

FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD

Public Meeting Minutes *Monday February 27, 2023*

Those Present: Ms. Joan Aquilino, Chair
Mrs. Debbie Burrell, Board Member
Mr. Christopher Glass, Board Member
Ms. Jennifer Keefer, Assistant County Attorney
Mr. Robert Lind, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Mrs. Dawn Shugars, Director
Mrs. Ashley Kneessi Gay, Administrative Coordinator
Mrs. Candace Sier, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Tabitha Vanleeuwen, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II

A Public Meeting was held in person and called to order at 8:30am by the Chair, Joan Aquilino. Introductions and Board overview was shared by Chair, Joan Aquilino. Ashley Kneessi-Gay swore in all participants for today's hearing.

1. VIOLATIONS

a. Evergreen Liquors

Michael Blickenstaff and Lewis Williams
For the use of Evergreen Liquors, Inc
Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Michael Blickenstaff, Lewis Williams; Virtual- Cadet Albaugh, CPL Oleyar
- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 20:37 Hrs, CPL A. Oleyar entered Evergreen Liquors with Cadet Albaugh. Cadet Albaugh, a 20-year-old male, purchased a 1.5-liter bottle of Barfoot Moscato from the on-duty cashier. The Cadet was not asked for his ID, was sold the alcohol, and provided a receipt as proof of sale. CPL Oleyar identified himself to the cashier and informed them that they had just sold alcohol to a minor. CPL Oleyar then met with the owner who stated that they were familiar with the ramifications as this store had failed their last compliance check in February 2022.
- Plea: Guilty
- Violation History: The license was issued October 25, 1999. Previous Violation: Sales to minors on February 10, 2022, Guilty Plea and \$200.00 fine.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to Suspend the license for 3 days and for a \$1000.00 fine with the suspension to start immediately and the fine to be paid within 24 hours.

SECOND: Chair Aquilino second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: Commissioner Glass wanted to reduce the fine to \$500.00. Chair Aquilino stands by the motion that was made by Commissioner Burrell.

VOTE: Chair Aquilino – Aye
Commissioner Glass – Nay

Commissioner Burrell –Aye

The vote was ***Ayes 2, Nay-1***
(Motion passed)

b. Urbana Liquors

Kirandip Jassi
For the use of Bhatia MQR, Inc
Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Kirandip Jassi; Virtual- Cadet Albaugh, CPL Oleyar.
- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 17:19 Hrs, CPL A. Oleyar entered Urbana Liquors with Cadet Albaugh. Cadet Albaugh, a 20-year-old male, purchased a 1.5-liter bottle of Barfoot Riesling from the on-duty cashier. The Cadet was not asked for his ID, was sold the alcohol, and provided a receipt as proof of sale. CPL Oleyar identified himself to the cashier and informed them that they had just sold alcohol to a minor. CPL Oleyar requested to speak to the on-duty manager and was told by the cashier that they were the only employee present. A letter of noncompliance was left at the store with instructions to provide the letter to management.
- Plea: Guilty requesting Deferred Judgement
- Violation History: The license was transferred to Kirandip Jassi on August 16, 2018. Currently there is no violation history.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to grant Deferred Judgement.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Chair Aquilino – Aye
Commissioner Glass – Aye
Commissioner Burrell –Aye

The vote was unanimous ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***
(Motion passed)

c. Applebee's

Brittany Aylor and R. Dennis Benson
For the use of Potomac Family Dining Group Operating Co, LLC
Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Leanne Schrecengost, Dennis Benson, Brittany Aylor, Thuman Chanleston, Jeffrey Bryan; Virtually- CPL Oleyar, Cadet Albaugh
- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 18:30 Hrs, CPL A. Oleyar entered your establishment along with Cadet Albaugh. At that time, CPL A. Oleyar observed the bartender ask Cadet Albaugh what he would like to drink. Cadet Albaugh ordered a Bud Lite beer. The bartender asked to see Cadet Albaugh's license, and he looked at the ID for a moment, and said that he was not allowed to serve him because he has a vertical license, but he will anyway as long as we don't tell his boss. A moment later the bartender walked back to the counter, poured the requested beer from a tap, and served it to Albaugh. CLP Oleyar observed the transaction take place. CPL A. Oleyar identified himself to the bartender and advised him and the on-duty manager that the bartender just sold alcohol to a minor.
- Plea: Guilty and \$250.00 fine

- Violation History: The license was issued March 2, 2011. Previous Violation: Late to File Renewal on May 17, 2013, received a No Contest and a \$200.00 fine. Drinking on Duty/ Work Permits on January 8, 2018, received a \$1,500.00 fine/ 6 months' probation.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion for a \$250.00 fine.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: Chair Aquilino made a comment that this is a low fine.

VOTE: Commissioner Burrell – Aye
 Commissioner Glass – Aye
 Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was unanimous **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

d. Uno's Pizzeria Bar & Grill

Amir Yazdi
 For the use of MV Pizza, LLC
 Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Leanne Schrecengost, TFC Piskor; Virtually- Cadet Albaugh
- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 18:10 Hrs, TFC S. Piskor entered Uno Pizzeria & Grill with Cadet Albaugh. Cadet Albaugh, a 20-year-old male, sat at the bar and ordered a Bud Light from the bartender. Cadet Albaugh's identification was not requested. TFC Piskor informed the bartender that they had sold alcohol to an underage person. A letter of noncompliance was provided to the on-duty supervisor.
- Plea: Guilty requesting Deferred Judgement.
- Violation History: The license was issued April 5, 2019, transferred to Amir Yazdi. Currently there is no violation history.

MOTION: Commissioner Glass made a motion to grant Deferred Judgement.

SECOND: Commissioner Burrell second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Burrell – Aye
 Commissioner Glass – Aye
 Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was unanimous **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

e. Hilton Garden Inn

Paul Rose
 For the use of Pios Grande Fred Bar & Rest, LLC
 Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Paul Rose Jr., Brendan McCoy, TFCS Piskor; Virtually- Cadet Albaugh

- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 18:58 Hrs, TFC S. Piskor entered Hilton Garden Inn with Cadet Albaugh. Cadet Albaugh, a 20-year-old male, sat at the bar and ordered a Bud Light from the bartender. Cadet Albaugh's identification was not requested. TFC Piskor informed the bartender that they had sold alcohol to an underage person and provided a letter of noncompliance.
- Plea: Guilty requesting Deferred Judgement.
- Violation History: The License was issued July 23, 2012. Previous Violation: Renovations without Approval on March 21, 2014, received a warning letter. Failure to notify the Board of a Change in Manager on June 8, 2016, received a No Contest and a \$200.00 fine. Late to File Renewal on May 14, 2018, received a No Contest and a \$200.00 fine.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to grant Deferred Judgement.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Burrell – Aye
 Chair Aquilino – Aye
 Commissioner Burrell –Aye

The vote was unanimous **Ayes 3, Nay-0**
(Motion passed)

f. Valero of Emmitsburg

Anjan Baniya and Niroj Bhandari
 For the use of 7 Peaks, LLC
 Sales to Minor

- Attendees: In Person- Niroj Bhandari, Anjan Baniya, Collin Gee; Virtually- Sgt. Tindal
- On December 6, 2022, at approximately 16:54 Hrs, Sgt Tindal and S/T Baker entered Valero of Emmitsburg. Moments later, Cadet Gee, who was 18 years old at the time, entered the store and proceeded to attempt to purchase a six pack of Bud Light. Cadet Gee was asked for identification by the on-duty cashier which he provided. After looking at the ID, the cashier returned the Cadet's identification and proceeded with the sale. Sgt Tindal and S/T Baker then identified themselves and informed the cashier that they had just sold alcohol to a minor and presented them with a letter of noncompliance. The cashier indicated that they accidentally mistook the issue date of the license for the date of birth.
- Plea: Guilty requesting deferred Judgement.
- Violation History: The License was issued December 13, 2017. Currently there is no violation history.

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to grant Deferred Judgement.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Glass – Aye
 Commissioner Burrell – Aye
 Chair Aquilino –Aye

The vote was unanimous ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***
(Motion passed)

2. General public comment-NONE

3. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to adjourn to closed session.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Burrell - Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye
Commissioner Glass- Aye

The vote was unanimous ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***
(Motion passed)

4. VOTE TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Commissioner Burrell made a motion to go to closed session.

SECOND: Commissioner Glass second the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Commissioner Burrell - Aye
Chair Aquilino –Aye
Commissioner Glass- Aye

The vote was unanimous ***Ayes 3, Nay-0***

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:55am

Respectfully submitted,
Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II
FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD