

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF NATHAN PAUL	*	
SOWERS ON BEHALF OF RIVER	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
HOUSE PIZZA CO., LLC, t/a RIVER	*	
HOUSE PIZZA CO., FOR A NEW CLASS	*	FOR
B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON-SALE LICENSE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
	*	
	*	Case No.: 17-22
	*	

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 May 2, 2017, the Hearing Board heard the application of Nathan Paul Sowers (the “Applicant”), on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co. (“River House Pizza Co., LLC”), for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license for a 1,500 square foot restaurant located at 10039 Baltimore National Pike, Suite C, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Thomas Coale, 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 March 13, 2017, from the attorney for the Applicant enclosing the application; the background investigation questionnaire for the Applicant; a criminal history record check for the Applicant, from the Department of Public Safety and

Correctional Services, Maryland's Criminal Justice Information System; a copy of an alcohol awareness certificate for the Applicant; a copy of the Corporate Charter Approval Sheet mailed to the Applicant; the Articles of Organization for River House Pizza Co., LLC dated July 8, 2014; floor plan for River House Pizza Co., LLC; a memorandum dated April 6, 2017, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the Alcohol Beverage Inspector, the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental Health, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Office of the Fire Marshal; the background investigation of the Applicant by the Alcohol Beverage Inspector dated April 25, 2017; an email dated April 10, 2017, from the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits; a memorandum dated April 13, 2017, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a memorandum dated April 19, 2017, from the Bureau of Environmental Health; a letter dated April 6, 2017, to the Department of Finance; a letter from the Department of Finance; a letter dated April 6, 2017, to the Comptroller of the Treasury; an email from the Liquor Board Administrator to the attorney for the Applicant including a fax transmission dated April 6, 2017, and a letter dated April 6, 2017, advising notification of the hearing date, and enclosing the required advertisement; an e-mail dated April 18, 2017, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted, and a letter dated April 28, 2017, from the office of the Attorney for the Applicant enclosing certification of advertisement from two newspapers of general circulation.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Nathan Paul Sowers, 100% owner of River House Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co., was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for approximately 13 years, and that he is alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Sowers testified that he has experience

with the restaurant business as he worked at Tersiguel's for nine years, and has operated the River House Pizza in Ellicott City for four years. Mr. Sowers testified that he will be the principal owner/operator, and will be at the restaurant daily.

Mr. Sowers testified that the hours of operation for the restaurant will be 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Mr. Sowers testified that they will have 20 employees, and that he plans to have everyone become alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Sowers testified that he has spoken with Officer Turner of the Howard County Police Department regarding the restaurant, and that he recommended that Mr. Sowers contact the Liquor Inspector, Detective Mark Baxter, to help with training.

Mr. Sowers testified that he feels that there is a need for the alcoholic beverage license to enhance the menu and accommodate the customers. Mr. Sowers testified that the restaurant will not disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood. Mr. Sowers testified that he is familiar with the rules and regulations governing the sale of alcoholic beverages, and that he will abide by them.

The following Exhibits were entered into the record:

Exhibit #1 – a menu

Exhibit #2 – an updated floor plan

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

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Nathan Paul Sowers on behalf of River House

Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co., has applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,500 square foot restaurant located at 10039 Baltimore National Pike, Suite C, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Nathan Paul Sowers has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and 100% shareholder of River House Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co.

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 the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Nathan Paul Sowers on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co., has applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,500 square foot restaurant located at 10039 Baltimore National Pike, Suite C, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Nathan Paul Sowers meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.09(S), 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 this application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

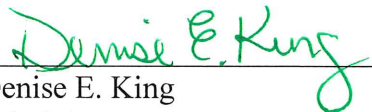
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 30th day of May, 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Nathan Paul Sowers on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC, t/a River House Pizza Co., for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,500 square foot restaurant located at 10039 Baltimore National Pike, Suite C, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant complies with all State and County Rules and
- (b) Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by August 30, 2017, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND



Denise E. King
Administrator

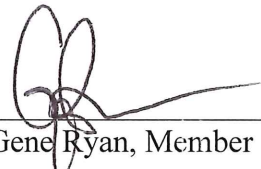
ABSENT
Heather Gaetano, Chairperson

Mary Bird, Vice-Chairperson


REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR



Charles C. Feaga, Member



Gene Ryan, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor



Charley C. Sung, Member