industry recognized was probably a good thing to do that that following weekend, all the product was off the shelf wasn't for sale anymore. It's since been reformulated, I think, to get rid of some of the stimulant in it and maybe reduce the Abv a little bit. But that was one of the things we're able to do and work with the industry to, we think, enhance public safety and public health. But we think we're hitting the mark. do. And this is an interesting thing. I was in Frederick County Liquor Board meeting, and one of the a retailer happened to be in the meeting, and the retailer asked me, Why is it that we're so tough on who's allowed to sell alcohol to the retailers, and why they're only allowed to buy wine

and spirits from a single source. Like, if I want to buy Jack Daniels. I have to go to one particular wholesaler. I can't go anywhere else, and I can't go to other stores, and my answer back was because we work very hard to make certain there isn't counterfeit or tainted product that comes into the State because we keep such tight records on all that product. If somebody got sick in Cecil County, and you could identify the bottle that they bought, or perhaps the retailer they bought it from. But really the bottle they bought. I can pretty much track that back to its source, eventually to the manufacturer, so we could do that rather quickly. That's part of why there's such tight control on it. But counterfeit product is an issue as well. I get articles from around the World Monthly about counterfeit product and the ill effects it's had on people in some cases people dying from it. And this lady, this particular retailer, said to me, Well, I've never heard of that in Maryland, where we've had a problem with cat. And my answer is because we do a pretty good job of controlling how this stuff flows, and that's something we all do together, you guys and us, we do a good job. I think of making sure that this stuff is not getting out on the street anything bad. But you can see all of these stories. They're all international. They're not from the United States because the United States does a good job, and Maryland does a good job of tracking this product and keeping it as safe as the product itself can be. We keep it, we think we keep it safe me to see. Well, I had another. I thought I had another slide in here. Maybe I lost it. Well, I did. Which was just a bunch of images. Sorry about that. It was just a bunch of images of people honestly in bad situations because they had gotten tainted in counterfeit products. So that's really just a thumbnail sketch of what the alcohol distribution system or three-tiered system in Maryland looks like, and what our role is happy to take any questions if you have any. and if not, you know, appreciate you guys being here, and your indulgence in helping me get set up and figure out the sharing thing. Admittedly, technology is not my forte. For sure. I think I've demonstrated that.

Chairman Miller: Jeff. I think it's been a wonderful presentation. We used to hear some of this, especially with new board members when we went to the annual conference in Ocean City right? And

it seems like whoever's in charge of that now has dropped the ball for several years, and we miss you and your knowledge, and the other speakers that used to go there. So, I appreciate your time. Especially if you're on vacation.

Jeff Kelly Oh, hey, no! Listen, that's part of the job. I truly don't mind it. And again, while I'm not technologically strong, it is this technology that lets us do this. I'm happy to spend. It's no time at all. It's just a little bit of time here in the morning, so happy to do it. It's really my honor and thank you for your comments about the Ocean City stuff. I know. I hope there will be a time where we can get that back up and running, we ran into, I think, a couple of technical snafus, if slash, maybe not legal snafus. But there's just some research being done. We can't find the old records of how we came to be as an organization. And so, we're trying.

Jeff Kelly: Clear it up again. So, the organization still meets informally. And you know, every other Friday during, except for during the summertime people get on the phone and share information. But I miss those 2. I miss those opportunities to just share new stuff. But here's what we're going to do with the ATCC. We just did one. We're going to start doing training on a regular basis. We're in a new location. We're in Baltimore City. It's easy to get to, and Earl's been there. It's a nice facility, and we have good training facility there as well. About a month ago, month and a half ago. Maybe we held training for open to all of the liquor board inspectors and put them through classroom training. And then we were right next door to a brewery. So, we went over and borrowed the brewery, and planted some things there, and showed them the kind of stuff to look for, because they also they also have an onsite consumption permit at the brewery. So, we set it up like a bar over there. It was a bar. Set it up, and we put a couple little trick things in it as well to help people start to know what to look for things that are problems. And we're going to do that more often is what I'm getting at a long way of saying. We offer that to your board always, and we want to do that regularly, even if we're not going to be doing the Ocean City stuff like we used to, at least for a little while.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Jeff. If you haven't had the opportunity, I'd like to introduce you to our county executive, Mr. Adam Streight

Jeff Kelly: Hello to Mr. Account. Executive. How are you.

County Executive Streight: Very supportive of the liquor. Thank you for being here .

Jeff Kelly: Really happy to be.

County Executive Streight: No, I'm a retired police officer, and I used to work with our liquor chief Liquor Inspector Bradford programs.

Jeff Kelly: Excellent.

County Executive Streight: It's a very interesting operator. So, I got some of this history here in my clouds. So, thank you for doing this.

Jeff Kelly: Excellent. That's wonderful. That's great. And Cecil County is a class act. I tell you. We just don't have problems up there with regularity. You know. It was interesting, though years ago there were a lot of people coming, say, from New York down to your retailers to buy the alcohol, and that's kind of stemmed. But each year we would put together a report, and it would show alcohol by consumption per capita consumption rather, and Cecil County was always like 3 times higher than the rest of the State, which was because there's so much volume coming in. And. From New York. People look at that and say seriously, I've been to Cecil County, you know. People aren't walking around out of it. The numbers were so skewed so routinely that it was just a comical thing. Every year in our report. But now Cecil County is great and great to work with, and the board is wonderful. And Earl and I, as he said, we've known each other a couple of decades, and it's been my pleasure and honor to work with him.

Chairman Miller: Okay, thanks. Again, Jeff.

Attorney Hill: And I actually had a question. Yes, sir. Mr. Kelly, I appreciate your presentation. My question might be a little bit outside the scope of your presentation. But I talked to Earl about

this. I always wondered. You know, where the names of the licenses came from, I know, like class A, class B, and it seems that all the counties are using the same acronyms, and they're also mentioned in the State statute, and I always wondered, you know, why is one named A, B or C. You know, for example, we have like, you know, a license for golf clubs. So that's you know, license, you know. GC, so it makes sense. And I just didn't know if you could shed any light on that if you had any knowledge.

Jeff Kelly: I don't, but I would. My guess is, they just went alphabetically, and my reason for that is with us with our licenses that we issue that I issue like the manufacturing wholesale licenses. They're all numerical if you look at them. So there's it's a class. One is a distillery. A class 2 is a rectifier, a class 3 is a general production winery 4 or 5. We go up to 9, and we do the same thing with our wholesaler's class one wholesaler is wine, beer, and spirit, wine, beer, and spirits, and I think I think that's the reason. So, I think then, when they started doing the retail licenses rather than using numbers. They just started using the ABCD in general categories. And exactly what you just said is what you notice. Now there are so many of these specialty licenses that are created, and they tend to just take, like the initials of whatever the license is, for, like they have like a class, MT, I think, for movie theater. In some jurisdictions. They would have you, said the class. GC. it might be like a BGC. Or something or an AGC. It's just. It's interesting. but I think they I don't think there's any rhyme or reason other than it was just alphabetical, and it made sense at the time. And then they just started adding the appendages based on the particular special type of license they were starting to create, which. thinking about the law, I think there are. There are probably as many as any other topic, probably more bills regarding alcohol every year as a topic. When you look at the law books, if you just look at the hard copies of the books, there are 4 volumes of the alcohol beverage, and now, cannabis Article 4 volumes of laws more than any other topic in state. I have a whole set of these things. I think insurance might have 3. We have 4 volumes. It's crazy, so much of it. So, it's a good question. I really don't know the history of it other than I think they were just going alphabetical and numerical.

Attorney Hill: I appreciate that and thank you again for the presentation. I don't have any further questions but thank you again.

Jeff Kelly: Sure, my pleasure, and anytime I'm happy to anytime we can do anything for you. We're happy to do it.

Chairman Miller: Anybody else? Jeff. Thank you again.

Chairman Miller: Next item on the agenda is update regarding a person on more than one alcoholic beverage license. I think I'm supposed to call on Earl.

Chief Bradford: Yes, as you're probably aware, the Board has been inclined to issue more than one class B license to the same person or Corporation Limited Liability Company. We have just recently received an application for a class B license in North East the White Oak Manor. It's going to be a wedding venue and that person already has a GC License in Elkton. Patriots Glenn. So, I think we need to have a discussion on. Are we going to allow more than just the class B license to be issued to the same person. Are we going to do some type of combination of the BGC. Possibly D too? Do we need to limit those numbers? I think we need to have a discussion and any advice from our legal department on what may be appropriate for us to do. The application for White Oak has been kind of in limbo for a few months. So, I think we really need to take some type of action on that concern.

Chairman Miller: Do we need to hear a recommendation from you on the limits?

Chief Bradford: Well, I guess it would depend on how many different licenses we're going to classify into that group that would allow a person to.

Chairman Miller: Well, for right now, I think we're just talking about. B.

Chief Bradford: Well, I think the discussion should include golf clubs, taverns.

Commissioner Chiominto: Is there any information that he may open a golf course?

Chief Bradford: Well, he already has a golf course, right? So that could go under GC. Even though there's no golf course at Chesapeake in the North East. Now, that's going to be class B in North East.

Chairman Miller: So can he have both?

Attorney Hill: Well, to answer your question right now. That application wouldn't have both, I think, in our regulations, you know, no one's allowed to have more than one license. I think there could have been an informal motion made several months ago to allow people to have more class B licenses. But our actual regulations, our Liquor Board regulations, were never updated. So, it still says in our regulations that you are not allowed to have more than one license. So, you know, this is more of a general discussion about what you know. Does the board want to keep it as one person, one license per person? Or is there a combination of licenses, or how many licenses? You know? If there's something that the Board, after deliberation, agrees upon, my intent would be to draft something and then get that in front of the board for next session, and if they agree with that, and then vote on that, and that would essentially be part of the new regulations.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Hill and I know you've done some research into some other counties, and how they've handled this. Would you share your opinion?

Attorney Hill: Well, I'll say this, generally speaking, as well in the Maryland statutes. There are what they call multiple licensing plans. Okay? And in the Maryland statutes there's regulations that talk about the State as a whole. And then there's regulations that talk about specific local jurisdictions, and we all have our own State laws that we're bound by. And then we make regulations that are consistent with those laws. Each county has a section that talks about multiple licensing plans in Cecil County. It simply says that it's reserved. And so, in a sense, because, in my opinion, unless county attorney disagrees, they did not give

us any restrictions on multiple licensing plans. I think we have a little bit more freedom than other counties. Now that, said other counties in this, specifically in the State statutes specifically say, you can have 5 of these licenses or 10 of these licenses, or I haven't seen anything more than 8 or 10, I think some do 2 or 3. But essentially what they're doing is that they're doing a combination of license. But what I'm seeing is they're not allowing they're definitely not allowing to have more. A person to have a liquor license for liquor stores. I think this is more prone to. You know, restaurants maybe venues something along them lines, but definitely not liquor stores. So, I know a lot of. And my question. I was posed to Jeff Kelly. I also mentioned that a lot of the counties are using the same acronyms, so I know I see a lot of, Class B's, or I think BLX or I see BLX and Class B's a lot of combination of those. I don't think it's going to, you know, have a complete violation of the law. If we added a specialty license like we have like such as a GC. For example, if there's other specialty licenses. I think I don't have them memorized. I'm sure Earl does about all the different types of licenses that Cecil County has. But yeah, I think we should just open it up to discussion on that.

Chairman Miller: Okay. Earl?

Chief Bradford: Yeah, really, it's the Board's decision.

Chairman Miller: Well, I know that. But you always have input. we had talked in the office about possibility of yeah,

Chief Bradford: I don't think I would make the number real high. No, I think some combination of different class of license and maybe limited at 3. That would be my suggestion.

Attorney Hill: Yeah. And furthermore, you know I can always I can try to draft it. So, if the Board agrees on a particular group that the Board likes to have a combination of, you know, if I just put the number in there, and you guys agree with the group, we can always update the number later. Because that's easy. But you know, if we say, okay, we have a combination. We're going to allow 2 licenses for this combination, or maybe 3 or whatever,

and it and it works out then, maybe 10 years from now or 5 years now the board would say, Okay, well, you know, we have 2 now, but maybe 3 is good, and it'll be an easy update to the regulation, so we can try to mold it and craft it like that. Just an idea. Okay. But ultimately, you know, it is up to the board. I'm not putting my opinion or my say on what you guys, I want 3 members to deliberate on it.

Chairman Miller: Okay, understand, Mr. Chiominto how high do you think you ought to go on the numbers.

Commissioner Chiominto: I agree with Mr. Bradford, and I think 3 is sufficient as your word.

Commissioner Ortt: Earl. Is this the 1st time? It can't be the 1st time that this has come up that someone has tried to do another.

Chief Bradford: We have people who have been on more than one B. But getting out of that classification. This is the first.

Commissioner Ortt: So, they've been on more than one B, but to have a B and A what's the other one a GC. This is new.

Chief Bradford: Yes.

Commissioner Ortt: Okay. And I think I asked you this before, but the downfall of having

Chief Bradford: Probably somebody monopolizing the number of licenses or licenses in Cecil County.

Chairman Miller: If you have too many.

Chief Bradford: Yeah, if you have too many. But if you keep that number 3, I don't think that would be a major concern. You probably would think about the class B restaurant. Possibly the class D, the GC. The BLX is out of the quota system, anyway, which is the luxury class B, but if we make changes to our quota system, which I'm going to talk about next. The BLX is probably not going

to be a license that anybody will apply for in the future if we, if we open the Class B restaurant up to an unlimited approval.

Attorney Hill: What is the D again,

Chief Bradford: the D is tavern.

Attorney Hill: Okay. And you said, C, you mentioned C, as well. No, okay. Just BC is a club.

Chief Bradford: They have their own restrictions on them.

Chairman Miller: Question Earl, and maybe I'm not thinking straight. I'm dreaming. Lone Star Steakhouse wants to open 5 locations in Cecil County.

Chief Bradford: Well, again, if we go on what I'm going to talk about soon and limit the "B's". We could. But I think that would. Still, if we got to 3 Lone Stars in Cecil County, which I think would be very, very happy. I don't think that that's a problem we could address at that time.

Chairman Miller: Okay, Mr. Hill, what do you need from us?

Attorney Hill: Essentially, I would probably what I'm going to do is once everyone's in agreement. It doesn't have to be a vote, so to speak. But what would happen is, I would draft something, and then at the next meeting, the Board would officially vote on the regulation that I would draft as per this discussion. You know, I'm trying to figure out what the Board wants to do, so I can have something to work off of, to draft. What is the intentions of the Board? But if there could be any motion, I guess, Judge Baynes, I mean, I'm sorry, County Attorney Baynes, if it needs to be a motion to allow me to draft and present something to the board next meeting. I guess that would be appropriate. Is that something that?

Chairman Miller: Well, Mr. Hill, Unfortunately, Mr. Chiaminto is out of town next meeting.

Attorney Hill: So, County Attorney Baynes, do you think we're good with the majority of 2 out of 3 to vote on this? Or do you think we would want all 3 members to change the regulations

County Attorney Baynes: as long as you have a quorum. And then you have the majority.

Chairman Miller: Okay, could he be emailed a copy?

Attorney Hill: I don't see why not.

Chairman Miller: And we could get his feedback before we vote.

County Attorney Baynes: But it doesn't sound like there's any real objection to some type amendment here it is not.

Attorney Hill: But I would like to know what. So, we have the number. We have 3. So, I got that. But I also would like to know what combination of licenses does the Board want to give for the 3? I mean, unless you guys want to hear from what Mr. Bradford's going to hear say next, and then decide on what you want, because it seems like Mr. Bradford has some other issues that he wants to discuss that could shed light on this combination.

Chief Bradford: You want to do that. Okay? Or it's you're the chairman. So, or you could just do Class B class D, class GC, and make it any combination of 3, or you can keep that in the back of your mind, and I'll talk about what's next.

Chairman Miller: I'm trying to figure out why that relates to the next.

Chief Bradford: Well, if we pull Class B out of the quota system right? It could have some effect. Then you're going to have more license, more class B license available. So, there may be a possibility of someone wanting more than 3.

Attorney Hill: I mean, I do have. Instinctually I feel like I have some concerns with giving an unlimited number of "B's. I don't know. I don't know why, but I just instinctually have a fear of like, okay, well, we have an unlimited number of "B's". Okay? Well, then,

you know, is there a restaurant? When does the restaurant go out of business, and then it comes. Well, I have unlimited number. I started opening a business, and then it went started going downhill, and then I sold it. And now you have someone that has a lot of licenses with buildings that technically are restaurants, but sort of going downhill. And now making a profit of selling licenses. So, I don't know if that's a concern or it might not be.

Chief Bradford: Would you like me to continue on with the quota part of issue.

Chairman Miller: Yeah, go ahead.

Chief Bradford: Okay. So, I was part of a small group that was tasked a small committee that was tasked with looking at ways to better utilize our quota system. As you know right now, in Cecil County we have 68 license available. and that's only in 7 of the 9 districts, because 2 districts, Chesapeake City and Cecilton don't have any license available. Looking back at our recent history, the Board's well aware that anytime we have a class "A" liquor license, a packaged goods store apply. We have opposition. Attorneys have told us or suggested to the Board that with all these license available, maybe this is the time to look at the quota system. Another reason that we looked at the quota system. We have areas of the county that would like to have a nice restaurant come in and be able to sell alcohol, but there's no license available. So, we looked at a couple of different options. We looked at maybe having. You know, we have the class BLX luxury license. Do we have a class BLX? Small business license? Well, between the 2 you're going to. That's going to include everybody. Anybody who wants a class B could get a class B, so why put them in the quota system at all? Pull the class B out of the quota system. Only put the quota system on class A liquor stores. And I've done a little bit of work here. Frederick County and Harford County both only use the quota system on Class A. Frederick County and Harvard County allow one license for every 4,000 population. Of course, in Cecil County we're 100 400 and registered voters, everyone.

Attorney Hill: Do we have a similar Bradford? Do we have a similar Maryland statute for Cecil County.

Chief Bradford: We have a statute in Cecil County, I mean not part of our regulations, but in the Maryland Statute as it is here. Yes, and that does say we're allowed to have one license for every 400 registered voters per election district. Okay, that excludes GCs. Golf Club. EF entertainment facility, which is the Great Wolf and the Casino and the BLX are all exclude it from the quota system. That's our regulation. Harford County and Frederick County allow one license, one class a license for every 4,000 population. I don't like population. because when I talked to Frederick County their number only changes every 10 years during census right. our numbers change monthly with the Election Board being right here in this building, they provide us a copy of the 1st of every month. Sandy has a form that she uses, that she puts all the numbers in, and we know, month to month how many licenses we have available and how far we're away in each district from getting another license. So, if you scroll and look at the draft, it says 2,000. Okay, if we went with one in 2,000 registered voters for just class A, we're allowed one. We would have one in Chesapeake City. We're allowed two. We have one. So, there would be room for one additional class, A liquor store license in Chesapeake City and Elkton. We're allowed 9. We have 9 in Fairhill. We are granted we are allowed 3, we have 4, so that would be grandfathered in and North East. We're allowed 10. We're granted 8, and Rising Sun. We're allowed 4, we have 5. That would be grandfathered in Perryville, we're allowed 4, we have 3, so there would be one license available. Conowingo. We're allowed one. We're granted 2 that would be grandfathered in and in Calvert we're allowed one. We have 2 that would be grandfathered in. But you see that that number 2,000 works pretty darn well, if we want to. Oh, limit the number of class A licenses throughout the county. Now, since when I'm out doing my inspections, everybody loves to tell me information and talk about their business, since cannabis and this is almost every liquor store, I've been in are down between 15 and 35% sales So I don't think we need to issue many additional class a licenses. We have a again, as you. As you're aware, whenever we do

have a new application. We have people come in and protest. We probably have only issued one new class A in the last 8 years. But what this does this gives. If somebody wants to come in and open a nice restaurant anywhere in Cecil County. They have that ability, and it's still judged individually by us. We still have those reasons to deny. So, if somebody had a Mexican restaurant and somebody wanted to open a Mexican restaurant next door, one of the reasons we can deny a license is commonality where we really need 2 Mexican restaurants side by side. And there's other reasons why the Board can deny a license right. I think this is the perfect time to do this. If we do this, we probably don't need a BLX license anymore. We can still leave it there it's available. But why would anybody apply for a BLX? A BLX is strictly on sale only, which has created a problem with Bohemian Manor Farms and has created a problem with Chesapeake Inn, Chesapeake Inn would love to have a catering license off premise. They would love to be able to sell alcohol to boaters who are parked at their dock. The Bohemian Manor Farms would love to be able to sell their wine, to go at their liquor store license, not their state license that's issued by the ATCC. But the license we issue they would love to be able to do that. This will allow them to go to a class B license, have off-premises sales and be able to sell their product. Okay, I think I think it's perfect timing. I myself love the idea. I love the fact that the Board still has the authority to disapprove a license if they see fit. Right. But again, I think this is the perfect time to do that. Okay, I also had a graph there for you. I just wanted to peruse it real quick where the number is one in 2,200, we that really we only have. We have a lot more areas that are over. And I'm looking to see if we have any license available. They don't know. I like the 2,000. Yeah, I don't see any license available. Okay? And most districts were over. So that stops any possible new class A license.

Chairman Miller: I am guessing that our county executive would like to come forward and give his opinion to the Board.

County Executive Streight: Correct. Yeah. So, what we're what we're running into is the. For example, we have a place at Chesapeake

City. and they open, and it's a fine dining restaurant type of culture and cuisine. We would like to see in Cecil County, and no liquor license for. And this is particular is naturally for now again, it's bringing exactly what in here, and we're finding it difficult to be business friendly when and pulled from other areas. I get this right here. Wrong? Yes, of stolen learning. New process for me, too. Wait, we're not talking about another hyperstore. So that's kind of we kind of came up with a solution, I guess, to go through legislation that other counties have done, and just kind of make it more business friendly for folks to come in, start a business and provide the county with control cuisine that again, we would like to be known.

Chairman Miller: I don't think anybody up here disagree with you about bringing a nice restaurant in Cecil County.

Chief Bradford: Okay, like to add to right now, we have 68 license available in the county. We're not having a run on new restaurants. So I don't think we're going to overpopulate the county with restaurants by changing this law. If if that's a fact, they would be here now.

Chairman Miller: Earl, does this need to be enacted by our legislator?

Chief Bradford: It does. I think if the Board votes in favor of this part of the subcommittee I'm on is Don Harmer and Mike Kalinsky, and I know Mike has connections through the legislative process and he is more than willing to help us if the Board chooses to go in that direction.

Chairman Miller: Okay, Mr. Hill, do you have any questions?

Attorney Hill: I do not right now.

Attorney Hill: Oh, I would say that while pending the Maryland Regulation the change in the Maryland statute. I still think that we could do 2 or 3 multiple licenses of the class B or class D, GC combination. While we still wait on the regulation.

Chairman Miller: I agree, I want you to continue on that draft of your form. Okay, and email it to Bernie. So we can vote on next meeting. Okay? But I think this is something that we need to move forward on your subcommittee. And you just need a motion from us. Yeah, that's your support supporting the issue. Do either. My members have questions?

Commissioner Ortt: So, we're going to move forward on drafting state legislation.

Attorney Hill: I think, just to clarify. What I would be drafting would be for your local regulations, your local regulations. I'm not part of drafting the state regulations. We're looking for the State legislation to be changed to this adopted thing that Earl gave us. Earl, I think that would allow more resolution. Maybe you want to be a little bit more. No, no, no, we already did it support. You want for their notion, accordingly. But what we're doing is increasing the number of restaurants.

Attorney Hill: Just to clarify what I'm hearing is that when the motion is presented is that the board is deliberated, and sort of agree that 3 licenses and it's going to be a combination of B,D,GC. Is there anything else that I'm missing your B, D,GC. Yes, that's all that. What about BLX? I mean, we still have BLX right now.

Chief Bradford: We're probably not gonna have any. Yeah, you can add it now and then. because what's going to happen? Nobody's going to apply for a BLX after we pass the law. If we pass the law.

Attorney Hill: That's right. If it's passed, and that could be a while from now. Right? Okay a year. And now we go to Earl. We need the motion.

Chief Bradford: My request from the board is to we're asking for the board support in changing the quota system to one in every 2,000, 1 license for every 2,000 registered voters per election district for class A licenses and remove the class B restaurant license from the quota system. which is really kind of elementary. But it's that's it. That's it. Yeah, without getting wordy.

Chairman Miller: Okay. After much discussion, oh, which was very informative and I thank you, Earl and Justin, and Adam, for your input I would entertain a motion to move forward.

Attorney Hill: Mr. Miller. We probably need 2 motions, one for Earl, and then one for me.

Chairman Miller: Okay, I thought we already voted for you to move ahead on.

Attorney Hill: All right. Well, okay, record reflects that there is a vote in all members approved.

Chairman Miller: Okay, now, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Ortt: I move to make a change in the State legislation to allow the one in 2,000 voters per election district in Cecil County instead of the one in 400 voters and removing a class B license from the quota system.

Chairman Miller: Have it in motion by Ms. Ortt, and a second by Mr. Chiominto. all in favor, say, aye.

Board: Unanimously approved the motion to go forward with the State legislation change in quota

Chairman Miller: Earl.

Chief Bradford: I'm only going to touch on this real quickly. Mobile bars. Mobile bars are becoming much more popular in Cecil County, and actually throughout the State. Sometimes they're operating properly, sometimes they are not, sometimes they're selling alcohol, not getting licenses. It's hard for us to know about them. If we don't see it advertised on Facebook or some other type of social media. When we find out about those we do address it. They had one scheduled at the Greek Girls in Perryville a few months ago the town of Perryville actually called and asked if what they had planned was legal. We told them. It was not, and they didn't. They actually ended up not selling alcoholic beverages at that function. But they're out there again.

They're becoming much more popular. They're popping up everywhere. They're very difficult to enforce. But we're trying. We're trying our best.

Chairman Miller: Okay, thank you for the information. Okay, there's no more business.

Chairman Miller: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chiominto: Motion to adjourn

Chairman Miller: Second?

Commissioner Ortt: Second.

Chairman Miller: All in favor. Say, aye.

Board: Aye,

Chairman Miller: Meeting is Adjourned 10:40 am.

BY:



Stephen Miller, Chairman



ATTEST:
Sandra L. Cumm, Administrative Assistant