

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**April 9, 2026**

**The regular meeting of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority convened at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

The following were in attendance at this meeting:

<b>Authority Members</b>	<b>MMG Staff</b>
<b>Les Hall</b>	<b>Anthony Williams</b>
<b>Chuck Martin</b>	<b>Mark Harrison</b>
<b>Mara Sierocinski</b>	<b>Marcella Nazario</b>
<b>Kenny Oreagba</b>	<b>Tim Smoot</b>
<b>Sharon Pinder</b>	<b>Latoya Haynes</b>
<b>Ben Siegel</b>	<b>Robin Harris</b>

**Attorney General's Office**  
Roop Vijayan, Deputy Principal Counsel

**MODIFICATIONS**

Cannabiz MD, LLC  
Emerald Technical Solutions & Staffing, LLC- Withdrawn

**NEW REQUEST**

HighT-Tech, Inc. (SSBCI)

**NOTE:**

1. The increase request of Emerald Technical Solutions & Staffing, LLC was withdrawn from the agenda due to the current budget constraints. The approved financings will be reviewed to determine which loans will not close to free up some resources for pending approvals for the remaining months of this fiscal year.
2. The previous meeting was cancelled due to budget constraints. Two transactions were approved under the MCBIF Fund also managed by MMG: 1. New Psych, LLC and Sam Allen, LLC.

The closed session of the March 19, 2025, meeting was summarized. The Authority Board meeting was attended by Les Hall, Chuck Martin, Sharon Pinder, Gina Ramsey, and Kenny Oreagba. The meeting was closed to comply with requirements of the Maryland Public Information Act so that there would not be disclosure of confidential, commercial, and financial information associated with the applicants. The meeting was closed to discuss the modification request of Wild Bay, LLC, formerly Mobtown Fermentation, LLC; and the new requests of Fries First Urbana, LLC dba The Local Fry, Max's Real Estate Co., LLC, and Sabinas House, LLC – SSBCI. All the requests were approved.

1. Fries First Urbana, LLC dba The Local Fry - New Request – Approved for \$538,000, for a term of 129 months, 8% interest rate.
2. Max's Real Estate Co., LLC - New Request – Approved for \$250,000, for a term of 10 years, 5% interest rate.
3. Sabinas House - New Request (SSBCI) – Approved for \$2,000,000, for a term of 10 years, 5% interest rate.
4. Wild Bay, LLC formerly known as Mobtown Fermentation, LLC – Modification to allow Borrower to make draws against the line of credit and limit the maximum draw to \$100,000 for the first 3 months and if the borrower is in compliance with the terms of the line of credit after 3 months, then increase the maximum draw to \$150,000.

The Open Meeting then closed at 1:18 p.m. upon motion made and seconded, and approved by all voting members, the meeting was closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b) (13), “to comply with a specific... statutory... requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter”, that is, the Maryland Public Information Act prohibits disclosure of trade secrets, confidential commercial and confidential financial information. Chairman Les Hall signed the Presiding Officer's Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act, which is attached to these minutes as an exhibit.

**APPROVED:**

Celester A. Hall  
Celester A. Hall (May 22, 2026 11:09:35 EDT)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Celester A. Hall  
Chairman

**DATE:** 22/05/26

**MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY**

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING  
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT  
(General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

**1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:**

Date: 4/9/2026

Time: 1pm-2:35 pm

Location: Meridian Management Group, Inc., 826 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202/Held by conference call at 267.930.4000/684 358 366

Motion to close meeting made by: Sharon Pinder; Seconded by Gina Ramsey

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Celester Hall, Chair, Designee Secretary of Commerce	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Ben Seigel, designee of Comptroller	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Charles Martin	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Kehinde Oreagba	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sharon Pinder	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Gina Ramsey	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mara Sierocinski	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**2. Citation of statutory authority to close session (check all that apply): This meeting is being closed under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b), only:**

\_\_\_\_ (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;
- (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;
- (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;
- (5) To consider the investment of public funds;
- (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;
- (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, *if* public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

**3. Disclosure of the topics to be discussed, for each citation checked above:**

§3-305(b)(13) topics: Discussion and evaluation of the applications received from potential borrowers for financial assistance under programs of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, which applications include the disclosure of financial information of private individuals and confidential commercial and financial information.

§3-305(b)(7) topics: Legal advice from counsel to the Authority with respect to the applications.

4. For each topic listed in #2, disclosure of the reason for discussing it in closed session rather than in open session:

§3-305(b)(13): Financial information of private individuals is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-336) and confidential commercial and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).

§3-305(b)(7): Protection of the attorney-client privilege.

This statement is made by Celester Hall, Chair of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, Presiding Officer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Hall', is written over a horizontal line.

Celester Hall  
Chair