

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF ADOLFO NICOLAS	*	
MENDEZ AND JAVIER LECHA ON	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
BEHALF OF MENCHA, LLC, t/a THE	*	
GRILLE AT MAPLE LAWN, FOR A	*	FOR
TRANSFER OF A CLASS B BEER,	*	
WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY ON-SALE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LICENSE WITH AN SBW LICENSE	*	

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**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Board of License Commissioners for Howard County, Maryland (the “Liquor Board”), pursuant to Rule 1.02(A) of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has delegated the authority to hear and decide cases to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland (the “Hearing Board”).

On July 10, 2014, the Hearing Board heard the application of Adolfo Nicolas Mendez and Javier Lecha (“Applicants”), on behalf of Mencha, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn, (“Mencha, LLC”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license with an SBW license, currently held by Katia Georgina Gonzales and Jessica Ana Venegas on behalf of Venegas Prime Filet, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn, for a 5,800 square foot restaurant with a 1,932 square foot outdoor patio located at 8191 Maple Lawn Boulevard, Suite 100, Fulton, Maryland 20759. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Dylan Springmann, Esquire. There were no Protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference. These include the following: a letter dated April 7, 2014, from Applicants’ attorney enclosing the application; the background investigation questionnaires from the Applicants; a copy of the Articles of Organization for Mencha, LLC; a copy of the Corporate Charter Approval Sheet for Mencha, LLC; a copy of the criminal history record check for the Applicants from the State of Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; an Interim Beverage Management Agreement dated April 4, 2014, between Venegas Prime Filet, LLC and Mencha, LLC; a memorandum dated May 22, 2014, from the Liquor Board to the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector,

the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental Health and the Department of Planning and Zoning; the background investigations of the Applicants by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated July 2, 2014; a memorandum dated July 10, 2014, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; an email dated July 8, 2014, from the Bureau of Environmental Health; a letter dated May 15, 2014, to the Department of Finance; a letter dated May 29, 2014, from the Department of Finance; a letter dated May 15, 2014, to the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated June 19, 2014, from the Comptroller of Maryland; a fax transmission dated May 22, 2014 to the Applicants' attorney enclosing a letter dated May 29, 2014, with notification of the hearing date and the necessity to advertise; an email dated June 26, 2014, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted; a letter dated June 27, 2014, from the Applicants' attorney enclosing the certification of advertisement from the Howard County Times and the Baltimore Sun.

#### SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Adolfo Nicholas Mendez, Managing Officer and 50% owner of Mencha, LLC, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for 16 years, is a registered voter, and that he is alcohol awareness certified.

Mr. Mendez testified that they have been operating under a management agreement, and that they will not make any modifications to the restaurant. Their hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., and Friday and Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 midnight. Mr. Mendez testified that they offer American and Mediterranean cuisine.

Mr. Mendez testified that they have 20 employees and 15 have taken an alcohol awareness course. Mr. Mendez testified that all the servers, the bartenders and the managers are alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Mendez testified that they have a policy manual that they require employees to read and sign. Mr. Mendez testified that they also have an ID Guide book to assist the employees, and that their policy is to ask for identification from anyone who appears to be under the age of 35.

Mr. Mendez testified that the transfer of the liquor license would be an accommodation to the public, and that they will not disturb the peace and safety of the citizens in the area. Mr. Mendez testified that they have adequate parking, as the restaurant is located in a commercial area.

Mr. Mendez testified that he was not aware that there is an outstanding personal property tax issue, but that Mr. Venegas has been very ill. Mr. Mendez testified that he will make sure that the outstanding personal property taxes are paid.

Javier Lecha, Managing Member and 50% owner of Mencha, LLC, was sworn and testified that he has been a resident of Howard County for 18 years. Mr. Lecha testified that he is currently employed by NASA, but will stop by the restaurant frequently. Mr. Lecha testified that he is alcohol awareness certified, and that he is familiar with the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations.

The following exhibits were entered into the record:

Exhibit #1 –Alcoholic Beverage Service Rules for Employees

Exhibit #2 – a copy of the menu for The Grille at Maple Lawn

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants waived the right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Adolfo Nicolas Mendez and Javier Lecha, on behalf of Mencha, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple, have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license with a SBW license, currently held by Katia Georgina Gonzales and Jessica Ana Venegas on behalf of Venegas Prime Filet, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn, for a 5,800 square foot restaurant with a 1,932 square foot outdoor patio located at 8191 Maple Lawn Boulevard, Suite 100, Fulton, Maryland 20759.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Adolfo Nicolas Mendez has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 50% shareholder of Mencha, LLC.

4. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of this application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents in the neighborhood.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Adolfo Nicolas Mendez and Javier Lecha on behalf of Mencha, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple, have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer,

Wine and Liquor 7-day on-sale license with a SBW license, currently held by Katia Georgina Gonzales and Jessica Ana Venegas on behalf of Venegas Prime Filet, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn for a 5,800 square foot restaurant with a 1,932 square foot outdoor patio located at 8191 Maple Lawn Boulevard, Suite 100, Fulton, Maryland 20759.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Adolfo Nicolas Mendez meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(T), 1.09(U), 2.06, and 2.10 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents in the neighborhood.

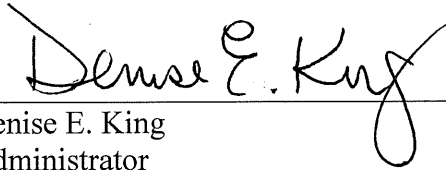
**ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, Maryland, **ORDERED** that the application of Adolfo Nicolas Mendez and Javier Lecha on behalf of Mencha, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn, for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license with an SBW license; currently held by Katia Georgina Gonzales and Jessica Ana Venegas, on behalf of Venegas Prime Filet, LLC, t/a The Grille at Maple Lawn, for a 5,800 square foot restaurant with a 1,932 square foot outdoor patio located at 8191 Maple Lawn Boulevard, Suite 100, Fulton, Maryland 20759, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

1. That this **PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER** shall become final when the Applicants obtain the license and comply with the following conditions:
  - a. That all outstanding personal property taxes owed by Venegas Prime Filet, LLC be paid in full; and
  - b. That the Applicants comply with all State and County rules and regulations; and
  - c. Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by October 31, 2014, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

**ATTEST:**

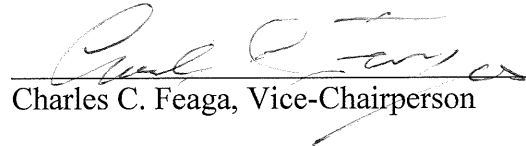
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING  
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND**



Denise E. King  
Administrator



Harry Evans, III, Chairperson

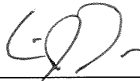


Charles C. Feaga, Vice-Chairperson

REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY  
OFFICE OF LAW  
MARGARET ANN NOLAN  
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Mary Bird, Member

William Neault, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor