



Maryland Transit Administration Police Force

Maryland Department of Transportation

*Martin J. O'Malley, Governor • Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor
James T. Smith Jr., Secretary • Robert L. Smith, Administrator
Colonel John E. Gavrillis, Chief of Police*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Maryland Transit Administration Police Force is to professionally enforce the law, protect its transit community, employees and facilities with dignity and respect.

December 2, 2013

Board of Liquor License Commissioners
City of Baltimore
231 East Baltimore Street, 6th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Bill's Café, 6701 Holabird Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Bill's Café and the owner Mr. Nick Trintis with hopes that you will consider reversing your decision to revoke his liquor license. I would like to introduce myself to this Honorable Board. I am a 40 year law enforcement officer who worked his way up from a foot patrolman, Chief of Field Operations and Detectives to Acting Police Commissioner of Baltimore City. I am currently the MTA Chief of Police and a life-long community activist. This is the first time in my career that I have supported an appellant in a hearing. I have not been solicited to write this letter by Mr. Trintis.

Bill's Café has been in existence for over fifty years. Mr. Nick Trintis took over the family business forty years ago. During that time he has operated the business in an exemplary fashion. It was only recently that he had a problem with the liquor board over outsiders dealing drugs in the neighborhood. The drug trade in the Southeastern District has been fluid, moving from one area to another. For various reasons it moved to the area of Holabird and Dundalk Avenue. (I can speak to that because I was the former District Commander of the Southeastern District). Approximately two years ago, Nick Trintis called me for advice because he saw an increase in loitering and drug dealing in the vicinity of his bar. I suggested he contact the drug Sergeant from the Southeastern District. I made the introduction for him and he assisted the drug unit in their investigations. He made the decision to help for several reasons; he wanted to be a good neighbor and get the drug dealers out of neighborhood and wanted to rid them from his bar. He put himself, his business and his family in grave danger. When others played a blind eye he was willing to help the police. He took the advice of police and enacted many changes to the operation of his bar to deter drug dealing and he also barred others from his premise he believed to be drug dealers. He fired employees he believed were involved. He would verbally dismiss the dealers from his bar with fear that one day they could retaliate. They did retaliate by throwing Molotov cocktails at his business and other businesses in the area. It was only with the grace of God no one died. This was clearly a move to intimidate anyone who cooperated with police.

In the instant matter that brought forth this liquor board hearing, Mr. Trintis advised the Southeastern District Drug Sergeant that he was immediately closing the bar and he did. He soon hired a real estate agent and put the business up for sale. He felt defeated by the drug dealers and as a citizen who put himself at risk to aid the police, felt betrayed by the police.

Mr. Trintis is an honest hard working citizen and devoted family man. He spends countless of hours helping the needy through his philanthropic activity and membership in several religious and non-profit organizations.

In my expert opinion as a seasoned law enforcement official, I offer the following closing to my appeal - All the resources of law enforcement converged upon the area of Dundalk and Holabird Avenue and they have been unsuccessful to stop the drug trade in that neighborhood. How then can you hold a single business man accountable to stop it?

I pray that you would re-consider your decision to revoke his license and reinstate his liquor license. He will be selling the business.

I am available to meet in person. Feel free to contact me with any questions, 410-454-1629.

Sincerely,



Colonel John E. Gavrilis
Chief of Police