

# GUAM BOARD OF BARBERING & COSMETOLOGY

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 09, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Building Suite 209 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Join Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89218618021?pwd=0jun69hJPw5flPS1Qk9PS0YpxrhDiv.1>

Meeting ID: 892 1861 8021

Passcode: 8481570

## MINUTES

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Responsible party	Reporting time frame	Status		
<b>I</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting Chaired by A. Taitano-Sablan, Chairperson		Chair	0944	Call to Order
	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>GBBC</b> <u>Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Santos, Treasurer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley Taitano-Sablan, Chairperson  <u>Virtually Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph Blas, Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marcy Tiong, Vice-Chairperson	<b>Other Attendees:</b> <u>Virtually Present:</u> Breanne Sablan, HPLO Sharon Manibusan, HPLO Joaquin Blaz, DPHSS PeterJohn Camacho, DPHSS Joel Castro, Public Tiara Flores, Public Julia Tajeron, Public Rinalyn, Public Stella Kim, Public Evangeline Bolinao, Public Van Aigene Shoaf, Public Judiel Velasco, Public Jaesuk Lee, Public Daniel Gurwell, Public Arnelyn Dela Cruz, Public Tianna Cruz, Public	GBBC		Quorum Establish
	<b>Proof of Publication</b>	Guam PDN and Public Notice: <b>February 27 &amp; March 5, 2026</b>				Confirmed
<b>II</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	Motion to Approve: R. Santos; 2 <sup>nd</sup> : M. Tiong.		GBBC	0946	Unanimously Approved as Amended
<b>III</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Minutes dated: 02/02/2026 (Reconvened 02/09/2026) Motion to Approve: R. Santos; 2 <sup>nd</sup> : J. Blas.		GBBC	0947	Unanimously Approved
<b>IV</b>	<b>HPLO ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT</b>	B. Sablan reported that coordination with the front office is ongoing regarding the vacancies on the board with continued follow-up through emails requesting updates on the status of those positions. For the record, the board was informed that letters had been received from Senators Chris Barnett and Tina Muña Barnes, as well as from T. Cruz and D. Gurwell, concerning Stay Fresh Academy, noting that the matter		HPLO	0951	Noted



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		<i>Motion to Table: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i>			
		<b>d) Heritage Beauty College</b>			
		<b>1. Blended/Online Theory Instruction</b> A. Taitano-Sablan noted that no representative from Heritage was present at the meeting. In light of the absence and the board's interest in allowing additional time for further consideration and discussion, She proposed that the matter remain on the agenda for the next meeting to provide Heritage an opportunity to attend and respond, at which time the board could proceed with making a formal motion and take a vote. <i>Motion to Table: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Tiong.</i>	GBBC		Unanimously Tabbed
VIII	NEW BUSINESS	<b>a) Complaint</b>		0957	
		<b>1. GBBC-CO-2026-01</b> A new complaint was presented for assignment, and A. Taitano-Sablan proposed that R. Santos be assigned since he currently has no active complaints. He agreed to accept the assignment, and arrangements were made for S. Manibusan to send him the file link and password via email.	R. Santos		Ongoing, Assigned Complaint
		<b>b) Applications for Apprentice:</b>			
		<b>1. Muoi Thi Vo Nguyen - Manicurist</b> Upon reviewing the applicant's file, it was noted that she completed some of her schooling in Vietnam, necessitating a general evaluation from a third party to verify her educational credentials. It was also clarified that the transcript she provided had been brought in by the applicant and not sent directly from the issuing school. <i>Motion to Table Pending General Evaluation and Transcripts: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i>	GBBC		Unanimously Tabled Pending General Evaluation and Transcripts
		<b>2. Jee Young Peck – Manicurist</b> Although J. Peck had been approved to take the reexamination since August, she failed to make any attempt to complete the written exam. <i>Motion to Disapprove: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Tiong.</i>			Unanimously Disapproved
		<b>3. Nana Toves – Cosmetologist</b> N. Toves had exceeded the two-year limit for holding an apprentice permit. <i>Motion to Disapprove: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Tiong.</i>			Unanimously Disapproved
		<b>4. Astrophel N. Briones – Barber</b> A. Briones had exceeded the two-year limit for holding an apprentice permit. <i>Motion to Disapprove: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Tiong.</i>			Unanimously Disapproved

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	<p><b>5. Redentor C. Borja Jr. – Barber</b>  <i>Motion to Approve: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i></p>			Unanimously Approved
	<p><b>c) Application for Examination</b></p>			
	<p><b>1. Muoi Thi Vo Nguyen – Manicurist</b>  <i>Motion to Table Pending General Evaluation and Transcripts: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i></p>	GBBC		Unanimously Tabled Pending General Evaluation and Transcripts
	<p><b>2. Maria Denice V. Mendoza – Cosmetologist</b>  A correction was made to the agenda to reflect the accurate spelling of the applicant’s name as M. Dencie Mendoza in connection with her application for examination  <i>Motion to Approve: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i></p>	GBBC		Unanimously Approved
	<p><b>d) Reciprocity</b></p>			
	<p><b>1. Arianna Fejeran – Manicurist</b>  Upon review of the applicant’s file, it was noted that she completed her schooling in California and had been licensed since October 2022; however, due to changes in California’s examination process, she had only taken the PSI national written examination, as the state ceased administering the NIC exam after June 2022. Because she had not completed the NIC examination, the board determined that her application could not be approved, noting that she would need to take the required written examination. It was also mentioned that she has the option to apply for an apprentice permit while awaiting eligibility to take the examination, as the board offers apprentice opportunities more often.  <i>Motion to Disapprove: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i></p>	GBBC		Unanimously Disapproved
	<p><b>e) Online Theory Exam – Chinese Language</b>  B. Sablan reported that efforts had been made to work with NIC to provide examinations in additional languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, and Japanese; however, surveys from other jurisdictions indicated insufficient demand to create exams in those languages. As a resolution, NIC will provide translation dictionaries or language books for these languages, which will be sent to the board’s office so that applicants can use them during their examinations once received.</p>	GBBC		Noted
	<p><b>f) Guam International Cosmetology Academy</b>  T. Flores appeared on behalf of Guam International Cosmetology Academy to address the board regarding the transfer of student hours from Stay Fresh Academy that had not been recognized at the previous meeting. She explained that her school is planning to absorb approximately 12 to 13 students from Stay Fresh Academy, with students having varying lengths of enrollment—some having attended for about a year and others starting between June and November 2025. The board</p>	GBBC		Noted

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	<p>clarified that only hours completed while Stay Fresh Academy held a valid establishment license would be recognized, meaning any hours accrued after the license expired would not be acknowledged. T. Flores was invited to remain on as the board continued discussions on the matter with Stay Fresh Academy.</p> <p><b>g) Stay Fresh Academy</b></p> <p>The board reviewed the appeal regarding the validity of student hours for Stay Fresh Academy and noted that, according to the November 2024 meeting minutes, the academy had been granted an extension of its establishment license only until January 6, 2025, to allow time for submitting additional information from NACCAS confirming ongoing candidate status for accreditation. No further communication or documentation was received from NACCAS or the academy indicating an intent to renew the license. The board explained that hours accrued after the license expiration could not be accepted, as the school was aware of the January 6, 2025, deadline and made no effort to renew its license or provide the required formal documentation. D. Gurwell from Stay Fresh Academy indicated that administrative oversight, including management by R. Tingson, contributed to the lack of submission, and that efforts had been made to maintain candidate status with NACCAS. The board clarified that only one NACCAS workshop attended by the school had been documented, which had supported the temporary extension, but without submission of the formal status letter or renewal application, the school was not authorized to operate beyond the expiration date, and any student hours accrued after that time could not be recognized.</p> <p>The board emphasized that, although Stay Fresh Academy had pursued accreditation through NACCAS, the primary issue was the failure to renew the establishment license. It was explained that a school with an expired license cannot legally operate, teach, or offer services, and continuing to do so constitutes a deception of students. Additionally, the academy's sanitary permit had expired on April 30, 2025, further compounding the violation. The board stressed that because the establishment license was invalid, any student hours accrued during that period cannot be recognized, regardless of instructor presence or efforts to maintain candidate status with NACCAS. While acknowledging the students' attendance and effort, the board clarified that the hours were obtained illegally, and the responsibility for the situation rests entirely with the school's administration. Compensation for tuition might be possible, but lost instructional time cannot be recovered, and the students' hours remain invalid under board regulations.</p> <p>T. Flores asked for clarification regarding the expired establishment license and why a cease and desist order had not been issued. A. Taitano-Sablan explained that it is the responsibility of the</p>	GBBC		Unanimously Approved Hours Obtained by Students from Stay Fresh Academy Uj Until January 06, 2025

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	<p>license holder to renew their establishment license, which expires annually on December 31, and that the academy had been aware of its license expiration, including the extension to January 6, 2025. The board noted that cease and desist letters are only issued when the board becomes aware that an establishment continues to operate illegally without any instructors or oversight. It was emphasized that the situation arose solely from the school's failure to renew its license, and the board cannot monitor or enforce renewal beyond what is reported, making the illegal operation the responsibility of the establishment, not the board. T. Flores acknowledged the explanation and thanked the board for clarifying.</p> <p>The board concluded that only student hours completed prior to the expiration of Stay Fresh Academy's establishment license could be recognized, as any hours accrued afterward were obtained illegally and could not be honored without placing the board in legal jeopardy. It was emphasized that validating hours from an unlicensed school would set a dangerous precedent, undermining statutes designed to protect the integrity and regulation of the cosmetology industry. While acknowledging that students attended in good faith, the board clarified that the fraudulent operation of the school constitutes a violation of licensure requirements. Additionally, it was noted that the academy also operated without a valid sanitary permit, representing a separate violation under the Division of Environmental Health, meaning that instruction or services provided during that period were unauthorized and noncompliant.</p> <p>D. Gurwell provided the board with a worksheet he created to track any student hours from Stay Fresh Academy that could be transferred to Guam International Cosmetology Academy, noting that it would serve as part of the official record for accepted hours. The board confirmed that only hours accrued prior to January 6, 2025—the expiration date of Stay Fresh Academy's establishment license—could be recognized, and any hours after that date were invalid. Regarding potential tuition compensation for students affected during the noncompliance period, D. Gurwell indicated that, to his knowledge, Stay Fresh Academy had no plans to provide reimbursement, and noted that at least one student had pursued a small claims suit against R. Tingson individually. The board clarified that compensation is a civil matter to be handled outside of board proceedings. Moving forward, the board determined that any applications submitted with transcripts from Stay Fresh Academy would receive credit only for hours completed up to January 6, 2025, calculated at an eight-hour day, five days a week. The board emphasized that operating without a valid establishment license is a misdemeanor with penalties, and while it regretted the impact on students, enforcement and</p>			

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	<p>recognition of hours is strictly tied to compliance with licensure and regulatory standards. D. Gurwell had no further questions.</p> <p>During the meeting, the board acknowledged the presence of several Stay Fresh Academy students and invited them to participate. One student, T. Cruz, asked whether her previously earned manicuring hours from Mariacy in 2020 could be transferred to another school, such as Guam International Cosmetology Academy. The board confirmed that her manicuring hours would indeed be transferable since she had already completed that program and was licensed. It was noted that, although Mariacy is closed, the student's official transcripts could be provided by the board to facilitate the transfer. A. Taitano-Sablan advised that her remaining program at Guam International Cosmetology Academy should focus on the hair and skin components of cosmetology, as her manicuring and sanitation hours had already been satisfied, ensuring her continued training aligns with the full cosmetology curriculum.</p> <p>The board clarified on D. Gurwell's question about hours. A. Taitano-Sablan explained that if a student had completed a 400-hour manicuring program, those hours would be fully credited toward their training, and the remaining 1,200 hours required for a full cosmetology program would need to be completed at the new school. No further questions or comments were raised at that time</p> <p><i>Motion to Approve Hours Obtained by Students from Stay Fresh Academy Up Until January 06, 2025: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Blas.</i></p> <p><b>1. Daniel Gurwell</b></p> <p><b>2. Renaldo Tingson</b></p>			
IX	<p><b>NEXT BOARD MEETING</b> Next Scheduled Meeting: April 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m</p>	GBBC	1057	Set Date
X	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b> <i>Motion to Adjourn: R. Santos; 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Tiong.</i></p>	GBBC	1057	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted:

Submitted by the GBBC Secretary:



Date:

4/0/26

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Approved by the GBBC with ~~or without~~ changes:

Date:

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Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date:

4/6/24