

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, April 30, 2025, at 9:15 A.M.

PRESENT: Stephen Miller, Chairman
Kristen Ortt, Commissioner
Russ Johnson, 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

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, April 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: The 1st case on the agenda is an application received from Fred S. Russell, Crab Shack, Inc. T/A Crab Shack, 1919, Augustine Herman, Highway, Chesapeake City, Maryland, 21915 for transfer of class B-119. Beer, Wine and Liquor, alcohol, beverages. license from William J. Swyka, Crab Shack, Inc. T/A Crab Shack. 1919, Augustine Herman, Highway, Chesapeake City, Maryland, 21915. Please identify yourself and tell us what you're doing.

Fred Russell: I'm Fred Russell. I took over the Crab Shack in Chesapeake City. Everything there's staying the same just change of ownership. So that's what I'm here for is to apply for the transfer of the liquor license from William to myself.

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

Commissioner Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So you are the sole owner at this point of Crab Shack, Inc. Is that correct?

Fred Russell: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Johnson: And Mr. Swyka is completely, or will be, completely out of the mix as far as that goes correct.

Fred Russell: Yeah.

Commissioner Johnson: And you currently have a license with or at Bay Crawlers. Crab shack?

Fred Russell: Correct

Commissioner Johnson: Any issues there.

Fred Russell: No, sir.

Commissioner Johnson: That's all I have.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Sir. Ms. Ortt.

Commissioner Ortt: Everything is staying the same. Any prepared foods, or what are you doing at the Crab Shack?

Fred Russell: Nope, we just do fresh seafood steamed crabs, steamed shrimp, and then we have fresh fish and crab meat and everything for carryout.

Commissioner Ortt: very good, thank you.

Chairman Miller: Is there anybody in the room here to speak for or against this? Justin. Do you have any questions, sir?

Attorney Hill: Are there any changes in your application since the submittal?

Fred Russell: No, everything should be accurate?

Attorney Hill: Nothing further from legal.

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

Commissioner Johnson: Mr. Chair. One other question on the Maryland corporate tax. In the past we have approved contingent upon those being paid. Is that still the case here in this situation? I'm not sure if there's an open tax issue there or not.

Chief Inspector Bradford: There is yeah. That would have to be taken care of, which I believe, Mr. Russell informed me was going to be done in settlement.

Commissioner Ortt: Yes, that'll be taken care of then, for sure. Yes. So, we would make a condition upon that. Alcoholic beverages license from William J. Swyka, Crab Shack, Inc. T/A Crab Shack. at 1919, Augustine Herman Highway, Chesapeake City, Maryland, 21915, with the pending state of Maryland tax lien is taken care of prior to opening.

Chairman Miller: Okay, having a motion, do I hear a second?

Commissioner Johnson: Second.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion by Ms. Ortt, and a second by Mr. Johnson, all in favor say aye.

Board: Aye.

Chairman Miller: Opposed?

Chairman Miller: Motion carried. Good luck.

Chairman Miller: Okay. Our next order of business is a violation. Sales occurring during prohibited times. Class "A-59, Mansi Gandhi Singh, Tosha S Patel;, North Bay Liquors, LLC, T/A **North Bay Liquors**, 480 North Mauldin Ave, North East, MD 21901, Violation Date-March 30, 2025, at or about 7:30 am.

Attorney Riddle: Morning William Riddle on behalf of North Bay Liquors, LLC. I have Jimmy Singh, a representative of North Bay Liquors, LLC. With me here today. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Bradford.

Chief Inspector Bradford: Oh, yes, my name is Earl Bradford, Chief Alcoholic Beverage Inspector for Cecil County Liquor Board. After receiving a complaint prior to March 30, 2025. Regarding North Bay Liquors opening prior to 8 o'clock on Sunday mornings, we concluded with a statement of charges that was sent April 10, 2025, to the licensee. I'd like to mark that statement of charges as board exhibit one. While conducting my investigation approximately 7:10 Am. on Sunday, March 30, 2025, I parked across the street at approximately 7:10 am. Seeing no activity. At approximately 7:25 am, I pulled into the parking lot. I exited my vehicle and approached the door, where I took a picture of the front of the store. I pulled on the door, and the door was locked, so I proceeded to walk back towards my vehicle. At that time, I could hear the door unlock, and the clerk opened the door and said, It's okay, Buddy. You can come in. At that time, I entered the establishment, picked up a 6 pack of Michelob Ultra which I have a photo of. I like to mark as exhibit 2. Okay. And I proceeded to the cashier, where he rang me up and said would be \$8.71 cents. I provided him with a \$10 bill and received a 1.29, in change. He informed me to be safe out there, Buddy, and at that time I showed him my identification, and told them they were in violation of alcohol beverage law for Cecil County, selling alcohol on a Sunday morning during a prohibited time. At that time, I asked for a copy of the receipt which he provided. The copy of the receipt indicated the sale took place at 7:31:25 seconds am. On 3,30,25. At that time I informed the subject, Mr. Singh. that they would be receiving a letter from the Liquor Board regarding the violation,

and I asked for his identification, which he did not have, but he provided me a picture which I took a photo of identifying him. And I can't quite pronounce that. But the last name of a Rvinderp. A. L. Singh. At that time I left the area.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. Mr. Hill. Do you have any questions for Mr. Bradford?

Attorney Hill: Not at the moment.

Attorney Riddle: We're not really here to contest the situation. But I want to tell you how what the owners of the store did literally. I think I was at my office that morning, and I got a phone call from them that morning. I mean, that's how concerned it was. This is Jimmy Singh. He's the husband of Mansi Singh, who's 1 of the licensees on the application. She's very pregnant right now. So I had him come. He represents the store and is very familiar with it, so they called me immediately. In the morning, I tried to find out what I could. I spoke with Mr. Bradford. He was kind enough to send me the report and everything, and the photographs and his investigation. So, what my client did was find out about this employee, I mean. Apparently, they found out this employee had been going to the store before opening hours and hanging out. They were thinking of stocking the shelves, getting the store ready. They never expected anybody to open up. As a matter of fact, Jimmy Singh is here to my right. He had a conversation with this same employee approximately 3 days prior about. You know we can't open till 8. There are rules about that. I appreciate you getting there early and working, but our store doesn't open till 8. Employees are employees. I guess they think they're doing something for the company. They're truly not. They're getting us into trouble, as we've seen in this situation. So, they would. Mr. Singh not the employee, but Jimmy here is to my right, and his wife met with that employee and explained to him that this is a termination situation that we're going to give you one warning. But you can come here and work. But you can't open that door. Jimmy Singh, to my right contacted the Security company because there's a security code that you punch in to be able to get in the store and open up. He's trying to work with them. If

there's a way to make it so that it doesn't work before 8 Am. It's locked out at 8 am. There's a safety problem with that. So, they're trying to work around that at all, if possible, work around that to try to prevent that in any way they can. But I, Mr. Singh, here, I'll answer any questions you have, But I want just to address it that they took it seriously right from the beginning, and I've spoken with Tasha Patel about it as well. So, I spoke with all the licensee who are on the application, who are on the license they called me. I spoke with Nancy that morning, Jimmy that morning, within hours of it, probably by 9 o'clock, if not soon before that, about this whole situation and what to do and what would occur, so they have taken it serious, right from the beginning, and can only apologize to the board and have tried to correct it with the employee, and that's where we are.

Chairman Miller: Did Mr. Singh want to say anything?

Attorney Riddle: Sure? Is there anything you'd like to add,

James Singh: Yes, I mean, I would just like to apologize for what the employee has done opening before they're supposed to. From our end. We have spoken to all the employees in the store, you know, going over the hours. Only thing we are doing is every month. We plan to just go through training with all our employees, just reminding everybody. You know. These are the hours, these are the rules. This is what we should be doing, what we should not be doing and the same thing. There's going to be termination if it occurs again, which it should not. That's the best we could do. Other thing we're doing like you said is security codes trying to see if we can set hours. So certain people can only punch in like after 8 am, and they can't unlock the doors before then. So, we are working on that and hopefully that works out with ADT. And then we don't have to worry about this occurring a second time.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Mr. Hill. Any questions?

Attorney Hill: Only question I have is about educating his employees, which he has already covered.

Chairman Miller: Thank you. Ms. Ortt.

Commissioner Ortt: It's noted that you're doing a good job educating your employees about the Times. It sounds like it's just an unfortunate incident that occurred.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Mr. Johnson?

Commissioner Johnson: Mr. Bradford North Bay liquors any other violations in the past?

Chief Bradford: Not, of course, this owner has only been there a short time, but no violations. Okay, this owner. I have no further questions.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir.

Attorney Hill: Yes. the chairman has discussed with me, as legal counsel. They have decided to have their deliberation in closed session, and then, after the deliberation, they have decided to mail out their decision to both the applicant, or in this case the violator and the attorney. So that's what they have decided. But, Mr. Chairman, procedurally, if that's what the Board wants to do in agreement with the board. Then you would have to put in a motion for closed session.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. Okay. I'll entertain a motion to go into closed session.

Commissioner Ortt: I move to go into closed session.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion, do I hear? A second

Commissioner Johnson: Second

Chairman Miller: All in favor? Say, aye,

Board: Aye,

Chairman Miller: Motion carries. We'll notify you. Thank you. Thank you. Yes, we'll mail it to you. Yes, thanks for your testimony.

Board goes into closed session at 9:30 am.

Board goes back into open session 9:35am.

Attorney Hill: Board has chosen to deliberate in closed session, a violation has occurred with no dispute from the licensee, Board proposed a fine of \$250.00 with court fees of \$250.00 for a total of \$500.00. so we conclude closed session and move forward with the meeting.

Chairman Miller: Questions and public comment.

Chairman Miller: General business, if you've had a chance to look at the minutes from last month's meeting, I will entertain a motion

Commissioner Johnson: I move we approve. The minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting.

Chairman Miller: Having a motion by Mr. Johnson. Do I have a second?

Commissioner Ortt: Second

Chairman Miller: Having a motion, and a second by Ms. Ortt, all in favor say aye.

Board: Aye.

Chairman Miller: Motion carries, Specials Mr. Bradford.

Chief Bradford: We had 2 special applications:
– Church of the Good Shepherd – Quarter Auction – 5/10/25
Fair Hill International – Fundraiser – 5/3/25

Chairman Miller: Old Business:

Chief Bradford: We have no appeal from Carroll Mart

Chairman Miller: New business?

Chief Bradford: We have given our Tax Hold Licensee a 3-month extension- so until August 2025

Chairman Miller: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ortt: Motion to adjourn

Chairman Miller: Second?

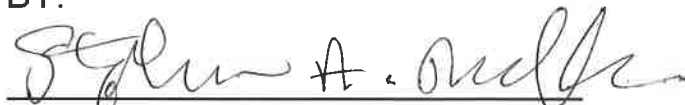
Commissioner Johnson: Second.

Chairman Miller: All in favor. Say, aye.

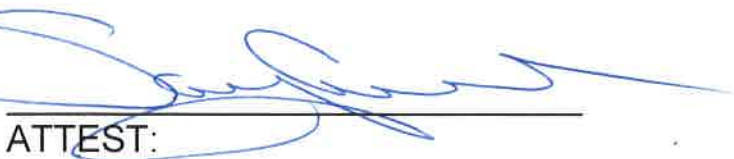
Board: Aye,

Chairman Miller: Meeting is Adjourned.

BY:


Stephen Miller, Chairman

ATTEST:


Sandra L. Cumm, Administrative Assistant

