



BOARD OF
LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
Worcester County

MEMBERS

R. CHARLES NICHOLS, CHAIRMAN
MARTY W. PUSEY
REESE F. CROPPER, III
WILLIAM E. ESHAM, III,
ARNOLD R. DOWNING
DIANA W. PURNELL, ALTERNATE

LIQUOR LICENSE ADMINISTRATOR

APRIL R. PAYNE
apayne@worcestermd.gov

ATTORNEY

W. HANK FISHER, III

www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/drpliquor-licensing

Citizens and Government Working Together

AGENDA
BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 21, 2026

The public is invited to view this meeting live online at - <https://worcestercountymd.swagit.com/live>
This portion of the meeting is an Open Meeting; it will be recorded and available online

- 1:00 - Administrative Matters and Approval of Minutes

- 1:05 - Meeting/Mila's Café (Tentatively Approved)
Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress
11604 Coastal Highway/Ocean City

- 1:15 - Meeting/Sand & Cedar Taverna (Tentatively Approved)
Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress
11070 Cathell Road/Berlin

- 1:30 - Meeting/Cypress Roots Brewing Company (License #964)
Class "D" B/W 7 Day License
Request for a music technician twice a month
Request for a Disc Jockey (DJ) twice a month
148 Market Street/Pocomoke

This portion of the meeting is an Open Meeting but will not be recorded or available online.

- 1:40 - Hearing/Sakura Japanese Steak & Seafood House (License #689)
Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)
12741 Ocean Gateway/Ocean City

- 1:50 - Hearing/Hampton Inn Hotel (License #917)
Class "B" B/W 7 Day License
Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)
12708 Ocean Gateway/Ocean City

- 2:00 - Hearing/Guido's Burritos (License #762)
Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
Violations of the Board of License Commissioners Rules & Regulations – Rule 30
Violations of Alcoholic Beverages & Cannabis Article – Section 33-2001, Section 33-2008,
Section 6-304, and Section 6-309
Unit 1, Rideau Motor Inn, 9 N. Boardwalk/Ocean City

Worcester County Board of License Commissioners
Open Meetings Act Minutes
AUGUST 19, 2026

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Worcester County Governmental Center, Board Room, Room 1102

Attendance:

License Commissioners

R. Charles Nichols

Marty W. Pusey

Reese Cropper, III

Staff:

Hank Fisher, III, Esquire

April R. Payne, Liquor License Administrator

I. Call to Order

II. Administrative Matters

Following a motion by Commissioner Pusey seconded by Commissioner Cropper, the minutes of the July 15, 2026, meeting, were unanimously approved as submitted.

III. Closed Session – Administrative Matters

There were no items to be discussed in the Closed Session.

IV. Open Session – Administrative Matters

- Administrator Payne presented to the Board with a summary of recent Alcohol Compliance Checks conducted by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Ocean City Police Department.
- Payne presented to the Board an application for the Wine Festival which in past years has been administratively approved. The reason for asking the Board's guidance is because this year the Wine Festival and Sunfest are being held on the same date, along with area for the Wine Festival site plan the vendor had trouble the size of the area that was proposed approved going beyond the fire lane for the town of Ocean City. She stated that the Ocean City Fire Marshall approved the event, so this is the reason I would like the Board's guidance in approving this event.

The Board unanimously approved the application.

- Payne presented a Special One Day Per Diem permit application to the Board for the Town of Berlin; they are requesting to expand the event area which incorporates all the license properties in Berlin the barriers will still be in place but if approved this will allow people to go outside the enclosed area with an alcoholic beverage. Payne stated she is requesting guidance on the approval of this change in the event area.

The Board approved the Special One Day Per Diem Permit with the same restrictions in place.

V. Adjournment

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ATLANTIC HOTEL – LICENSE #732
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odel, Administrative Asst.		☒	Valarie Dawson, Cou Reporter		☒	
License #:	732	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	12:25 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: 2 North Main, LLC		T/A: Atlantic Hotel		Address: 2 North Main Street Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation:	☐ Yes	
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Request to expand the licensed premises, request for outside music, request for full service outside bar.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. John W. Fager								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: Licensee John W. Fager appeared before the Board to request approval to expand the licensed premises, to permit outside music, and to establish a full-service outside bar. The licensee was sworn in. Fager presented the proposed expansion using the drawings that were submitted with his initial request. Fager explained that his vision is to create a "legacy area" on the licensed premises. He noted that one end of the area would feature a gas-lantern brick fireplace, and the opposite end would include the proposed full-service outside bar. Administrator Payne confirmed the bar's location using the site plan. Fager stated that the area will be open-air and fenced, used seasonally and for special events such as weddings. Fager advised the Board that the hours of operation for the outdoor area would be 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., with the area closing at 10:00 p.m. He stated his intention to begin construction in January 2027, noting that the area is already part of the licensed premises and currently serves alcohol. Commissioner Pusey asked for clarification regarding the proposed layout. Using the drawings, Fager explained that the area will be fenced, with a gas fireplace and gas lanterns on the street-facing side and the outside bar on the opposite end. He emphasized that there will be control points to manage entrance/exit access. Administrator Payne noted that the licensed premises do not have entertainment restrictions for the interior of the Atlantic Hotel and asked Fager to clarify his intentions for outside music, including the number of pieces. Fager stated that for special events, such as weddings, the customer typically arranges the entertainment. Chairman Nichols referenced the original request for outside music from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Commissioner Cropper expressed concern about potential noise impacts if entertainment exceeds three pieces. Fager responded that the number of pieces can be a "gray area," explaining that a pianist may have a friend join with an instrument, and occasionally another person may join, unintentionally increasing the number of performers. He stated that the area is small, and he does not anticipate requests for large bands. Fager assured the Board that sound levels will be controlled.</p> <p>The Board approved the Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license request to expand the licensed premises, request for outside music and the request for a full service outside bar.</p>								
Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AMPLIFIED ALLOWED OUTSIDE WITH A MAXIMUM OF FIVE PIECES UNTIL 10 P.M., NO DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED OUTSIDE.								
Time Hearing Ended: 12:45 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SMOKY HEIFER – NEW
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☐	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	12:45 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Bird Cage, Inc.		T/A: Smoky Heifer		Address: 3 9 th Str Ocean Cit Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☒ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Me ng:	☐ Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for a class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License								
Applicants:	☒	Licensees:	☐		Repr entative:			
1. Donald Mark Alimo				Mark Cropper Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protest ts:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 - Menu				1.				
2. Applicant's Exhibit #2 - Floor Plan				2.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: Applicant Donald M. Alimo, accom nized by his at orney Christopher Woodley, Esquire, appeared before the Board seeking approval for a Appl n for a Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor 7-Day License. The applicant was sworn in. Woodley stated th t Mr. Alimo has worked in the restaurant industry since his teenage years and became a ba dder in 2013. Woodley not d that Mr. Alimo will be involved in the daily operations of the restaurant al ng with ll-time emp oyees. Mr. Alimo confirmed this, explaining that he has worked as a bartender, serv busser, and manager t roughout his career. He is TIPS/TAM certified, and all employees will be required to aintain he same certifi ation. Woodley stated that the proposed restaurant will be located in the Paradise Plaza n o Boardwalk. Mr. Alimo described the concept as a BBQ Tex-Mex restaurant, with a primary focus BBQ. Th restaurant will operate seven days per week, with hours of operation from 9 o 2:00 a.m Board Attorney Hank Fisher entered (Applicant's Exhibit #1) the menu and (Applicant's Exhibit the res rant floor plan into the record. Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Alimo whether h previously held license at his location. Mr. Alimo replied, "Yes." He explained that the layout will remai he same as the prior es tablishment, with the main entrance located on the Boardwalk and a secondary en nce with a lounge area accessible to hotel guests. The premises will include approximately 86 dining seats, f seats on th outside deck (accessible only from the dining area), and 15 seats at the bar. Woodley stated t the appl cant is requesting approval for four-piece music, seven days per week, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. ith no outside speakers and no DJ, and with the understanding that all windows and doors must remain closed ng entertainment hours. Mr. Alimo confirmed this. He further stated that there will be no games, no pool tables, and No Off-Sale privileges. Mr. Alimo stated he has a copy of the Board's Rules and Regulations and will comply fully. Woodley noted that Mr. Alimo is the resident agent on the application. Mr. Alimo confirmed this and stated he obtained all required signatures. He acknowledged that any future changes to the license will require Board approval. Chairman Nichols noted that the prior license permitted three pieces of entertainment. Commissioner Pusey asked whether there had been any concerns from the hotel. Mr. Alimo stated, "No," and noted that the hotel is very supportive. Commissioner Cropper asked why the applicant was requesting four pieces instead of three. Mr. Alimo stated that three-piece bands do not draw the same crowd and</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SMOKY HEIFER – NEW
AUGUST 19, 2026

that smaller groups do not provide full performance experience. Commissioner Cropper noted to Alimo there were a couple violations with the prior license so how about begin with three pieces and return to the Board at a later date to request additional entertainment pieces. Commissioner Cropper advised that it is better to “Walk before you Run.” Mr. Alimo agreed.

The Board approved the application for Smoky Heifer for a Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day License

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED WITH A MAXIMUM OF THREE PIECES, SEVEN NIGHTS PER WEEK FROM 5 P.M. UNTIL 11 P.M., NO ENTERTAINMENT OR SPEAKERS ARE PERMITTED OUTSIDE AND THE DOORS MUST REMAIN CLOSED ANY TIME THERE IS ENTERTAINMENT INSIDE, NO DANCE FLOOR ALLOWED, NO DISCO JOCKEY ALLOWED, NO POOL TABLES ALLOWED, NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO BAR TOP GAMES ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE

Time Hearing Ended: 12:52 P.M.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OCEANS MARKET – LICENSE #33
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		X	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	33	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	12:53 P.M.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Oceans Market, Inc.		T/A: Oceans Market		Address: 14107 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Me ng:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day License request to construct a new building and expand the licensed property								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Saroj Pratap KC								
Witnesses:				Protestant:				
1. Richard Hertzog (Gillis Gilkerson)				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: Licensee Saroj Pratap, KC, along with Richard Hertzog, Project Manager with Gillis Gilkerson, appeared before the Board with a request under Class "A" B/W/L 7-Day License to construct a new building and expand the licensed premises. The licensee and witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Pratap stated that he is requesting approval to construct a new 3,600-square-foot building. Mr. Hertzog explained that the existing structure will be torn down completely. The first floor will continue to operate as a convenience store and liquor store, including the kitchen area. The second floor will contain four two-bedroom apartments, each with separate entrances. Commissioner Cropper asked how much of the square footage would be dedicated to the liquor store. Mr. Hertzog stated that the first floor will be an open-floor-plan convenience and liquor store. Chairman Nichols asked for the size of the current building. Mr. Pratap stated that the existing structure is 2,200 square feet. Chairman Nichols requested additional information regarding the first-floor elevations. Using the submitted building plans, Mr. Pratap explained that the beer coolers will have 15 doors, the ceilings will be 32 feet high, and the liquor section will include extended counter space for pint-size liquor and fine bourbons. Chairman Nichols clarified that this area is the point-of-sale section, and Mr. Pratap replied, "Correct." Mr. Pratap also stated that the first floor will include an area for donuts. Commissioner Cropper asked what the second-floor rental units would be used for. Mr. Pratap stated that the apartments will be used for employee housing, with one unit designated as a rental. Chairman Nichols asked when construction would begin. Mr. Hertzog stated that they intend to begin construction in mid-October. Chairman Nichols stated for the record that the donut shop area will not facilitate any alcohol. Mr. Pratap replied, "Correct."</p> <p>The Board approved the request for a Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day request to construct a new building and expand the licensed property.</p>								
Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	X	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS								
Time Hearing Ended: 1:02 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SHORE LIQUOR – LICENSE #912
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☐	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	912	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:03 P.M.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Manalis, Corp.		T/A: Shore Liquor		Address: 122 New Towne Boulevard Pocomoke, Maryland 21851				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for 100% Stock Transfer of a Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day License from Parth D. Patel to Deepkumar N. Patel								
Applicants:	☒	Licensees:	☐		Representative:			
1. Deepkumar Patel				Mark S. Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestant:				
1. Parth D. Patel				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The applicant, Deepkumar Patel, appeared before the Board with his attorney, Mark S. Cropper, Esquire, seeking approval for a 100% stock transfer of a Class "A" Beer, Wine & Liquor 7-Day License. The applicant was sworn in. Mr. Cropper introduced himself and stated he was representing Deepkumar Patel. Cropper asked Mr. Patel to confirm that, if approved, he would hold 100% of the stock in the corporation. Mr. Patel replied, "Correct." Cropper asked Mr. Patel whether all information submitted on the application remained accurate and whether he had obtained all required signatures. Mr. Patel responded, "Yes." Cropper noted that Mr. Patel has years of experience selling alcohol and has never been accused of selling to a minor or any other violations. Mr. Patel confirmed this. Cropper also asked Mr. Patel to confirm that he is TIPS/TAM certified and that all employees maintain same certification. Mr. Patel replied, "Correct." Mr. Patel noted that no interior or exterior changes are planned for the establishment. Commissioner Cropper inquired further about Mr. Patel's experience. Patel explained that he worked for three years at Virginia Beach at a gas station that sold alcohol and later worked in Pocomoke retail store selling alcohol. Cropper asked Mr. Patel to confirm that he has never had any violations. Mr. Patel replied, "Correct."</p> <p>The Board approved the application for a 100% stock transfer of a Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day License from Parth D. Patel to Deepkumar Patel.</p>								
Motion:	1st	Mr. Reese	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS								
Time Hearing Ended: 3:09 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR – PROMOTER’S LICENSE - OCEAN’S CALLING
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:10 P.M.		
Class:	Promoter’s License	Type:	B/W/L		Day:			
For: Facility Concession Services, LLC		T/A: Spectrum Catering, Concessions, and Events		Address: Boardwalk to the Ocean & N. Division Street to the pier, Ocean City, MD 21842 (Ocean’s Calling)				
New Application:	☒ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for a Promoter’s License for Spectrum Concessions Ocean’s Calling Event September 25, 2026, through September 27, 2026, Hours for Alcoholic Beverage Sales – Begins 12 Noon and ends 10:30 p.m. each day Ocean City Inlet to N. Division Street, including the inlet parking lot, the beach, the boardwalk, Ocean City pier, and portions of businesses adjacent to the boardwalk/Ocean City.								
Applicants:	☒	Licensees:	☐		Representative:			
1. Richard W. Meehan				Mark S. Cropper Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.								
Exhibits:				Evidence:				
1.				1.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: Mark S. Cropper Esquire, introduce himself to the Board and stated he is here today representing Ocean City Mayor Richard Meehan with application for a promoter’s license for Spectrum Concessions. The applicant was sworn in. Cropper stated that the Board’s event is essentially a repeat of the Oceans Calling event held over the past three years, other than a couple of all modifications in the footprint. Cropper stated to the Board this year there will be a new element named “The Bungalows” as a premium ticket option near the VIP section, two small bars have been added next to the delay towers to serve concert attendees who may not be able to access the main stage area. In addition, the sponsored comfort station has been moved slightly south to improve accessibility; all the changes remain within the same footprint used in prior years. Cropper asked Meehan the Town of Ocean City will still be providing support, along with Spectrum Concessions will continue to provide the same level of security checking IDs throughout the event to ensure all the safeguards with regards to alcohol and security remain the same. Meehan stated “Correct.” Cropper asked Mayor Meehan is it correct that Oceans Calling has been a great success over the years meeting Ocean City’s expectations. Mayor Meehan stated “Correct,” Oceans Calling has exceeded expectations. Commissioner Pusey requested clarification regarding alcohol on the pier. Cropper stated that the pier was included in the past years concert attendees can consume alcohol on the pier but are unable to purchase any alcohol on the pier.</p> <p>The Board tentatively approved the application for a Promoter’s License for Spectrum Concessions Oceans Calling Event September 25, 2026, through September 27, 2026, Hours for Alcoholic Beverage Sales – Begins 12 Noon and ends 10:30 p.m. each day Ocean City Inlet to N. Division Street, including the inlet parking lot, the beach, the boardwalk, Ocean City pier, and portions of businesses adjacent to the boardwalk/Ocean City</p>								
Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS AS LAST YEAR								
Time Hearing Ended: 1:16 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR – PROMOTER’S LICENSE – COUNTRY CALLING
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☐	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:17 p.m.		
Class:	Promoter's License	Type:	B/W/L		Day:			
For: Facility Concessions Services, LLC		T/A: Spectrum Catering, Concessions, and Events		Address: Boardwalk to the Ocean & N. Division Street to N. Division Street, Ocean City, MD 21842 (Country Calling)				
New Application:	☒ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation:	☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for a Promoter's License for Spectrum Concessions Country Calling Event October 2, 2026, and October 3, 2026, Hours for Alcoholic Beverage Sales – Begins 12 Noon and ends 10:30 p.m. each day Ocean City Inlet to N. Division Street, including inlet parking lot, the beach, the boardwalk, Ocean City pier, and portions of businesses adjacent to the boardwalk/Ocean City.								
Applicants:	☒	Licensees:	☐		Representative:			
1. Richard W. Meehan				Mark S. Cropper Esquire				
2. Terry McGean								
Witnesses:				Otestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
Hearing Minutes: The applicants, accompanied by their attorney, Mark Cropper, Esquire, appeared before the Board with an application for a Promoter's License trading as Spectrum Concessions, for the Country Calling Event scheduled for October 2, 2026, and October 3, 2026. The requested hours for alcoholic beverage sales are from 12:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. each day. The applicants were sworn in. Cropper stated to the Board that this application involves the exact same footprint and modifications as the prior hearing today for the Oceans Calling event and that the Town of Ocean City's involvement will be identical. Cropper asked Mayor Meehan if his testimony given during the prior Oceans Calling prior hearing would remain the same for this matter, Chairman Nichols asked what year this for this event is. McGean replied this is the fourth year for Oceans Calling and third year for County Calling.								
The Board approved the application for a Promoter's License for Spectrum Concessions Country Calling event October 2, 2026, and October 3, 2026, hours for alcoholic beverage sales begin at 12 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. Ocean City Inlet to N. Division Street, including the inlet parking lot, the beach, the boardwalk, Ocean City pier, and portions of businesses adjacent to the boardwalk/Ocean City.								
Motion:	1st	M. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS AS OCEANS CALLING								
Time Hearing Ended: 4:19 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR TOAST – LICENSE #938
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	938	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:20 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Bay Bar, LLC		T/A: Toast		Address: 221 Wicomico Street Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meat:	☒ Yes		Violation:
						☐ Yes		

Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Request for background music inside only from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒	Representative:
1. Micheal Berardinelli		Mark S. Cropper, Esquire		
Witnesses:		Protestant:		
1.		1. Sgt. Douglas Smith (OCPD)		
Exhibits:		Exhibits:		
1.		1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Email from William Rank		
2.		2. Board's Exhibit #2 – Email from Nancy Rank		
3.		3. Board's Exhibit #3 – Email from Clyde Rawlins		
4.		4. Board's Exhibit #4 – Photos of Messages on Signage & Screenshots of Text Messages		

Hearing Minutes: Licensee Michael Berardinelli, accompanied by his attorney Mark S. Cropper, Esquire, appeared before the Board with a request for background music inside only, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The licensee was sworn in. Attorney Cropper introduced himself and stated he was representing Mr. Berardinelli. Cropper explained that Toast was appearing before the Board seeking the return of limited entertainment privileges. He acknowledged the concerns raised by the Ranks and noted that he represented Mr. Berardinelli at the hearing. Cropper stated that Mr. Berardinelli understands the mistakes made and has learned from them. He emphasized that restaurants in Ocean City rely on some level of music to remain competitive and viable. Cropper stated that the establishment intends to place the music on a timer, ensuring that employees will not be responsible for supervising the hours or volume. He reiterated that Toast requires limited background music to operate successfully. Administrator Payne stated she received new information related to this case after hours the previous evening. She noted that this was the first time both the Board and counsel were seeing the material. Chairman Nichols requested a recess to allow the Board time to review the documents. Board attorney Hank Fisher submitted the following exhibits into the record: (Board's Exhibit #1) email from William Rank, (Board's Exhibit #2) email from Nancy Rank, (Board's Exhibit #3) email from Clyde Rawlins, (Board's Exhibit #4) photos of messages on signage and screenshots of text messages. Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Berardinelli whether the incidents described in the exhibits occurred and whether he attempted to meet with the Ranks. Mr. Berardinelli stated he tried, including through Mr. Rawlins, but was told by William Rank that "the ship has sailed," indicating he did not wish to discuss the matter. Cropper stated he would advise Mr. Berardinelli not to continue attempting communication with the Ranks due to the negativity surrounding prior interactions. Cropper explained that years ago he attempted to discuss compromises with Mr. Rank but found the conversations unproductive. He stated he believes Mr. Rank does not want the establishment

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR TOAST – LICENSE #938
AUGUST 19, 2026

to succeed. Cropper emphasized that Toast cannot be successful without limited background music. Commissioner Cropper stated that “it only takes a spark to ignite a fire,” noting that Mr. Berardinelli made no meaningful effort to reconcile with the Ranks and referencing the language displayed on the sign. Mr. Berardinelli stated he did not know who wrote the message and that he removed the sign after a complaint. He stated he does not wish to conflict with the Ranks but feels they frequently complain to the condo association and the Town, creating obstacles for his business. Commissioner Cropper stated that even after losing all entertainment privileges, Mr. Berardinelli still made no effort to resolve issues with the Ranks. Commissioner Pusey stated that upon reviewing the information, she felt much of it was “old news” from the prior hearing. She noted it is unfortunate that one individual or couple can have such influence over a business. Commissioner Pusey stated she is torn due to the poor decisions Mr. Berardinelli has made. Sgt. Smith provided testimony, stating that over the years the Board has contacted him to conduct noise checks at Toast due to complaints from tenants. Sgt. Smith stated that on numerous occasions he found no noise readings above the Town of Ocean City Ordinance. He recalled one instance where Toast’s music was low, but loud noise was coming from a boat passing through the inlet. Sgt. Smith stated that living in a resort town naturally involves noise and that he would not take his own family to a restaurant with no background music. He confirmed that the Town of Ocean City has no noise violations for this establishment. Commissioner Pusey noted that this location historically had both inside and outside entertainment. Cropper responded that this was before the Ranks purchased their unit. Attorney Fisher asked Mr. Berardinelli whether the Ranks live directly above the restaurant. Mr. Berardinelli replied, “Yes.” Cropper stated that condo buyer records indicate purchasers acknowledge they are buying into a building with a bar and restaurant and are not to interfere with its operations. Cropper also referenced the surrounding businesses and boat traffic contributing to ambient noise. Commissioner Cropper stated that the issue is no longer about background music but about two parties who cannot resolve their differences, and that the conflict is unlikely to be resolved. Mr. Berardinelli stated that the Board has not received complaints from anyone other than the Ranks and respectfully requested reinstatement of background music to support his business. He acknowledged that any future violation could result in severe consequences, including potential license revocation. Chairman Nichols stated that “the ball is in your court” and that the Board cannot resolve the personal circumstances between Mr. Berardinelli and the Ranks.

The Board approved the request for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license request for background music allowed inside only from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Reese	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restriction	BACKGROUND MUSIC ALLOWED INSIDE ONLY FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL 8 P.M.								
Time Hearing Ended:	2:00 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ANTHONY'S LIQUORS – LICENSE #8
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	8	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:11 P.M.		
Class:	"D"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Norcon, LLC		T/A: Anthony's Liquors		Address: 3300 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting	☐ Yes	Violation:	☒ Yes	
Items to be discussed: Class "D" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. Thomas Vaughan, Jr.				1. Christopher Woodley, Esquire				
2. Emily Vaughan				2.				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Michael Arbin (Employee)				1. Sgt. Donald Smith				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 23, 2026, Compliance Check History Report, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-001337.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensees Thomas Vaughan, Jr., Emily Vaughan, and Michael Arbin, along with their attorney Christopher Woodley, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "D" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee's and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, III, Esquire submitted the following into evidence as (Board's Exhibit #1): Board Investigation Report dated July 23, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-001337. Woodley acknowledged the violation on behalf of the licensees. He stated the Vaughans purchased Anthony's Liquors in 2022 and, since that time, the establishment has undergone two compliance checks. He noted that all employees are TIPS/TAM certified and that the certificates have been provided to Administrator Payne. Woodley questioned Mr. Vaughan regarding employee procedures for checking identification. Mr. Vaughan confirmed that employees routinely request ID and take carding very seriously. He reported that the business has confiscated more than a dozen fake IDs from customers attempting to purchase alcohol. Woodley asked Michael Arbin (employee) how long he has worked at Anthony's Liquors. Arbin responded that he has been working there for 12 years and has been selling alcohol for 15 years and that this is his first violation. When asked if he reviewed the license presented to him during the incident, Arbin stated that he had but misread the dates. He explained that he mistakenly read the birth date as March 26, 2005, and proceeded with the sale. When police later returned to the store and presented the ID, he realized he had again misread the date and had confused the issue date of March 26, 2025. Arbin stated that this was an honest mistake and one he will not make again. Commissioner Pusey asked Arbin to confirm whether the violation was due solely to misreading the license, to which Arbin replied, "Yes." Chairman Nichols asked</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR ANTHONY’S LIQUORS – LICENSE #8
AUGUST 19, 2026

Sgt. Smith whether he considered Anthony’s Liquors to be a problem location. Sgt. Smith stated that it is not a hot spot, describing the establishment as iconic, noting their posted sign reading, “We confiscate fake ID’s.” He stated the owners are new, the business is cooperative, and he believes the violation was an obvious mistake that is unlikely to become a recurring issue. Chairman Nichols asked Sgt. Smith if the licensees were cooperative during the investigation, and Sgt. Smith confirmed that they were. Commissioner Pusey asked Mr. Vaughan whether staff training is conducted regularly. Mr. Vaughan affirmed that it is and reiterated that he takes compliance very seriously.

The Board found that the violation did occur on June 4, 2026, and imposed a Letter of Reprimand, any future violations could result in a fine, suspension and or revocation of the alcoholic beverage license.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:		Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 2:18 P.M.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR VISTA ROOFTOP – LICENSE #952
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	952	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:19 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day	7 Day		
For: Vista OC, LLC		T/A: Vista Rooftop		Address: 13801 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting	☐ Yes	Violation:	☒ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. Alexander Heidenberger				1. Hugh Cropper Esquire				
2. Miroslav Ecimovic				2.				
3. Charles Galliher				3.				
4. Francesca Ecimovic - Resident Agent				4.				
Witnesses:				Protestant				
1. Joanne Malcuit (Employee)				1. Sgt. Douglas Smith				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – TIPS/TAM Certifications		Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report 2026-001614.						
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensees Alex Heidenberger, Miroslav Ecimovic, Charles Galliher and witness Joanne Malcuit along with their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee's and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, Esq. submitted the following into evidence as (Board's Exhibit #1): Board Investigation Report dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-001614. Cropper opened the hearing by stating that Vista Rooftop had a prior violation in 2023, which occurred shortly after the business first opened. No violations have occurred since that time. Cropper asked Malcuit (Employee) to describe her role at Vista Rooftop. Malcuit stated she is a server and has been involved in serving alcoholic beverages for 42 years in several states. She has worked for Vista Rooftop for two years, and this was her first violation. Malcuit explained that the day of the incident began as normal. Staff held a meeting in the kitchen to review specials and upcoming events and were reminded of the requirement to card all customers—a reminder given at the beginning of every shift. Chairman Nichols asked if the resident agent was present, and Cropper affirmed that Francesca Ecimovic was in attendance. Cropper asked Malcuit to confirm that employees are instructed each shift to check all IDs and prevent underage drinking. Malcuit responded, "Yes." Malcuit explained that the violation occurred at the beginning of dinner service. The restaurant began to get busy, and she was working with a new server. The weather changed, and rain required customers to be moved from outside seating to inside, creating a hectic environment. She stated her focus was on managing the activity around her. When Malcuit approached a table, one customer ordered water and another ordered an alcoholic beverage. She asked for identification, reviewed the ID, but transposed numbers while checking the date. The ID was a vertical Pennsylvania</p>								

license. She attempted to calculate the age in her head but did so incorrectly, resulting in the sale to a minor. Cropper asked if Malcuit is TIPS/TAM certified; she confirmed she is. Cropper noted that she was suspended for one week due to the incident, and Malcuit affirmed that she was. Cropper stated that licensee Heidenberger has been in the food and beverage industry for 45 years, is TIPS/TAM certified, and that all employees at Vista Rooftop are likewise certified. Cropper entered (Licensee's Exhibit #1): TIPS/TAM Certifications. Cropper asked Heidenberger whether meetings are held with employees to discuss compliance with alcoholic beverage laws. Heidenberger confirmed that such meetings occur each shift and emphasized that they take compliance very seriously, reminding employees each time to "Check IDs." Commissioner Cropper asked whether the employee involved in the first violation from 2023 still works at Vista Rooftop. Heidenberger stated they do not. Commissioner Cropper asked what changes have been made to prevent future violations. Mr. Heidenberger explained that one of the licensees present at the establishment daily to supervise operations. Staff meetings about checking IDs occur every day, and an vertical ID must now be shown to a manager for verification. Chairman Nichols asked Sgt. Smith whether Vista Rooftop staff were cooperative in the investigation. Sgt. Smith confirmed they were. He stated the violation appeared to be an honest mistake and noted that Vista Rooftop has always been cooperative and responsive, frequently asking law enforcement for guidance on best practices.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cro	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:33 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH – LICENSE #817
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	817	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:34 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Bourbon Street on the Beach, LLC		T/A: Bourbon Street on the Beach		Address: 12601 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation:	☒ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. Barry Reichart				1. Joseph Moore, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protocols:				
1. Jenna Page Link (Server)				1. Sgt. Douglas Smith				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Signage "Check IDs"				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 24, 2026 Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-001937.				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – ID Checking Book								
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee Barry Reichart, witness Jenna Link along with their attorney Joseph Moore, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, III, Esquire submitted the following into evidence as (Board's Exhibit #1): Board Investigation Report dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-001937. Moore stated that Reichart is the licensee and owner in the business of selling alcoholic beverages for 33 years. Reichart agreed. Moore asked Reichart if he had any prior violations, and Reichart stated that he had not and that this was his first violation. Reichart reported that all permanent employees including bartenders and year-round waitresses are certified. Seasonal and part-time employees are not required to be certified but are supervised. He stated that since the incident, he will begin requiring all employees to obtain TIPS/TAM certification. Moore asked Reichart what measures he has in place to prevent violations. Reichart stated that he uses a whiteboard to display the date for legally purchasing alcoholic beverages and that the date changes daily. Moore entered (Licensee's Exhibit #1): Signage "Check IDs". Reichart further explained that all new employees receive one training shift with a senior server. He also stated that since the incident, they no longer accept vertical IDs. Chairman Nichols asked whether a TIPS/TAM certified employee was working on the day of the violation. Reichart stated that there was. He explained that he intended to move employee Link from serving to a hostess position until she received additional training, but she chose to leave and work elsewhere. Moore entered (Licensee's Exhibit #2): ID Checking Book. Reichart confirmed that the book is available for employees to assist them with verifying IDs. Moore asked Link whether she misread the ID. Link stated that she did misread it and confirmed that she knew she was required to check IDs for alcohol purchases and was aware of the establishment's ID-checking policy. Link stated that she previously worked</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH – LICENSE #817
AUGUST 19, 2026

as a hostess for several summers and transitioned to a server once she turned 18. She confirmed that she was aware she could ask a manager or a TIPS/TAM-certified employee if she had questions about an ID. Moore asked Reichart if he felt there was anything that could have been done differently in training to prevent the incident. Reichart stated that all servers receive the same training and that he believes this was an honest mistake. He added that they continually strive to improve training. Commissioner Pusey asked whether compliance checks had been conducted in the past. Reichart stated that two previous checks were conducted and they did not result in any violations. Chairman Nichols asked Sgt. Smith whether the establishment was cooperative during the incident. Sgt. Smith replied that they were cooperative but there was confusion because the server and hostess told him there was no manager present. Reichart explained that employees are not referred to as manager and that the bartender was in charge that day and was certified. Sgt. Smith recommended establishing a clearer chain of command and noted that staff took some time to locate the liquor license. Sgt. Smith stated that he did not speak with the bartender, and that his interactions were with the waitress and hostess. He noted that a male employee brought him the liquor license. Chairman Nichols asked Sgt. Smith to confirm that there was confusion and Sgt. Smith agreed, adding that employees informed him Reichart was out of town that day. Chairman Nichols asked Link whether she felt she received proper training. Link stated she did not receive training on ID-checking. She shadowed a server with more than two years of experience, but ID-checking procedures were not covered during her training. Commissioner Cropper asked Link whether she is TIPS/TAM certified, and Link stated that she is not.

The Board found that the violation did occur on June 2026, and imposed a Letter of Reprimand, any future violations could result in a fine, suspension and or revocation of the alcoholic beverage license.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	☒	X	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 2:49 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR GUIDO'S BURRITOS – LICENSE #762
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	762	Hearing Date:			Hearing Start Time:	2:50 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7		
For: Guido's Burritos, LLC		T/A: Guido's Burritos		Address: Unit 1 Rideau Motor Inn 9 North Bard Blk Ocean City Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation:	☒ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article, Section 6-304 (Sales to Minors).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. Rocco DiFilippo				1. Mark S. Cropper Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Ionut Cretu (John) (Manager)				1. Sgt. Donald Smith				
2. Chirstine Monori (Bartender)				2.				
3. Andra Paula Suciu (Manager)				3.				
4. Joseph Mark Ochse (General Manager)				4.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Case Report #2026-002186.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee Rocco DiFilippo and witnesses Ionut Cretu, Chirstine Monori, Paula Suciu, and Joseph Ochse along with their attorney Mark S. Cropper Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article Section 6-304 (Sales to Minors). The licensee and witnesses were sworn in Board Attorney Hank Fisher III, Esquire submitted the following into evidence as (Board's Exhibit #1): Board Investigation Report dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Report #2026-002186. Attorney Cropper stated that Mr. DiFilippo is the licensee, DiFilippo confirmed this. Cropper asked DiFilippo if he had reviewed the Investigation Report, and DiFilippo confirmed he had, noting he was not present at the time of the violation. Cropper explained that the incident involved a barback who was not trained or certified to serve alcohol and was not permitted to do so. The barback was only supposed to assist with cleaning, filling juices, restocking, and similar duties. DiFilippo agreed with this characterization. Cropper questioned Cretu, manager on duty at the time, who confirmed the barback was not supposed to be serving alcohol. Cropper noted the bar was busy at the time, and the barback attempted to assist by waiting on a customer table. Without checking IDs or consulting the bartender, the barback served alcoholic beverages to the customers. Cretu agreed with this account and stated he immediately notified Suciu and DiFilippo. Cropper asked Suciu whether bartender Monori was present and busy. Suciu confirmed she was busy and unable to serve the customers at that moment. Cropper stated that the barback acted outside his job duties and training, believing he was helping the bartenders. Suciu agreed. Monori confirmed she was working that day and reiterated that the barback was not authorized to handle alcohol. She stated that when police arrived, she immediately went to speak with Cretu and</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR GUIDO'S BURRITOS – LICENSE #762
AUGUST 19, 2026

cooperated fully with the officers. Cropper asked if the barback had been terminated. DiFilippo stated the barback was fired the same day. He explained he employs four managers, all TIPS/TAM certified, and that barbacks have never been permitted to serve alcohol. Barbacks are not trained on the POS system and typically perform roles similar to dishwashing, cleaning, and restocking. Suciú stated she has worked at Guido's for eight years, she is TIPS/TAM certified and began as a server before becoming a manager. She described the establishment's alcohol service training procedures, including ID checking protocols, daily reminders, system prompts requiring ID verification, and written documentation by employees. She stated that additional ID check alerts were added to the POS system after the incident. She also noted the business certifies J-1 students and added scheduling reminders related to ID verification. Suciú further explained that new uniforms were ordered for barbacks reading "I am a barback; I cannot serve alcohol" to prevent confusion. She stated the barback previously worked two years ago as a J-1 student in the kitchen and returned this year as a barback. He had performed well until the incident. Ochse (GM) was off on the day of the violation. Ochse confirmed the barback had been repeatedly told he could not serve alcohol and that signs are posted at the bar reinforcing this rule. He stated additional precautions have been implemented to prevent future incidents. Cropper asked Ochse how many hours he is present each day; he stated four hours. Mrs. Suciú stated she works six days a week, typically double shifts. Cropper asked Sgt. Smith for comments. Sgt. Smith stated the incident was unexpected, noting the barback had claimed he was trying to help due to the busy environment. Sgt. Smith stated DiFilippo took appropriate action by firing the barback and that Suciú responded quickly. He noted all staff were cooperative and that Guido's location is not considered a problem. Chairman Nichols noted Guido's received a Letter of Reprimand on August 17, 2022, and two violations on September 16, 2024, with fines of \$500 per violation. Cropper clarified that the 2024 incident involved a single employee serving two individuals at one time and asked the Board to consider this context. Commissioner Cropper stated he understood the mistake, but the Board is responsible for evaluating overall business practices, including training and supervision. Commissioner Pusey asked Suciú whether a manager is always on-site; she stated Cretu (John) was the manager on duty and contacted her immediately. DiFilippo noted John was managing the kitchen at the time. Commissioner Pusey stated all servers should be trained. DiFilippo stated that the new uniforms provide daily reminders to barbacks that they cannot serve alcohol.

The Board found that two violations did occur on June 24, 2026, a \$500 fine was imposed for each sale to minor, \$1,000 total must be paid by day, Aug 21, 2026, by 12 p.m., with cash or certified funds, if not paid the license will be suspended until paid. The fine was paid in full on August 19, 2026.

Motion:	1s	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SOME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 3:13 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR QUALITY INN OCEANFRONT – ATRIUM BAR – LICENSE #89
AUGUST 19, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	89	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	3:14 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Harrison Group		T/A: Quality Inn Oceanfront – Atrium Bar		Address: 5400 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting	☐ Yes	Violation:	☒ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Article, Section 6-304 (Sales to Minors).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. G. Hale Harrison				1. Joseph Moore, Esquire				
2. John Harrison				2.				
Witnesses:				Protest s:				
1. Jason Guleson				1. Sgt. Douglas Smith				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Alcohol Service Responsibility Agreement				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Case Report #2026-001941.				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – 2 Photos – Employee Signage				2.				
3. Licensee's Exhibit #3 - Inside Prop Wood Sign				3.				
4. Licensee's Exhibit #4 – Photo of Sign displaying No Vertical IDs.				4.				
<p>Hearing Minutes: The Licensees G. Hale Harrison, and John Harrison, witness Jason Guleson, along with their Attorney Joseph Moore, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sales to Minors). The licensee's and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, Esquire entered evidence (Board Exhibit #1): Board's Investigation Report Dated July 24, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Incident Case Report #2026-001941. Moore stated that Chang the employee who sold the alcohol, was certified and was immediately terminated. Chang had previously worked for the Bad Monkey restaurant. Moore explained that on August 14, 2026, they did not have a copy of Chang's certificate, so he contacted Kevin Myers, owner of Bad Monkey, to obtain it. Myers attempted to locate the certificate but could not find it; however, to the best of his knowledge, Chang was TIPS/TAM certified. Moore asked Guleson whether all employees at the establishment are TIPS/TAM certified, and Guleson confirmed they are, including Chang, who had also stated he was certified. Moore noted that the Atrium Bar has had nine "no sales" during compliance checks and asked the Board to consider this a first-time offense. Moore asked Guleson to describe the establishment's training procedures. Guleson explained he was under the impression that Chang was certified and stated they were unaware of the violation until receiving the Board's letter in August. After learning of the incident, they revamped their alcohol service policies, including procedures for checking IDs, and there is posted signage stating they do not accept vertical IDs. Moore submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1): Alcohol Service Responsibility Agreement. Guleson described the onboarding process for new employees, which includes</p>								

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receiving an employee handbook and signing an acknowledgment agreeing to abide by all policies, including alcohol service rules. He stated they have Chang's signed acknowledgment dated March 24, 2026. Moore entered the following exhibits: (Licensee's Exhibit #2): Two photos of employee signage (Licensee's Exhibit #3): Inside property wood sign, (Licensee's Exhibit #4): Photo of sign displaying "No Vertical IDs". Guleson confirmed the information was accurate and added that management holds daily, weekly, and monthly meetings to reinforce alcohol service policies. Moore stated that according to the report, Chang told the cadet he knew the policy prohibiting acceptance of vertical IDs but accepted one anyway because he was preparing to close the bar. Moore asked whether a manager was on duty during the incident, and Guleson confirmed there was. W asked whether anything more could have been done to prevent the violation, Guleson stated he did not know what additional steps could have been taken. He reiterated that their written policies state employees will be terminated if they sell alcohol to a minor. Guleson added that signage near the cash register states, "You must be born on this date to be served alcohol." Harrison stated this was a very frustrating situation, as they have extensive training and policies in place, and Chang despite being certified willfully disregarded them. He stated that was unacceptable. Chairman Nichols noted the license was originally issued in 1982. He stated there was a sale to a minor on September 18, 2008, which resulted in a report placed in the file with no further action, and another violation on November 17, 2010, for which a \$500 fine was issued. Chairman Nichols listed the "no sale" dates as follows: June 30, 2014, June 1, 2015, June 22, 2017, June 24, 2018, June 15, 2019, June 28, 2019, June 7, 2023, June 13, 2025, June 26, 2025. Commissioner Cropper asked Chairman Nichols to repeat the violation date, which Nichols stated September 18, 2008, and November 17, 2010. Commissioner Pusey noted the last violation occurred sixteen years ago. Chairman Nichols asked Sgt. Smith for comment. Sgt. Smith stated that Chang was rude and uncooperative, though this behavior was not the fault of the owner. Commissioner Cropper asked whether Chang had informed management of the incident; Harrison stated Chang did not notify anyone, and the business only learned of the violation when they received the Board's letter.

The Board found that two violations did occur on June 17, 2026, and a Letter of Reprimand was imposed. Any future violations could result in a fine, suspension and revocation of the alcoholic beverage license.

Motion:	1st	Ms P y	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RES CTIONS									
Time Hearin Ended: 3:33 p.m									

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Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member:		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	980	Hearing Date:	August 19, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	3:55 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: 2EZ Coastal Lounge, LLC		T/A: 2EZ Coastal Restaurant & Lounge		Address: 5401 Coastal Highway Ocea City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting:	☐	Violation:	☐ Yes	
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violations of Alcoholic Beverages Article – Section 33-2002 and Section 33-2703 Violations of the Board's Rules & Regulations – Rule 8, Rule 9, Rule 32.D.12 and Rule 32.D.14								
Applicants:		☐	Licensees:	☒	Representative:			
1. Ameerah Harris				1. Dirk Widdowson, Esquire				
2. Natethan Sample				2.				
3. Nina Yli-Piipari				3.				
Witnesses:				Protestant				
1.				1. Chief Raul Austin				
2.				2. Sgt Douglas Smith				
3.				3. Officer Connor Wisniewski				
				4. Jason Thompson (San Remo Resident)				
				5. Gregory Bott (San Remo Resident)				
				Exhibit				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 - Ocean City Fire Marshal Email Exchange				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated July 27, 2026, Violation Report, and Ocean City Police Department Case Report #2026-003119.				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Email from David Family				2. Board Exhibit #2 – Police Body Camera Footage				
3. Licensee's Exhibit #3 – San Remo Declaration				3. Board Exhibit #3 – Floor Plan & Deck				
4.				4. Board Exhibit #4 – Steppa Advertised Bottle Service				
5.				5. Board Exhibit #5 – Screen Shot "No ID At Door"				
6.				6. Board Exhibit #6 – VIP Section Sold Out				
7.				7. Board Exhibit #7 – General Section Bottle Included				
Hearing Minutes: The licensee's Natethan Sample, Ameerah Harris, Nina Yli-Piipari, along with their attorney Dirk Widdowson, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violations of Alcoholic Beverages Article – Section 33-2002 and Section 33-2703 Violations of the Board's Rules & Regulations – Rule 8, Rule 9, Rule 32.D.12 and Rule 32.D.14. The licensee's and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, III, Esquire states that Widdowson will give an opening statement after Board Attorney Fisher goes over the violations. Board Attorney states to clarify for the record they are here for a violation hearing for 2EZ Coastal Lounge for specific statutes, of the ones cited we will focus on Maryland Alcoholic Beverages Code § 33-208(a), which dictates a person may not play on licensed premises music that exceeds the noise level limits established under local law, in which the Board may regulate the playing time and noise level of playing music, if it disturbs the peace, tranquility, safety, and health of the neighborhood. Rule #9: All licensees operating an establishment will not disturb the peace, safety, tranquility of the neighborhood. Rule #8: A licensee may not offer "Bottle(s) Service" to a patron or consumer under the § 5-101(g) of the tax – General Article for the purpose of on premises consumption at a licensed premises. Rule 32.D.12: outlaws permitting either lewdness, immoral activities, brawls, unnecessary noises, including loud and disturbing music, unlawful conduct by the licensee, his/her agents or employees, which acts constitute a public nuisance. Rule 32.D.14: Violation of any condition placed on licensee or licensed premises, specifically the restriction on outdoor music at 10 p.m. on this specific license. Widdowson provided an opening statement on behalf of the licensee, Sample. He stated that the incident occurred during the business's grand opening. He emphasized that his client is willing to take responsibility for any future issues but noted his client's limited ability to control areas surrounding the property. He								

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added that his client hired eight security personnel for the event and complied with police instructions to reduce the music volume when the Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) visited the establishment around 11 p.m. According to Widdowson, only indoor music was played, and only one of the eight police reports referenced the deck area. He addressed references to a rapper named Steppa, explaining that Steppa was not promoted or paid by the establishment, did not perform, and had simply purchased two tables. Widdowson emphasized that his client was not involved with the promotional posting made by Steppa and asked the Board to consider the facts and the limits of the licensee's control over surrounding areas. Board Attorney Fisher Board Exhibit #1): Board's Investigation Report Dated July 27, 2026, Violation Report, and OCPD Case Report #2026-003119, (Board Exhibit #2): Police Body Camera footage, it contains the narrative of the details that happened on July 24, 2026 into July 25, 2026, Fisher summarized that officers responded for excessive noise, received several neighbor complaints, observed outdoor music after 10 p.m., witnessed full liquor bottles on tables consistent with prohibited bottle service, and documented large crowds on the deck creating disturbances that extended into the neighborhood.

Fisher asked Officer Wisniewski whether he had been called to 2EZ Lounge on the night of July 24, 2026, into the early morning hours of July 25, 2026, in response to complaints. Wisniewski stated that he had and noted that he believed there had been two prior complaints earlier that evening before he was dispatched, which is why he was instructed to bring a noise meter on this response. Fisher asked whether Wisniewski conducted noise readings upon arrival, and Wisniewski confirmed that he did. Fisher referenced (Board Exhibit #1) and stated that the noise readings were documented in the OCPD Police Report. Fisher asked whether Wisniewski was wearing a body camera at the time; Wisniewski confirmed that he was. The Board viewed the police body camera footage from the night of July 24, 2026., Fisher asked Wisniewski whether the video accurately depicted the scene, specifically as he approached the steps leading to the deck of 2EZ Lounge, he confirmed that it did. Fisher asked Wisniewski what he observed on the outside tables. He stated that he saw a multitude of liquor bottles, specifying that these were rum or beer bottles. Chairman Nichols referenced Wisniewski's statement in the video regarding one of the noise readings being close to seven decibels, and he confirmed that this was correct. Widdowson stated that the first noise reading ranged between 64 and 68 decibels, and the second ranged between 71 and 74 decibels. Fisher asked whether the video accurately reflected his experience that night, and Wisniewski answered yes. Fisher asked whether Wisniewski entered the inside of the establishment at any point, and he stated that he did not. Fisher asked whether there was music playing outside on the deck, Wisniewski confirmed that there was outdoor music, so stated that Sample indicated in the video that the music had been turned down when the police arrived, but that the noise readings were taken before Sample spoke with Sample. Wisniewski explained that officers had parked a block away from the establishment so the staff would not see them approaching, allowing for an accurate pre-contact noise measurement. He stated that the readings were above the permitted noise levels set by the Town of Ocean City and that these elevated readings were caused by the outdoor music. Fisher displayed (Board Exhibit #3), the Floor Plan of the Deck. Fisher asked Wisniewski to indicate where he had been standing during the noise measurement. Wisniewski identified and marked the location on the exhibit. Widdowson asked whether Wisniewski agreed that the noise detected during the readings came from multiple sources including vehicles/motorcycles passing on Coastal Highway, activity in the parking lot, and the deck area. Wisniewski stated that the noise was coming from close to the building itself, underneath, and from the deck. Widdowson asked about the level of traffic on Coastal Highway at that time of night, and stated that traffic was steady, which contributed to surrounding noise. Wisniewski confirmed that the building is located close to the highway. Widdowson referenced observation of liquor bottles on the table located on the deck and asked what type or brand of liquor was present. Wisniewski could not recall. Widdowson asked whether he investigated further by approaching the patrons at the table and asking where the liquor had come from. Wisniewski stated that he had not, so, explaining that the scene was very busy and crowded, and that it appeared some patrons were unhappy with police presence. He stated that his priority at that moment was speaking with the owners as quickly as possible. Widdowson asked where the music was coming from on the deck and whether Wisniewski had determined the exact source based on the floor plan when facing the front door of the establishment, most of the music appeared to be coming from the right side of the front door, which would be the north side of the deck. He stated that he did not directly identify the equipment or device producing the music. Widdowson asked whether Wisniewski was indicating that the music was being amplified from inside the building onto the deck. Wisniewski stated he had not said that. Widdowson then asked about a statement in the body camera footage where Wisniewski and another officer indicated the incident was not a violation and was simply being documented. Wisniewski responded that he did not think it was not a violation; he stated that he had referred to it as documentation and that he believed he told Sample that the matter was not criminal. Widdowson asked whether Wisniewski's intention in saying this was to reassure Sample that he was not "getting into trouble." Wisniewski stated that his intention was to ease Sample's mind. Widdowson noted that Wisniewski had nonetheless used the incident here today in support of the violation. Wisniewski stated that this was correct.

Fisher referenced Wisniewski's earlier testimony that the music was coming from the deck rather than the inside of the building, and Wisniewski confirmed this. Fisher asked whether he could determine if the music was coming from a speaker on the deck. Wisniewski explained that when he was standing on the deck and then moved closer to the door, the loudness of the interior music became apparent when the door opened. He stated that while standing on the north side of the building it was clear that the music on the deck itself was loud, but he could not be certain whether the outdoor sound came from a speaker on the deck, from a window that may have been

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open, or from the second doorway shown on the floor plan. Wisniewski stated that he did not initially know there was a second door, and that the door could have been open, but his first impression was that the music was coming from somewhere on the deck. Fisher asked whether Wisniewski was now stating that he was unsure whether the loud music originated from an outdoor speaker or was projecting from inside the building. Wisniewski stated that was correct. Fisher referenced a portion of the video where he believed Wisniewski asked Sample about playing music on the deck, and Sample responded that they would turn it down. Widdowson objected to Fisher's question, stating that Fisher was leading the witness. Chairman Nichols stated that the video clearly showed music being played on the deck after 10 p.m. Widdowson argued that there was no evidence proving that music was being played from the deck itself, and that Wisniewski could not identify the actual source of the sound. He stated that Sample would testify that there was no music on the deck, that there were no speakers on the deck, and that all music was played inside the building. Chairman Nichols asked whether a speaker was located near the door. Chairman Nichols pointed to an area near the top of a light fixture in video and asked Sample whether that object was a speaker. Sample stated that it was. Fisher asked Wisniewski whether, at that point in the video with the door closed, he could still hear music. Wisniewski stated that he could. Fisher asked whether Wisniewski and a fellow officer were discussing speakers on the video, which can be heard in the recording. He stated they were, and that the female officer had stated that the music was coming from the speaker. He stated that at the time he did not know whether it was a portable speaker and did not realize there was a wall-mounted speaker present. Chairman Nichols stated that he wanted to allow Commissioner Cropper to speak before continuing. Commissioner Cropper asked who provided security for the establishment that evening. Sample stated that the security staff were from Damage Control, a licensed independent contractor. Fisher asked Wisniewski to talk the Board through the noise-reading process. He explained that noise readings are typically taken from the location of the complainant, but in this case the complainant wished to remain anonymous and did not want to meet officers. As a result, the reading was taken from the neighboring property to the north of the building, underneath the condominium in the parking garage against a wall, which helped reduce highway noise to obtain an accurate reading, he then took a reading from the south side of the building, where there was less coverage, which may have resulted in a higher reading. However, he backed up approximately 100 feet from the fence line and obtained the reading over the fence. He explained that noise readings are taken over approximately 15 seconds and capture the lowest and highest measurements as well as the overall decibel level for that time period. These readings were verbally stated to Sample and documented in the written report. Fisher asked whether a jet flying overhead, motorcycle, or a loud vehicle would cause the reading to be retaken. Wisniewski stated that the reading would be redone if such interference occurred. Fisher asked whether he had to retake any readings, he stated that he did once on the north side of the building. His initial reading before moving to the other side of the wall was 68 decibels; after repositioning to the opposite side of the wall, further from street noise, the second reading was 64.5 decibels. He noted that the noise limit in Ocean City is 55 decibels. Fisher asked whether he charged Sample with a violation. Wisniewski stated that he did not. Fisher then asked whether Sample was violating the noise ordinance. He stated that he was but explained he did not issue a charge and instead reported the violation to his supervisor. Fisher stated that this was discussed with Sample in the video, and Wisniewski confirmed that it was. Chairman Nichols asked Wisniewski for clarification regarding a moment shown in the body camera footage where it appeared that the security staff were preventing him from entering the building. Chairman Nichols asked whether security told him to wait, or whether he was instructed not to go inside. He stated that he was somewhat confused during the interaction, noting that at the end of the video he commented that the staff are doing their job because even he could not go into the building." He explained that most bars and restaurants typically allow officers to enter freely to speak with management or patrons, and that this situation was unusual. Chairman Nichols stated that security staff in the video appeared unwilling to move aside and asked whether security asked him to wait outside or whether they said they would retrieve management. Wisniewski stated that security told him they were going to get management and later returned asking for more specific reasons why the police wanted to speak with the manager. He explained that he then provided additional details, and subsequently security went inside to notify Sample, who ultimately came out from the building to speak with officers. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample whether he had instructed the security guard to ask for more information before allowing police inside. Sample stated that he had not instructed security to do so. He said that as soon as the security guard informed him police were present, he immediately went out to meet them. Sample stated that he then asked Wisniewski whether he preferred to go downstairs where it was quieter, and they proceeded to speak in that area. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample if he had any explanation as to why the security guard behaved in that manner, and Sample stated he did not. Commissioner Pusey asked whether there was a capacity limit in place and whether security was counting the number of patrons entering the establishment. Sample stated that there was a capacity limit and that security was actively counting. Widdowson then entered (Licensee Exhibit #1): an email exchange with the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office. Widdowson stated that security staff were counting each patron who entered, and once the establishment reached capacity, no additional patrons were permitted to enter. He stated that due to the late hour, when patrons left the establishment, security did not permit new individuals to enter. Widdowson asked Wisniewski for clarification after viewing the video again, specifically whether Wisniewski had been asking Sample to control noise generated by the patrons, motorcycles, or vehicles outside, and whether that was the primary concern. Wisniewski stated that it was a collection of issues contributing to the overall disturbance.

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Sgt. Smith stated that noise violation charges or reports are not forwarded to the Noise Board or the Board of License Commissioners without supervisory approval. Fisher asked whether Officer Wisniewski handled the noise readings correctly. Sgt. Smith stated that he followed his training. Fisher then asked whether Sgt. Smith investigated after the incident. Sgt. Smith stated that he did. When he reported for duty at 7 a.m. the next morning, he was briefed by the midnight shift about the incident. He immediately began reviewing body camera footage and conducted what he described as a “social media dive” to determine what had occurred. Sgt. Smith stated that his initial understanding was that 2EZ Coastal Lounge and Restaurant was a family restaurant, not a nightclub. Fisher asked whether this was a normal procedure, and Sgt. Smith stated that it was. He explained that the department conducts a full investigation to determine whether an establishment disturbed the peace in the neighborhood. Fisher asked what Sgt. Smith discovered in his investigation. Sgt. Smith stated that he conducted extensive social media research and found that the event had been promoted by an individual known as “Steppa,” with advertisements linked to 2EZ Coastal Lounge promoting the grand opening party. Fisher entered (Board Exhibit #4): titled Steppa Advertised Bottle Service. Fisher asked what the evidence showed. Sgt. Smith stated that the post displayed 2EZ Lounge offering section packages, including VIP options listing bottle service for six people for \$200 with a bottle included, and packages for four people for \$170 with a bottle included. Sgt. Smith stated that upon seeing this information he immediately recognized that it would be an issue for the Board, particularly because he believed the business was intended to operate as a family restaurant. Fisher asked whether Sgt. Smith discovered the social media post himself. Sgt. Smith stated that he, along with the intelligence section of the police department, investigated the matter the following morning and spent considerable time researching the promoter and the associated webpage. Widdowson objected on grounds of hearsay. Fisher rephrased the question, asking Sgt. Smith whether he personally viewed the social media posts. Sgt. Smith stated that he personally reviewed the post the morning after the incident. Fisher asked whether the exhibit accurately depicted the actual post from the social media page. Sgt. Smith confirmed that it did. Fisher then entered (Board Exhibit #5): a screenshot containing the phrase “No ID At Door.” Fisher asked Sgt. Smith what the evidence showed. Sgt. Smith stated that the screenshot was taken from the promoter “Steppa’s” Instagram page referencing 2EZ Coastal Lounge and stating, “No ID At Door,” with individuals required to be 21 only for alcoholic beverages. Sgt. Smith expressed concern regarding bottle service and questioned how the establishment could ensure that minors were not consuming alcohol if patrons were allowed to enter without ID checks. He stated that he created this post the day after the event and affirmed the exhibit accurately depicted the post.

Widdowson asked Sgt. Smith whether he was present at the establishment when the incident occurred. Sgt. Smith stated that he was not. Widdowson then asked whether Sgt. Smith should have directed officers to inform Sample or others that the incident would be investigated to determine whether a violation would be issued. Sgt. Smith stated that he could not give a simple yes or no answer. He explained that violations may involve multiple components, including ordinance violations and peace and order violations. He added that when officers state they are not making a physical arrest or issuing a citation at that time, it does not necessarily mean charges will not be filed later, as follow-up review is always an option. Widdowson stated that Wisniewski did not explain this to Sample in detail, and Sgt. Smith acknowledged that the officer could have chosen better wording. He added that Wisniewski had already responded to the establishment earlier that night and attempted to diffuse the situation, and reported feeling uncomfortable and not welcome at the scene. Widdowson asked whether Sgt. Smith was indicating that “Steppa” was a promoter of the event. Sgt. Smith stated that all promotional material appeared to be linked to the 2EZ social media page. Widdowson asked whether 2EZ itself had posted the material. Sgt. Smith stated that the event had been posted but was no longer visible. Widdowson asked who had posted the material introduced as evidence, which appeared to show initials BKW associated with “Steppa.” Sgt. Smith confirmed this and explained that typically, an establishment posts its own event and then links with promoters or partners, consistent with standard social media practices. Widdowson asked whether Sgt. Smith was suggesting that Sample should be carding patrons before allowing them onto the premises. Sgt. Smith stated that no one under 21 is permitted to loiter on premises primarily dedicated to the service of alcohol, and expressed concern that the establishment could not properly monitor alcohol consumption when bottle service was being advertised, patrons were not being checked at the door, and alcoholic beverages could be consumed away from direct staff oversight. Fisher asked Sgt. Smith to clarify whether the Instagram posts were made before, during, and after the event. Sgt. Smith stated that was correct and added that the original post appeared on 2EZ Coastal’s webpage, with “Steppa” serving as the promoter of the event and 2EZ sharing the promotional material. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample who monitors the 2EZ Coastal Lounge social media page and whether he was aware of the post referenced in testimony. Sample stated that the business employs a social media staff person, but he himself had not been aware of the posts. Commissioner Cropper asked why, if someone is responsible for monitoring the webpage, Sample was not notified of the posts. Sample explained that on Instagram a person can tag another account, and unless the account holder or administrator clicks the tag, they might not see the post. He stated that his social media staff did not click on the tag, which is why the posts were not brought to his attention. Chairman Nichols asked for clarification, noting that Sample is the business owner and licensee and yet did not know what was being placed on the business’s social media. Sample stated he was unaware of these posts at the time and emphasized that he never asked or invited “Steppa” to post anything on behalf of the establishment. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the statements in the posts were true or false. Sample stated that the selling of tables was accurate, and the purchase of a table included a complimentary bottle of champagne, but no bottles of spirits or other alcoholic beverages were sold. Chairman Nichols

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asked whether Sample had been aware of these posts at the time they were made. Sample stated he had not seen any of them until recently. Commissioner Cropper explained that someone could post information online, tag 2EZ, and Sample would not know unless he actively looked at or responded to the post. Sample agreed and reiterated that unless he clicked on the tag or engaged with the post, he would not know it was there. Commissioner Pusey asked whether posts require approval before appearing on the business page. Sample stated that they do not. Chairman Nichols asked how the posts were removed. Sample stated that “Steppa” must have taken them down. Fisher asked whether posts can be reshared on Instagram, and Sample stated that they can. Fisher asked whether the posts in question were reshared on 2EZ’s page. Sample stated that he saw no indication that they had been reshared. Commissioner Cropper asked why “Steppa” would post content about 2EZ and tag the webpage. Sample explained that “Steppa” had visited the establishment the night before the event, which was the first time. Sample had met him. Sample had told “Steppa” about the upcoming opening, and “Steppa” told him he planned to attend. Sample speculated that the “sold out” information came from 2EZ’s own Instagram but said he was unsure about the rest of the content. Commissioner Pusey asked whether tickets were sold for the event. Sample stated that they sold tables, not tickets. Commissioner Cropper confirmed that Sample did not create the post and that it had been tagged to his Instagram account. Sample agreed. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample to confirm that he applied for a restaurant license. Sample stated that he did. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the establishment operated more like a nightclub. Sample stated that it depended on the area. He explained that the kitchen remained open all night, serving food, and the layout includes a family dining area with booths on the left side and a bar area with approximately twenty high top tables on the right. He stated that patrons may dine on the left side, gather on the right side if they want a livelier environment or go to the patio to do either. Commissioner Cropper asked whether Sample had concerns about patrons congregating outside when he applied for the restaurant license. Sample stated that he was concerned but explained that the grand opening brought unexpected crowd behavior. He stated that certain things occurred that he had not foreseen and would handle differently in the future. He emphasized that this was a single incident that escalated unexpectedly. Fisher entered (Board Exhibit #6): VIP Section Sold Out, and (Board Exhibit #7): General Section Bottle Included. Fisher asked Sgt. Smith what these exhibits contained. Sgt. Smith stated that one showed images referencing the VIP section being sold out, while the other advertised general section availability for \$170 for four people, with a bottle included. Widdowson objected, stating that he believed the image was not a blow-up of the actual picture and was unreadable. Chairman Nichols asked Widdowson whether he agreed with the enlarged version, and Widdowson noted that he did not, noting again that he could not read it. Chairman Nichols then read the content aloud to clarify and stated that it appeared to be a different post. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample where he was when the doorman returned a second time to speak with officers. Sample stated he was in the kitchen. Commissioner Cropper asked whether Sample knew what was happening during the interaction between security and police. Sample stated he did not. He said that once he learned the police were present, he attempted to control what he could and wanted to ensure he understood the expectations of operating a restaurant. He stated that factors such as motorcycles, people playing loud music, vehicles, and other circumstances contributed to the incident, and he expressed appreciation for the officers’ response. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample how many security staff had on duty. Sample stated that eight were present. Commissioner Cropper asked why a restaurant would need eight security guards. Sample stated that originally five were planned, but the head of the security company increased the number to eight to maintain order. Widdowson asked Sgt. Smith whether he knew who posted (Board Exhibit #7) during his investigation. Sgt. Smith stated that it would have been by whoever manages 2EZ’s social media page. Fisher asked whether (Board Exhibit #4) had been pulled from 2EZ’s Instagram page. Sgt. Smith stated that it had and noted that it was removed after he began reviewing 2EZ’s social media activity.

Fisher asked Jason Thompson whether he was in relation to 2EZ Coastal Lounge. Thompson stated that he lives on the west side of 2EZ, in the San Remo condominium building, and that he serves as President of the HOA. Fisher asked whether Thompson was familiar with 2EZ, and Thompson stated that he was. Fisher asked whether Thompson was home on the night of July 24, 2026, into the morning of July 25, 2026, and how far his residence is from the establishment. Thompson stated that he was home that night and that he lives approximately a couple of hundred feet away. Fisher asked Thompson to describe what he experienced that night. Thompson stated that around 11:30 p.m. he and his wife took their dog outside. He said there were people “everywhere” throughout the parking garage. He explained that condominium owners have assigned, numbered parking spaces, and each owner is allocated two designated spots. Thompson stated that people were parked in owners’ spaces and became confrontational when asked to move. Thompson went to the restaurant to speak with Sample, noting that he had met Sample a couple weeks earlier to introduce himself as a neighbor. Thompson stated that Sample immediately came out, said he would take care of the situation, and brought one of the security personnel with him. Thompson explained that he told Sample people were loitering in the garage and that the area needed to be controlled. Thompson stated that this loitering continues to occur even now. Thompson said Sample appeared to be addressing the situation, so he and his wife returned home. Thompson said he is the voice of the San Remo association and was relaying the concerns of the ownership. Fisher asked Thompson if the music was loud when he went outside that night. Thompson stated that the music, traffic, and garage area were loud. He said there was a car playing music, people everywhere, and a strong smell of marijuana. Fisher asked if there was music being played on the front deck. Thompson stated that there was music playing on the deck at approximately 11:30 p.m. Commissioner Cropper asked Thompson whether the video footage accurately depicted what he experienced. Thompson responded that the video

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“does not do it justice,” and that additional pictures he provided showed a far more chaotic scene. Chairman Nichols asked whether what Thompson witnessed occurred on San Remo property. Thompson stated that it did. Widdowson asked Thompson who Dottie Davis is. Thompson stated that she is the HOA secretary. Fisher entered (Licensee’s Exhibit #2): an email from the Davis family. Widdowson referenced a May 22, 2026, email sent to the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners, which Thompson acknowledged being aware of. The email referenced no objection to use of the commercial property attached to the condominium. Fisher entered (Licensee’s Exhibit #3): the San Remo Declaration. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the declaration and bylaws were included in the exhibit. Widdowson stated that they were and read from page 202 of the declaration stating that the association is responsible for care, upkeep, and surveillance of the condominium. Widdowson asked Thompson whether the parking area is a common area of San Remo. Thompson stated it is not, explaining the spaces are deeded. Fisher emphasized Thompson was present as a concerned citizen regarding noise and neighborhood tranquility. Chairman Nichols stated the Board’s concern was not the parking lot, and that other issues were more relevant to the hearing. Commissioner Cropper asked Widdowson whether he agreed that part of the licensee’s responsibility is ensuring the safety and well-being of patrons. Widdowson agreed. Widdowson stated Sample felt embarrassed by the incident, was attempting to handle the situation, and was cooperating with police. Commissioner Cropper asked whether it was within the licensee’s responsibility to ensure patrons parked in designated spaces assigned to the restaurant. Widdowson responded that doing so would require staff stationed in the lot questioning each vehicle. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample whether he could have asked security to assist. Sample stated that they were still waiting for additional security to arrive and that parking issues were not the primary concern at that moment. Fisher stated that the parking matter was between Sample and the condominium and that the Board was not making decisions about parking spaces. Thompson stated he had not. Thompson explained that when Sample presented his business plan to the condominium, he described the business as a family restaurant serving brunch, lunch, and dinner, which the association supported. Thompson stated that the business now operates as a nightclub, opening at 5 p.m. with events beginning around 9 p.m., and that there is no brunch service. Thompson stated that this was not what the condominium ownership agreed to, and he was present voicing concerns over safety for families and residents due to the clientele coming in and out of the establishment.

Witness Gregory Bott stated that he has lived at San Remo for sixteen years and emphasized that the concerns regarding 2EZ Coastal Lounge are not solely about the operation of a restaurant, but about the safety and well-being of residents living in the condominium. He expressed additional concerns about the cleanliness of the parking lot. Bott stated that for the past two months, there has been trash scattered throughout the lot, with bags of garbage placed beside the dumpster rather than inside it. He stated that the noise in the area has become “ridiculous.” Bott stated that 2EZ represents itself as a restaurant serving brunch and lunch, yet the business does not open until 5:00 p.m. He expressed concern that the establishment is operating as a nightclub rather than a restaurant. Bott stated that despite Sample claiming not to know what was happening, anyone looking at Facebook would see posts advertising events, including a bikini party scheduled for the coming weekend with a \$10 cover charge. Bott stated that such events are not consistent with a restaurant and are indicative of nightclub activity. Bott stated he is concerned for his family and for visitors who rent units in the building. He explained that renters who arrive late in the evening may find they cannot access their assigned parking spaces because individuals parked there refuse to move. He stated his concern is about families with children and stressed that he does not feel safe in his own unit. Widdowson asked Bott what specifically made him feel uncomfortable. Bott responded that the video footage shown during the hearing “spoke for itself.” Attorney Fisher asked Bott whether he was at San Remo on the night of the incident. Bott stated he was not, and that he was made aware of the situation through several videos sent to him from door-camera systems.

Widdowson asked Sample whether he was present on the night of the incident. Sample stated that he was present at the establishment on the evening of the incident. He testified that he arrived at approximately 2:30 p.m. and remained until 3:30 a.m., present for the entirety of the evening. When asked whether a special event was held that night, Sample confirmed that it was the grand opening of 2EZ Coastal Lounge. Widdowson asked whether Sample had advertised the event. Sample stated that he had advertised it on social media. Widdowson then asked whether Sample knew or had a relationship with the rapper known as “Steppa.” Sample stated that he did not, and that he first met Steppa on July 23rd, the day before the grand opening. Sample stated that he never asked Steppa to post anything on social media and that he did not provide any content or information that later appeared online, referencing (Board Exhibit #6). Sample stated he believed Steppa was promoting the event for his own personal gain and confirmed that he did not pay Steppa any money. He explained that Steppa had purchased two tables that night. Widdowson questioned Sample regarding security staffing. Sample stated that the evening began with two security personnel upstairs and two downstairs. Later in the evening, security management made the decision to call in additional staff because they were concerned the situation was becoming difficult to control. Sample stated that once the event began to escalate and vehicles were parked in unauthorized locations, he made an announcement that cars would be towed. Security staff then went into the parking lot to address noise coming from vehicles. Widdowson asked Sample about his interactions with law enforcement that evening, referencing the previously viewed video. Sample stated that police arrived around 11:30 p.m. and informed him they had received a noise complaint. Sample stated he told officers that he had instructed security to turn down the music and to get patrons under control both inside the establishment and on the patio. He stated that no additional patrons were being allowed inside at the door. When asked whether he played music on the deck, Sample stated that he did

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 2EZ COSATAL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE – LICENSE #980
AUGUST 19, 2026

not, and that the only music he played was inside the building. He noted it was possible someone outside had a personal speaker. Sample stated there was no live music or DJ, only house music playing inside. Sample stated he did not receive a citation that evening. He testified that when OCPD returned later, officers asked what steps were being taken to control the noise. Sample stated he informed them of the actions he had directed, including shutting off all music by 1:30 a.m. and ceasing alcohol service at the same time. Widdowson asked Sample whether he sold bottles of alcohol that night. Sample stated that he did not sell bottles alcohol the only bottles sold were bottles of champagne. Sample stated that after viewing the video, he recognized champagne bottles but did not recognize any of the other bottles seen on the outside deck. Widdowson asked Sample to confirm his testimony that no bottles of alcohol were sold that night other than champagne. Sample confirmed this, stating they also sold “shot flights,” and never intended to offer bottle service. Commissioner Pusey stated for clarification that champagne is alcohol, and Sample acknowledged that but clarified he did not sell what is generally referred to as “spirits.” Sample replied, “Correct.” Widdowson reviewed with Sample the numerous OCPD reports regarding that night. Sample stated he knew there was a present of officers trying to get the crowds under control at those times. Widdowson asked Sample are you willing to accept recommendation from OCPD, this Board and Condo HOA’s for future action to prevent the incident that occurred on June 25th from happening again. Sample replied “Absolutely,” Widdowson asked Sample is there anything else you would like to share with this Board. Sample, thanked OCPD, San Remo Residents for expressing their concerns and hope we can find a common ground.

Fisher questioned Sample regarding the establishment’s social media activity. Sample stated that a team responsible for managing all the establishment’s social media accounts and that he himself was not aware of what had been posted on those pages. Fisher asked whether Sample would have known about the content displayed in (Board Exhibit #4) if it had been posted. Sample replied that he would not have known personally, stating, “What I see is the name of Steppa.” Fisher asked whether Sample disputed the terms advertised in the post, specifically the pricing shown for bottle service. Sample stated that he told Steppa the “Sold Out” message was posted for Steppa’s personal gain. Sample further stated that he and Steppa had discussed the pricing for bottle service the day before the event. Chairman Nichols asked Sample whether Steppa was a business partner, referencing Sample’s earlier statement about Steppa’s personal gain. Sample stated that Steppa was not a partner and clarified that Steppa’s personal gain referred to Steppa’s claim on social media that his posting caused the event to sell out, which resulted in Steppa gaining additional followers. Fisher asked when Sample first became aware of Steppa’s social media postings. Sample stated he became aware of them shortly after receiving the Board’s packet. Fisher asked how Steppa knew about the bottle service. Sample stated that he had told Steppa the pricing for bottle service and VIP seating, and that the establishment also had a poster displayed at the front door advertising the offerings. Fisher asked whether Sample recognized the bottles shown on the tables in the outdoor deck area. Sample stated that some of the bottles appeared to be the champagne bottles that the establishment had sold, but he did not recognize the other bottles shown in the footage. He stated that some customers may have brought bottles into the premises. Fisher asked whether the establishment allows patrons to bring alcohol in. Sample stated, “No,” and added that it was insane that night,” implying it was difficult to maintain control of the situation. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample whether the establishment was currently serving lunch. Sample stated that at this time they were trying to regroup due to handling event and staffing issues, and that they planned to launch their brunch service with a soft opening. Commissioner Cropper stated, “Don’t you think you should get your restaurant managed before trying to host big events?” Sample replied that his intention for future events was to offer outdoor gatherings with drink specials, games, and comedy shows. He stated that he did not want the soft opening event to define the establishment moving forward. Chairman Nichols addressed Sample, noting that he had held his license for many days. He referenced the minutes from the June 17, 2026, Board meeting, during which the property owner assured the Board that the establishment would not negatively affect the safety of the surrounding area. Chairman Nichols noted that Sample stated during that meeting that he understood and agreed to ensure safety and compliance with all Board rules and regulations. He also noted that during that meeting the Board discussed numerous concerns due to past violations of that same property. Commissioner Pusey questioned Sample about the timeline of the evening and asked how the situation escalated. Sample stated that they were not allowing additional patrons to enter the establishment and were asking people to leave, which resulted in individuals lingering in the parking lot. He stated that both he and security had difficulty getting people to clear the area. Sample told the Board that there had been no issues since the opening night. Chairman Nichols stated that this was not correct and that the Board had received concerns from surrounding residents as well as reports from the Ocean City Police Department. Sample stated he was not aware of any additional complaints from residents.

Sgt. Snyder stated that multiple officers were deployed to the scene, along with the K9 unit. Pepper balls were dispersed, and arrests were made. Sgt. Snyder described the situation as chaotic, stating that many individuals were not cooperative and summarizing the scene as, “It was a mess.” A resident of San Remo also testified, stating that several individuals appeared intoxicated and were climbing the condominium’s railings, creating significant safety concerns for residents. Sgt. Snyder gave a statement on behalf of the Ocean City Police Department. He stated that OCPD had been monitoring the establishment and emphasized that the department had not been aware that the business was operating as a nightclub. He stated, “This is a nightclub,” and explained that in the department’s opinion, if the establishment is to operate as a restaurant, the Board should consider taking the same action it previously took with another establishment known as “Toast,” which involved removing the privilege to play music until the licensee demonstrated they

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 2EZ COSATAL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE – LICENSE #980
AUGUST 19, 2026

were operating as a restaurant. Sgt. Snyder stated that he was present when 2EZ Coastal Lounge received its license and had heard nothing suggesting the business intended to operate as a nightclub.

Capt. Austin addressed the Board and provided further testimony regarding the incident and ongoing concerns. He stated that Sample did reach out to the OCPD seeking guidance, and that he was willing to work with Sample and his staff moving forward. Capt. Austin expressed his greatest concern related to the involvement of social media promoters, describing this as a significant issue currently affecting Ocean City and other jurisdictions. He discussed the prevalence of "pop-ups" and "takeovers," events organized and amplified rapidly through social media. Capt. Austin stated that his primary concern stemmed from what occurred in the parking lot in June, which he described as a "mini pop-up," noting that such events are often promoted online without the establishment's full awareness. He said that while Sample was correct in stating that promoters seek personal gain through clicks and engagement, he found it difficult to believe that neither Sample nor any member of his staff knew about the promotional posting associated with the grand opening. Austin stressed that such posts can and should be monitored and controlled, doing so may prevent incidents like those that occurred. Capt. Austin emphasized that Sample has a responsibility to control who comes to his establishment and how events are represented online. He stated, "I wish you a successful business, but I would not like to have my officers at your establishment to help you control your patrons." He advised Sample to be extremely cautious when working with promoters, noting that some promoters are involved in crime-related or gang-related activity. He stated that the promoter involved in this incident has documented connections to gang-related incidents and urged Sample to be vigilant in preventing such individuals from influencing his business operations. Widdowson in the closing statement stated that what happened at the opening of his establishment many mistakes were made and owners take responsibly and apologize to law enforcement surrounding residents, and the Board. The licensees will make every attempt to work with OCPD and the residents to ensure safety and noise are controlled.

The Board went into closed session. The Board is acting in its Quasi-Judicial capacity and is not subject to the Open Meeting Act pursuant to Section 3-103 of the General Provisions Articles of the annotated Code of Maryland.

The Board found that the violations did occur on June 24, 2026, and imposed the following fines and restrictions; Rule #9 (Disturbing The Peace) Board suspended the license beginning Wednesday, August 19, 2026 through Wednesday, September 2, 2026; may reopen selling alcoholic beverages on Thursday, September 3, 2026. R #32.D.14 (Music Outside After Allowed Time Restriction) Board issued a \$1,000 fine the fine must be paid by cash or certified funds prior to suspension being lifted, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article Section 33-208 (Music Exceeded Noise Limits Under Local Law) and modified the license restrictions as it relates to live entertainment music, and background music, to all only being allowed between the hours of 4 P.M. until 8 P.M. The fine was paid on September 3, 2026.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED INSIDE WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PIECES NON-AMPLIFIED FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. FIVE HOURS PER WEEK OR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AMPLIFIED ALLOWED INSIDE WITH A MAXIMUM OF THREE PIECE FIVE HOURS PER WEEK FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. NON-AMPLIFIED AND AMPLIFIED CANNOT BE AT THE SAME TIME. INSIDE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, NO DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED, OUTSIDE SPEAKERS ALLOWED FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO POOL TABLES ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE									
Time Hearing Ended: 7:05 P									



Worcester County

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

1:05 -

Meeting/Mila's Café (Tentatively Approved)

Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License

Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress

11604 Coastal Highway/Ocean City



Worcester County Board of License Commissioners

Meeting/Mila's Café (Tentatively Approved)

Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License

Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress
11604 Coastal Highway/Ocean City

Licensed Liquor Establishments

Off Premise Sale

- Beer
- Wine
- Beer, Liquor
- Beer, Wine
- Beer, Wine, Liquor
- Not Permitted
- New Application



Mila's Cafe –Provide Update on Licensed Premises– License #973

License No.	Class	License Type	Off Premise Sale	Business Name	Distance (Linear Feet)
591	B	BWL	N	CAROUSEL HOTEL	347.77 ft
707	B	BW	N	PIZZA TUGO'S	445.16 ft
574	A	BW	BW	BEER BELLIES	454.16 ft
169	D	BWL	BW	GREENE TURTLE	463.7 ft
356	A	BWL	BWL	GOLD COAST BEER, WINE & LIQUOR	819.68 ft
534	B	BWL	N	SOPHIA'S RESTAURANT	1,003.3 ft
883	B	BWL	N	NORI SUSHI BAR & GRILL	1,049.85 ft
923	D	BW	BW	BUZZED WORD	1,172.95 ft
269	A	BW	BW	7-11	1,255.89 ft
628	B	BWL	BW	CRABCAKE FACTORY	1,302.03 ft
369	B	BWL	N	WHISKERS SALOON	1,307.74 ft
921	B	BWL	N	OCHO RIOS JERK AND TINGS	1,343.86 ft
916	B	BWL	N	FAST EDDIE'S	1,443.6 ft
185	D	BWL	BWL	GOLDEN SANDS CLUB CONDOMINIUM	1,988.39 ft
846	B	BWL	N	TAIL CHASERS RESTAURANT AND DOCK BAR	2,098.7 ft
15	B	BWL	N	ASHORE RESORT	2,761.6 ft
774	B	BWL	N	GROTTO PIZZA	2,933.42 ft



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 10, 2026 at approximately 2:26 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 10, 2026 at approximately 2:26 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 10, 2026 at approximately 2:26 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 10, 2026 at approximately 2:26 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 2:18 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 2:26 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café



Inspector Pembroke took this picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 2:18 p.m. through the window of Mila's Café

~~57-087-9121~~

* Business Phone No.

Received 5-19-05

APD

WORCESTER COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LAW

APPLICATION FOR A CLASS "B" Bulk 7 Day LICENSE

"NEW APPLICATION"

For the use of:

(Check one) An Individual ☐ Partnership ☐ Corporation ☐ Unincorporated Association ☐ Limited Liability Co. ☒

To the Board of License Commissioners Worcester County.

Date _____, 20____

Application is made by the undersigned under the provisions of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, title "Alcoholic Beverages," for the above license, and the applicant(s) submit(s) and certify(ies) to the following information required by the Article.

Fill in all the blanks:

Applications will NOT be accepted without all Applicant information, including middle name.

1. Applicant(s)

(1) Full Name Lynn Tupper Lilliston

Residence _____

Date of Birth _____

Period of Residence 35 yrs in Wor. County 45 yrs

Place of Birth _____

Naturalized at _____ Year _____

Telephone Number _____

Race Caucasian Sex F

(2) Full Name Shaun Andrew Bauer

Residence _____

Date of Birth _____

Period of Residence 2 yrs in Wor. County 2 yrs

Place of Birth _____

Naturalized at _____ Year _____

Telephone Number _____

Race Caucasian Sex M

(3) Full Name _____

Residence _____

Date of Birth _____

Period of Residence _____ in Wor. County _____

Place of Birth _____

Naturalized at _____ Year _____

Telephone Number _____

Race _____ Sex _____

* Shanisan Uthayakumay - Manager (Temporary)
2. The applicant(s) is/are citizen(s) of the United States, and (if the application is for an individual or a partnership), has/have been for two years next preceding the filing of this application (a) resident(s) of Worcester County. The applicant(s) (if applying as a qualifying individual for a corporation) is a registered voter and taxpayer in Worcester County and shall also have resided there for at least two years prior to the filing of this application. The applicant(s) thus qualified is/are: 1(☒) 2(☐) 3(☐) (Check number to correspond with name(s) listed above.)

* 3. State the Retail Sales Tax No.: applied for

4. If a corporation, state corporate name and trade name, if any:

Mila's Cafe, LLC

If other than a corporation, state trade name to be used:

5. Address of place to be licensed (Give street number or accurate description): 11604 Coastal Highway, Unit 101

Ocean City, MD, Unit #

A. Nearest intersecting street: 116th Approximate distance: _____ feet

B. Tax District where located: 10th Is this an application for a new license? yes

C. Is this a transfer from a present licensee? no From Whom? _____

(This Board must be furnished releases by the State Comptroller's Office approving the bulk sales transfer and clearing all tax accounts before any license will be transferred.)

D. Are you represented by an attorney? Whom: Hugh Cropper Tel. No.: 410 213 2601

Address: hcropper@bbcmfaw.com



Worcester County

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

1:15 -

Meeting/Sand & Cedar Taverna (Tentatively Approved)
Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress
11070 Cathell Road/Berlin



**BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
FOR WORCESTER COUNTY
STAFF REPORT
NARRATIVE**

Type Provide update on licensed premises construction progress

Date :10/1/2026

License No: 956

Class: "B"

Type: Beer – Wine – Liquor 7 Day

APPLICANT(S): 1. Peter S. Elias 2. Karamjeet Singh
3. 4.

TRADE NAME: Sand and Cedar Taverna

CORP: Seven-Star Hospitality of OC, LLC

LOCATION: 11070 Cathell Road, Berlin

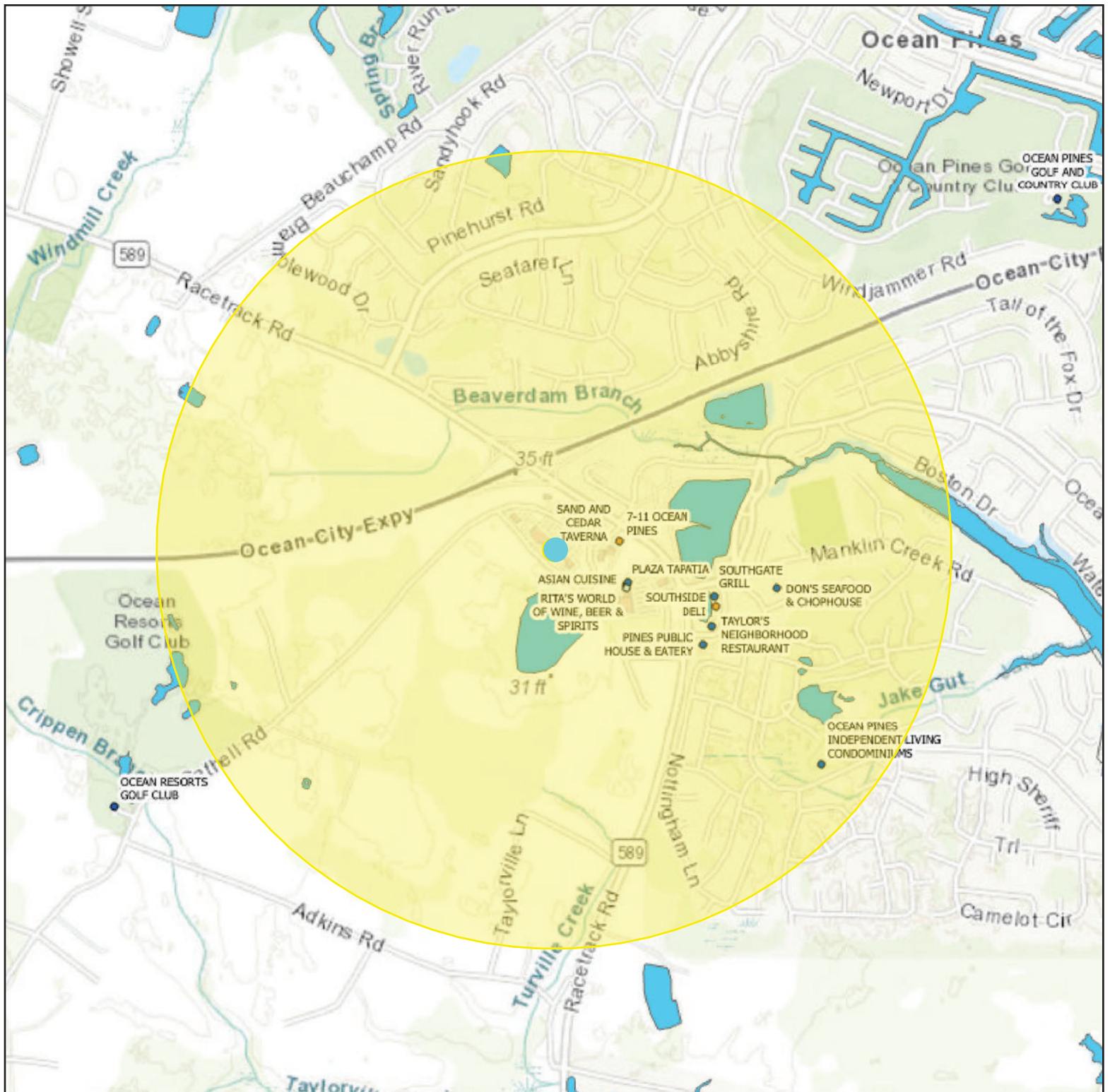
Restrictions: Live entertainment allowed inside with a maximum of four pieces amplified two days per week until 11 p.m., music technician allowed two days per week until 11 p.m., doors must be closed during live entertainment, no disc jockey, no games allowed, no pool tables allowed, off sale of beer, wine and liquor in factory sealed containers

Licensees Peter Elais and Karamjeet Singh are being brought in to provide an update on the progress of the Sand and Cedar Taverna. The Board had previously approved an application for a Class "B" Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day license on December 11, 2023. On August 21, 2024, the Board approved the request to expand the premises and to provide the Liquor License Administrator April Payne a copy of the lease for the additional expansion which is planned to offer more dining space.

Mr. Elias appeared before the Board again to give an update on the progress of Sand and Cedar Taverna at the February 18, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Elias stated he was hoping for a May 2026 opening. The Board decided Mr. Elias had to obtain all County permits for construction and occupancy. At the direction of Liquor License Administrator, April Payne, Inspector Pembroke did a site inspection on August 31, 2026, at approximately 1:11 p.m. Inspector Pembroke observed there was a bar in the front window but no construction workers or anyone inside the premises doing work at that time. Inspector Pembroke did see a notice that was taped to the front doors of the premises from the Law Offices of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, PA for a Failure to Pay Rent Action for the amount of \$20,479.65. As of Monday October 5, 2026, there are not any new Building permits that have been issued for that property by the Worcester County Building Department.

Joseph Pembroke
Liquor License Inspector

April Payne
Liquor License Administrator



Worcester County Board of License Commissioners

Meeting/Sand & Cedar Taverna (Tentatively Approved)
 Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License
 Provide update on Licensed Premises – Construction Progress
 11070 Cathell Road/Berlin

Development Review & Permitting - Liquor License Control

Licensed Liquor Establishments

Off Premise Sale

- Beer
- Wine
- Beer, Liquor
- Beer, Wine
- Beer, Wine, Liquor
- Not Permitted
- New Application



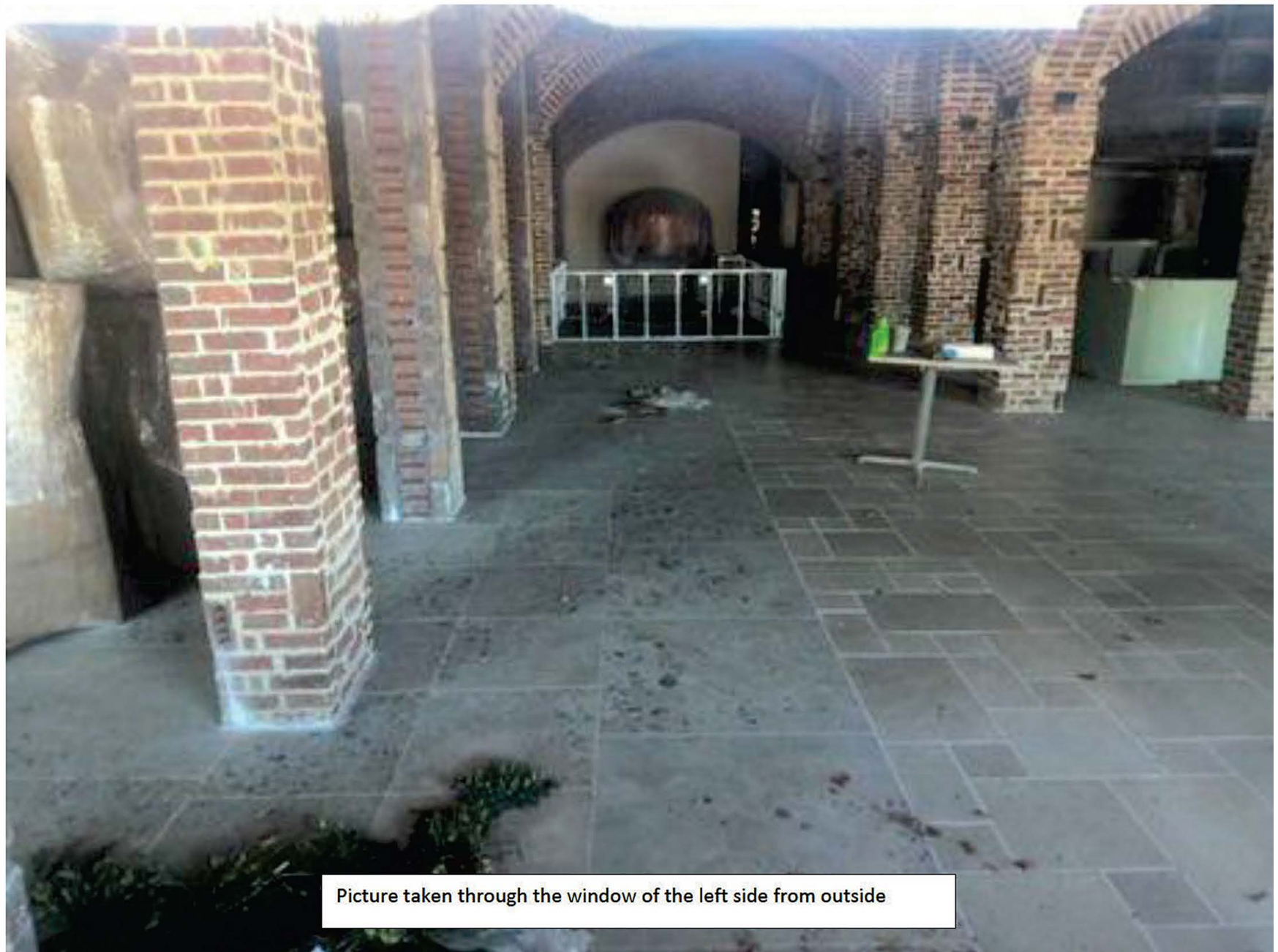
Sand and Cedar Taverna –Provide Update on Licensed Premises – License #956					
License No.	Class	License Type	Off Premise Sale	Business Name	Distance (Linear Feet)
250	A	BW	BW	7-11 OCEAN PINES	0.16 mi
683	A	BWL	BWL	RITA'S WORLD OF WINE, BEER & SPIRITS	0.2 mi
975	B	BW	N	ASIAN CUISINE	0.2 mi
546	B	BWL	N	PLAZA TAPATIA	0.2 mi
843	B	BWL	N	SOUTHGATE GRILL	0.42 mi
548	A	BW	BW	SOUTHSIDE DELI	0.42 mi
549	B	BWL	N	TAYLOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT	0.43 mi
887	B	BWL	N	PINES PUBLIC HOUSE & EATERY	0.44 mi
981	B	BWL	N	BRINE OYSTER SOCIAL	0.56 mi
706	B	BWL	N	OCEAN PINES INDEPENDENT LIVING CONDOMINIUMS	0.85 mi
250	A	BW	BW	7-11 OCEAN PINES	0.16 mi



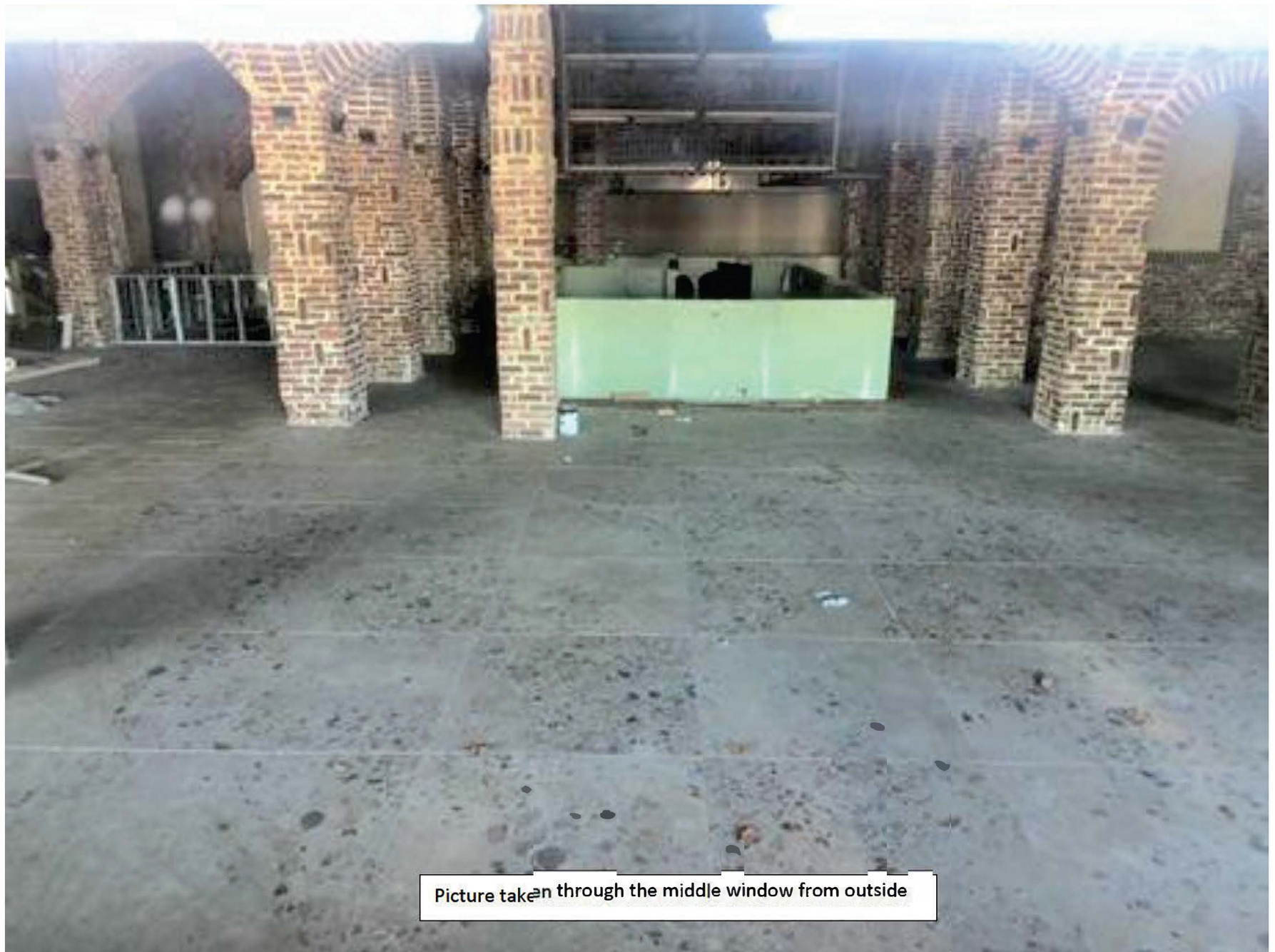
Front entrance to premises



Picture taken through the window of right side from outside



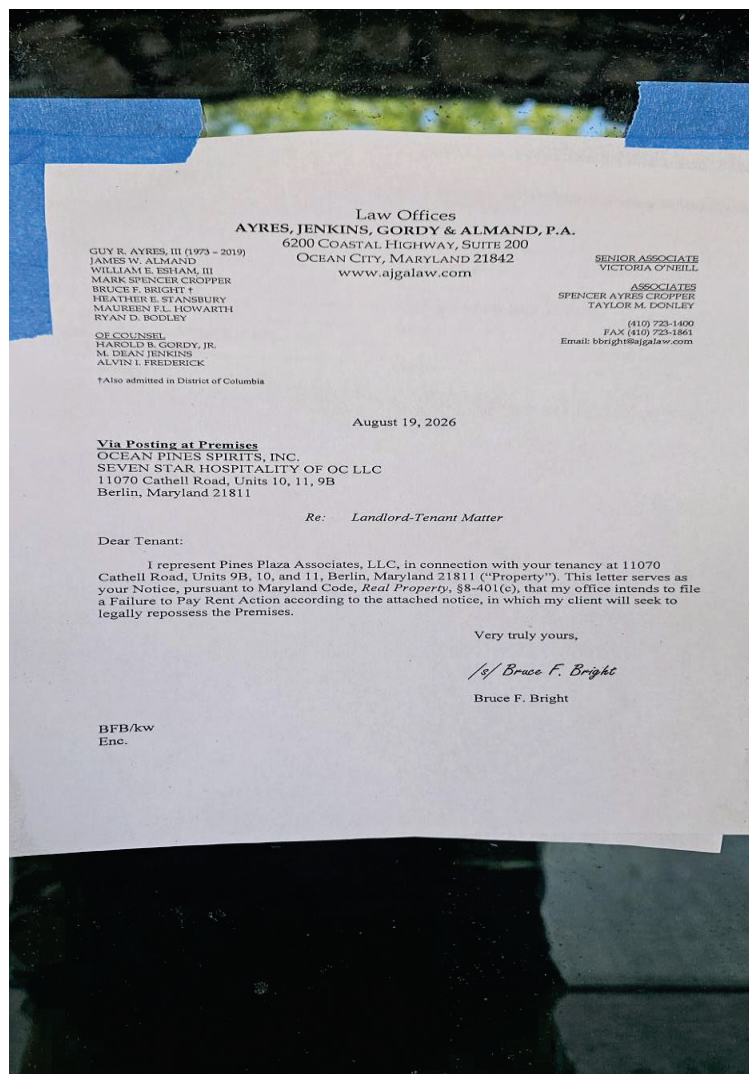
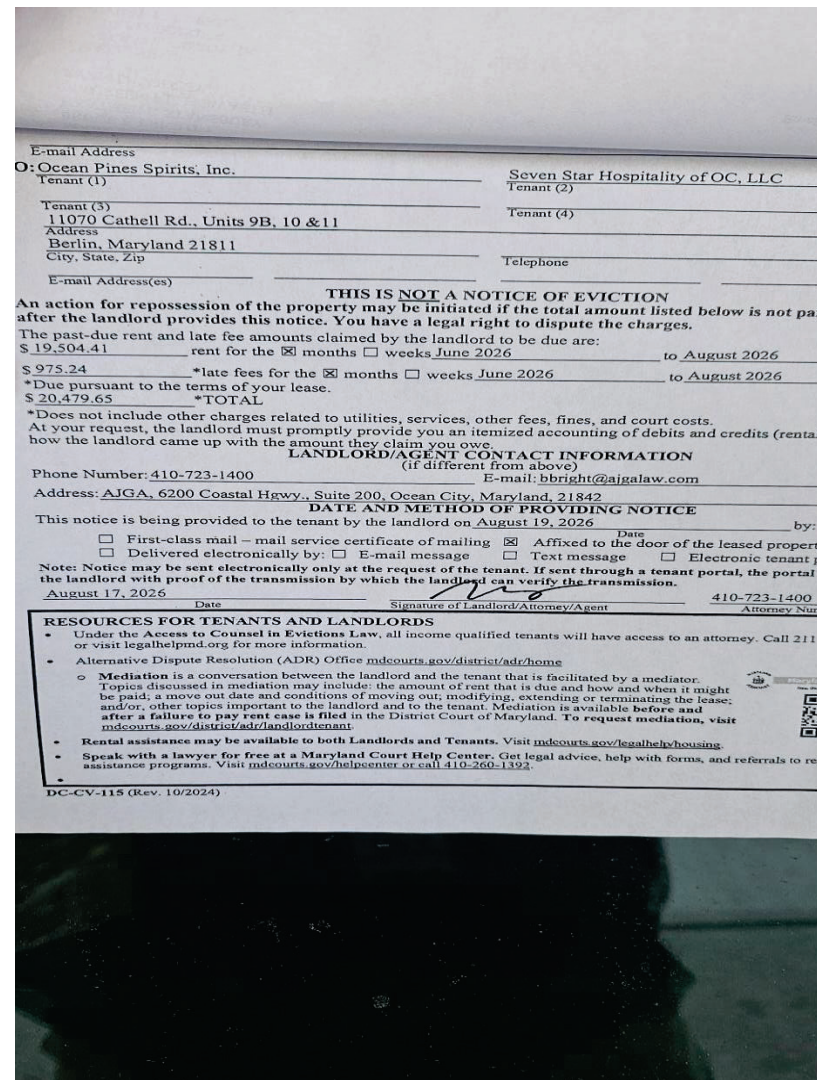
Picture taken through the window of the left side from outside



Picture taken through the middle window from outside



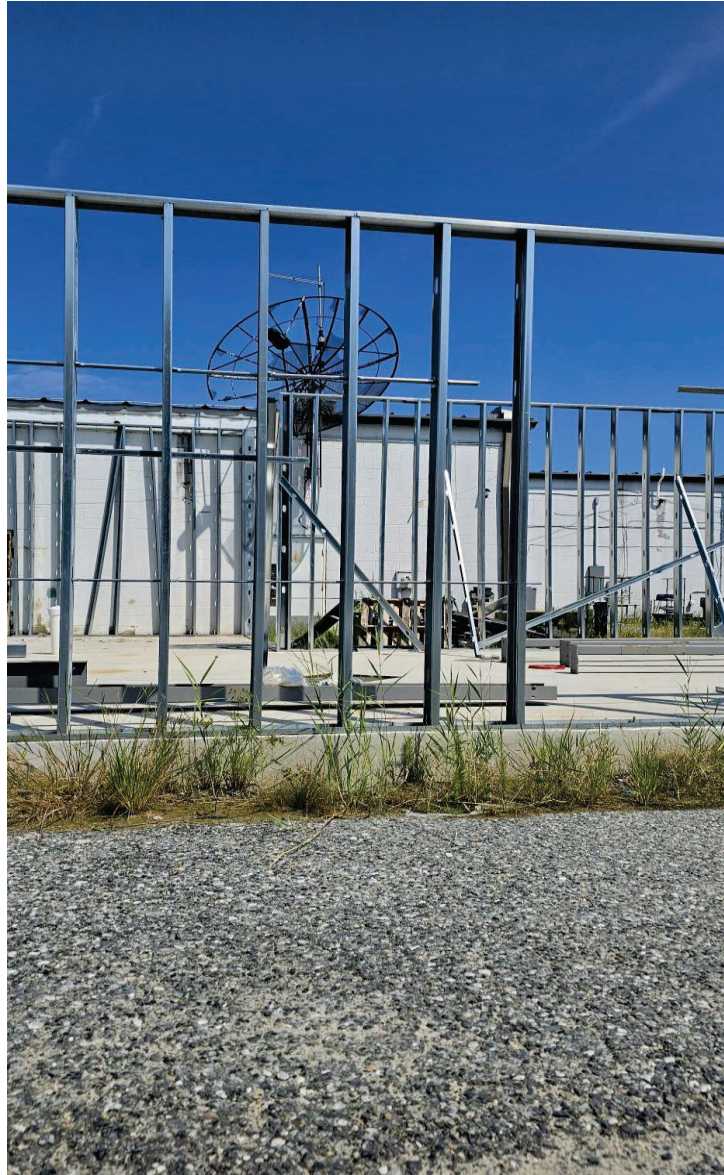
Picture taken through the window of the right side from outside



Inspector Pembroke took the picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 1:13 p.m



Inspector Pembroke took the picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 1:13 p.m



Inspector Pembroke took the picture on August 31, 2026 at approximately 1:13 p.m.

312-420-6090

Business Phone No.

"REQUEST FOR MULTIPLE LICENSE #1"

WORCESTER COUNTY

Received 11-9-23

ARP

STATE OF MARYLAND

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LAW

APPLICATION FOR A CLASS "B" B/W/L 7day LICENSE"NEW APPLICATION"

For the use of:

(Check one) An Individual ☐ Partnership ☐ Corporation ☐ Unincorporated Association ☐ Limited Liability Co. ☒

To the Board of License Commissioners Worcester County.

Date _____, 20____

Application is made by the undersigned under the provisions of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, title "Alcoholic Beverages," for the above license, and the applicant(s) submit(s) and certify(ies) to the following information required by the Article.

Fill in all the blanks:

Applications will NOT be accepted without all Applicant information, including middle name.

1. Applicant(s)

(1) Full Name

Peter S. Elias

Residence

Date of Birth

Period of Residence

Period of Residence

in Wor. County 2.5 years

Place of Birth

Naturalized at

Year

Telephone Number

Race

Sex

(2) Full Name

Karamjeet Singh

Residence

Date of Birth

Period of Residence

Period of Residence

in Wor. County 3 years

Place of Birth

Naturalized at

Year

Telephone Number

Race

Sex

(3) Full Name

Residence

Date of Birth

Period of Residence

Period of Residence

in Wor. County

Place of Birth

Naturalized at

Year

Telephone Number

Race

Sex

2. The applicant(s) is/are citizen(s) of the United States, and (if the application is for an individual or a partnership), has/have been for two years next preceding the filing of this application (a) resident(s) of Worcester County. The applicant(s) (if applying as a qualifying individual for a corporation) is a registered voter and taxpayer in Worcester County and shall also have resided there for at least two years prior to the filing of this application. The applicant(s) thus qualified is/are: 1() 2(X) 3() (Check number to correspond with name(s) listed above.)

3. State the Retail Sales Tax No.:

4. If a corporation, state corporate name and trade name, if any:

THA Sand and Cedar Taverna

If other than a corporation, state trade name to be used:

Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC

5. Address of place to be licensed (Give street number or accurate description):

11070 Cathell Rd, Berlin, MD 218

A. Nearest intersecting street: Cathell Rd.

Approximate distance: 300 feet

B. Tax District where located: 03

Is this an application for a new license? yes

C. Is this a transfer from a present licensee? no

From Whom?

Multiple license #1 (new license)

MLA (#904) Spain ML3 (#153) Bistro Coterie

Sand & Cedar Taverna

(This Board must be furnished releases by the State Comptroller's Office approving the bulk sales transfer and clearing all tax accounts before any license will be transferred.)

D. Are you represented by an attorney? Whom:

HUGH CROPPER II

Tel. No.: 410-23-2601

Address:

HCropper@bbcmaw.com

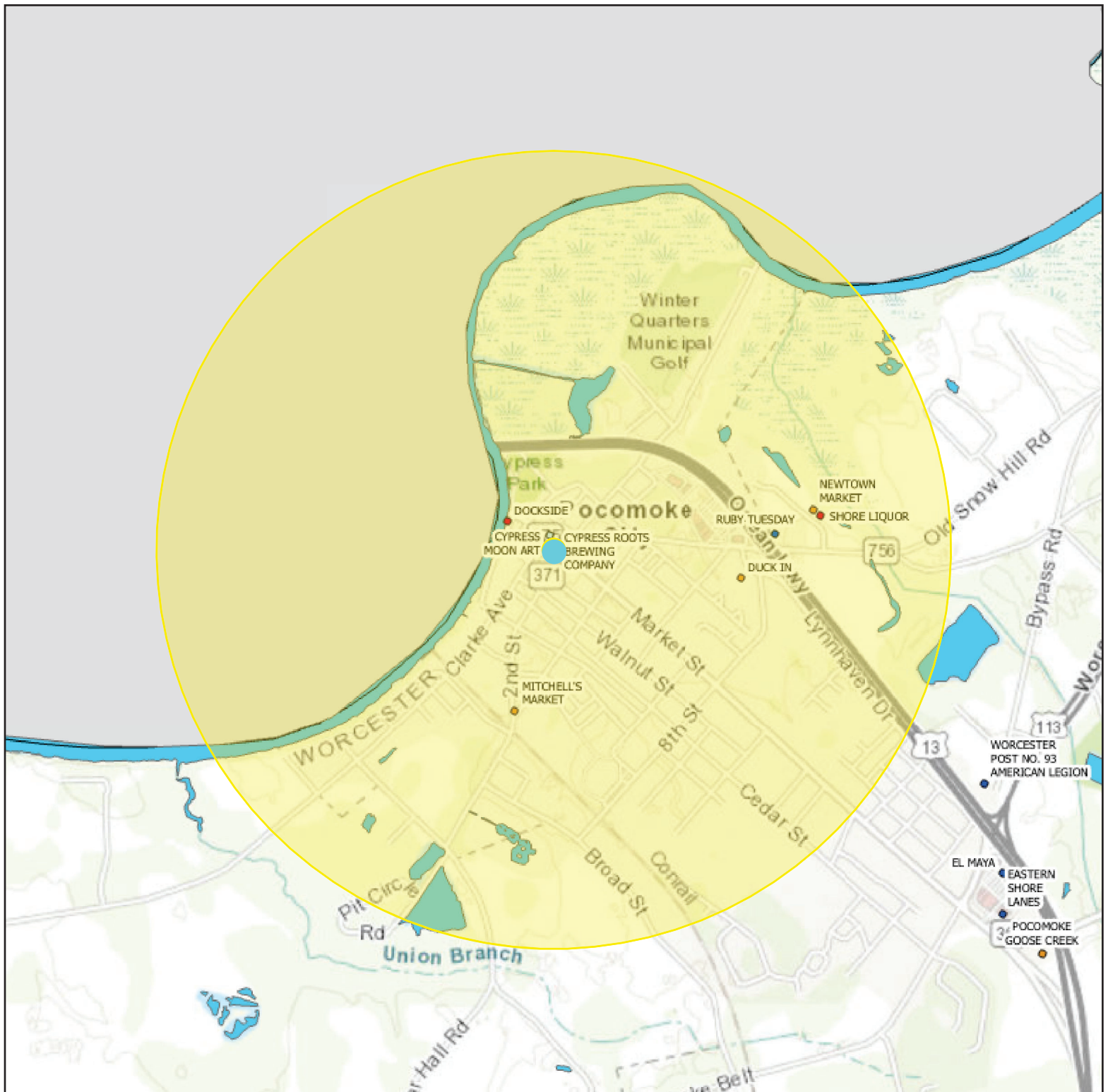


Worcester County

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

1:30 -

Meeting/Cypress Roots Brewing Company (License #964)
Class "D" B/W 7 Day License
Request for a music technician twice a month
Request for a Disc Jockey (DJ) twice a month
148 Market Street/Pocomoke



Worcester County Board of License Commissioners

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Development Review & Permitting - Liquor License Control

Licensed Liquor Establishments

Off Premise Sale

- Beer
- Wine
- Beer, Liquor
- Beer, Wine
- Beer, Wine, Liquor
- Not Permitted
- New Application



Cypress Roots Brewing Company – Request for a Music Technician/ D.J. – License #964					
License No.	Class	License Type	Off Premise Sale	Business Name	Distance (Linear Feet)
964	D	BW	B	CYPRESS ROOTS BREWING COMPANY	0 mi
976	D	BW	N	CYPRESS MOON ART	0.04 mi
897	B	BWL	BWL	DOCKSIDE	0.14 mi
63	A	BW	BW	MITCHELL'S MARKET	0.41 mi
527	A	BW	BW	DUCK IN	0.48 mi
678	B	BWL	N	RUBY TUESDAY	0.56 mi
796	A	BW	BW	NEWTOWN MARKET	0.66 mi
912	A	BWL	BWL	SHORE LIQUOR	0.68 mi

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
Alcohol Awareness Certified Representatives
October 21, 2026 Meeting

[illegible]



Front of Cypress Roots Brewing Company

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m



Looking at the bar from the front entrance

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.



Looking from front entrance to the bar area

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.



Looking to the right side for proposed area for Music Technician or D.J.

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.



Looking from the front entrance towards right side of bar

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.



Looking from front entrance to the restrooms

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.



Looking to the left of the licensed premises

Picture taken on Monday 10/05/2026 at approximately 10:01 a.m.

CYPRESS ROOTS BREWING COMPANY
148 MARKET STREET,
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND 21851
(443) 437-0110
CYPRROOTS@GMAIL.COM



Worcester County Board of License Commissioners
Attn: April Payne
1 West Market Street
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

September 30, 2026
Re: Alcohol Beverage License #964

Dear Mrs. Payne, -

Cypress Roots Brewing Company requests a permanent restriction removal for a music technician in our current license to allow the following:

- The ability to host a musical technician/deejay to play for customers at the brewery up to twice each month, in perpetuity.

I believe this will help the brewery to have a successful with no negative impacts on the establishment or the community. Please call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



JESSMIN DURYEA
Managing Partner/Owner
Cypress Roots Brewing Company