

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, March 26, 2025, at 9:15 A.M.

PRESENT: Stephen Miller, Chairman
Kristen Ortt, Commissioner
Russ Johnson, Commissioner
Keith Baynes, 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, March 26, 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 is an update progress report, class B BWL, number B-19, Joseph McGee, H. Ronald Dubris, Warwick, Hospitality, Inc. Trading as Captain Ron's 565 Cecilton-Warwick Road, Warwick, Maryland, 21912. Please come forward. Okay, give us a brief rundown on what's going on?

Joseph McGee: Chairman Miller, if you recall, about a year ago I appeared in front of the Commission for approval before closing on the real estate. There were some deed related problems, which delayed for a few months. In August, I came upon you to request an extension for 6 months in a letter where I identified

some hardships that I was experiencing. Some unknowns at the point where we're at today. We made significant progress on the property. It looks absolutely beautiful. Inside things like the fire suppression system is up to date and certified. The water treatment, we had 3 months of continual successful past tests which was a problem on that location previously, and one of the reasons why it shut down. HVAC repairs, utilities, etc, etc. I will say, in my 46 years of being on this earth I never imagined people would not want to work, so staffing has been a bit of a challenge, and outside of any fiduciary responsibilities I have elsewhere. I've been spending, you know, 12 hour day myself getting this place in order. We're really close, trim, drywall repair, etc, is what we're wrapping up now. As far as the Cecil County use and occupancy process is concerned, all the paperwork is submitted. It's right now under the various board reviews as of yesterday. At 4 o'clock I spoke to Jason Rashka in the Cecil County Health Department, he said. Everything looks good. The only piece of paperwork he's waiting on is the workers comp paperwork. And of course, to get the workers' comp policy, you need employees. So, it's a bit of a cart before the horse, so he everything looks good. We're good to go. He's willing to do an inspection when I'm ready. We're right at the finish line. I know sometimes there's unknowns that pop up, maybe certain things that the county is expecting that I wasn't ready for, so I'd imagine there could be a scenario in a few weeks when the county is ready to inspect that maybe I have to fix something or change something, or maybe move an emergency exit sign or add a fire extinguisher. I imagine there could be some things that could then cause a reinspection. So, I would like to request from the Commission an extension of 90 days.

Chairman Miller: Okay, Ms Ortt, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Ortt: No. Sounds like you're you have good progress. I have no questions.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Johnson.

Commissioner Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, some of the major items that you've completed thus far include the fire system completely certified. The water treatment center system has been tested and is good to go. So, you're right now waiting for some final odds and ends in order to have the Health Department come out and inspect, and the various county departments to receive your use and occupancy permit. Is that correct?

Joseph MaGee: Yes, that is absolutely correct, and there's some decorating needs to be done. But that's you know, that could happen after approval before we open kind of thing, you know, put buoys on the wall and hanging out pictures.

Commissioner Johnson: So, as far as a staffing perspective, are you making any progress in that area?

Joseph MaGee: Yes, yesterday we trained 6 people for the tips on premise with Linda Meffley from Sentman. We did that yesterday, and if you remember correctly, I have my family businesses in Lower Delaware County with 3 bars. So, we do have some sort of backup staff that are willing to come down and get us off the ground, you know, with some operational excellence. Of course I want to hire local. That's my goal. But I want to make sure we sort of do it the right way out the gate right?

Commissioner Johnson: So how soon, then, do you believe that you'll actually have, for example, the Health Department on site to do that inspection? I know you're asking for a 90-day window. Is that going to be enough? 1st of all? And secondly, how soon do you think those inspections will progress?

Joseph MaGee: Honestly, because we haven't made substantial changes, and I've been on the phone on a 1st name basis with some of the folks in in the planning department. Replacing shingles didn't require a permit, replacing the tile floor didn't require a permit. So, certain things were pretty

straightforward as far as getting that done, so I don't anticipate any issues with inspection. It's not like we use the wrong size footer or something like that, so I anticipate it because it's just a change of use inspection that it should go fairly quickly. I have a background in electric, and the panels are in good shape, because I know that's part of the safety inspection. I'm a 1st responder in both Prospect Park and Cecilton, and you know my uncle's a fire, marshal. So, we did a walkthrough. It did not have a fire. It had an old fire system, and the wiring was present. So, we've replaced it with a Honeywell unit, literally replaced the box and rewired it. So now we actually have heat. Heat, smoke, and, pull stations at all locations. So, we upgraded that, you know as per current covid, if you will.

Commissioner Johnson: Okay, sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair, it sounds like a good bit of progress has been made since the last time we spoke with Mr. McGee.

Chairman Miller: It does, and you'd like a 90-day extension, so I'll entertain a motion at this time.

Commissioner Ortt: I move to approve a 90-day extension for a B BWL, number B-19, Joseph McGee, H. Ronald Dubris, Warwick, Hospitality, Inc. Trading as Captain Ron's 565 Cecilton-Warwick Road, Warwick, Maryland, 21912. And you will be at our June meeting for an update.

Joseph McGee: Yes, ma'am,

Commissioner Johnson: I 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: Got your 90-day extension. Good luck!

Chairman Miller: Second item, application transfer received from Jose Garcia Martinez, Teresa Castro, David W. Callis, Mezcal on Main, Inc., t/a **Casa Mezcal North East**, 26 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901, for transfer of Class "B-176", Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverages License from Warren Beverung III, Woody's Restaurant Development, LLC, T/A Woody's Taco and Tequila, 26 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901.

Attorney Fockler: Yes, Carl Fockler, on behalf of Mezcal on Maine, and seated to my right, is Mr. David Callis, Ms. Teresa Castro, and also Mr. Jose Garcia Martinez down on the end, and again we were here before the Board about a month ago for a management agreement kind of to create a bridge in the process of Mezcal on Main, taking over the old Tacos and Tequilas establishment. It's essentially once again going to be a Mexican restaurant. If you're all familiar with the Casa Mezcal out on Elk Mills it is going to be very similar to that with the same. I think really great Mexican fare as well as quality cocktails as well. The hours of the operation in North East are going to be, I believe, 11 to 10 PM. Or roughly, the hours that they're going to be, and I also believe, essentially 7 days a week. So, they're really eager to come into North East. They do, of course, have the occupancy permit issued by North East. So North East is ready to roll, and we're working through the processes with the county right now to complete the change in tenants that's coming along. And so, I'm hoping, you know, this transfer is one of the last pieces that we really need to accomplish here, and we're hoping that the Board will approve the transfer here today and folks individually, is anything in regards to the application that was submitted for the transfer of the application. Have there been any changes, Mr. Callis? The application, Miss Castro? Any changes. Mr. Garcia Martinez. Any changes, no changes, so everything is essentially the same as it was on the application, and requesting that the Board approve the transfer, and hopefully. We will get open here in the next month, 30 days or so. provided we get all our approvals from the county and so forth, and any other conditions that might need to be wrapped up

Chairman Miller: Okay, at this point in time I'll entertain motion

Commissioner Johnson: If I could just point of order. Are you wanting the motion to open discussion or straight to approval. I'm going straight for approval.

Chairman Miller: Did you want a point of discussion?

Commissioner Johnson: Well, I just wanted to make a few points. Yes, okay, if I could before we do the motion. Yes, you were here last month, and we approved the management agreement. So, I just wanted to point out that the Commission did have a pretty in-depth discussion about the value of this transfer and this coming into existence. So, I think that they've moved along with the speed that we anticipated when we discussed it last month, and would certainly want to support this transfer.

Chairman Miller: Ms. Ortt.

Commissioner Ortt: How are the renovations coming?

Attorney Fockler: They're coming along. It's a fresh look. I will say they're really. I believe there's 132 seats. So, the layout is really essentially the same. It's somewhat of a turnkey type situation. The kitchen's essentially the same other than probably replacement of some of the existing equipment, new equipment, but everything, everything's right, everything's essentially the same. But a fresh look.

Commissioner Ortt: And opening in approximately 30 days is the target.

Attorney Fockler: I hope so, assuming we get everything you know squared off with the county. The county is, of course, you know, the end call on all those matters. So, we're in that process.

Chairman Miller: Great, thank you. The towns already blessed everything.

Attorney Fockler: Yes,

Chairman Miller: Okay. At this point I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Ortt: I move to approve the application transfer received from Jose Garcia Martinez, Teresa Castro, David W. Callis, Mezcal on Main, Inc., t/a **Casa Mezcal North East**, 26 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901, for transfer of Class "B-176", Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverages License from Warren Beverung III, Woody's Restaurant Development, LLC, T/A Woody's Taco and Tequila, 26 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901.

Commissioner Johnson: Second.

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

Board: Aye,

Chairman Miller: Opposed?

Chairman Miller: Congratulations.

Chairman Miller: Next on the agenda. Application for a new license received from Pritan Singh, Anita Jhally, Maryland Resident, Noor Inc. T/A **Carroll Mart**, 259 Belle Hill Road, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "A" Beer, Alcohol Beverage License. Would you all please come forward?

Attorney Riddle: Good morning. Mr. Riddle here on behalf of Mr. Singh and Mr. Holly and Noor Inc. In regard to the Carol Mart requesting a new liquor license, and if you had any questions I can question them. However, you'd like to proceed You can go ahead, sir. Sure, Mr. Singh, could I have you state your name and address, please.

Pritan Singh: My name is Pritan Singh, and my address is 1312. Joseph Lane, New Castle, DE. I am the main owner of Noor, Inc. Which operates, and does business as the Carroll Mart on 259 Belle Hill Road.

Attorney Riddle: And you had the opportunity to go over the liquor license, application, and assist me in completing that correct?

Pritan Singh: Yes

Attorney Riddle: Has there been any changes regarding the information to the liquor, license, application, and is everything accurate? Still accurate and correct as well.

Pritan Singh: Everything's there. Thank you.

Attorney Riddle: And Mr. Jhally, can I have you state your name and address, please?

Anita Jhally: Okay, Anita Jelly. My name and my address is 144 Patton Way, Elkton, Maryland 21921.

Attorney Riddle: and Miss Jolly, you've had the opportunity to go through the application that we prepared for this liquor license. Correct?

Anita Jhally: Yes.

Attorney Riddle: Has there been any changes, or need any corrections or update? Or is everything still the same?

Anita Jhally: Yeah, it's the same.

Attorney Riddle: Board. We're requesting a liquor license essentially for off sale, located at the Carroll Mart at 259 Bell Hill Road. As you probably are well aware, it's a convenience store there that sells various items inside for commuters, essentially, and also has gas sales there. The reason they're asking for a liquor license is essentially to sell beer, and maybe other items that go along with that. They're not asking to open a liquor store, and my 1st thing I would say is that if you saw the lease agreement with Carroll Independent Fuel, LLC. That we attached, I mean, it's clearly to be a convenience store there. This is just another item that they would like to be able to sell at the convenience store they're not looking at to change any, to make any major renovations. It's a building. It's not going to be expanded. They're just going to use what they have on the inside. Their goal is to devote maybe 2, possibly 3 coolers to the sale of beer, and possibly other related items, wine, spritzers, coolers, things like things of that nature. It just assists them with another item that they can provide in a convenience store, much like a 7-eleven. You go there. Sure. They sell coffee. They sell food, snacks, water, drinks, and all

those types of things, but it also allows them to sell alcoholic beverages. What I think that's unique about this particular location is a couple of things. I know that from being through liquor license applications throughout my career, I know there's always some opposition. There's always some concern because of the competition in the liquor business. I don't know that I see it in this location. The reason I say that is really what the service would be. There's 3 hotels that are in that general vicinity, located on Bell Hill Road, just right within hundreds of feet, I'll say, of this location there's 1 across street and motel 6. But mainly that's what they're looking at. Then you have commuters. That would come. I don't foresee this as a competition to State Line. State Line is a larger facility would have a tremendous amount of product, a tremendous amount of choices. It's not. It's not the same at all whatsoever. So, I don't see that that would affect. Why would anybody who goes to State Line for the many choices they have, and the large square footage and the options they provide would come here. I don't believe that's the competition. I also think we have to look at Free State. Remember, Free State was directly across from State Line, and that is shut down. That has been torn down now, but that to me demonstrates there was a liquor license in the area that everyone approved of and was fine with. And it's in the same general vicinity. It's probably within a quarter mile or less, probably 2 tenths of a mile from where Free State was. So, you're right in the same vicinity, and I would think Free State would have been more of a competition to liquor stores in that area than they will be in at all whatsoever. Also look at the fact that I don't believe they would be a competitor to other liquor stores in the area, Vlamis, North Side Liquors, and anything. They're not even close to North East, or any other liquor stores in Rising Sun or any other area. So, I think it's a unique situation in a small building that they're just looking to add on to be able to serve clientele, that I believe you'd see maybe commuters, or you'd maybe see individuals who are stated staying in the hotels in the general area for a period of time. We don't see it as being a leader in regards to what their sales would be. They still are a convenience store, selling gas, other sundry items, coffee snacks

to their clientele that comes in. So, I understand there's probably opposition. But I just wanted to express that the 1st part is that we don't see it as a competition. We don't see anybody that would normally go to State Line coming here. Vlamis coming here because of their great selection North Side or North Street Liquors is really what they're called there. We don't see that as a competition with them, and we definitely don't see anybody from North East coming. We don't see anybody from Rising Sun, Perryville areas or anything like that coming there. So, it's a unique situation, small area. It's almost like having a 7-eleven the factor that there was a liquor license in that area when Free State shut down. So, it doesn't seem like it would affect anybody's business in any significant way. And it definitely is much smaller area than Free State. Free State was a full liquor store. This is 3 coolers that they're asking for, but we believe that it would serve the community at large. We believe the only individuals that may come would be individuals on Muddy Lane. We believe it's in a situation that is far from any other liquor stores, at least a decent distance from other liquor stores, and we think we serve the community and be a license that should be issued. Any questions. I have everyone here who runs the convenience store as well as owners, and who are going to be involved in the liquor sales.

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

Council Baynes: No questions.

Chairman Miller: Mr. Bradford, can you give us a rundown of the licenses in the area

Chief Bradford: There are 10 licenses in a 2-mile radius of that area. Several of those are liquor stores. We have Fletchwood Market, Caps and Corks, State Line Liquors. I believe, are the liquor stores, and then, just outside the 2 mile radius is several other locations. There are 10 licenses within a 2 mile radius. There's a number of county restaurants.

Chairman Miller: Okay. First off. Do I have anybody here that would like to come up and testify and support of this license?

Chairman Miller: Yes, if you'd identify yourself, sir. Have you been sworn in?

Justin Prince: Yes. My name is Justin Prince. I'm here to just give an opinion, basically on the people to my left. I've dealt with them for over a year. I got to know them pretty well from going in and out of that Carroll Mart. I'm just basically stating from what I've seen. You got the clientele that hotel across the street. As we all recall. A couple months back there was a kid crossing to the McDonald's on a bicycle. I'm sure everybody's heard this story got struck. It was, of course, 8 Pm. At night when they were riding the motorcycle, we all know the kind of clientele that's in them hotels. They don't give a shit about their kids. They're on drugs. Blah, blah blah. But from what I'm seeing is from doing business with these guys and riding in the area. There's a lot of activity with bicycles and walkers up and down that 279 Newark Road, and I travel to a lot of businesses in that area, and I see it, I think as what everybody is saying and opposing or potentially proposing. There is a lot of liquor license in that area. I think this would fill maybe some of the need and keep the traffic off that road. And this is just an opinion. I'm saying I'm for it just because of the traffic and cleaning it up, but it but at the same token, I do agree. There is a lot of liquor licenses in that area. Okay, thank you, sir.

Anthony Vlamis: Anthony Vlamis. I just have a couple key points to make. First of all, I have that there's 17 license holders in a general 2-mile radius. 8 of those are under a mile and a half. The other point I want to make is that there is homeless walking up and down 279 all the time, and specifically panhandling at that intersection in front of the Carroll Market. The hotels at this intersection are also known as trouble areas to residents of Elkton, the stores and the surrounding area. The liquor stores in the surrounding area are all responsible tips, certified license holders with a history, you know, that goes back and we have a good community involvement. We support a lot of charities and

everything like that. We're already doing a great job. There's no void that's going to be filled by granting another license at this intersection. And that's about all I have.

Chairman Miller: Okay, thank you for your testimony. Jeff Wesley.

John Wesley: Good morning. I agree with Mr. Vlamis. There's a lot of licenses in the area. There's a lot that are available, and there's a lot being used. We've been in business for years, 1951. My father started his business, and we've worked very hard to be where we are today to try to keep what we have. And we have to fight for what we have. And that's why I'm here today. I'm opposed to it. Not getting easier.

Robert Murray: Robert Murray. Good morning. I'm from State Line Liquors. family business out on probably less than a mile from proposed license. We've been in business there since 73, and had the liquor license down in Elkton since post prohibition. We work extremely hard. We employ a lot of employees. There's a lot of liquor stores, licenses out on that road, starting with Fletchwood, the Caps and Corks to us to B+B. Seafood, which is a quarter mile down the road which they serve on and off premise. and then, with this proposed license, another quarter mile down the road would be at Carroll's seems to be excessive when the needs of the community are being met by all of our stores. Then you go down the road a couple more miles and you have Nikki Vlamis, and they're right there, and there's nothing in between just a bunch of woods. So, he's serving that side. We're serving this side. The 3 stores up there are serving that side. There was another liquor store, another license out there across the street. which was Free State Liquors, and they went out of business because there wasn't enough business to support it. And they had all the problems too. Obviously. Let me check. Excuse me one second. That's about it. So we're here in opposition of the proposed license.

Don Harmer: Don Harmer. Thank you for hearing my comments. Don Harmer. 39, Cynthia Court, Elkton, Maryland. and I'm B-39, known as Weaver's Liquors and such. So you have to indulge me

and bear with me, and I may get a little long winded and come from a different angle. you know. Talk about a couple of different things, and other people have but so when we think about Cecil County, and I'll follow kind of my notes to keep on task here. No one has a more generous, licensing quota system than Cecil County. We're overly generous. No one has more unused and un needed licenses than you know a population in a county our size. We have no one in the State consistently has lower prices to customers, has a higher degree of convenience and availability in a county. and I would have to bet that no one has this high density of packaged goods, stores per capita for our zoning build out and for our geographical footprint. So, we have a tremendous number of, you know, packaged goods stores for that. and we don't have to really go at length about the woes of you know this particular controlled substance and misuse in Cecil County. But you know we do. And I do believe one of my back there actually said that you know we work on compliance hard. We work with Mr. Bradford. We work with the Yes coalition. We, you know, work with the Youth coalition to offset underage drinking and things like that. So, we're invested in, you know, helping out that particular situation. So, one thing we can't ignore. I've spent too much time listening to Annapolis, and you know Mr. Johnson's aware of, you know, all the budget woes and things like that many hours. Listen to the testimonies, for, like the grocery store bills went on for 2 and a half to 3 h. Those bills are coming back, but in the testimony in the testimony the State, I believe department legislative services talked about the effect of cannabis and online gambling. So, they've affected the liquor, you know, alcohol beverage taxation revenues 10 to 15%. And that's some what some of the testimony was showed so all around the county, and I would reason that Cecil County may be affected even a little bit more higher than that. We've heard a higher. Yeah, it is definitely the higher. So, you know, I have the unique situation where I monitor the bills for alcohol and tips and wages and stuff for the Cecil County Chamber. I'm on the Government Relations Committee and knows the bills that I focus on following testimony. Talk with the Cecil delegation and stuff about so that will come

back, and that it will be a package store burden on Cecil County, because, you know you're looking at what 8 major grocery stores in Cecil County who all want package licenses, too. So, you have those things to worry about in the future. But, you know, let me just. I'll steal the economic development app for just a minute for Cecil County to grow responsibly to business revenue from the alcohol sector. It needs to diversify not more of the same package, good locations. We need to improve the climate for restaurants, pubs, things like that and make licenses available for them, entertainment, venues, and such. But that's businesses that add value. You know. We've reached a point where an overabundance of packaged goods stores stationed in such close proximity to each other is starting to work against us. You know we have a high level convenience for bulk, alcohol Resident Cecil County. Adding, more of the same doesn't mean more. Business doesn't mean more jobs, doesn't mean more tax revenue. So for all those things that I mentioned, and I'd be happy to talk offline about any of those I'm going to ask you to deny the license, you know, just based on those comments, and for you to help keep the balance in Cecil County, but prepare for the balance that you're going to need in the future.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. Is there anybody else that wants to testify to anything different?

Chairman Miller: And can I ask those that are opposed to stand?

Chairman Miller: and those that are in favor? Stand.

Chairman Miller: Thank you. Okay, I'm going to open it up. Questions, Mr. Johnson.

Commissioner Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to point out that their appears as though those who stood in opposition are all liquor license holders. So, I wanted to point that out for the record, Mr. Baines, could you define for us in layman's terms. What arbitrary, what an arbitrary and capricious decision would be!

Council Baynes: Capricious decision in this case may be the decision and it's based on something other than the evidence that's been

presented today. You need to make your decision based on the evidence presented today. And also then the factors line that you're required to consider either for an approval or just need, a desire for the license location of existing license owners. Potential effect of existing license holders, things of that nature.

Commissioner Johnson: Okay, Thank you for that. So there are how many licenses available in this particular district? Indeed quite a few. I'd hate to guess of a number in that particular district. Okay, sure. In Cecil County alone we have approximately 60 licenses available. And so, there are 9 or 10 licenses within the 2-mile radius of this particular location is what I'm seeing. And the graph shows 9. This is done by an outside source. So, there was one approved which was Fletchwood market that did not show up on this particular graph. Sure. And you know, one of the things that we have to at least consider is that that's 9 licenses We approved license for North East, where there are 16 licenses already in existence. So, the point there is that it. It would make sense that someone would open up or want a license in a more populated, a busier area. With this being one of the 3 exits off of 95, and a direct entrance from Newark it would seem logical to me that that's where the businesses would congregate, and I think we have to keep that in mind. As we consider this. I mean, I think you know it would be silly for a competitor to not speak out against someone else coming into the competition. I mean, that makes sense to me, but that doesn't necessarily correlate to the applicant not meeting the requirements to obtain a license, and we have to look at that as well. So, that's all I have for now.

Commissioner Ortt: I understand that everything that Mr. Johnson just said I appreciate everyone's testimony. I also have it in front of me to consider the public need and desire the number and location of existing license holders and the potential effect on existing license holders. But I also know which another gentleman spoke of today. the area in which this market is located. There's a lot of foot traffic and a lot of undesirable things happening, and I'm afraid that if this store were to serve alcohol in this area wouldn't necessarily be the best for that location.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, Mr. Bradford, do you have anything else to add?

Chief Bradford: I do not.

Chairman Miller: Okay at this point in time. If there's no further questions or testimony I'm going to ask for a motion to be made, and the reasons

Chairman Miller: Mr. Riddle.

Attorney Riddle: What I was just going to say is that when we spoke about the number of licenses I know, Earl said there were 10 license in a 2 mile radius, but I looked at the fact of what Earl also, said Fletchwood, market caps and corks and State line liquors. There were only 3 liquor stores or package stores, I believe, that were identified within that 2 mile radius, I would argue they're clustered at Fletchwood Road and in that area I know we're a little bit a ways away from that. I think I would ask the Board to take a look at that issue in regards to where those are. Those are clustered compared to where my clients are located in regards to that vicinity and that area, I would argue. I understand there's concerns there, but it's improved with sidewalks at all intersections. It's improved with lights at the intersection. So that is an improved area for foot traffic for pedestrians throughout that throughout Waffle House, throughout. I think Sunday in Sunday's Inn the motel in the back. KFC. McDonald's. I'll save others. Truck stop essentially. But I would argue that at least take into consideration that those are improved with sidewalks for pedestrians at that time. Sometimes unfortunate things happen when we have intersections such as that, when they're not truly controlled with a pedestrian light, but they are controlled with lights over the course of time. That's 1 incident that has occurred, and can't really recall any prior incidents where, unfortunately, a child was injured in that intersection. But just ask that to be taken into consideration when we're looking at this area, because I understand the argument about the number of licenses. But I would state that when you look at the location of those licenses, I'd also argue that it's the rules we have in our charter has not

changed those rules in regards to number of licenses and availability for businesses in operating in the community. I mean, I understand that there's a lot of opposition. There's always a lot of opposition, but that opposition should be with our county government to modify the number of licenses allowed per population. I mean, it's never happened over my 30 years, 32 years never happened. So, I would argue that our county has said these licenses are available, based on population, and I'd ask the Board to take that into consideration as well. Thank you.

Chairman Miller: Thank you, sir. Okay. At this point I would ask for a motion.

Commissioner Johnson: Mr. Chair. So, I'm going to move for approval of this. But before I do that, I think that we have to really seriously consider if someone comes to the table. Who's qualified, who meets the requirements, and the licenses exist. It meets a need for that particular area, and it is logical that someone is going to open up in an area that is busier. I think we have to take all that into consideration. I think it would be an arbitrary decision to not approve the license because I don't think we have a legitimate reason to not approve it. So, I move that we approve the Application for a new license received from Pritan Singh, Anita Jhally, Maryland Resident, Noor Inc. T/A **Carroll Mart**, 259 Belle Hill Road, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "A" Beer, Alcohol Beverage License

Chairman Miller: I have a motion on the table. Do I hear a second?

Commissioner Johnson: Point of order, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Miller: Go ahead, sir.

Commissioner Johnson: Second is not necessarily.

Chairman Miller: Second is necessarily

Commissioner Johnson: I didn't finish a second is not necessarily an agreement or disagreement with the motion. It simply opens the discussion for the motion.

Chairman Miller: Fine.

Commissioner Ortt: Well, I do appreciate Mr. Johnson's motion. However, I just think in this particular area we really don't need this. I don't think we need this particular license.

Chairman Miller: I have a list in front of me of the reasons that we should approve or disapprove, and I'm not sure I see a public need. There's certainly an adequate number of licenses available, and there's an adequate number of licenses issued here,

Council Baynes: When I'm assuming in the interrupter, here's no second regard to Mr. Johnson's motion. So that motion dies.

Chairman Miller: Yeah, sure that motion dies, I will entertain another motion.

Commissioner Ortt: I also want to say that I don't believe the applicant is perfectly fit to have a license. I I agree with that. What Russ said. There's no false statements. There's no fraudulent things in your application that would have us deny it. But I just feel that particular area really doesn't need this license at this time. I also understand what Mr. Riddle is saying about the amount of licenses that are available. Maybe that's something that we do need to look at. Maybe Cecil County doesn't need that many licenses, but we have them at this point in time. So at this point I move to deny the application received from Pritan Singh, Anita Jhally, Maryland Resident, Noor Inc. T/A **Carroll Mart**, 259 Belle Hill Road, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "A" Beer, Alcohol Beverage License.

Commissioner Johnson: I'll second that. I believe we owe it to the applicant for them to leave here with an answer one way or the other. So, I'll definitely second that motion and add that you know, a decision or action that's made without a rational basis or lacks proper consideration of the facts, or is unreasonable, can land us down the road in in Circuit Court, so that you know I'm keeping that in in mind when I make my vote.

Chairman Miller: Well, Mr. Johnson, I believe we have given plenty of reasons why, in our consideration, we're not going to approve this license with a motion.

Chairman Miller: All in favor, say, aye.

Board: Aye.

Chairman Miller: Opposed,

Commissioner Johnson: Nay.

Chairman Miller: Motion carries, license denied.

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 3 special applications:

- Mount Aviat Academy – Dinner/Auction – 3/1/25
- Rising Sun Tiger Athletic Boosters – Fundraiser – 4/26/25
- Town of Cecilton – Bed Race – April 1, 2025

Chairman Miller: Old Business:

Chief Bradford: I have no old business today.

Chairman Miller: New business?

Chief Bradford: I have no new business today.

Chairman Miller: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Johnson: So moved.

Chairman Miller: Second?

Commissioner Ortt: 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