

Worcester County Board of License Commissioners
Open Meetings Act Minutes
September 17, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Attendance:

License Commissioners

R. Charles Nichols
Marty W. Pusey
William E. Esham, III

Staff:

Hank Fisher, III, Esquire
April R. Payne, Liquor License Administrator
Harold (Skip) Cook, Board Inspector

I. Call to Order

II. Administrative Matters

Review and Approval of Minutes, August 20, 2025, the Board of License Commissioners reviewed the minutes, and a motion was made by Commissioner Pusey, seconded by Commissioner Esham and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

III. Closed Session - Administrative Matters

No Administrative Matters discussed in Closed Session

IV. Open Session

No Administrative Matters discussed in Open Session

V. Adjournment

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BISTRO AND LOUNGE – LICENSE #153
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	153	Hearing Date:	September 27, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	1:05 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC			T/A: Bistro and Lounge		Address: 1706 Philadelphia Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Items to be discussed: Bistro and Lounge Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license request to alter the licensed premises which was tentatively approved (CANCELLED) - BOARD RECEIVED UPDATE ON PROJECT								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Peter S. Elias					Kristina L. Watkowski, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1.					1.			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1.					1.			
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee, accompanied by his attorney, Kristina Watkowski, Esquire, appeared before the Board with a request to alter the licensed premises, which had been tentatively approved. Watkowski stated that her colleague, Hugh Cropper, Esquire, had sent an email to Liquor License Administrator, April Payne to withdraw from the scheduled meeting, as the project will be moving forward without the need for a liquor license. She explained they encountered several hurdles with permitting, with parking being the most significant issue. Because their nonconformity would expire if operations did not begin by this Fall, they opened part of the premises for food consumption but without alcohol. Now that the nonconformity requirement is being met, the project is moving forward. Commissioner Nichols asked whether what the Board approved in December 2023 had changed or if it remained the same concept. Watkowski responded that it is the same concept, noting that the concern was previously the Bistro & Lounge selling only food, which was solely to satisfy the nonconformity. Commissioner Esham asked, once construction is complete, the project will be the same as what was presented at the December 2023 meeting. Elias confirmed it would. Watkowski added that there have been some design issues and that they are working with the Town of Ocean City Planning and Zoning to make adjustments. Elias further explained that parking was one of their biggest setbacks, but they remain on track to complete the project. He emphasized that they prioritized protecting the nonconformity, which they accomplished through their business license by operating and selling hot dogs. Commissioner Nichols commented that, when the license application was first submitted in 2023, the property was leased. Elias responded that the property is now owned. Commissioner Nichols asked if the ownership remained the same as when the application was submitted in December 2023. Elias confirmed that nothing has changed. Commissioner Nichols inquired about Maryland sales tax and other obligations associated with this license. Watkowski noted there has been some confusion since the company holds three different licenses but stated that Hugh Cropper, Esquire is addressing the matter. Commissioner Nichols asked if any activity had taken place at the location beyond what was necessary to maintain the nonconformity and how long it would take to complete the project. Elias responded that some permits still need to be finalized, with a target completion of late Spring or early Summer 2026. Commissioner Nichols also asked if Elias and Singh were the only partners in the business. Elias confirmed they are under the liquor license. Commissioner Pusey asked if alcohol would be served. Elias stated it would not, as it is unnecessary since the nonconformity is already satisfied. Payne requested clarification regarding the tenant not matching the LLC listed</p>								

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MINUTES FOR BISTRO AND LOUNGE – LICENSE #153
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on the 2023 application. She noted that the license must be issued under the same owner since Elias operates multiple licensed locations. Payne explained that the Bistro and Lounge, LLC was created and issued a sales tax number, but its affiliation with the address is unclear. If there are different LLCs involved, the matter would require a transfer of ownership hearing before the Board. Payne makes it clear as of now, Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC is tentatively listed as the liquor license holder, and the fiscal addresses for the entities are the same. Elias stated the Seven Star Hospitality of OC, LLC should remain as the liquor license holder, while Bistro and Lounge, LLC will serve as the operating entity. Commissioner Nichols asked whether Bistro and Lounge LLC own the real property. Elias stated that Bistro and Lounge LLC own the property. Payne indicated that a management agreement between the entities will be required if that is the case. Watkowski assured the Board that this matter would be addressed.

Chairman Nichols concluded stating that the liquor license will not be issued until all documentation is in order and both Payne and the Board Inspector complete a site visit to authorize the release of the license. The Board also requests a written progress letter for licensed premises be submitted every 30 days to remain in compliance with statutory requirements, extending the license approval.

Motion:	1st	2nd	Approved:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions:

Time Hearing Ended: 1:20 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OCHO RIOS JERK & TINGS – LICENSE #921
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	921	Hearing Date:	September 27, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	1:20 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Ocho Rios Jerk & Tings, LLC			T/A: Ocho Rios Jerk & Tings		Address: 11805 Coastal Highway, Unit N Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Ocho Rios Jerk & Tings Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Roy Salmon								
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1. Nicole Nairne - Server					1. Cpl. Sean McHugh			
2.					2. PSO. Meza			
3.					3. PSO. Gonzalez			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1.					1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated June 26, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) Incident Case Report #2025-002100			

Hearing Minutes: The licensee Roy Salmon and witness Nicole Nairne 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 witness were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: June 26, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) Incident Case Report #2025-002100 into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on June 26, 2025. Nairne testified that the incident occurred at the beginning of the season when the establishment was short-staffed. On the evening of the incident, only she and the chef were working. She stated that she did request identification; however, at that same moment another customer entered, and she became sidetracked, and served the minor without properly checking ID. Commissioner Nichols noted that the establishment had previously been checked on June 19, 2024, and no violation occurred at that time. Commissioner Pusey asked Nairne if she was TIPS/TAM certified. Nairne stated that she had completed the training online prior to the incident and again afterward. Salmon added that he is certified as well and confirmed that Nairne is also certified. Commissioner Nichols asked Salmon if he was at the premises when the violation occurred. Salmon answered "No." Commissioner Nichols requested proof of certification. Salmon presented Nairne's TIPS/TAM certificate. Commissioner Nichols reviewed the report, which indicated the violation occurred on June 26, 2025. The certificate submitted showed Nairne was certified from April 10, 2024, through April 10, 2028. Commissioner Pusey asked whether a manager was on site at the time of the violation. Salmon stated that they do have a manager, but she was off duty that day. Commissioner Nichols questioned Salmon regarding his presence at the establishment. Salmon testified that he spends approximately 50-60% of his time there, typically between 4 to 12 hours per day. Commissioner Nichols asked if this was his only business. Salmon responded that he has other businesses. Commissioner Nichols asked Nairne if she felt she had received

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OCHO RIOS JERK & TINGS – LICENSE #921
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

proper training. Nairne answered “Yes.” Commissioner Pusey asked Cpl. McHugh if Nairne was cooperative when approached regarding the violation. Cpl. McHugh confirmed she was cooperative and added that the establishment is not a hotspot for underage drinking and has had no prior issues.

The Board found that the violation did occur on June 26, 2025, and a fine of \$250 was imposed. The fine is required to be paid by Friday, September 19, 2025, by 12:00 noon. Failure to pay by the deadline will result in the license being suspended until payment is made. The fine was Paid in Full on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Motion:	1st	Comm. Pusey	2nd	Comm. Esham	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 1:32 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR COMMANDER HOTEL POOL BAR – LICENSE #937
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	937	Hearing Date:	September 27, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	1:35 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Commander Hotel F&B, LLC			T/A: Commander Hotel Pool Bar		Address: 1401 Atlantic Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Commander Hotel Pool Bar Class "D" B/W 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. William M. Lynch					Kristina L. Watkowski, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1. Mario Reyes Rodriguez - Bartender					1. Sgt. Nathan Kutz			
2. Sarah Dierksen – General Manager					2.			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1.					1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated June 26, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) Incident Case Report #2025-002096			

Hearing Minutes: The licensee William M Lynch and witnesses Mario Rodriquez, and Sarah Dierksen, along with attorney Kristina Watkowski, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "D" B/W 7 Day 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensee and witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: June 26, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) Incident Case Report #2025-002096 into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on June 26, 2025. Watkowski stated to the Board they were present today for mitigation only and admitted to the violation. She noted a discrepancy in the OCPD Incident Report #2025-002096, which stated there was no manager on duty. Watkowski asked Sgt. Kutz's in your report you reflected you had spoken with Dierksen, the manager on duty, Sgt. Kutz stated "Correct." Watkowski asked Rodriquez if there was a weather event at the time of the incident. Rodriquez confirmed there was, noting that it was about to rain and he was preparing to close the pool bar. Rodriquez stated I checked one ID and did not sell it to him because he was underage, however, the other ID listed the date of birth of July 2004; Rodriquez stated that his math was incorrect at that moment, resulting in the sale. He stated he was distracted by the need to close the pool area due to the approaching storm and apologized to the Board and his team. Rodriguez testified that he is TIPS/TAM certified. Watkowski asked if an attendant is normally present in the pool area. Rodriguez responded that the pool bar is only open to hotel guests. Commissioner Pusey asked Dierksen if she was on the premises during the incident. Dierksen stated she was not in the bar area but was on the premises. She explained that the pool bar is an amenity for hotel guests only, with a relatively small number of patrons. Due to staffing and budget constraints, pool attendants were not employed this season. Watkowski stated that the establishment will be implementing signage throughout the employee areas for staff showing the correct date of birth cutoff for those over 21 years old. She then asked Dierksen how many guests are typically served daily. Dierksen responded that the pool bar serves approximately 30 guests per day. Commissioner Nichols noted that the

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MINUTES FOR COMMANDER HOTEL POOL BAR – LICENSE #937
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

establishment had previously been checked on June 27, 2024, with no violations at that time. Lynch testified that the hotel has been in operation since 1939 and that this was their first violation. He emphasized that they have always followed rules and procedures correctly, characterizing the incident as a clerical error by Rodriquez. Watkowski requested the Board consider First Offender policies in its decision. Commissioner Nichols asked Sgt. Kutz if the establishment had been cooperative. Sgt. Kutz confirmed that they were cooperative, noting that Rodriquez was busy shutting down the pool bar in response to the severe storm approaching.

The Board found that the violation did occur on June 26, 2025, 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	Comm. Pusey	2nd	Comm. Esham	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 1:43 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR KIM ACTON'S STARR RESTAURANT – LICENSE #647
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	647	Hearing Date:	September 27, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	1:44 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: The Players Club, LLC			T/A: Kim Acton's Starr Restaurant		Address: 11620 Masters Lane Berlin, Maryland 21811			
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Kim Acton's Starr Restaurant Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. William Crosby					Kristina Watkowski, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1. Stacey Johnston - Server					1. Sgt. Paul Bissman			
2. Kimberly Acton					2. DFC. Mark Shayne			
3.					3. Dep. Jasmine Mentzer			
4.					4. Cadet Bissman			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1.					1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated August 21, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001136			
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensee William Crosby and witnesses Kim Acton and Stacey Johnston along with attorney Kristina Watkowski, Esquire appeared before the Board with a 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. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated: July 28, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001136 into evidence regarding a violation that occurred on August 21, 2025. Commissioner Nichols disclosed for the record that he is property owner adjacent to this premises. Watkowski stated they were present today for mitigation only. She questioned Acton regarding her experience in the food and beverage industry. Acton testified that she has previously held two liquor licenses and operated a restaurant in Baltimore, for seven years without any violations. Acton stated this violation has weighed heavily on her, as she understands the seriousness of preventing sales to anyone underage. She emphasized that she takes this matter seriously. Acton further testified that there was a manager on duty at the time of the incident who was not present at the hearing because of car issues. Johnston, who was involved in the incident, has since been let go. Acton identified herself as the managing operator of the establishment. Crosby testified that in the 27 years he has held the license, the establishment has never had a violation and has maintained a good reputation. Johnston testified that at the time of the incident she was cleaning when the patrons entered, when they sat down at the bar I asked if they wanted menus, I then became distracted and served the customers without requesting identification. Commissioner Nichols stated for the record that compliance checks had been conducted in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2024, and no sales to minors occurred during those checks. Commissioner Pusey asked Johnston if she was TIPS/TAM certified. Johnston responded that she</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR KIM ACTON'S STARR RESTAURANT – LICENSE #647
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

was not, as she had been told certification was not required so long as a manager was on duty. Commissioner Pusey followed by asking if a manager was indeed on site. Johnston answered “Yes.” Crosby clarified that the manager was in a room around the corner. Commissioner Nichols noted that the report reflected a manager was on site but not present during the sale. Commissioner Pusey asked Johnston whether she normally asks for identification. Johnston answered “Yes,” but admitted she was distracted, and these were her first customers of the day. Commissioner Pusey asked how long Johnston had been working at the establishment. Johnston responded four months. Commissioner Pusey then asked Acton if it was the practice of the establishment to have all employees trained. Crosby responded that it was. DFC. Shayne testified that the manager was indeed at the location at the time of the violation. DFC. Shayne explained to the Board that his report incorrectly stated the manager was not there, as she was outside when he arrived and asked if he needed anything. DFC. Shayne did not realize at that time Stacy Kinder was the manager that night. He testified that once the violation occurred, Kinder came into the room and cooperated fully. DFC. Shayne added that he was present during the 2024 compliance check, and on that occasion the manager walked out the Cadet who attempted to purchase alcohol while underage. He confirmed the establishment is not considered a hotspot for underage drinking.

The Board found that the violation did occur on August 21, 2025, 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	Comm. Esham	2nd	Comm. Pusey	Approved:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 1:55 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 410 SOCIAL EATERY & BARROOM – LICENSE #927
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>	(RECUSED HIMSELF)			
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	927	Hearing Date:	September 27, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	2:00 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: 410 Social, LLC			T/A: 410 Social Eatery & Barroom		Address: 16 Pitts Street Berlin, Maryland 21811			
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: 410 Social Eatery & Barroom Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Marcos Lopez			Mark Cropper, Esquire					
2. Brandon Tolan								
Witnesses:			Protestants:					
1. Michael Mantzouris - Bartender			1. Sgt. Paul Bissman					
2.			2. DFC. Mark Shayne					
3.			3. Dep. Jasmine Mentzer					
4.			4. Cadet Bissman					
Exhibits:			Exhibits:					
1.			1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated August 21, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001133					

Hearing Minutes: The licensees Marcos Lopez, Brandon Tolan, and witness Michael Mantzouris along with attorney Mark Cropper, 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). Commissioner Esham, stated for the record he will recuse himself from this hearing, noting conflict of interest. The licensees and witness were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report Dated August 21, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001133. Cropper stated that they would stipulate the accuracy and admissibility of the report, and they are here today for mitigation. Cropper noted that the license was issued in 2022. The bartender who served the minor had been employed at the establishment for four months, he had several years of experience in the food and beverage industry, noting he also had restaurant management experience. Lopez testified that they, as well as all employees, are TIPS/TAM certified. Lopez testified that the hours of operation are 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except on New Year's Eve, when they remain open later. The business operates six days per week, with 10 full-time employees and 4 to 6 part-time employees. The I.D. Checking Guide booklets are kept behind bar for staff reference. Lopez stated that their business generally does not attract a younger crowd, primarily our patrons are locals and repeat customers. He further testified that Mantzouris is no longer employed following the violation. The establishment currently has five bartenders, all TIPS/TAM certified. Cropper questioned Lopez about his involvement in the operation. Lopez testified that he also oversees another establishment in Delaware and spends approximately eight hours per week at the Berlin location. Tolan is principally responsible for the Berlin daily operation, working

approximately 50 hours per week. Together, Lopez and Tolan oversee hiring and firing decisions, they have three employees that serve in managerial capacities. Lopez testified that Mantzouris was hired after a three-week interview process. They had researched his background and trusted his eight years of experience as a manager and bartender. Commissioner Nichols emphasized that the licensed premises had no prior violations or incidents and that, when checked in May 2024, no sale to a minor occurred. At the time of the incident, Mantzouris was the only bartender on duty, although a manager was present on site. Commissioner Pusey asked Mantzouris if he was TIPS/TAM certified. Mantzouris testified that while at EVO Brewing Company, he had completed the program every few years, but at the time of this incident, his certification had recently expired. He was in the process of retaking the classes. Commissioner Pusey asked if a manager was on site. Mantzouris confirmed that Tolan was present at the location. Commissioner Pusey asked whether Tolan was aware of the incident. Tolan testified that he was not, as he was working in the back of the house. Commissioner Pusey asked why identification was not requested. Mantzouris testified that he was distracted while serving other customers and failed to request for identification when the incident occurred. He accepted full responsibility for the violation. Commissioner Nichols asked if Mantzouris felt he had received sufficient training prior to beginning employment at this establishment. Mantzouris stated "Yes," that he had. DFC Shayne testified that the establishment was cooperative during the compliance check and that the location is not considered a hotspot for underage sales.

Motion:	1st	Comm. Pusey	2nd	Comm. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:10 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OAKED AT THE GLOBE – LICENSE #908
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	William E. Esham, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: Reese Cropper, III		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Harold (Skip) Cook, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maria McVey, Liquor License Assistant		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	908	Hearing Date:	September 17, 2025		Hearing Start Time:	2:11 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Oaked at the Globe, LLC		T/A: Oaked at the Globe		Address: 12 Broad Street Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Violation:	X Yes
Items to be discussed: Oaked at the Globe Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor)								
Applicants:		<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensees:		X		Representative:	
1. Jason Welch								
2. Joseph Brittingham								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Olivia Lindekens - Server				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2. Taylor Ashcraft - Manager				2. DFC. Mark Shayne				
3.				3. Dpt. Jasmine Mentzer				
4.				4. Cadet Braden Sisson				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Correspondence from Lexi McNeel		1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated August 21, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001134						
<p>Hearing Minutes: The licensees Jason Welch, Joseph Brittingham, along their witnesses, Olivia Lindekens and Taylor Ashcraft, 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 licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Mr. Fisher submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) – Board's Investigation Report Dated August 21, 2025, Compliance Check History, Alcohol Awareness Certified Employee List, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #25-0001134. Brittingham stated that they continually emphasize employee training, offering TIPS/TAM certifications, holding pre-shift meetings, and providing cash rewards for detecting underage drinking. Welch submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) correspondence from Lexi McNeel which is another manager outlining their quarterly staff meetings and history of receiving certificates for passing underage compliance checks. Welch further stated that at a recent "First Friday" event in Snow Hill, a cadet attempted a to purchase an alcoholic beverage and was turned away for being underage, with the server receiving a cash reward for properly identifying the attempt. Commissioner Nichols noted that this event occurred after the violation in question and that the Board has no record of that compliance check. Welch noted that the event occurred at their Oaked 110 establishment, in Snow Hill, not the Berlin establishment. Welch emphasized that their training policies are consistent across all their restaurants. Welch requested assistance from the Board in providing access to underage drinking meetings and training opportunities, so employees understand the seriousness of the issue. He also explained that employees are required to obtain certification within 30 days of hire, or they cannot continue working. Welch explained that Lindekens was terminated following the violation, noting it was unfortunate as she had seemed to be a promising employee, but stressed that we take the matter seriously. Commissioner Nichols stated that this license was issued in November 2024, in May</p>								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OAKED AT THE GLOBE – LICENSE #908
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

2025 this establishment received a violation, and you are here today with another violation. Commissioner Pusey asked whether Lindekens was TIPS/TAM certified at the time of the incident. Lindekens replied she was not, as it was only her third shift in two weeks since being hired and her first shift bartending. Commissioner Nichols asked if she felt she had received proper training prior to working. Lindekens stated “Yes,” that during her application process, she was asked if she was certified, and she was told certification must be obtained within 30 days of hire. Commissioner Nichols noted that the violation occurred at approximately 12:35 p.m. Welch testified that employees are allowed to work shifts across multiple locations to obtain full-time hours or additional shifts. Commissioner Nichols asked whether all the certified employees are for the Berlin location or all locations. Welch stated it covered all their locations. Commissioner Nichols asked how many employees at the Berlin location were certified; Welch replied that all but two were certified. Commissioner Esham pointed out that two employees remained uncertified and asked why. Welch explained those employees were still within their 30-day certification window, and that high turnover made staffing a challenge. Commissioner Pusey asked Ashcraft about her role during the incident. Ashcraft testified she was working in the office when the customers entered. She confirmed she asked Lindekens if she was okay and reminded her to check IDs. After the sale occurred, Lindekens checked the Cadet’s identification, recognizing it was vertical, and attempted to alert Ashcraft as she walked back toward the office. Ashcraft confirmed the individual was under 21. Lindekens testified that she then tried to retrieve the beer, but the officer instructed her to leave it. DFC Shayne confirmed that Lindekens and Ashcraft testimony was accurate. He added that during the day, officers were made aware that text messages were circulating among business owners in the area describing WCSO operation, and that an individual was following officers. Commissioner Nichols asked if the officers were able to identify the individual; DFC Shayne stated it was a male. Commissioner Pusey asked whether the licensees and staff were cooperative; DFC Shayne confirmed they were.

The Board found that the violation did occur on August 21, 2025, a fine of \$500 was imposed. The fine is required to be paid by Friday, September 19, 2025, by 12:00 noon. Failure to pay by the deadline will result in the license being suspended until payment is made. The fine was Paid in Full on Friday, September 19, 2025.

Motion:	1st	Comm. Pusey	2nd	Comm. Esham	Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS

Time Hearing Ended: 2:28 p.m.