

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
16 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
January 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Harford County Liquor Control Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goddard. The meeting was held at the Bel Air Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, in order to accommodate a large number of protestants. In attendance were Vice Chair Burdette, Commissioners Majewski, Sines, and Walters, Board Counsel Ms. Finneran, and GM Crabbs.

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

1) Gold Star Liquors, L.L.C. T/A Gold Star Liquors – New License (Tentative) – Protest Hearing

Aravind Bhambore, Member, Dev B. Hamal, Member, Gold Star Liquors, L.L.C. T/A Gold Star Liquors, appeared along with their attorney, Robert F. Kahoe, Jr., seeking tentative approval of an Application for a New Class A1-BWL-Off Sale Only License to be located at 1202 Agora Drive, Suite B, Bel Air, MD 21014. Interest in the L.L.C. is held as follows: Aravind Bhambore, 50%; Dev B. Hamal, 50%. Mr. Bhambore will serve as the Responsible Operator.

David F. Mister represented the group of protestants.

Testimony was heard from Dr. Gerald Patnode, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Marketing & Entrepreneurship, Graham School of Business, York College of Pennsylvania; Larry and Erin Dean, license holder Bel Air Liquors; Michael James, Director of Operations, Agora Drive Property Group (property owner); Jonathan Angel, neighborhood resident; Peter LaClair, license holder at One Stop Liquors; Michael Scheuerman, license holder at Friendship Wine & Liquors; Hitesh Patel, license holder at Greenbrier Liquors; and Bipin Patel, license holder at Moores Mill Convenience and Liquor.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Burdette to convene to closed session under the provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act General Provisions Art. Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; motion was seconded by Commissioner Walters, and the vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Burdette and was seconded by Commissioner Sines to move into open session; the vote was unanimous.

The hearing and the decisions the Board made are governed by Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 4-210. The statute requires the Board to consider several factors including the public need and desire for the license, the number of existing licenses and the locations, the potential effect on existing licenses, the potential commonality or uniqueness of the services and products, and the impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the community, as well as any other factors the Board considers necessary.

The same statute states the Board shall deny a license application if the local Board determines the granting of the license is not necessary to accommodate the public. There are other automatic denials listed but they are not relevant in this case.

The Board considered the testimony and evidence from the applicants and those opposed to the license. The Board diligently went through the list of factors to be considered when deciding to approve a new license. As a result, the Board determined that there was a lack of public need and desire for the license. Motion was made by Commissioner Majewski and was seconded by Vice Chair Burdette to deny the application submitted by Gold Star Liquors, L.L.C.; the vote was unanimous.

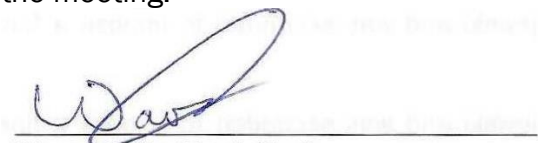
ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

There was no administrative business.

STAFF REPORT / PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

There were no comments.

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to adjourn the meeting.



Wayne S. Goddard, Chair



Mary Sporre, Secretary