

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Member George Anas
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not Present:

Vice Chair Richard Watts

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Member Shin made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 11, 2025

Member Anas made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 11, 2025, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Extension of Conditional Approvals**
 - 1 **Angelikas Kitchen** – Angela Funya
 - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Ms. Angela Funya appeared before the board and was sworn in. Ms. Funya stated that this is for the property at Historic St. Mary's City and it is still in renovation. She does have contractor drawings today and had anticipated a substantial completion date of October 17th, as of right now it is pushed back a couple weeks. Member Anas made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Violations:**

- 1 Tia's Cantina**

- **Licensee(s):** Meredith Wagner, Jessica Hernandez & DeWayne Swann
 - a. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

Meredith Wagner, Jessica Hernandez and DeWayne Swann appeared before the board and were sworn in. Ms. Wagner admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Ms. Wagner stated that new employees get responsible service in their training and are also a 100% ID check business. Ms. Wagner stated that a TIPS class was held for anyone that is serving alcohol, and all new employees will be required to get a certification within 60 days from the start of their employment. Also, for anyone serving alcohol they will have to sign a form before their shift stating that they will do 100% ID Checks. Member Shin made a motion for a fine of \$2500, with \$1250 held in abeyance for three years, seconded by Member Hill; 3:1 motion carried, Chairman David Willenborg opposed.

- 2 Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar.**

- **Licensee(s):** R. Dennis Benson & Kelly Ann Tippet
 - a. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

Mr. Dennis Benson and Tom Carano appeared before the board and were sworn in. Ms. Kelly Tippet's attorney respectfully requested that she not appear today. Mr. Benson admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Mr. Benson stated that when an employee is hired, they are to take online training through Applebee's University and there is an alcohol module within the training. Mr. Benson stated that they are to card 100%, no exceptions, and will be putting all managers through RAST training. Member Shin made a motion for a fine of \$2500, with \$1250 held in abeyance for three years, seconded by Member Anas; 3:1 motion carried, Chairman David Willenborg opposed.

- 3 Hacienda Los Guayabos**

- **Employee:** Ramon Atilano Ruiz
 - a. The above individual, Ramon Atilano Ruiz, was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Ramon Atilano Ruiz appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Juan Herrera acted as interpreter. Mr. Ruiz stated that the violation did occur. Mr. Ruiz stated that he saw

tattoos on the informants' arms and assumed she was over 21 years old. He said he had received no formal training about checking IDs and did not understand the severity of the laws to constantly keep checking IDs. Member Shin made a motion for a \$150 fine, no second; motion failed. Member Anas made a motion for a fine of \$100, seconded by Member Hill; 3:1 motion carried, Member Shin opposed.

- **Licensee(s):** Juan Carlos Herrera
 - a. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

Juan Carlos Herrera appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Herrera admitted that the violation occurred. Mr. Herrera stated that they have ID training and TIPS training, and they are to ID anyone 35 and under and employees are to ask for ID when they can. Mr. Herrera stated that this is the first time he has heard that the employee had no training. Member Shin suggested that he come up with a new policy regarding ID checks, Member Anas encouraged him to look at their alcohol policy. Member Shin made a motion for a fine of \$2500, \$1250 held in abeyance for three years, seconded by Member Hill; 3:1 motion carried, Chairman David Willenborg opposed.

4 Stoneys at Clarkes Landing

- **Employee:** Derrick Andrew Hernandez
 - a. The above individual, Derrick Andrew Hernandez, was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Derrick Andrew Hernandez appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Hernandez admitted the event took place. He stated there was alcohol training and knew the procedures at the beginning of his employment. He was told the business was to do 100% ID checks and everyone was to take a Serv-Safe class. Member Shin made a motion for a fine of \$150, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- **Licensee(s):** Eugenia Cousineaux-Stone & Charles F. Clarke
 - a. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

Eugenia Cousineaux-Stone and Charles F. Clarke appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Ms. Cousineaux-Stone admitted the violation occurred. Ms. Cousineaux-Stone stated that everyone at the front of house went through Serv-Safe training. She stated that if you are a server, you must take a Serv-Safe class. Member Shin made a motion for a fine of \$2500, \$1250 held in abeyance for three years, seconded by Member Anas; 3:1 motion carried, Chairman David Willenborg opposed.

- **Officer/Member/Trade Name changes:**

- 1 Bradfords Neighborhood Market**

- Removing Christopher S. Bell

Member Hill made a motion to remove Christopher S. Bell, seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Proposed amendments to The Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County Rules and Regulations**

- 1 As per HB 574: 2.08 – Interest in More Than One License – Prohibited**

- Allowing interest in more than one Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor Restaurant license

Member Anas motioned to approve the language changes, seconded by Member Hill.

- 2 2.09(a) and 2.09(b) – Conditional Approval**

- Increasing the maximum period from “up to 30 days” to “up to 90 days” for initial conditional approvals of Transfer Applications
- Adding language setting maximum period for any extension of a conditional approval for Transfer and New Applications

Member Shin motioned to approve the language changes, seconded by Member Anas.

- 3 2.10(b)(5) – Issuance of License**

- Corrective language for clarity and conformity

Member Anas motioned to approve the language changes, seconded by Member Hill.

- 4 2.12(d) – Transfers**

- Corrective language for clarity and conformity

Member Shin motioned to approve the language changes, seconded by Member Hill.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Hildebrand stated that October will be the last RAST training course for this year. She will be sending out Save the Date cards for renewal tomorrow and will be sending out New Years packets soon.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of September, Deputy Myers reported:

- 13 tobacco compliance checks – 2 failed, 1 being an alcohol retailer
- 13 DUI arrest by the Sheriff's Office
- 14 DUI arrest by the Maryland State Police
- 2 stationary surveillance checks – no violations
- Park surveillance – no violations
- 15 summonses served
- Sheriff's required training and RAST training

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of September, Inspector Hall reported:

- 22 inspections
- 4-5 Follow-ups
- RAST program
- Licensed Beverage Association meeting

Mr. Hall explained that two businesses have closed, Flour Donuts & Bakery and SIPS.

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

Mr. Guy Combs reported to the Board that they are in the process of discussing holding a fundraiser to build up memberships and are strategizing how to fight the grocery bill.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

Member Shin wanted clarification on the ownership of Hacienda Los Guayabos and the other business Mr. Herrera stated he worked at. Mrs. Hildebrand explained the two businesses are owned by different members of the same family.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shin made a motion to adjourn at 2:25 pm; seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chair